

# SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Today



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## Realigning infrastructure with industrialisation SADC assesses progress

by Joseph Ngwawi

**INFRASTRUCTURE IS** key to regional development and the program is being reviewed and adjusted for closer alignment with plans to industrialize the region and the African continent.

The importance of infrastructure as an enabler of industrialization and trade is widely acknowledged in regional, continental and international policy instruments.

The Doha Development Agenda for example, as well as the United Nations Almaty Program of Action and its successor program, the Vienna Plan of Action that is targeted to support the special needs of landlocked developing countries, identifies infrastructure development and maintenance as one of six priority areas.

Several programs and strategies are in place to improve infrastructure as an anchor for sustainable transformation, through enhanced trade competitiveness.

These include the

- ❖ SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP),
- ❖ Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020,

- ❖ Tripartite Trade and Transport Facilitation Programme,
- ❖ New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Short-Term Action Plan, and the
- ❖ Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

The historic adoption of the RIDMP in 2012 was informed by the decision of SADC Member States that infrastructure development and maintenance is a priority for accelerated regional integration, economic development and trade.

Member States decided that the key barriers to trade and industrialisation could be addressed through the provision of seamless trans-boundary infrastructure for transport, power generation and transmission systems, regional telecommunications infrastructure, as well as river basin organisations, and water supply and sanitation.

This placed integrated infrastructure development as a second priority in the context of the SADC regional integration process and its current plan, the Revised RISDP 2015-2020.

The central framework for implementing Priority B of the RISDP is underpinned by the infrastructure master plan, the RIDMP.

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## Realigning infrastructure with industrialisation -- SADC assesses progress

SADC has therefore acknowledged that regional infrastructure is a key enabler of the integration agenda as envisioned through the RISDP and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap, among other strategic frameworks.

The success of these strategic frameworks requires regular assessment of progress with implementation. The RIDMP was to be rolled out in phases of five years, with the first phase running from 2012-2017.

A SADC Extraordinary Summit in March 2017, held in Swaziland (now eSwatini), directed the SADC Secretariat to review the SADC Infrastructure Project Portfolio in the RIDMP to determine priorities to be focused at regional level in relation to national level in member states.

The Secretariat was directed to work with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to develop the necessary instruments and frameworks such as infrastructure bonds, partial risk guarantees, insurance guarantees and partial credit guarantees for use in Member States.

The Secretariat was also directed to leverage the AfDB Industrialization Strategy for Africa (2016-2025). The strategy aims to develop the industrial sector and policy framework in Africa; strengthen intra-Africa trade and integrate Africa into regional and international value chains; and boost competitiveness and value creation by expanding the supply of business services to maximize impact on the performance of industries.

To achieve these goals, the AfDB strategy aims to strengthen five enablers for industrialisation. These are supportive policy, legislative and institutional environment; conducive economic environment and infrastructure; access to capital; access to markets; and competitive talents, capabilities, and entrepreneurship.

The SADC Secretariat, with the support of the Development

Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has engaged the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) to carry out an independent assessment of results achieved by the RIDMP Short Term Action Plan (STAP) 2012-2017.

The Secretariat, in partnership with AfDB, DBSA, and NEPAD, organised a meeting of technical experts from Member States to discuss the preparation of a priority list of infrastructure projects for the region.

The meeting, held in Johannesburg, South Africa in May, produced a list of regional infrastructure projects that can be implemented in the short- to medium-term which AfDB aims to implement in partnership with development finance institutions such as DBSA.

The adoption of RIDMP by the 32nd SADC Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique in 2012 provided an opportunity for Member States to cooperate in rolling out the priority infrastructure projects, on which there was regional consensus. The Master Plan comprised three phases:

- Short Term Action Plan - STAP (2012-2017);
- Medium Term Action Plan (2017 - 2022);
- Long Term Action Plan (2022-2027).

This is in line with the SADC Vision 2027, a 15-year implementation horizon for forecasting infrastructure requirements in the region.

It is also in line with the African Union's PIDA and constituted a key input into the Tripartite Trade and Transport Facilitation Programme that is jointly implemented by SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the East African Community.

The SADC master plan guides implementation of coordinated, integrated, efficient, trans-boundary infrastructure networks in the six priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, Information Communi-

cation Technology (ICT), meteorology and water.

Interventions are clustered into six sectoral plans, each representing the priority sectors.

The Energy Sector Plan seeks to address the four priority areas of energy security, improving access to modern energy services, tapping the abundant energy resources, and increasing financial investment while enhancing environmental sustainability.

Regarding the sub-sectors of road, rail, ports, inland waterways and air transport networks, the Transport Sector Plan aims to address four key areas through improving access to the 'seamless transport corridors' value chain; reducing the cost of transportation; enhancing competitiveness; and providing safe and secure transport services.

The ICT Sector Plan is designed to address four key areas, to ensure accessibility, including universal access to broadband ICT technologies; accelerate regional integration through broadband interconnectivity within and among SADC Member States; reduce the cost of doing business; and improve the reliability and security of ICT infrastructure.

The Water Sector Plan prioritises five goals, which are: increased water storage in the region; irrigated land for food security; hydropower generation for energy security; increasing access to safe drinking water; and strengthening sanitation services for SADC citizens.

The Tourism Sector Plan is geared towards achieving

enhanced socio-economic development; facilitating joint marketing of SADC as a single destination; increasing tourism arrivals and tourism receipts from source markets; and developing the tourism sector in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Emphasis for the Meteorology Sector Plan is put on the need to ensure the availability of timely early warning information relating to adverse weather and climate variability impacts. Another highlight of the Meteorology Sector Plan is the development of a framework for harmonized indicators for the provision of relevant climate forecasting information to facilitate preparation of mitigation measures against droughts, floods and cyclones.

The development of RIDMP necessitated a diagnosis into the challenges faced by SADC with regard to the development of regional infrastructure projects.

A key challenge beyond the resources required for project preparation among Member States and investment of bankable projects, is the prioritisation of projects.

Given that resources of time, labour and capital are always limited, SADC Member States must give priority to infrastructure projects that yield economic and social benefits most efficiently.

The challenge is acute for the SADC region where the lack of a strategically selected list of infrastructure projects is often a crucial factor inhibiting the potential for developing and financing of such projects. □



# Protocol on Industry

## To support industrialisation strategy and strengthen economic development

**THE SADC** Secretariat is developing a legal instrument that will improve the policy environment for industrial development and support implementation.

The implementation of a regional industry protocol should strengthen the economies of SADC Member States to be driven by industrial development and not based on export of raw resources.

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said a draft of the protocol is in place following consultations with member states.

"I am glad to report that during the year, drafts of the SADC Regional Mining Vision, and Protocol on Industry were prepared and consultations were held with relevant stakeholders," Dr Tax said at the SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in late March in Pretoria, South Africa.

She said the proposed protocol will provide for a supportive policy environment for the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap across sectors.

The final draft protocol is expected to be ready by the end of 2018.

According to the costed action plan of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063), the protocol is expected to be adopted by the end of 2020.

The protocol will provide the legal mandate for the SADC Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of regional industrial activities,

programmes and projects, including the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap and its related Costed Action Plan.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap aims to accelerate the momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of economies of southern African countries.

The proposed protocol is expected to strengthen the level of industrial development in the region and facilitate the harmonisation of policies and strategies in member states.

Where member states already have such policies and strategies, these should be reviewed and aligned to the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

A report presented during the SADC Council of Ministers revealed that the Secretariat has obtained resources to update the SADC Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme (IUMP).

According to the report, SADC member states are expected to develop national IUMPs by the end of 2018 and to implement these by December 2020.

The SADC IUMP was adopted by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade in 2009 to implement the component of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) that dealt with industrialisation. The RISDP was subsequently revised in 2015 by front-loading industrialisation ahead of trade.

National industrial upgrading programmes should be in line with the SADC IUMP, which provides the basis for a sector-specific approach to industrialisation in the region, focusing on upgrading existing manufacturing capacities, modernising productive facilities, reinforcing the institutional support infrastructure, and strengthening regional capacity for research and innovation.

To encourage the creation of regional value chains and participation in global processes, the region has identified five priority areas where the value chains can be estab-

lished and for which regional strategies should be developed by 2020.

These are in the areas of agro-processing, minerals beneficiation, consumer goods, capital goods, and services.

Detailed value chain studies are proposed for specific products or services in the priority areas.

As part of the process of promoting value chain participation, there are plans to develop model legislation and regulations for intra-SADC agro-processing, minerals beneficiation and other manufacturing activities and services. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

## Energy protocol under review

**THE SADC** Protocol on Energy is being reviewed to reflect the changing dynamics towards increased uptake of renewable energies and greater cooperation in energy development.

The protocol, which was adopted in 1996, is the main policy and legal document on energy development in the region and aims to strengthen cooperation in the development of energy infrastructure as well as ensuring the provision of reliable and sustainable energy services.

Since 1996 Member States have implemented the provisions of the protocol by embarking on several reforms through agreements and policy documents.

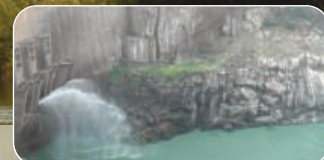
According to a report presented during the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana in April, the revised SADC Protocol on Energy is expected to reflect the achievements and future goals of Member States towards greater regional integration and energy sector harmonization.

The revision of the protocol is expected to involve the creation of a steering committee that will be responsible for driving the process as well as a working group of technical officials who will be charged with developing a work plan and facilitating the review.

A draft revised protocol is expected to be ready by the end of 2018. □







## "Securing Strategic Investments to Realise the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation"

by Egline Tauya

**THE BENEFITS** of transboundary water cooperation need to be fully realised in order to attract investment for infrastructure in southern Africa.

This was one of the key message from the 8th SADC River Basin Organisations workshop held in Windhoek, Namibia in May.

The Senior Programme Officer for the SADC Water Division, Phera Ramoeli told the workshop that it is critical for River Basin Organisations (RBOs) to better communicate the benefits of cooperation, from trust building and the peace dividend, to the more tangible socio-economic and environmental benefits that emanate from collaboration and joint management.

"Despite being assessed, documented and understood, the benefits of transboundary water cooperation have not been communicated well in the region," he said, adding that "empirical evidence to support the extensive existing literature on the benefits derived from transboundary water cooperation is still lacking."

The benefits of transboundary water cooperation include:

- improved water resources management and development;
- accelerated economic growth;
- improved human wellbeing;
- increased food security;
- energy security;
- increased resilience to climate-related extreme events such as floods and droughts;
- enhanced environmental sustainability; and
- improved information sharing.

Scientific studies have shown that coordinated operation of the existing hydropower facilities in the Zambezi River Basin can potentially increase energy production by 23 percent without any additional investment.

As a result of improved information sharing due to cooperation, expectations are high that the Zambezi Water Information System (ZAMWIS) will provide guiding

information to the Strategic Plan for the Zambezi Watercourse for the projected US\$16 billion+ investment in national projects.

This will have the potential to double the area under irrigation and create more than 500,000 new jobs.

Another project of benefit is the Zambia-Malawi Water and Sanitation Project at Mwami border under the auspices of the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility.

The project seeks to benefit more than 6,000 public travellers and 1,500 houses at Mwami, Mchinji and Chanida border towns with water supply and sanitation.

In the Orange Senqu Basin, the transfer of water from Lesotho to Botswana will have tangible benefits, and a study is being done that will highlight the multifaceted benefits of the project. This is coordinated by the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) Secretariat.

For the Cubango-Okavango Basin, the planned investment for Mundi Dam in Angola is expected to contribute to 105

megawatts (MW) that could be exported to Namibia and used for the domestic market.

The intervention will allow development of irrigation projects in Angola as well as regulate flow of water to the Okavango Delta, thus reducing the occurrence of floods.

"There is need for RBOs to take further steps of ensuring that the benefits are not only understood but are also realised within the region to attract continued support from Member States and external investments," Ramoeli said.

The evolving role of ORASECOM in facilitating the mobilisation of funding for projects was underscored.

The region's RBOs are at different stages of maturity in terms of establishment, and riparian states are showing their commitment through contributing resources to support these institutions.

However, for this support to be sustained, Member States expect to see social, economic and environmental benefits derived from transboundary water cooperation.

The need for RBOs to demonstrate value addition in order to get continuous funding from the Member States is increasing, due to competition for resources.

The workshop noted that benefits still need to be identi-

fied, assessed, and communicated well.

Established in 2006, the SADC RBOs series of workshops is organised every two years with the aim of using RBOs as a vehicle for strengthening regional integration and cooperation.

This year's RBOs workshop was convened by the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat, Directorate of Infrastructure -Water Division, and the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa. This initiative was hosted by the Government of Namibia, one of OKACOM's riparian states.

Convened under the theme "Securing Strategic Investments to Realise the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation", the workshop provided a platform for various stakeholders to discuss the opportunities of investing in projects in transboundary river basins and also enable RBOs in the region to share their experiences within their jurisdictions.

The objective of the workshop was to share experiences on how RBO's can play a key role in basin-wide investment planning and implementation processes in order to realise the benefits of transboundary water cooperation. □

**TWELVE SADC** mainland Member States share 15 river basins. These river basins are managed by 12 river basin organisations

or basin management authorities, all at different stages of development and capacity. □

### Major shared river basins within SADC

Watercourse	Countries	River Basin Organisation
Buzi	Mozambique and Zimbabwe	
Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic	Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)
Cuvelai	Angola and Namibia	
Incomati	Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland	
Kunene	Angola, Namibia	Permanent Joint Technical Committee (PJTC) Kunene
Limpopo	Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe	Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM)
Okavango	Angola, Botswana, Namibia	The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM)
Orange-Senqu	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa	The Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)
Pungwe	Mozambique and Zimbabwe	
Ruvuma	Mozambique and Tanzania	
Save/Sabi	Mozambique and Zimbabwe	
Umbeluzi	Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland	
Zambezi	Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)

Source: www.sadc.int



## SADC to develop regional tourism programme

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is developing a plan that will guide and coordinate tourism development in the region.

This is in line with a directive made by a joint meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Tourism to the SADC Secretariat in November 2017 to develop a SADC Tourism Programme.

The regional tourism programme is expected to serve as a roadmap for the development of an "ethical tourism industry," as well as facilitate the removal of barriers to tourism development and growth.

The draft SADC Tourism Programme is set to be finalized

by August and once developed the Secretariat will mobilize resources to support its implementation.

The successful implementation of the programme will allow the region to become one of the most preferred destinations in the world, allowing countries to realize better proceeds from their numerous tourist attractions such as the Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe, San rock paintings in Botswana and the absorbing wildlife population in the region.

Creation of a better tourism environment in SADC will present new opportunities for sustainable development, as well as deepen integration as coun-

tries will be expected to harmonise their policies and jointly market their attractions.

Globally, tourism is the third largest industry, contributing about 10 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product and offering an estimated 313 million jobs as of December 2017.

However, SADC and the rest of the African continent continue realize limited benefits from its vast tourist attractions due to various factors including restrictive travel policies such as visa systems that requires travellers to the region to apply for a visa each time they enter another country.

To address these challenges and benefit more from tourism, SADC has prioritised tourism as a means of promoting sustainable development.

In 1998, the region developed a Protocol on the Development of Tourism, which aims to encourage cooperation between governments and the private sector through a favourable investment climate that promotes sustainable tourism, preserving the region's natural and cultural resources.

Other key regional initiatives that provide for a complementary and broad legislative, institutional and programming context for the development of tourism include the:

- ❖ Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) – a body responsible for the development of tourism and regional destination marketing across;
- ❖ SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement – a legal instrument that commits Member

States to promote the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of trans frontier conservation areas;

- ❖ SADC Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons – an instrument that requires Member States to develop policies aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the free movement of capital and labour, goods and services and of the people of the region; and
- ❖ SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) – the Tourism Sector Plan of the RIDMP is geared towards achieving enhanced infrastructure development to promote smooth movement of goods, services and people across the region. □

### Transformation of the regional tourism organization

**REFORM OF** the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) is aimed at transforming the body from being a public organization to a lean, more agile, dynamic and private-sector-driven regional marketing entity.

Established in 1997 as a SADC subsidiary organization, RETOSA was mandated to encourage and assist in the development of tourism in the region and market southern Africa as a single but multi-faceted tourist destination.

However, in a move aimed at strengthening the organisation, SADC Ministers responsible for Tourism in July 2016 approved the organizational transformation of RETOSA to ensure that it focuses more on marketing, leaving tourism policy coordination functions to the SADC Secretariat.

The ministers directed the Secretariat to take advantage of the ongoing restructuring process to establish the Tourism Policy Unit within the SADC Secretariat in order to ensure effective coordination; development, harmonisation and implementation of tourism policy and related issues.

Consequently a Tourism Coordination Unit was established within the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate.

Therefore, the process to develop a SADC Tourism Programme to guide and coordinate tourism development in the region is a holistic approach aimed at restructuring and developing the tourism industry in southern Africa. □

### World heritage sites key in promoting tourism in SADC

**UNESCO HAS** launched a publication that captures the beauty of some of the world heritage sites found in southern Africa.

The publication entitled "A Glimpse of the World Heritage Sites in Southern Africa" is expected to promote sustainable tourism development in the region.

World heritage sites are the focus of attraction for most tourists, and if properly harnessed and managed, these sites have the potential to contribute significantly to sustainable development. □



# Convention on Biological Resources ...SADC to adopt common position

by Kumbirai Nhongo

**SADC IS** in the process of developing a common position on the use of biological resources for sustainable development.

The common position is critical to addressing some of the challenges facing the region, including over-exploitation and degradation of the environment, which has, in turn, reduced the quantity and quality of biological resources.

Biological resources are generally defined as any genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems that have actual or potential value or use to humanity.

The SADC common position will serve as a guiding framework for the region in all its negotiations on biological resources.

Global negotiations on biological resources will be held during the forthcoming 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) scheduled for Egypt in November.

In addition to this, the Convention adopted two supplementary agreements -- the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, also known as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).

SADC is expected to convene a regional workshop in June to develop its common position on the three global agreements that deal with biological resources.

The regional workshop is being held under the SADC Programme on Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources that aims to improve the implementation of SADC protocols and strategies for sustainable natural resource management by regional and national actors.

A common position to CBD will enable SADC Member States to align policies and strategies for sustainable use of biological resources and sensitise each other on conserving such resources.

All the 16 SADC Member States are signatories to the CBD, which is also commonly known as the Biodiversity Convention, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

In fact, all SADC countries have appointed National Focal Points for the CBD as well as

for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

First discussed at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992, the CBD entered into force in December 1993. However, the Convention was only adopted during COP10 held in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

The CBD aims to promote the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. The Nagoya Protocol on ABS aims to ensure that the sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.

In this regard, the forthcoming COP 14 of the CBD provides an opportunity for the global community to jointly come up with strategies to mitigate the adverse impact of human activity on plant and animal life, including their ecosystems.

Biodiversity issues are a top priority for SADC. In fact, the region has a rich natural heritage of global significance to the world's climate and biological diversity.

According to the SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy, more than 40 percent of the region's species are endemic, only found in their existing location.

South Africa ranks as the third most biologically-diverse country in the world, while in Madagascar, the richness of en-

demical species relative to the land mass area is unparalleled.

Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa and Lake Tanganyika contain very high numbers of freshwater species while the Central Zambezian Miombo woodlands in Zambia and Tanzania are a centre of bird and butterfly diversity.

Botswana has Africa's largest elephant population while Tanzania hosts the largest remaining population of lions.

Biological resources such as plant and animal products, timber, and wildlife tourism also account for a significant proportion of the Gross Domestic Product of SADC and are a source of livelihood for the majority of the citizens of the region.

In spite of this biological wealth, the region continues to face challenges of economic development largely due to difficulties that are frequently experienced in equitably and sustainably harnessing natural resource capital.

To address these challenges, SADC has developed various strategies to ensure that its biological resources fully benefit the peoples of the region.

The region also recognizes that successful conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources of the region depends on trans-boundary co-operation between Member States and beyond.

COP14 will be held 10-22 November in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. □





## Policy Options to Promote Investments in Renewable Energy Services and Sources

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has put in place an ambitious plan for potential funders to invest in its energy sector. One of the areas that is attractive for investment is Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE). This is because RE services and sources are generally affordable, secure and reliable, as well as less polluting to the environment compared to fossil energy. This policy brief, therefore, outlines some of the major policy considerations that SADC could consider to attract private investment in the energy sector, with special focus on RE.

### A Case for Public-Private Partnership

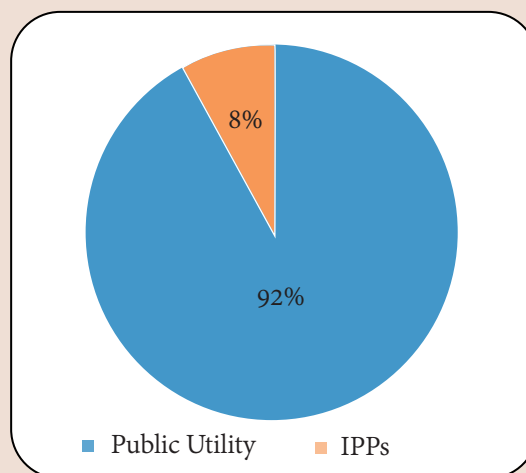
While investment in energy within southern Africa is growing, the current levels are inadequate to meet future demand. According to the region's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP), the demand for electricity in the region is growing at an average of three percent per year. Furthermore, the region's economy has grown at an average five percent, while the rate of urbanisation has averaged six percent since 2016. This growth has increased demand for energy and put pressure on SADC Member States to invest in its energy sector.

In this regard, there is need for SADC to take critical steps to strengthen its capacity to attain energy security by involving other stakeholders such as the private sector in boosting energy generation and supply. For example, private sector participation in the power sector has largely been through Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which are institutions that own or operate facilities for the generation of electricity for use primarily by the public. However, as noted in Figure 1, the SADC region is still overwhelmingly dependent on government-owned state utilities for power generation.

It is recognised that private sector investment in the SADC energy sector will be

more attractive when there are reasonable returns on investment. The emergence of policy concepts such as cost-reflective tariffs, Feed-in Tariffs (FIT), net metering and auctioning of power supply from IPPs as well as Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), has led to an increase in energy investments in other regions, and have the capacity to have the same effect if implemented in SADC.

### Public-Private Sector Power Generation



Source: RERA Publication on Electricity Tariffs 2014

### Cost-reflective Tariffs

Cost reflective tariffs depict the true costs of producing energy or electricity generation at the time of use. Given that the investor expects a viable return on energy projects, then cost-reflective tariffs will attract private capital. In addition, since consumers pay the true cost of energy, it also means that this tariff option encourages the adoption of energy efficient practices.

Many utilities in the SADC region charge consumers less for a unit of electricity than what it costs to produce despite agreements to adopt cost effective tariffs since 2004. In July 2015, the



SADC Energy Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensure that the region reaches full cost-reflective tariffs by 2019. A 2014 survey conducted by the Regional Electricity Regulators Association (RERA) showed that the region's energy sector is largely not self-sustaining due to subsidies. The following Table shows the status of cost-reflective tariffs in SADC.

### Progress Towards Cost-Reflective Tariffs in SADC

Member State	Are current tariffs sustainable and sufficient to provide incentives for new investment?	Are current tariffs able to provide incentives for efficient use of electricity?	Has a target date been set for achieving cost reflectivity?	Is there an approved plan to achieve cost-reflective tariffs target?
Angola	×	×	√	√
Lesotho	√	×	×	×
Malawi	×	×	√	√
Mozambique	×	×	×	×
Namibia	√	√	√	√
South Africa	√	√	√	×
Swaziland	×	×	×	×
Tanzania	√	√	×	×
Zambia	×	×	√	√
Zimbabwe	×	×	×	×
Total	4	3	5	4

Source: RERA Publication on electricity tariffs 2014

As shown in the Table, regulators from only four member states are certain that their tariff structures are sufficient and sustainable enough to provide incentives for new investment. These are Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The challenge for most SADC Member States is the need to strike a balance between the viability of energy projects and the affordability of products for consumers, particularly vulnerable households. An option is to adopt a gradual approach until cost-effective tariffs are attained.

### Multi-year Tariff Frameworks

A multi-year tariff framework is defined as a framework for regulating the licensees over a period of time wherein the principles of regulating the returns of licensees and the trajectory of individual cost and revenue elements of the utility are pre-determined. It provides clarity on the rules to be applied over a pre-defined future time period while seeking to eliminate the control aspects of regulation

and replacing them with a system of incentives and penalties. In this way, all stakeholders are made aware of the outcome of various actions or events for the pre-defined future time period, and are able to plan accordingly.

In relation to the SADC region, the adoption of multi-year tariffs could help to provide important price signals and tariff transparency to investors and developers. The majority of countries in SADC do not have a multi-year tariff regime in place. Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, and Tanzania are the only countries that have instituted a multi-year tariff methodology in some format. Of these, South Africa has the longest duration of application, currently set at a five-year determination horizon. Malawi operates with a four-year methodology, Tanzania with three years, and Swaziland with two years.

### Feed-in Tariffs

A Feed In Tariff (FIT) is a policy mechanism designed to accelerate investment in renewable energy technologies. It achieves this by offering long-term contracts to renewable energy producers, based on the cost of generation of each technology. Rather than pay an equal amount for energy, lower cost technologies such as wind power, for instance, are awarded a lower price per-kWh price than technologies that cost higher, such as solar PV. The illustration shows how FIT-based energy projects can help to provide additional energy into the national grid.

### How Feed in Tariffs Work



Source: The Providence Environment, 2012

Experiences from other countries in the world suggest that a well-designed Feed In Tariff can generate rapid growth for targeted renewable energy projects, by creating conditions that attract capital to those particular sectors. In 2015, Namibia started the Renewable Energy Feed In Tariff



programme for solar PV, wind projects and biomass. The programme targets investments in energy projects with a generating capacity of between 500 kW to five MW on completion.

Feed-in tariff support is awarded for periods of up to 20 years and energy prices are paid for in Namibian dollars, with the price indexed to the US dollar at the prevailing exchange rate. Under this FIT programme, Namibia is set to deploy 30 MW of biomass, 60 MW of solar PV and 60 MW of wind. Tanzania is also running FIT initiatives, for small hydropower stations with less than 10 MW generating capacity. Work is currently in progress to introduce FIT programmes in Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

### Net Metering

This policy is designed to attract private investment in RE by allowing a two-way flow of electricity between the electricity distribution grid and customers that have their own generation systems. The concept has worked well to promote investments in solar PV solutions in households where net metering has been introduced. The customer pays only for the net electricity delivered from the utility (total consumption minus self-production). Distributed generation combined with net metering can be an important factor in addressing affordability, reducing electricity costs and, increasing the availability of supply.

In addition, net metering tends to encourage the use of renewable energy sources in more residential activities, thus reducing the burden on the system during peak demand periods. Net metering is an attractive alternative or complement to a FIT for smaller facilities such as household-level solar PV, as it does not require detailed contracts or financial analysis. Only two SADC Member States have instituted net metering – Mauritius and Namibia. Mauritius has established a net metering scheme with an overall cap of five MW and a lower threshold of 50 kW for independent generators. In Namibia, net metering is limited to facilities with a generation capacity of 500 kVA or lower. This will therefore target renewable energy installations from small businesses and households. South Africa and Zimbabwe are planning similar programmes.

### Public Competitive Bidding

The public competition bidding or tender system is a procurement mechanism by which public authorities solicit bids for a given amount of renewable energy supply or capacity, generally based on an agreed price. Sellers offer the lowest price that they would be willing to accept, but typically at prices above standard market levels. Power purchase agreements are then concluded once the bidding process is complete.

South Africa has adopted this approach for grid-connected solar and wind projects through the Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). The country intends to procure energy from IPPs over five tender or competitive bidding rounds. Limits were set on the total capacity to be procured from each type of energy. For example, 75 MW was for a PV project, 100 MW for a concentrated solar project and 140 MW for a wind project. Such restrictions were meant to encourage competition among the potential bidders and promote as many different types of renewable power generating technologies as possible.

Since its inception in 2011, four bidding rounds have been run with over 5,000 MW having been procured, and at least 1,860 MW are already on line. As the renewable programme has rolled out, the cost of renewable energy, particularly solar PV, has fallen. This price reduction is attributed to increased competition in successive bids coupled with the gradual decline in the international prices of renewable energy equipment. The rising electricity prices for fossil fuels have also led to favourable cost comparisons with renewable energy. The success of the South African competitive bidding process is being hailed as a model that other Member States may consider for adoption.

### Power Purchase Agreement

A power purchase agreement (PPA) is a legal contract between an electricity generator and a power purchaser, lasting between five and 20 years. Such agreements play a key role in the financing of independently owned electricity-generating assets. The seller under the PPA is typically an IPP, an entity which generates and supplies power to the state utilities or directly to the end users. The IPP is not a state utility, but can be part of a Public Private Partnership entity, together with a state utility.



World Bank guidelines show that PPAs can be used for power projects where the projected revenues of the project would otherwise be uncertain and so some guarantee as to quantities purchased and price paid are required to make the project viable. In addition, they also work where there is a possibility of competition from cheaper or subsidised domestic or international competition. In such instances, the PPA provides some certainty of being protected from such competition.

Power purchase agreements may also work where a few major customers take the bulk of the output. For example, a government utility may be purchasing the power generated by a power plant. The government will want to understand how much it will be paying for its power and that it has the first call on that power. The project company will want certainty of revenue and the purchaser wishes to secure security of supply.

In Tanzania, the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority has developed standardised power purchase agreements and process guidelines that have assisted a number of developers to conclude agreements with the national power utility, Tanzania Electricity Supply Company, to supply power using biomass, mini-hydro and solar power plants. PPAs also

tend to provide the contractual framework for other energy development initiatives such as feed-in-tariffs, net metering and public competitive bidding.

## Conclusion

The SADC region needs to grow its investments in the energy sector in recognition of the important role that energy plays in economic development. As the economies, populations and urbanisation rates of Member States continue to grow, so will the demand for energy. While there has been significant investment in the energy sector to date, the level is inadequate to meet future demand. SADC is therefore encouraging greater private sector participation in energy investments.

The involvement of private capital requires a favourable investment climate which guarantees a fair return on investments. Member States could therefore make use of new policy concepts which include cost-reflective tariffs, power purchase agreements, feed-in-tariffs, net metering and public competitive bidding. The region certainly has a great opportunity to leverage new policy concepts in order to promote additional investments in RE and EE projects.

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## Harvest forecast for SADC lower for 2017/18 – Large carry-over stocks guarantee food security

by Admire Ndhlovu

**THE SADC** region is expecting a lower cereal harvest for the 2017/18 farming season, but the deficit will be adequately offset by large carry-over stocks from the previous season.

According to the Food Security Outlook and Nutrition Update published by the Southern Africa Food and Nutrition Security Working Group in May, cereal production during the 2017/18 agricultural season is expected to be below average, despite the heavy late rains that benefitted the late planted crops.

“This is due to a late start of the rainy season, minimal to no rains during the critical planting season (December-January), high temperatures and the prevalence of fall armyworm,” the working group said.

The working group is made up of SADC, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Food Programme, United Nations Children’s Fund, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Famine Early Warning System Network, Care International, Oxfam and World Vision.

The 2017-18 rainfall season was characterised by a late start,

an extended mid-season dry spell (December-January) and heavy rains from February into early May.

The dry spell caused moisture stress and wilting of the early planted crops in many areas in Botswana, south-western Madagascar, southern Malawi, southern and some central parts of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“The production prospects of the late planted crop improved due to the above-average rains since February. However cereal production is still forecast to be slightly below or at average levels in 2018,” the report said.

The South African Crop Estimates Committee released a report in April saying that the commercial maize crop is estimated at around 12.8 million metric tonnes for the country, which is some 22 percent lower than the 2016/17 output of around 15.6 million tonnes.

In addition to poor early rains, the cereal harvest in most countries is expected to have been affected by fall armyworm outbreak, according to the Southern Africa Food and Nutrition Security Working Group.

The pest was recorded in most SADC Member States, except in Mauritius and Lesotho.

In Malawi, fall armyworm affected 26 percent of the 1.5 million hectares of land under maize while it devoured more than 68,000 hectares of crops in Swaziland, according to the report by the working group.

Other countries affected by the armyworm outbreak include Zambia where 113,000 hectares of the maize crop were devoured, and Zimbabwe which lost about six percent of the maize planted.

The pest, which first emerged in the region in the 2016/2017 cropping season, is native to the tropical regions of the Americas.

Fall armyworm affects maize, millet, sorghum, rice, wheat, sugarcane, cowpea, groundnuts, potatoes and soya beans. It eats the leaves of the plants as well as their reproductive parts.

The working group, however, said the impact of the lower than expected harvest is likely to be offset by significant carry-over stocks in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe as they had good harvests during the 2016/17 season.

South Africa is forecast to have opening maize stocks of over four million metric tonnes while Zambia and Zimbabwe are expected to have opening maize stocks of 840,000 and one million tonnes, respectively.

The opening stocks in Zambia and Zimbabwe are enough to cover 40 and 70 percent of the annual cereal requirements for the two countries, respectively.

“Higher stock levels should partly cushion the impact of the expected maize production

decreases, averting a larger decline in domestic availabilities,” according to the report.

While regional grain availability is likely to remain adequate, food insecurity is expected to be high among vulnerable households in a number of countries where production shortfalls are expected.

These include Lesotho, southern and central parts of Mozambique, northern and western Namibia, southern parts of Zambia and Malawi, southern and extreme north of Zimbabwe and southern Madagascar.

The final SADC vulnerability assessment is due to be released in July and will provide an update on food insecurity estimates.

To strengthen regional food security, the working group called on SADC Member States to take appropriate measures to promote trading of maize and avoid taking ad-hoc actions that would restrict imports or exports of grains within the region.

In addition, the working group called on Member States to take advantage of the late ending of the season to develop measures that support off-season crop production.

According to the SADC Secretariat, agriculture contributes about 17 percent of the gross domestic product of the region.

In addition to this, more than 70 percent of the region’s population, now numbering some 327 million, are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net)

### Expected maize production for 2017/2018 season

Country	Estimated maize output (tonnes)
Malawi	3 000 000
Namibia	136 000
South Africa	12 827 000
Zambia	2 400 000
Zimbabwe	1 000 000

Sources: Member State estimates; Southern Africa Food and Nutrition Security Working Group Bulletin April 2018

\* Estimates not available for other Member States

# Spotlight on gender parity as five SADC countries prepare for polls

by Nyarai Kampilipili

**WITH FIVE** countries in SADC preparing for polls this year, it is important to assess the participation of women as candidates and if gender issues are mainstreamed in the electoral processes.

The five SADC countries scheduled to hold elections are the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe has recently announced that it will go for its harmonised elections on 30 July, according to a public statement published in an Extraordinary Government Gazette on 30 May.

The DRC is expected to hold parliamentary and presidential elections on 23 December and Mozambique will hold local government polls on 10 October.

The other two countries – Madagascar and Swaziland – are yet to pronounce the date of elections.

The forthcoming elections provide an opportunity for the five countries to make progress in addressing the disparity between women and men in political decision-making positions.

In most SADC countries women are not visible in the decision-making positions in some sectors including in the political field.

This is despite the fact that women constitute more than half the population in most SADC countries, as well as the fact that, on election day, women usually turn up in the largest numbers to cast their ballot.

Various challenges hinder the participation of women in politics and decision-making.

These include the lack of access to information and cultural norms that prevent women from contesting in elections.

Women are at times excluded from contesting for leadership positions by various means, which include violence and intimidation.

In some cases, women are not able to get into leadership positions due to cultural beliefs and patriarchal societies that view women as second class citizens.

This stereotyping is instilled in boys and girls at a young age and becomes a norm, therefore children grow up believing that they are unequal.

Such practices limit interest by women to take part in decision-making in various sectors and advance beliefs that it is the rightful position for men.

Although the majority of voters in most SADC Member States are women, they do not vote for other women in many cases.

This can be attributed to the fact that there are misconceptions that the successes of women are as a result of promiscuous activities that get them into leadership positions.

Therefore, because women do not want to be associated with such negative labelling, they do not contest for leadership positions.

The economic advancement of most SADC countries remains



skewed in favour of men and this is another contributing factor to women not being able to contest in elections.

Election campaigns usually require substantial resources and time.

In most cases, women often have limited resources and end up dropping out of the election campaigns as they devote their time to families.

It is essential to ensure that the forthcoming elections in the five SADC countries strive to consolidate and improve gender parity and empowerment.

To promote gender equality and equity, SADC leaders adopted the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which “provides

for the empowerment of women and the elimination of discrimination.”

Political participation of women is relatively low throughout the region, and gender representation in parliament ranges from 6.1 percent in Union of Comoros to 46.2 percent in Namibia.

Of the countries headed for elections, the proportions of women in Parliament according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union as of April 2018 are DRC 8.9 percent, Madagascar 19.2 percent, Mozambique 39.6 percent, Swaziland 6.2 percent and Zimbabwe 33.2 percent.

It is critical at this juncture for the region to ensure that the number of women in parliament is strengthened. □

## SADC Protocol on Gender and Development @10

**THE SADC** Protocol on Gender and Development was adopted 10 years ago in 2008.

The protocol was revised in 2016 so that its objectives are aligned to various global targets and emerging issues. For example, the revised protocol now captures emerging issues such as climate change and child marriages.

Child marriages are one of the contributing factors to the slow progress in the reduction of maternal mortality, but the definition of a child by age remains controversial.

The revised protocol is also aligned with other provisions of various regional instruments such as those relating to sustainable management of the environment, and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap of 2015. □





## Regional online platform to track SADC Organ interventions

**SADC IS** developing an online platform that will track implementation of decisions and interventions by the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is mandated to promote peace and security in the region by providing Member States with direction regarding matters that threaten peace, security and stability.

The proposed Organ Directorate Information System (ODIS) aims to create a platform to automate the various processes undertaken by the Organ Directorate at the SADC Secretariat.

These processes include country profiling, conflict tracking, mediation field support, capacity building, early warning research and reporting.

The SADC Secretariat is seeking to identify a consultant to develop the online platform, which will capture and profile Member States in accordance with their population, economic information and political information.

Ultimately, the online system should:

- Enable timely collection and reporting of data of peace and security related information for the Organ Directorate;
- Capture information related to election observation and election observers;
- Capture information related to mediation assessments and action plans for each member state;
- Capture information for the different sectors in the organ inclusive of Police, Planning, Defence and Prisons among others;

- Capture information related to experts who have been trained in election observation, mediation or migration;
- Capture information related to the technical and statu-

tory committees of the organ; and

- Provide a knowledge repository for information, data and reports related to best practises and lessons

learned, gathered during missions and assignment related to the organ core duties. □

### Function of the Organ Directorate

**THE ORGAN** on Politics, Defence and Security (Organ) was launched in June 1996 as a formal institution of SADC with the mandate to support the achievement and maintenance of security and the rule of law in the region.

The Organ is one of the directorates of the SADC Secretariat whose main mandate is to act as an instrument for ensuring and supporting the political and socio-economic security and safety of the Southern African region.

The SADC Treaty, the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) II are the key documents that guide the activities of the Organ.

SIPO was developed to guide the implementation of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Within the structure of the SADC Secretariat, the Organ is overseen by the Executive Secretary. □

### Masisi is the new President of Botswana



#### MOKGWEETSI MASISI

is the new president of Botswana. He was sworn-in on 1 April following the retirement of Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

Previously as Vice President, Masisi was the deputy to Khama, and he becomes Botswana's fifth president since independence in 1966.

The norm in the ruling Botswana Democratic Party is that the president steps down a year before the second term of office ends, and hands over to a successor who will campaign in the next election after settling in for a year.

Botswana is scheduled to hold elections in 2019, and the country uses a single constituency electoral system of First Past the Post for the election of Members of Parliament.

Elected MPs then act as an electoral college to choose the President. □

### SADC Opens Liaison Office in DRC

**SADC HAS** opened a Liaison Office in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to monitor and provide electoral support to the country.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony on 16 April, SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the office strengthens the presence of the regional organisation in the DRC, and provides an avenue for closer collaboration with stakeholders in the country in the continued efforts by SADC to support the country to attain sustainable peace, security, political stability and socio-economic development.

Among others, the SADC Liaison Office in DRC will serve to

coordinate SADC's ongoing political, electoral and security support initiatives in the country.

The office will enable SADC to identify specific areas where its support is required, in liaison with the DRC government as well as national, continental and regional stakeholders.

Dr Tax commended the DRC government, political parties, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), religious organizations and other stakeholders for their efforts and progress made in ensuring peace and stability in the country.

She implored stakeholders in DRC to refrain from any form of violence and find ami-

cable ways of resolving their differences in order to create a conducive environment for the conduct of peaceful and credible elections in December 2018.

CENI has set 23 December as the date for the long-awaited DRC parliamentary and presidential elections. □



## Zimbabwe prepares for watershed elections

**ZIMBABWEANS WILL** go to the polls on 30 July to elect a new president, parliamentarians and councillors in watershed elections.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa said in the event that there is no outright winner in the presidential elections, a run-off election will be held on 8 September.

Election observers from 46 countries and 15 regional and international organisations are expected to observe the eagerly awaited Zimbabwe harmonised elections.

The observers include those from the Commonwealth, European Union, United States, Britain, and the United Nations – who will be observing the elections for the first time in nearly two decades.

The decision to invite the observers is in line with the new government drive to re-engage with the international community following years of “frosty relations” as well as a commitment by Zimbabwe to hold free and fair polls.

Some of the observers such as the SADC Election Observer Mission and those from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have already begun dispatching their missions to assess Zimbabwe’s state of preparedness for the forthcoming elections.

As per tradition, the observers will observe the elections in three phases: the pre-election, election-day and post-election phases.

The conduct of all observer missions will be guided by the provisions of Zimbabwe’s electoral law and the Constitution. After the elections, the missions will be expected to produce their reports on the election process, as to whether the polls were free, fair and credible.

President Mnangagwa has pledged to hold free and fair elections, and has also urged voters and all other political parties and stakeholders to maintain peace before, during and after the elections.

The elections mark the first time that the two main political parties – the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) and the Movement for Democratic Change-Tsvangirai (MDC-T) – are fielding new presidential candidates.

Mnangagwa is the Zanu-PF presidential candidate following the resignation of Robert Mugabe in November 2017, while Nelson Chamisa assumed the MDC-T leadership following the death of Morgan Tsvangirai in February.

According to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), more than 120 political parties have registered to take part in the elections, although the exact number of presidential candidates is still not known.

The nomination court is due to sit on 14 June in the various provinces to accept nominations from aspiring

presidential, parliamentary and local government candidates.

The 30 July elections will mark the first time that the country has used the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) technology. The BVR technology captures physical features such as the face and fingerprints for identification purposes.

As of 8 May, a total of 5,439,822 people had registered to vote, according to ZEC. Of these, 2,953,142 or 54.3 percent were women while the remainder were men.

Zimbabwe’s electoral system is a “first past the post” system for presidential, parliamentary and local elections where the candidate with the most votes wins.

The National Assembly is made up of 210 elected members and an additional 60 seats reserved for women.

There are six seats reserved for women in each of the 10 administrative provinces in Zimbabwe, with the members elected through a system of proportional representation based on the votes cast for candidates representing parties contesting parliamentary elections in each of the provinces.

Under a new Constitution adopted in May 2013, the provision for reserved seats for women will apply for two elections, which means that the forthcoming polls will be the last time this requirement will apply.

The Senate is made up of 80 members, comprising six representatives elected on a proportional representation basis from each of the 10 provinces as well as two representatives of persons with disabilities.

The remainder will be 18 traditional chiefs, comprising the president and deputy president of the National Council of Chiefs and two chiefs each from eight provinces that exclude the two metropolitan provinces of Harare and Bulawayo.

Zimbabwe introduced a “zebra-list” system for nomination of senate candidates for the first time in the 2013 elections.

Under this system, political parties are required to submit lists of candidates showing women and men alternating, with a woman at the top of each list.

The zebra-list system is used for parliamentary and local government elections in other SADC Member States such as Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

In the last elections held in 2013, Zanu-PF won the presidential polls by 61 percent of the vote against 34 percent for MDC-T.

In the parliamentary elections, Zanu-PF won 159 seats, or 76 percent, of the 210 elective seats in the National Assembly, giving it more than the two-thirds majority. The MDC-T got 50 seats, about 24 percent of the vote. □



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**June**  
5, Global

**World Environment Day**

The annual celebrations are intended to raise awareness on the need to conserve and protect the environment. The theme for this year is "Beat Plastic Pollution".

6-8, Rwanda

**Africa Innovation Summit 2018**

The summit is an initiative aimed at harnessing and mobilizing policy makers, investors, innovators, researchers and youths into a coalition for collective action to promote and build an enabling environment for innovation in Africa.

17, Global

**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

The day is observed every year to promote public awareness on the need to combat and reduce desertification.

19-22, Mauritius

**Africa Energy Forum**

The Africa Energy Forum brings together governments, power utilities and major players in the energy sector of Africa and the rest of the world to focus on delivery of power infrastructure in Africa. The forum is the global investment meeting for Africa's power, energy, infrastructure and industrial sectors.

25-28,  
South Africa

**SADC Gender Ministers Meeting**

The SADC Gender and Women's Affairs Ministers meet annually to review the regional gender programme. The meeting presents an opportunity for member states to share progress on the implementation of gender commitments.

25 June-2 July,  
Mauritania

**31st African Union Summit**

The 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union will run under the theme "Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation". The summit is preceded by an Ordinary session of the executive council on 28-29 June.

**July**  
30, Zimbabwe

**Harmonized Elections in Zimbabwe**

Zimbabweans will go to polls to elect a president, members of parliament (national assembly and senate), and local councillors for the next five years.

23, South Africa

**SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration**

The taskforce will discuss progress in the implementation of various SADC decisions on regional economic integration. These include implementation of the Costed Action Plan of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

30- 1 August,  
Namibia

**SADC Industrialization Week**

The week-long event aims to popularize the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap approved in 2015. Now in its third year, the annual event comprises a high-level conference to discuss ways of accelerating the SADC industrialization agenda as well as an exhibition by governments, companies, research institutions and other stakeholders.

**August**  
17-18, Namibia

**38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government**

SADC leaders meet annually in August for their Summit to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers. Host President Hage Geingob of Namibia will assume the SADC chair from his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa.

TBA

**Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum**

Climate experts from SADC Member States will meet to review the regional climate outlook, using indicators of seasonal rainfall to produce a regional forecast for the 2018/19 rainfall season.



## Seychelles celebrates independence ...and 25 years since adoption of Constitution

**JUNE IS** a special month in the history of Seychelles.

The country gained its independence from Britain on 29 June 1976. The month also witnessed the historic adoption of the current Constitution on 18 June 1993, which saw the introduction of a multiparty political system.

To celebrate these achievements, Seychelles combined the two events in 1993 and commemorated them on 18 June as National Day.

However, starting in 2015, National Day was moved to its original date of 29 June, which is the actual independence date of the 115-island archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

June 18 is now marked as Constitution Day to celebrate the adoption of the current constitution.

On this day, thousands of people attend celebratory events that include parades, a flower show, music, and a presidential speech.

The road to independence was a long one for Seychelles.

In the 1760s, the French invaded and assumed control of Seychelles, naming the islands after Jean Moreau de Sechelles who was the Minister of Finance in France.

The French kept control over the islands until the early 1790s when the British started to assert their presence.

In 1794, Britain annexed Seychelles and the island was administered from Mauritius until 1903 when it became a separate British colony.

As the population grew and the plantations expanded, the British were quick to effect economic and social changes in the islands by doing away with slavery and compensation was paid to owners of sugarcane plantations.

However, like France, the British used the islands for keeping prisoners. In the late 19th and early 20th century conflict broke out between Indian labourers and plantation owners.

At the political level, there was increased pressure for Britain to cede power to the locals.

In 1964, the newly formed parties, the Seychelles People's United Party, which was a socialist party led by France-Albert René, and the pro-business Seychelles Democratic Party led by James Mancham petitioned the United Kingdom for independence.

An agreement was reached with elections held in 1974, and won by the Seychelles Democratic Party. However, Seychelles remained under British control, and continued to press for total independence.

This was finally achieved on 26 June 1976, when Seychelles became independent and was governed by a coalition, with Mancham as president and René as prime minister.

This lasted for one year, until 5 June 1977 when Mancham was removed in a coup, with René installed as president.

In 1978, the government enacted a new constitution, turning the Seychelles into a one-party state. On 27 December 1991 the constitution was adjusted in order to make allowance for other political parties.

However, it was only on 18 June 1993 that the current constitution of Seychelles was approved and the first ever multiparty legislative and presidential elections were held in July.

René won that election and the next three elections that followed until he stepped down in 2004 when he handed over power to the current President James Michel.

Since then the island nation has made significant progress towards socio-economic development as well as promoting peace and stability. □



## Remembering Seretse Khama, Masire

**SIR SERETSE Khama Day** is a national holiday officially designated to honour the first president of Botswana.

This is celebrated on the birthday of Seretse Khama who was born on 1 July 1921 and became the first leader of Botswana at independence on 30 September 1966.

He died of pancreatic cancer on 13 July 1980. Seretse Khama was one of the Founding Fathers of SADC, and he was father to former President Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

Seretse Khama was succeeded by Ketumile Masire who had been his deputy since 1965. Masire became the second president of Botswana from 1980 to 1998 and passed away at age 91 on 22 June 2017. □

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June - August 2018

1 June	International Day of Child	Angola
15-16 June	Eid al Fitr + (End of Ramadan)*	Malawi, Tanzania, Mauritius
18 June	Constitution Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
2 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
2 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
3 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Saba Saba	Tanzania
16 July	President's Day	Botswana
17 July	President's Day Holiday	Botswana
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
22 July	Public Holiday	Swaziland
23 July	King's Father Birthday	Swaziland
1 August	Parents' Day	DRC
6 August	Farmers' Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	Women's Day	South Africa
13 August	Heroes' Day	Zimbabwe
14 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Seychelles
15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mauritius
17 August	SADC Day**	All
22 August	Eid al Adha	Tanzania
26 August	Heroes' Day	Namibia
27 August	Public Holiday	Namibia
31 August	Umhlanga Reed Dance	Swaziland