



## SADC 2018

### Regional integration strengthened through high-level commitment to **TRANSBOUNDARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

THE YEAR 2018 provided an opportunity for the SADC region to reflect on the long journey towards a shared community and to consolidate the gains of regional integration through accelerating the development of transboundary infrastructure and youth empowerment.

The Summit of Heads of State and Government hosted by Namibia in August reminded Member States of the critical importance of infrastructure in linking the 16 countries that make up the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The theme of the Summit was most appropriate – *Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*.

This was aimed at encouraging Member States to prioritize infrastructure development as a key enabler for industrialization, trade and deeper regional integration, as envisaged 26 years ago when the decision was made in the same city of Windhoek, Namibia in 1992, to bring the region closer together through common institutions and rules.

Many achievements have been recorded since that historic Summit that transformed SADC from a Development Coordination Conference to a Development Community through the SADC Treaty and Declaration.

More than 30 legal instruments have since been signed, with many of them already in force. The membership of the organization has increased to 16 countries with a combined market of over 300 million people.

However, many challenges continue to confront the region. Among them is unemployment. Young people, who make up more than 60 percent of the region's population, have not enough jobs and opportunities, thus facing an uncertain future.

Youth empowerment has therefore topped the agenda in 2018 with the regional commitment to harness the strong linkages between infrastructure development and youth empowerment, as shown by the decision taken by the leaders at Summit to approve the operationalization of the SADC University of Transformation.



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The SADC Executive Secretary says the university will be a critical “regional institution to train the youth and citizens in innovation and entrepreneurship as part of efforts to transform southern Africa into an industrialized region.”

Speaking during the 38th SADC Summit hosted in Windhoek, Namibia’s President Hage Geingob accepted to chair the regional institution until August 2019, pledging to facilitate regional cooperation in the area of infrastructure development while harnessing the potential that resides in women and the young people of southern Africa.

“Infrastructural development is a catalyst for youth empowerment and job creation. It is one of the avenues through which we can address the issue of youth unemployment in the region,” the SADC chairperson said.

Equally daunting for southern Africa has been the task of increasing the pace for domesticating regional policies to give effect at the national level. This has been a weak link in regional policy implementation.

It thus came as a breath of fresh air in 2018 when the political leadership of the region offered unprecedented high-level support for the proposal to establish a regional Parliament – an integral representative institution for the SADC citizenry.

Once established, the SADC Parliament would ensure the envisaged harmonization of regional legal instruments through their translation into national policies and legislative frameworks.

The Executive is already the main driver of regional integration through intergovernmental institutions at the level of senior officials, ministers or heads of state and government.

The Judiciary was previously represented through the now suspended but soon to be reconstituted SADC Tribunal.

In terms of advancing gender equity and equality, the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was adopted and entered into force in 2018.

The agreement amending a regional protocol was signed by a

total of 12 Member States, and was revised to align it with the provisions of other instruments such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

The year saw SADC witness a subdued agriculture season which produced a low harvest caused by poor distribution of rains.

However, the impact of the lower than expected harvest on the region was offset by significant carryover stocks in some Member States such as South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Closely related to this, the voices for land reform got louder in the region with countries such as Namibia and South Africa making commitments to address unjust colonial land policies and imbalances.

Agriculture and other land-based means of production remain the primary livelihoods for most people in SADC, particularly rural citizens, and will continue to be so until the industrial and service sectors can provide alternative opportunities, particularly for the majority citizens in rural areas.

Countries such as Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have all taken somewhat unique approaches to land administration and land reform, which are already beginning to bear fruit in terms of majority empowerment and poverty reduction.

On energy development, the year 2018 witnessed the official launch of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) in October in Windhoek.

SACREEE is expected to spearhead the promotion of renewable energy development in the region.

Another major development in the energy sector was the decision by ministers responsible for energy to establish a regional gas committee and develop a master plan that will guide the exploitation of the vast natural gas resources in the region.

To this end, the Council of Ministers directed the SADC Secretariat to operationalize the



SADC Regional Gas Committee, and called on Member States to nominate representatives to sit on the committee.

Efforts to harness the vast gas reserves come in the wake of recent natural gas finds in Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

With regard to financial development, the region expanded the number of currencies used for transactions on the SADC Integrated Regional Electronic Settlement System (SIRESS).

SIRESS is a regional electronic payment system developed by SADC Member States to settle cross-border transactions faster without having to rely on intermediary banks from outside the region.

Whereas previously all transactions were denominated in the South African Rand, there was a decision this year to include other currencies in the basket, starting with the United States dollar.

The SIRESS was established in July 2013 and piloted in four countries, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa, but is now operational in 14 SADC Member States, except Madagascar and the Comoros.

The SADC Secretariat began the process during the year to develop a legal instrument that will improve the policy environment for industrial development.

The proposed SADC Industry Protocol is expected to strengthen the economies of SADC Member States and ensure that they are driven by industrial development and not based on exports of raw resources. The final draft protocol is expected to be ready for approval in 2019.

Closely linked to this, SADC has begun the process of reviewing progress towards implementation of the Revised RISDP 2015-2020.

The review is expected to inform the regional integration

strategy for SADC when the current development blueprint ends in 2020.

On the political level, SADC continued to enjoy a generally peaceful and stable environment, with a total of four countries holding elections.

These were Madagascar, Mozambique, Eswatini and Zimbabwe. However, Madagascar was set to go for a run-off on 19 December after no presidential candidate amassed enough votes to be declared outright winner following elections held in early November.

The fifth country, Democratic Republic of Congo, was scheduled to hold its long-awaited polls on 23 December.

During the year, SADC officially closed its Preventative Mission in Lesotho following a significant improvement in the political environment in that country.

Another highlight for the year was SADC successfully conducting a regional peace-keeping exercise in Malawi codenamed Exercise UMODZI in preparation to assume its peace-keeping responsibilities under the African Standby Force (ASF) in January 2019.

The ASF is an important tool of the African peace and security architecture for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in the continent.

During the year, six liberation movements from Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe launched the Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School in honour of the late founding President and former chairperson of the Frontline States.

The school will offer training in leadership skills and political principles with the aim of strengthening unity and cooperation for the region’s next big challenge, economic liberation. □

## SADC, Interpol reviewing cooperation agreement

SADC AND the International Police Organisation are reviewing an agreement signed several years ago to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations in areas of law enforcement and criminal justice.

This was revealed in November during a tripartite meeting between SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Interpol Secretary General, Jurgen Stock and the head of the Southern Africa Regional Bureau for Interpol, Mubita

Nawa in Harare, Zimbabwe. Stock participated via teleconference from the Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France.

The meeting noted the progress made towards the finalisation of the review of the Framework Agreement between SADC and Interpol, which is expected to be ready by March 2019.

“The framework aims to provide a platform of general cooperation between the two parties,” SADC said in a statement after the meeting.

It is expected to provide and establish a framework for operational police cooperation between SADC and Interpol, and to determine the secretarial functions that can be provided on behalf of SADC to the Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) by Interpol through its regional bureau in Harare.

Under the existing agreement, which was signed in 2011, the Interpol Regional Bureau has been assisting in the coordination of SARPCCO joint operations, joint investigations and other activities aimed at the prevention and combating of crime.

In addition, the regional bureau facilitates the timely exchange of police information between Interpol national bureaux in SADC Member States and the Interpol Secretariat, including other regional bureaux other than the one in Harare.

During the meeting, Dr Tax announced that a new unit has been included in the new SADC Secretariat structure to facilitate effective cooperation and communication between the Secretariat and the Interpol Regional Bureau, among other activities.

Recruitment is underway, with the head of unit expected to assume duties by February 2019.

The SADC-Interpol cooperation agreement was signed in 2011.

The executive secretary commended the Interpol Regional Bureau for the progress made in the implementation of regional cooperation on crime management and pledged continued support to the bureau for it to achieve its objectives.

She noted that cyber-crime and counter-terrorism pose a

serious threat to peace and security in SADC and other regions.

The meeting underscored the importance of joint planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of activities between the Interpol Regional Bureau and SADC. □

### Implementation plan adopted for SADC Strategy on Nutrition

SADC HAS developed and adopted an Implementation Plan for its regional nutrition strategy.

The plan identifies priority areas that need to be implemented to address the nutrition indicators that are performing poorly in Member States.

The priority areas include:

- ❖ Development of regional minimum standards for micronutrient fortification of food. This is expected to address high levels of anaemia in women of reproductive age and children while improving nutrition for the general population;
- ❖ Development of a regional strategy for communication for behaviour change for improved infant and young-child feeding practices. This is expected to address multiple indicators on nutrition, including overweight and obesity, wasting, stunting, exclusive breastfeeding and micronutrient deficiency;
- ❖ Development of regional guidelines on nutrition information systems that will strengthen Member States' capacity to monitor progress against the World Health Assembly targets. □

### Role of SARPCCO

THE SOUTHERN African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) is the primary initiative in Southern Africa for the prevention and fighting of cross-border crime.

It was formed in 1995 in Zimbabwe and has firmly established itself as a benchmark for international police cooperation, supported by the Interpol Regional Bureau in Harare, which coordinates its activities and programmes.

SARPCCO has seven objectives that are subject to domestic legislation and international obligations of Member States:

- Promotion and strengthening of cooperation and development of joint strategies for the management of cross-border crimes with regional implications;
- Preparation and dissemination of relevant information on criminal activities;
- Carrying out regular reviews of joint crime management strategies in view of changing national and regional needs and priorities;

- Ensuring efficient operation and management of criminal records and efficient joint monitoring of cross-border crime, taking full advantage of the relevant facilities available through Interpol;
- Making recommendations to governments of member countries in relation to matters affecting effective policing in southern Africa;
- Formulation of systematic regional training policies and strategies; and
- Carrying out appropriate actions and strategies for purposes of promoting regional police cooperation and collaboration.

Priority crimes that are handled by SARPCCO include terrorism; motor vehicle theft; drugs and counterfeit pharmaceuticals; economic and commercial crimes; firearms and explosives; trafficking in gold, diamonds and other precious stones and metals; crimes against women and children; illegal immigrants and stolen and lost travel documents; wildlife crime and endangered species; and trafficking in human beings. □



## SADC statistics protocol on the cards

**THE DEVELOPMENT** of a regional instrument to regulate activities aimed at collecting timely and accurate regional statistical information is critical to effective policy formulation and implementation of the SADC integration agenda.

Currently, most of the statistical information is produced and disseminated by national statistical systems in various Member States, mainly for their respective information requirements.

While this national statistical information is important and feeds towards the generation of regional statistics that inform policies, strategies and implementation plans at the SADC level, variations among the national statistical systems, both in terms of data coverage and statistical methods, poses a serious challenge for the consolidation and quality of regional information.

In order to address this challenge, southern Africa has embarked on a process to develop a coordinated and regulated SADC Regional Statistical System (SRSS).

The overarching objective of the SRSS is to support regional integration by making available relevant, timely and accurate regional statistical information to be used for policy formulation, planning, and protocol monitoring and decision-making.

"The instrument is required to ensure that the institutional arrangements for collecting, processing and dissemination of regional statistics are formalised and

adequately capacitated," according to a document produced by the SADC Secretariat.

The SRSS is expected to be one of the outcomes of the proposed SADC Protocol on Statistics.

"Guided by principles of the African Charter on Statistics, the envisaged protocol should also provide a framework for enforcing compliance on minimum standards for quality statistics and for the Secretariat to be able to collect statistics from the Member States."

It is envisaged that the proposed protocol will enhance the level of statistical development both nationally and regionally and facilitate "the pursuit of monitoring and measuring progress of development agendas at national, regional, continental and global level."

Signature and ratification of the protocol will be a demonstration of the commitment by Member States to the overall goals of statistical development.

Furthermore, the protocol is conceived as a binding instrument that will entrench and give legal effect to the statistical functions in the SADC region and is expected to give legal mandate to the SADC Secretariat to coordinate and provide oversight to the implementation of SRSS.

The protocol will be aligned to the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and other relevant existing SADC protocols, according to the document.

The Revised RISDP recognizes statistics as one of the cross-cutting priority intervention areas. In fact, the regional development blueprint acknowledges that the absence of a regional statistics legal framework is a major constraint for the Secretariat in performing its work.

The Revised RISDP identifies four key intervention areas in the area of statistics that need to be addressed. These are:

- Development of a legal framework in statistics;
- Harmonisation of Statistics in the region, including standardized classification and methodology for the development for statistics at national and regional levels; and

- Provision of relevant statistics for regional integration. This included the development of information exchange mechanisms between SADC Secretariat and producers in Member States, and development of an integrated regional statistics database.

The RISDP is a 15-year strategic plan approved by SADC leaders in 2003 as a blueprint for regional integration and development.

The strategic plan was revised in 2015 to realign the region's development agenda with emerging regional, continental and global dynamics such as the need to frontload industrialisation in the developmental aspirations of southern Africa. □

### Information is key to sustainable development

**ON THE** food and security situation in the region, the summit said there is need to develop a mechanism to increase investment in the agricultural sector as well as putting in place measures to avert an impending drought.

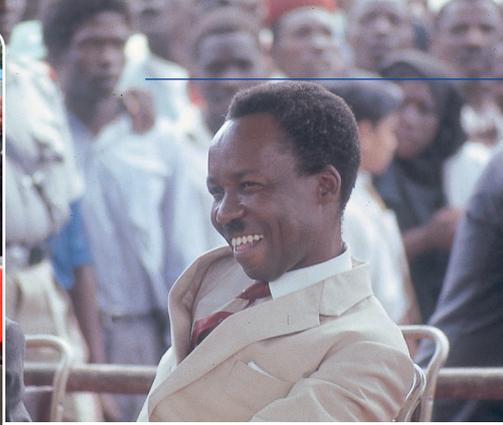
Agriculture is the backbone of most economies in southern Africa hence the sector should be supported as a priority area of development. Statistics show that almost two-thirds of the 300 million people in the region are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods.

"Summit noted the overall decline in food production in the region for the 2017/18 crop season, and urged Member States to put in place measures to tackle food insecurity in the region, while developing con-

tingency plans to enhance drought preparedness in view of the likelihood of adverse El Nino-induced conditions during the 2018/19 cropping season," the communiqué read.

According to a report released in July, the State of Food and Nutrition Insecurity and Vulnerability in Southern Africa, the SADC region is estimated to have a cereal surplus of 6.3 million metric tonnes, down from 7.5 million tonnes the previous year.

The number of food insecure people in the 2018/19 consumption year is estimated at 29 million, according to the report. As such, it is important for SADC Member States to increase food production to keep pace with its growing population. □



## Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School

by Raymond Ndhlovu

**THE MWALIMU** Nyerere Leadership School is being established in Tanzania to serve southern Africa in honour of the late founding President and former chairperson of the Frontline States.

The leadership college is a joint effort of six liberation movements from SADC, who are now governing parties, and whose countries gained independence with the support of Nyerere and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation Committee that was hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania.

The six liberation movement parties are Tanzania's Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), and the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia, the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRE-LIMO).

A colourful ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the school was held recently in Kibaha, Coastal Region, near Dar es Salaam. The parties were represented at the function by their respective secretaries-general who took up shovels to prepare the ground.

They will work together to establish the Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School, with

support from China. The government of Tanzania provided the land.

President John Pombe Magufuli officiated at the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of the college with the Head of International Liaison of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Song Tao.

The late Nyerere initiated relations with the People's Republic of China through the first premier, Zhou Enlai, soon after Tanzania's independence in 1961, just 12 years after China's liberation.

This relationship led to China's support for the liberation of southern Africa from colonial rule and apartheid.

President Magufuli cited the need for strong leadership in the region "who will obey leadership ethics and be able to bring economic development to the people."

The Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School will offer training in leadership skills and political principles with the aim of strengthening unity and cooperation in liberating African economies.

The project will be carried out with Chinese financial support and built over the next two years by the China

Railway Jianchang Engineering Company (CRJE) at an estimated cost of \$45 million.

This is the same company that partnered the construction of the strategic Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) completed in 1976 to reduce dependence on the southern routes through then Rhodesia and apartheid South Africa, and regarded as a symbol of China-Africa friendship.

Contemporary relations continue to be strengthened through the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) established by Africa and China in 2000, which has provided a more structured platform for deepening the ties between China and Africa in a broad spectrum of fields from political to economic areas.

The Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School seeks to achieve transformative leadership, by offering leadership educational courses which answer the need to improve regional concerns and integration.

This project comes as a significant milestone in the SADC region, in honour and remembrance of Mwalimu, who is known for sharing the values of integrity and com-

mitment in leadership and the realisation of the liberation of the region.

The project comes as a strong gesture towards raising a well-informed and prepared young generation into influential leadership positions, towards a common future based on regional development.

The Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School is expected to strengthen regional diplomatic relations and improve the yields of regional integration, accelerating economic development through informed curricula and inter-active discussions and lectures.

The project responds to the need expressed by SADC leaders to honour the legendary work of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, which has resulted in the naming in his honour of the African Union's Peace and Security Building at its Addis Ababa headquarters.

Julius Kambarage Nyerere was born in Butiama, in northern Tanzania, on 13 April 1922 and died on 14 October 1999. Many visitors from the region and elsewhere make the journey to Butiama to visit his grave and to remember how he used his life to transform eastern and southern Africa. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net). □

**MWALIMU JULIUS** Kambarage Nyerere was the father of southern African liberation, and one of the founding fathers of SADC. His pursuit of an equitable socio-economic society through collective self-reliance was more difficult than he had envisaged, and he once said that "we are very good at sharing the wealth in Tanzania but I only wish we had made more wealth to share." Mwalimu often said that his generation had achieved at least one goal, that of the political liberation of Africa, and that the next generations must take up the next goals of economic development and prosperity. □



# Harnessing role of information in disaster risk management

by Kizito Sikuka

**“WE CANNOT** stop natural disasters, but we can arm ourselves with knowledge so that many lives would not have to be lost if there was enough disaster preparedness.”

These words by Petra Němcová – one of the most famous philanthropist who founded an organization that helps victims of natural disasters to rebuild their lives – provide a reminder that it is possible for the global community to cope and address the daunting challenges posed by natural disasters.

SADC has over the past few decades experienced an increasing frequency and severity of droughts that were attributed to climate change and variability, resulting in food insecurity. The region experienced the worst drought in 35 years during the 2015/16 agriculture season.

The frequent droughts have seen the number of food-insecure people in the region remaining above 22 million per year since 2010, according to the SADC Secretariat.

So what are SADC Member States doing to strengthen their capacity to deal with natural disasters such as floods and droughts whose increasing frequency and severity threatens to destabilize the region?

“We have put in place a number of measures both at the national and regional level to address the impact of natural disasters in southern Africa,” Rachel Nandelenga, communication and advocacy officer for the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme, said at a regional communication and advocacy workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa in late November.

One such strategy is the establishment of the Vulnerability

Assessment and Analysis (VAA) system in 1999 that seeks to monitor the capacity of households in SADC Member States to deal with external hazards.

Some of the critical elements of the VAA include meteorological and crop production projections, household economic analysis and food and nutrition security surveys.

For example, each year a report that provides an overview of the food security and livelihoods situation in the region is produced and disseminated to stakeholders, including policymakers, to allow them to effectively plan and prepare before a natural disaster occurs.

The VAA system is implemented through multi-sectoral national vulnerability assessment committees that consist of relevant government ministries, non-governmental organizations and international cooperating partners.

Currently, a total of 14 SADC Member States have fully functional vulnerability assessment committees. The remaining two countries, the Union of Comoros and Mauritius, are expected to establish the committees soon. Comoros is the newest member of SADC.

To complement the national assessment committees, SADC established the Regional Vulnerability Assessments Committee (RVAC) in 2000 to guide and coordinate the implementation of the VAA system at country and regional levels.

The RVAC has now come up with a RVAA programme, which aims to strengthen the capacity of Member States to undertake and utilize vulnerability assessments to inform policy formulation, development programmes and emergency interventions that lead to a reduction in vulnerability in the region.

Coordinated by the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (DRRU) at the SADC Secretariat, the programme to be implemented in three phases (*see table one for the various phases*) aims to further integrate VAA systems into Member State administrative and financial structures to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.

Since its establishment in 2006, the RVAA programme has made significant strides in providing timely and credible information that has influenced policies, and its products are now a vital reference point for decision makers in

addressing food and nutrition security issues.

However, communication experts meeting in Johannesburg to discuss the SADC RVAA said there is need to develop an effective communication strategy aimed at creating a greater understanding of the programme and its products.

To this end, a Communication and Advocacy Plan covering the period 2018-2021 has been drafted to mobilize support and resources, as well as to create a conducive environment for the implementation of VAA activities and improve the production, packaging, dissemination, and utilization of VAA products.

The draft Communication and Advocacy Plan proposes a number of strategies, including the need to have RVAC communication and advocacy focal persons at Member State level.

The SADC RVAA communication and advocacy workshop held on 19-21 November reviewed the draft RVAA Programme Communication and Advocacy Plan, and afforded an opportunity to communication persons to equip themselves with skills to effectively communicate and disseminate VAA products. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

## Phases of the RVAA Programme

Phase 1 (2005- 2011)	Phase 2 (2012 – 2016)	Phase 3 (2017-2021)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VACs established</li> <li>VAA methodology and tools developed</li> <li>Programme informed broader approaches to tackling food insecurity, including safety nets and social protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scope of the VAA was expanded to include urban areas and chronic vulnerability issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS &amp; nutrition</li> <li>Guidelines for integrating urban vulnerability; nutrition, gender and HIV; and markets into VAA were developed and piloted</li> <li>Great strides were made in influencing policies and programmes through VAC products and outputs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focused on sustaining the quality of and broaden the VAA to cover chronic vulnerability, contribute to climate resilient livelihoods and address the challenges of institutionalization and capacity development of NVACs.</li> <li>The three key focus areas                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutionalization and capacity development;</li> <li>- Strengthening approaches and tools; and</li> <li>- Advocacy and leadership development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Source: RVAA Programme Brochure





# Political commitment key to success of PIDA infrastructure projects

**ADDRESSING THE** infrastructure gap remains an imperative that African governments should continue to take seriously if the continent is to realize the aspirations of its people as enshrined in its development blueprint, Agenda 2063 and the global agenda for sustainable development.

Infrastructure experts who met during the 4th Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Week Conference held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in November agreed that there was need for political commitment to develop key transboundary infrastructure projects that will integrate the continent and benefit its citizens.

“Given the infrastructure backlog in the continent, we have to keep up the efforts to accelerate development of key infrastructure projects” reads a communique issued after the meeting.

The experts noted that PIDA projects, especially transboundary infrastructure projects, have the capacity to bolster regional integration “and are a pre-requisite for unleashing Africa’s growth potential.”

PIDA is a blueprint for African infrastructure transformation for the period 2012-2040.

The programme was adopted by African leaders in January 2012 and provides a strategic framework for priority infrastructure projects expected to transform the continent into an interconnected and integrated region.

The meeting noted that Africa needs to improve the rate of implementation of its priority infrastructure projects that are under construction from the current 32 percent to more than 50 percent if it is to achieve its developmental aspirations.

In addition, the experts called for the creation of an enabling environment for the private sector to partner government in infrastructure development on the continent.

“Establishing good governance frameworks and mechanisms for Africa’s infrastructure projects will not only boost investor confidence, it will also guarantee timely delivery of projects within budget and to specification,” they said.

It is also essential for the continent to develop bankable and smart infrastructure with cross-border orientation to propel socio-economic growth on the continent.

“De-risking of projects is necessary and critical to ensure they are bankable to attract capital that has remained largely elusive,” the communique said.

Infrastructure, the delegates agreed, should not remain in the public sector domain, with governments being urged to engage the private sector for long term projects.

The meeting emphasized the importance of strong institutions in Africa’s infrastructure development.

“The relevant institutions should facilitate capacity building in key areas of infrastructure development in the continent. This will boost technical capacity and skills at all levels of the project life cycle as well as relevant institutions to ensure efficient

development and management infrastructure,” the communique reads.

The meeting recommended the establishment of PIDA project specific working groups to focus on data transparency and dissemination; advocacy work; project development; review and funding; partnerships and capacity building.

Cooperating partners, including the African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD Agency, the African Development Bank, and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), vowed to continue working together to put in place sustainable capacity building mechanisms for key infrastructure sectors on the continent and to invest in efforts to accelerate development of key infrastructure projects.

The partners further pledged to launch and use the PIDA Job Creation Toolkit as a part of the package and means to attract and convince key stakeholders, including financiers and development partners on the benefits of PIDA priority projects in the construction phase.

It was also recommended that the PIDA Priority Action Plan (2020-2030) draws from the ongoing review and consultative process and ensure that it is has a realistic list of projects that should be inclusive of all sectors.

In his address to the meeting, Zimbabwean Minister of State for Matabeleland North Province, Richard Moyo said there is need for Africa to accelerate the implementation of PIDA projects.

“This will allow us to add impetus to the continent’s integration process. We need to have the right infrastructure mix and align our national infrastructural projects to the PIDA programme for collective gain,” he said, adding that nothing was impossible if Africa united and stayed focused on what it would have agreed to.

NEPAD chief executive officer Ibrahim Mayaki concurred, saying there need for the continent to accelerate the delivery of infrastructure projects as one.

“We need to continue enabling a constructive dialogue with all the partners, including the private sector so that we can deliver concretely,” he said.

Director for Infrastructure at the AUC, Cheik Bedda said it is critical for African countries to promote and adhere to good governance to attract potential funders and ensure sustainable development in the continent.

The 4th PIDA Week was held under the theme “Realizing Africa’s Integration through Smart Infrastructure and Good Governance”. □

## Status of PIDA projects

Project stage	Continental	AMU	COMESA	EAC	ECCAS	ECOWAS	IGAD	SADC	TOTAL
S1: Project definition		2	2	13	3	9	4	13	46
S2A: Pre-viability		4	5	6	12	1	2	8	38
S2B: Feasibility			4	5	4	7		7	27
S3A: Project Structuring		1	2	11	2	5	2	8	31
S3B: Transaction support and financial close		1		9	2	1		4	17
S4A: Tendering			9	5	1	4	1		20
S4B: Constructure	1	1	4	19	19	22	2	12	80
S4C: Operation	1	4	7	19	2	15	1	8	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>316</b>

Source: PIDA



## SADC launches renewable energy centre

**ESTABLISHMENT OF** a regional centre for renewable energy in southern Africa is expected to go a long way in ensuring the harmonisation of standards in a region inundated with an influx of various solar products and technologies.

This was one of the main sentiments expressed during the official launch of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) in Windhoek, Namibia on 24 October.

The majority of speakers during the ceremony said SACREEE should act as a “clearing house” for setting standards in the SADC renewable energy sector.

Players in the sector are currently allowed to import any renewable energy products and technologies without adhering to any set standards.

According to Botswana’s Minister of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, Eric Molale, this has seen the region importing products and technologies that were not made for local conditions.

He narrated an incident in which one of his officials purchased solar panels from a Botswana distributor but the products melted within days because they were not made for local conditions.

“SACREEE should, therefore, be our standard setter to ensure that the technologies we are importing is suitable for our climatic conditions,” Molale said.

The Namibian Minister of Mines and Energy, Tom Alweendo said in addition to being a clearing house for standards in the sector, the establishment of SACREEE comes at a time when the global renewable energy landscape is fast-changing in terms of the development of new technologies.

“Renewable energy technologies are fast-changing and we need to be able to move with the changes. We believe SACREEE could assist us in this regard,” Alweendo said.

SACREEE should spearhead the promotion of renewable energy development in the region, among other activities.

It is expected to contribute substantially to the development of thriving regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets through knowledge sharing and technical advice in the areas of policy and regulation, technology cooperation, capacity development, as well as investment promotion.

It has been agreed that the centre should be an independent SADC institution that should be owned and supported by member states for sustainability purposes.

Such a development would give the centre more authority to spearhead efforts to increase the uptake of renewable energy sources in the region.

SADC is working closely with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) to accelerate implementation.

ADA Managing Director, Martin Ledolter said SACREEE would assist SADC to meet Sustainable Development Goal 7 on universal access to sustainable energy services by 2030.

“Our partnership with UNIDO in the global network of sustainable energy centres – of which SACREEE is a member – is a significant example of how we are synergising global efforts so as to make SDG7 a reality for all,” Ledolter said.

According to SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, about 61 per cent of the more than 300 million people in southern Africa get “their daily energy needs for space heating and cooking by collecting fuelwood, agricultural residue and animal waste.”

“The ongoing initiatives at national level that are stimulated through regional commitment resulted in increase of weighted average on access to electricity from 36 per cent in June 2013 to 48 per cent observed in June 2018,” Dr Tax said in a speech read on her behalf by Dr Domingos Gove, Director of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the SADC Secretariat.

ADA supports seven renewable energy centres around the world. The first regional centre for renewable energy and energy efficiency opened in 2010 in West Africa.

Five others have been established in East Africa, Southern Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific region and Central America. Another centre in the Himalayas is in the planning stage.

The official launch of SACREEE is part of the First Operational Phase of the centre during which it has primarily focused on developing renewable energy programmes for the region and resource mobilisation.

Initially set to run from 2014-2017, the phase delayed completion by a year.

The Second Operational Phase, from 2018-2021, will focus on activities to ensure sustainability of the centre after the exit of international cooperating partners.

According to the African Development Bank, southern Africa has the potential to become a “gold mine” for renewable energy due to the abundant solar and wind resources that are now hugely sought after by international investors in their quest for clean energy.



# ENERGY SOUTHERN AFRICA



## Regional power pool plan to boost energy trade within SADC

**THE RECENTLY** adopted Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Plan has the capacity to increase energy trade within SADC and reduce the cost of power supply in the region.

Energy experts that met in late November for the SAPP Pool Plan Dissemination Workshop in South Africa said the plan leverages the complementarity of diverse regional energy resources to increase access, reduce load shedding, and provide an improved quality of service in the region.

Spanning the period 2017-2040, the Pool Plan is intended to identify a core set of generation and transmission investments of regional significance that can provide adequate electricity supply to the region efficiently, economically and in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The plan anticipates, among other benefits in the electricity sector, that renewables, especially hydro and gas generation will fulfil a substantially increased component of overall generation capacity in the region.

"We now record wind power at 4 percent and solar energy as 3 percent of the supply and welcome utilities and the private sector to collectively drive the agenda to generate cleaner power for our people," SAPP coordination centre manager Stephen Dihwa said.

He said SAPP has committed resources to continue updating the planning assumptions in the Pool Plan to ensure it reflects the rapidly changing regional environment and technological advances in the energy sector.

SAPP is a regional body that coordinates the planning, generation and transmission of electricity on behalf of member state utilities in southern Africa.

The power utilities in mainland SADC Member States, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected through SAPP, allowing them to sell electricity to one another through a competitive market. **ESI**

For example, the overall hydropower potential in SADC is estimated at about 1,080 terawatt hours per year (TWh/year) but capacity being utilised at present is just under 31 TWh/year. A terawatt is equal to one million megawatts.

The SADC region is also hugely endowed with watercourses such as the Congo and Zambezi, with the Inga Dam

situated on the Congo River having the potential to produce about 40,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, according to the Southern African Power Pool.

With regard to geothermal, the United Nations Environment and the Global Environment Facility estimate that about 4,000 MW of electricity is available along the Rift Valley in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. *sardc.net* □



## Batoka power station to light up southern Africa

**ZAMBIA AND** Zimbabwe have resumed consultations on a project to build the long-awaited Batoka Gorge hydropower station.

The Batoka Gorge is located about 50 kilometres downstream of the mighty Victoria Falls that is shared by the two countries.

When operational, the plant, estimated to cost US\$5.2 billion, will have capacity to produce up to 1,600 megawatts (MW), enough electricity to make a significant contribution towards helping both countries as well as the entire SADC region to meet their energy needs.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa said discussions with Zambia have resumed to ensure that construction of the hydro power station commences soon.

"I wrote to President Edgar Lungu of Zambia proposing that a consortium of Power China and General Electric be contracted to work on the project, which has been outstanding since 1972 when it was first proposed."

Mnangagwa said "the consortium is set to make a presentation" on the implementation plan of the project.

The Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), which manages the Zambezi River on which

the Batoka Gorge power plant will be built, approved the project a few years ago.

Project specifications by the ZRA indicate that the project will be undertaken on a build, operate and transfer basis upstream of the Kariba Dam hydroelectric scheme.

The scheme will have two underground power stations on each side of the Zambezi River that will have four turbines of 200MW installed in each turbine producing a total of 1,600 MW for the scheme.

The Batoka hydro station has been identified as one of the most attractive energy projects in the region, which has potential to help southern Africa exploit the huge hydro potential of the Zambezi River.

Limited funding has been identified as one of the major stumbling blocks in making the Batoka Gorge power plant a reality.

Nevertheless, both countries are determined to resolve the challenges and harness the hydro power from the Zambezi River.

The Batoka Gorge hydro station, which has been on the pipeline for many years, is expected to be completed within five to six years. □



## Programme to support implementation of regional agenda

**SADC HAS** signed a €18.7 million programme with the European Union and Germany aimed at strengthening the implementation of the regional integration agenda.

The SADC Secretariat, European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC, and Germany launched the SADC Integrated Institutional Capacity Building (IICB) Programme in Gaborone, Botswana on 23 November.

The IICB programme is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Secretariat and national structures in SADC Member States to facilitate and coordinate implementation of regional programmes as identified in the SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, a development and implementation framework that guides SADC regional integration agenda.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the IICB programme will focus on activities with impact in sectoral coordinating structures in the areas of industrial-

ization, agriculture and infrastructure development.

Head of Delegation of the European Union to Botswana and SADC, Jan Sadek said the relations between the EU and SADC have been very positive over the last decade and indicated that the EU is looking to intensify existing relations and evolving them "towards a true partnership of equals, a partnership based on strategic common in-

terests and values and advanced through political dialogue."

He said in the next four years, the EU support to SADC is expected to reach more than €150 million, of which around €80 million will be managed directly by SADC.

Germany Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, Ralf Andreas Breth said the launch of the IICB programme reflects and reinforces Germany's belief

of sharing the European experiences and providing opportunities to SADC and other regional organisations.

The IICB programme is co-funded by the EU and Government of Germany. The EU is providing a total of €13.2 million while Germany will provide €5.5 million through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. □

## SADC, Russia sign cooperation agreement

**SADC AND** Russia signed a five-year agreement on the Basic Principles of Relations and Cooperation which aims to provide a framework for cooperation.

The agreement was signed on 23 October in Moscow, Russia by SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Lavrov said the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding marks the beginning

of an important chapter in cementing relations between SADC and the Russian Federation.

He said Russia has stepped up efforts to strengthen its mutually beneficial relations with Africa, adding that his country continues to support various initiatives on the continent, including peacekeeping and infrastructure development.

To strengthen relations, he said Russia is preparing to convene a Russia-Africa Summit in 2019, which will bring

together heads of state and government from Africa and Russia.

Dr Tax said the signing of the MoU was a giant step towards forging closer cooperation between SADC and the Russian Federation for the benefit of the peoples of southern Africa and Russia.

She said the SADC Secretariat will support its Member States to develop and implement strategic programmes and projects with partners from the Russian Federation. □

## SADC, UN strengthen political cooperation

**SADC AND** the United Nations have agreed to strengthen cooperation and strategic partnerships in the area of politics, peace and security.

Speaking during a visit to the Secretariat by UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brooke Zerihoun in October, SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax expressed appreciation at the support rendered by the UN agencies to the SADC region.

She cited the role by the UN in supporting and funding critical activities related to

the Lesotho National Dialogue Stabilization Project as well as collaborative undertakings by the SADC, AU (African Union) and UN special envoys in relation to supporting Madagascar to achieve progress in its political stabilisation.

SADC, AU and UN had to intervene in Madagascar early this year following violent protests between the ruling party and opposition forces.

Former presidents, Marc Ravalomanana and Andy Rajoelina were opposing some of the proposed electoral laws by

incumbent President Hery Rajaonarimampianina, arguing that the new laws are designed to bar them from taking part in elections that were set for November.

SADC responded by deploying former Mozambican leader Joaquim Chissano to facilitate a national dialogue aimed at addressing the political tensions and reaching consensus on the electoral process in Madagascar.

The mediation culminated in the holding of presidential elections held on 7 November, which did not produce an out-

right winner and saw Ravalomanana and Rajoelina heading for a run-off on 19 December.

Dr. Tax expressed appreciation on the collaboration with the UN through the United Nations Organization Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) where the SADC deployed forces under MONUSCO.

During the meeting, the two discussed various issues, including the need to strengthen cooperation and strategic partnerships between the two organizations. □

# Blue economy The “New Frontier of African Renaissance”

by Admire Ndhlovu

**THE RECENT** global conference on the “blue economy” was a welcome development that provided an opportunity for Africa to unlock its potential and achieve sustainable development.

Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 26-28 November for the Blue Economy Conference, the global community engaged on how to achieve the sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources for improved human wellbeing, social equity and healthy ecosystems.

Blue economy is a term used to refer to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.

The largest sectors of the African aquatic and ocean-based economy are fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transport, ports, coastal mining, and energy.

The African Union has now termed the blue economy as the “New Frontier of African Renaissance.”

Of the 54 countries in Africa, 38 are coastal, and more than 90 percent of imports and exports in the continent are conducted by sea – underscoring the importance of the blue economy in the development agenda of the continent.

Running under the theme “Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Blue Economy Conference discussed new technologies and innovative ways of harnessing the full potential of oceans, seas, lakes and rivers in Africa as well as the challenges, potential opportunities, priorities and partnerships.

In her opening remarks, the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Monica Juma said that oceans, seas, lakes and rivers hold natural capital that could be used to

accelerate economic growth, while creating employment and reducing poverty.

To achieve this, governments, private sector and civil society made commitments to advance a sustainable blue economy in various fields including marine protection, plastics and waste management, fisheries development, financing, infrastructure, and biodiversity and climate change.

The United Republic of Tanzania is committed to mainstreaming the blue economy, including climate change and environmental sustainability, in its development planning, according to President Ali Mohamed Shein of Zanzibar, who spoke at the conference.

For island countries such as Mauritius, coral reefs provide habitat for diverse aquatic species and act as natural barrier protecting coastal cities and communities from floods.

As noted by the Minister of Ocean Economy, Premdutt Koonjoo, the island is committed to restoring degraded coral reefs by increasing the number of coral nurseries from 18 to 30, conducting a sea resources survey to identify new species and their stock potentials, and monitoring and restoring sea grass.

Similarly, Mozambique’s 2017 Policy and Strategy of the Sea includes measures to restore 5,000 hectares of mangroves by 2023, as well as establishment of a blue economy observatory to coordinate, harmonize and maximize the use of the sea and actions to combat marine waste.

The Namibian Blue Economy Strategy 2017-2022 addresses marine mining, tourism development, port infrastructure and services, and eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, among other issues.

The country is keen to promote the blue value chain, incorporating fisheries and tourism sectors and is already moving

towards desalinating seawater for agriculture, domestic and industrial use. Namibia is set to allocate US\$5 million for marine protection and research.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), one of the building blocks of the proposed African Economic Community, is already taking action to promote the development of its blue economy.

Nine SADC Member States are coastal and possess huge blue economy potential – Angola, Union of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania.

Among the blue economy opportunities in the SADC region are the vast renewable resources such as tidal power, ocean currents and ocean thermal energy conversion, as well as food and nutrition security from fisheries and aquaculture. Other opportunities for the region include marine and coastal tourism, shipping, mining and ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, atmospheric and temperature regulation, and protection from erosion and extreme weather events.

To fully exploit its blue economy, SADC is moving towards a strategy to develop a thriving maritime economy and harness the full potential of sea-based activities in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Various regional documents, including the SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2015-2020) and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063), identify the blue economy as a potential area for sustainable growth in the region.

The industrialization strategy, for example, requires that the blue economy initiative be mainstreamed in the development of infrastructure required to accelerate industrialization.

A number of SADC member states such as Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa have already developed blue economy strategies and institutional mechanisms at national level.

The blue economy initiative is thus timely for the SADC region, which has witnessed significant discoveries of large reserves of oil and natural gas in countries such as Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania in recent years, indicating a huge potential for exploitation of the resource in the region.

In this regard, it is critical for SADC and the rest of the African continent to come up with an integrated blue economy strategy.

The blue economy concept has been debated in various fora. It featured prominently during the Rio+20 Summit held in Brazil in 2012, whose outcomes have proven to be a strong catalyst for driving new efforts towards the implementation of previous and new commitments on oceans and inland waters.

At the African level, the blue economy is encapsulated in the AU’s 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy (AU 2050 AIMS), and is a core part of the AU’s Agenda 2063 where it is recognized as a catalyst for socioeconomic transformation.

In July 2015, the AU launched the African Day (25 July) and Decade of Seas and Oceans 2015–2025 to rally action on the Blue Economy.

The inaugural Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi gathered almost 19,000 participants from 184 countries, including seven Heads of State and Government and 84 Ministers.

A number of SADC leaders, including Presidents Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique and Danny Faure of Seychelles, as well as Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila of Namibia attended. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □



## SADC prepares to lead peacekeeping duties in Africa

THE CODENAME for the just-ended regional peacekeeping exercise held in Malawi perfectly embodies what Africa is striving for — an integrated, united, prosperous and peaceful continent.

Exercise UMODZI, which in indigenous Malawian language chiChewa means “solidarity, partnership and oneness”, sought to prepare military, police and civilians from SADC to effectively carry out their peacekeeping duties in Africa.

According to the SADC Secretariat, southern Africa is expected to assume its peacekeeping responsibilities at continental level under the African Standby Force (ASF) in January 2019.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is the current lead of the ASF roster.

The ASF is an important tool of the African peace and security architecture for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in the continent.

It is a multidisciplinary peacekeeping force consisting of military, police and civilian contingents deployed to respond swiftly to a crisis unhampered by any heavy political and instrumental burdens.

The ASF, which became fully operational in 2016 is based on standby arrangements among Africa’s five sub-regions namely North Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa and Southern Africa.

In this regard, it was agreed that the various Regional Economic Communities or Regional Mechanisms be placed on a six-monthly rotational basis to lead the ASF.

Hence, the opportunity for SADC to assume its roster duties with the ASF will begin on 1 January 2019 until 30 June 2019.

The SADC Standby Force, or Brigade, was established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the SADC Heads of States and Government in Lusaka, Zambia in 2007.

The SADC force operates as a tool of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and receives its direction and guidance from the SADC Committee of Chiefs of Defence staff and the Committee of SADC Police Chiefs to provide peace-building efforts in the region.



These peace-building efforts include post-conflict disarmament and demobilisation and humanitarian assistance in conflict areas and areas impacted by major natural disasters such as drought and floods.

Training of personnel is mainly conducted by the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre located in Harare, Zimbabwe as well as other national peace-support training institutions.

In preparation to assume its peacekeeping duties at the continental level, SADC has been involved in a number of military exercises, with the latest one being Exercise UMODZI.

Exercise UMODZI was held on 1-17 October in Malawi.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, said the exercise was aimed at strengthening the conflict resolution capabilities of the region and the continent in partial fulfilment of the AU Aspiration for Silencing the Guns by 2020.

She said peace and stability are a key conduit for sustainable development and regional integration, hence there is need for all countries to exhibit the spirit of UMODZI, which are solidarity, partnership and oneness to address and manage any conflicts in SADC and Africa.

“Peace and security remain one of the critical ingredients of sustainable socio-economic development of the SADC region.”

Participants at Exercise UMODZI that took place at the Malawi Armed Forces College in Salima were exposed to various trainings including modern-day complexities associated with peacekeeping operations.

There participant who included military, police and civilians from the different Member States also exchanged of ideas and learning between and among themselves.

This exposure and networking is critical since the ever-changing complexities in the nature of conflicts have transformed from the traditional peacekeeping of yesteryear to the multi-dimensional and high-bred missions of today.

In this regard, there is need for regional, continental and international peace support operations to be well coordinated, harmonised and integrated to ensure effective cohesion in the execution of different peacekeeping tasks.

SADC has successfully held a number of military exercises in the region. These include the inaugural Blue Hungwe Exercise that was held in 1997 in Zimbabwe.

Other notable exercises are the Blue Crane in South Africa in 1999 and the Tanzanite held in Tanzania in 2002, as well as Exercise Thokgamo that was conducted in 2005 in Botswana and Exercise Golfinho in South Africa in 2009. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □



## DRC elections set for 23 December

**SADC HAS** expressed solidarity with the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they prepare to hold general elections on 23 December.

This follows the unexpected destruction of electoral materials after the occurrence of a fire on 13 December at one of the central warehouses of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) in Kinshasa.

SADC chair, President Hage Geingob of Namibia said all stakeholders should seek to promote a culture of tolerance and restraint and ensure that the elections are not only successful but also peaceful and transparent.

"SADC wishes to further emphasise that the forthcoming elections represent a major milestone in the history of the DRC and are instrumental in establishing sustainable peace and political stability," Dr Geingob said in a statement.

SADC has been seized with the political and electoral situation in the DRC since 1998 when the country joined SADC.

According to the CENI, a total of 21 candidates will take part in the presidential elections while more than 15,000 candidates will contest the parliamentary polls.

Some of the leading presidential candidates include former Interior Minister Emmanuel Shadary who has the support of incumbent President Joseph Kabila.

Others are Felix Tshisekedi, president of the main opposition party, Union for Democracy and Social Progress; and Vital Kamerhe of the Union for the Congolese Nation who came third in the last election held in 2011.

The elections in DRC were originally supposed to be held in 2016 when the second and final term of President Kabila ended. However, various challenges, including internal instability and conflict in the east of the country, as well as lack of capacity of the electoral commission prevented the elections from taking place.

According to the DRC constitution, Kabila is not eligible to contest in the forthcoming elections. □

## Towards stability in Lesotho

**POLITICAL LEADERS** and other key stakeholders from the Kingdom of Lesotho have made a commitment to work together in finding a lasting solution to the challenges facing the country.

The commitment was made at a historic multi-stakeholder national dialogue held in late November as part of broader plans to implement the Lesotho Reforms Roadmap.

The Lesotho Reforms Roadmap, which is in line with recommendations made by SADC in 2014 to the government of Lesotho, is a multi-sectoral reforms plan that seeks to identify immediate and long-term solutions towards achieving political and security stability.

Meeting in Maseru on 26-28 November, the political leaders and other key stakeholders agreed on wide ranging measures, including the need to complete constitutional and security sector reforms by May 2019.

According to the reforms roadmap, constitutional and security sector reforms are one of the major sticking points that were necessitated by the "absence of consensus on how to govern Lesotho, including how powers should be divided."

Furthermore, the security sector has been "apportioned a substantial part of the blame for the cyclical political instability in the country."

For example, the assassination of the commander of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), Khoantle Motsomotso in September 2017 threatened efforts to promote and find a lasting solution to the political situation in the country.

In fact, a similar incident of an alleged coup in June 2015 led by former army chief, General Maaparankoe Mahao plunged the country into a crisis.

In this regard, to assist in resolving the political challenges in Lesotho, SADC deployed a contingency force in September 2017 to monitor the situation in the country.

In addition, a SADC Oversight Committee was established to act as an early warning mechanism for the political situation in Lesotho. The committee monitored and assisted the kingdom in implementing SADC decisions.

These regional efforts by SADC have

been a welcome development for the country, and the dialogue meeting in November pledged its "full and unconditional acceptance of the SADC Decisions and Recommendations."

"We emphasise our commitments to the SADC Observer Mission to Lesotho (SOMILES) Report of 2014 and the Lesotho Reforms Roadmap which made recommendations for a long-term solution towards achieving political and security stability," reads part of the communique released after the dialogue.

"We endorse the adoption of the roadmap for reforms and recall the recommendation of SADC to prioritise the constitutional and security sector reforms which should be completed by May 2019."

The political leaders and other key stakeholders adopted the Terms of Reference and nomination of members of the Lesotho National Dialogue Planning Committee (NDPC).

The NDPC will, among other issues, "develop a document reflecting the identified issues that should be presented for discussion and consultation with the people of Lesotho", according to the communique.

Another key activity for the committee is to review and consolidate various reports from meetings and develop proposals for consideration and decision by the second plenary of the second dialogue that will focus on Legislation and Constitutional Reforms.

The Lesotho multi-stakeholder national dialogue was held under the theme "The Lesotho we want: Comprehensive National Reforms."

Lesotho has experienced recurring political instability since its independence in October 1966. The political problems saw the country holding three national elections during the past six years.

The recent commitment by the political leaders and other key stakeholders is, therefore, a positive development towards finding a lasting solution to the political challenges in the country. □

**THE SADC** Preventative Mission in Lesotho (SAPMIL) has officially been closed following significant improvements to the political environment in the country. The SAPMIL was launched in November 2017 to facilitate a secure, stable and peaceful environment conducive for the implementation of various regional decisions, including security sector reforms. Noting steady progress towards peace and stability, SADC closed the mission on 20 November.

GENDER  
16

DAYS  
OF

ACTIVISM

OUR STREETS TOO

25 November - 10 December 2018

16 days of activism against gender-based violence

STOP  
THE  
VIOLENCE

Speak out  
for girls' rights

#OurStreetsToo

## SADC committed to curbing gender based violence

by Nyarai Kampilipili

**VIOLENCE AGAINST** women and girls is a pandemic in southern Africa and an obstacle to equality, development, peace and human rights.

This is the message from the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, in her contribution to the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The 16 Days of Activism against GBV is an annual global campaign dedicated to raising awareness and advocacy to end violence against women and girls.

The campaign runs every year from 25 November, which marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 10 December, which is dedicated as Human Rights Day.

"We cannot be silent and inactive on GBV as a region," Dr Tax said, adding "silence and stigma have allowed violence against women to escalate to pandemic proportions."

She said "in realizing that violence against women and girls continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfilment of women and girls' human rights," the region has come up with various measures to address the challenge.

For example, a number of regional strategic documents and frameworks including the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics,

Defence and Security considers GBV as a critical area of concern.

In fact, these regional documents clearly affirm the principles of women empowerment and gender equality, and recognize the prevention and reduction of GBV as a catalyst for attaining an environment conducive for peace and security.

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development identifies GBV as an area of concern and proposes several approaches to addressing this pandemic.

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and attainment of gender equality and equity through enactment of gender-responsive legislation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects.

The protocol was revised in 2016 to align with the provisions to emerging issues such as climate change and child marriages, as well as various global targets and instruments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

Dr Tax said to intensify the fight against GBV, the region has put in place other legal frameworks such as the Regional GBV Strategy 2018-2030 and its Framework of Action and the SADC Regional Strategy on Women,

Peace and Security 2018 – 2022.

The SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security gives due attention to the need to include women in national security sector institutions and processes and the need to combat any human rights violations of women and children with emphasis on combatting sexual GBV.

The SADC Regional Gender Based Violence Strategy was developed to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development with a specific focus on Articles addressing GBV.

SADC also developed the 10 Year Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP), especially Women and Children (2009 – 2019).

GBV is used to manipulate and control women, men, boys and girls who fall victim of trafficking in persons. TIP has affected a number of people in SADC, with victims, mostly women and children, subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or even the removal of body organs.

According to Secretariat, these measures coupled with other efforts continue to yield positive results in addressing GVB.

"In the last decade, we have seen the issue of GBV moving from the shadows to the foreground of commitments and actions to attain sustainable development," Dr Tax said.



SADC Executive Secretary,  
Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax

"Global actions like the 16 Days Campaign are some of the initiatives that continue to provide an opportunity to mobilize global, regional and national actions against GBV."

She urged Member States to intensify action aimed at prevention of GBV and to strengthen related services, as well as "create platforms for giving voice to the voiceless, including to allow for safe reporting, provision of shelters and places of safety for victims and survivors of GBV."

The United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka added her voice, saying that it is still unclear as to the extent of violence against women, as most fear reprisal. Mlambo-Ngcuka said there is stigma associated with GBV and this has silenced victims from reporting such cases, hence it is critical for the global community to unmask the true extent of these continued horrific experiences.

This year's 16 Days of Activism against GBV aims to encourage people to speak out and act against GBV. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

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**December 2018**

2-14, Poland

**UNFCCC COP 24**

The 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) brings together global leaders to continue negotiations towards a global consensus on addressing the impact of climate change.

3-5, Rwanda

**African Economic Conference**

The conference provides an opportunity for researchers, policymakers and development practitioners to debate and build knowledge on solutions for continental integration. The theme for this year is "Regional and Continental Integration for Africa's Development".

5-7, Botswana

**SADC Finance Sub-Committee Meeting**

The sub-committee meeting is one of the first series of meetings held ahead of the SADC Council of Ministers set for early 2019. The meeting will review and clear documents for the Finance Committee for approval by the Council.

19, Madagascar

**Presidential 2nd Round Elections**

Madagascar is set for a run-off on 19 December after no presidential candidate amassed enough votes to be declared outright winner following elections held in early November. The run-off will be contested by two former presidents, Andry Rajoelina and Marc Ravalomanana who led first round presidential polls.

23, DRC

**DRC General Elections**

The Democratic Republic of Congo will hold its long-awaited general elections on 23 December. A total of 21 candidates will take part in the presidential elections, while more than 15,000 candidates will contest the parliamentary polls. The winner will replace President Joseph Kabila who has served his full terms in office.

**January 2019**

14-17, Abu Dhabi

**World Future Energy Summit**

The summit will be dedicated to sustaining the clean energy consensus as well as promoting and empowering new players in the sector. The summit presents energy stakeholders with a unique opportunity to exchange technology and share best practises.

TBA, Egypt

**32nd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly**

African heads of state and government will gather for the 32nd Assembly of the African Union, which will be preceded by ministerial and technical meetings. The AU theme for 2019 will be "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement".

February

2, Global

**World Wetlands Day**

World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997. Since then government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups have celebrated World Wetlands Day by undertaking actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

19-20, South Africa

**Africa Energy Indaba**

The indaba will bring together international and continental experts to share insights and solutions to the energy challenges in Africa while simultaneously exploring vast energy development opportunities on offer in the continent.



BRILHANTEMENTE PELAS FAPLA, QUE RESISTIRAM A MAIS DE 60 DIAS DE SITIO. FOI O SÍMBOLO DA DETERMINAÇÃO DO POVO DE VENCER OU MORRER PELA DEFESA DA PÁTRIA.

30 years



## 30 years Since peace at Cuito Cuanavale

**THIRTY YEARS** have passed since the historic signing of a peace agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa that cleared the way for the eventual independence of Namibia and post-apartheid South Africa.

The South African apartheid military involvement in Angola began in August 1975, before Angola's independence in November of that year.

From 1978, South Africa made several military incursions into Angolan territory and intensified them in 1981 in retaliation to Angola's policy of hosting nationalist forces from South Africa and from neighbouring Namibia who were fighting for independence from South African rule.

The turning point was a massive battle in late 1987/88.

Cuito Cuanavale, a tiny town in the remote south-eastern corner of Angola, whose strategic importance as an airstrip and its use as a forward air defence base for southern Angola became the battleground for a military test of wills.

The South African Defence Force deployed more than 9,000 troops, including Namibian units, and committed its most sophisticated military hardware in the form of long-range artillery, tanks, armoured cars and massive air force cover.

In response to this massive military build-up, Cuban troops were committed to the fighting in the south of Angola for the first time in 11 years.

Previously, the Cubans had been garrison troops, holding key installations in the rear and training government soldiers.

The contest between South African aggression and Angolan ability to defend itself resulted in severe casualties and loss of equipment on both sides, but the heavily fortified town was held.

This historic encounter signalled the beginning of serious negotiations although fighting continued.

Talks were held by Cuba and Angola on one side, and South Africa on the other, in London in May 1988, mediated by the United States.

This was followed up with a meeting between the two superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union, in Lisbon, Portugal where a peace plan outlined the withdrawal of both Cuban and South African forces within a year.

A series of exploratory consultations continued.

On 22 December 1988 Angola, Cuba and South Africa signed a tripartite peace agreement in New York.

According to the agreement, Namibia's independence process was to begin on 1 April 1989.

The phased withdrawal of an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops was to take place up to July 1991; prisoners of war would be exchanged; and an additional requirement was the departure of some 6,000 African National Congress cadres from Angola.

The United Nations Security Council accordingly sanctioned the formation of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) to monitor the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

The accord delicately intertwined interests among all three parties and ended two long-running conflicts: the 13 years of hostilities between South Africa and Angola supported by Cuban forces, and a 22-year-old war between the freedom fighters of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and South African forces. □

## Historic South African interim Constitution



**IT IS 25 years** since the historic signing of an interim Constitution that signalled the demise of the racist apartheid system in South Africa.

Three years of negotiations led to agreement on an interim Constitution between the minority South African government, led by the National Party, its historical opponent, the African National Congress (ANC), and 18 other parties on 18 November 1993.

The interim Constitution was approved by South Africa's last racially defined Parliament on 22 December 1993, exactly five years after the Cuito Cuanavale peace agreement.

The interim Constitution entered into force on 27 April 1994. It was superseded by the final Constitution on 4 February 1997 as the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The Harare Declaration of the Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa of the then Organization of African Unity, in August 1989, set in motion the democratic transition of South Africa.

Among other things, the declaration demanded the formation of a political system that affords all men and women the right and duty to participate in their own government as equal members of society.

Formal negotiations for a South African transitional Constitution began in December 1991 at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. □

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2018 - February 2019

1 December	The Prophet's Birthday	Comoros
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC countries except Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique
	Family Day	Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
26 December	Boxing Day	Swaziland
28 December	Incwala Day	
1 January	New Year's Day	SADC
4 January	Martyrs Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
16 January	Heroes' Day (Laurent Kabila)	DRC
17 January	Heroes' Day (Patrice Lumumba)	DRC
21 January	Thaipooam Cavadee	Mauritius
1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
5 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius