



African Continental Free Trade Area operational from 30 May 2019



by Kizito Sikuka

THE LARGEST trade arrangement that has the potential to change the global economic landscape and boost intra-regional trade in Africa has entered into force.

Commonly known as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the integrated market became operational on 30 May after the required 22 countries had deposited their instruments of ratification with the African Union (AU) Commission.

In fact 24 countries have ratified the AfCFTA Agreement to establish the enlarged market. Of these, four are from the SADC region – Kingdom of Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

According to the AU legal statutes, a protocol “enters into force” following ratification by at least 22 of the 55 AU Member States.

The ratification process advances the continental law from being a stated intention to actual application, and those member states that join after a protocol has entered into force, “accede” to the protocol.

According to the AU, more countries are expected to deposit their ratification in-

struments by 7 July ahead of the AU Extraordinary Summit set for Niamey, Niger where the AfCFTA will be officially launched by African leaders.

The AU has described the establishment of an integrated market as a historic landmark for the continent to transform its political independence into sustainable economic development.

AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Ambassador Albert Muchanga said, with a single market now in place for Africa, the continent is in a better position to speak and act as a united entity in global trade negotiations and in the process leverage its strength to secure trade and investment deals that offer accelerated and inclusive sustainable development for her people.

“We celebrate the triumph of bold, pragmatic and continent-wide commitment to economic integration,” Amb. Muchanga said.

He said in launching the AfCFTA and making it work, Africa is overcoming the historic fragmentation and isolation of its economies by opening up huge commercial opportunities as well as improving transport and communication linkages.

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"This aggregation and connectivity are forces for accelerated growth and sustainable development of African countries will enable us and realize the vision of the AU and Agenda 2063, which aspires for an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens, representing a dynamic force in the global arena."

But what exactly is this AfCFTA? How does it work? Why is it so important for Africa, and what are some of the challenges that could impact on its success?

Unpacking the AfCFTA

A Free Trade Area (FTA) generally refers to a region where a group of countries sign an agreement to reduce trade barriers in order to increase trade of goods and services with each other.

In this regard, the AfCFTA brings together all the 55 AU Member States, covering a market of more than 1.2 billion people, including a growing middle class, and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

In terms of the numbers of participating countries, the AfCFTA is the world's largest FTA since the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union.

The AfCFTA will also expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation and instruments across the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and across Africa in general.

According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, when fully operational, the AfCFTA is expected to increase African intra-regional trade from 15 percent to 25 percent, or from US\$50 billion to US\$70 billion by 2040.

Implementing the AfCFTA

The AfCFTA is expected to be implemented in various stages since the overall process of regional integration in Africa including its

eight regional economic communities is at different stages.

In this regard, the AfCFTA will build on the existence of other FTAs in the continent such as the SADC FTA and the pending "Grand" FTA involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community and SADC.

However, the actual implementation of the AfCFTA will entail that all members of the trade agreement abolish any tariffs, taxes or special requirements for importation of goods from other member countries.

Parties to the agreement must also discourage any monopoly of the domestic market to make it easier for international producers to penetrate the market.

The implications of these regulations is expected to promote free and fair trade and competition among member states, thereby encouraging countries to work together rather than as individual states.

Significance of the integrated trade area

The significance of the AfCFTA cannot be overstated. First, it is the world's largest free trade area by market size and participation since the establishment of the WTO in 1994.

Thus, the successful implementation of the AfCFTA will have a significant positive impact on manufacturing and industrial development, tourism, intra-African cooperation, and economic transformation.

Further, the AfCFTA represents a bold statement and significant opportunity for the continent to redress the vulnerabilities of Africa's economies within the global economic order, which has seen countries trade more with the outside world than among themselves.

This situation has meant that resources intended to develop Africa are shipped and traded elsewhere, improving the economies of Europe, Asia and the Americas.

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA CREATING ONE AFRICAN MARKET

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The current trade imbalances are caused by various factors, including poor infrastructure built during the colonial era which affects the smooth movement of goods, services and people among African countries, as well as the imposition of non-tariff barriers by AU Member States against one another.

If some of these bottlenecks such as the lack of infrastructure are addressed, the AfCFTA is expected to strengthen the continent's appeal as a global trading partner, thus reconstructing world affairs.

Harmonization of trade policies and removal of non-tariff barriers and other trade barriers such as huge export and import fees would enable African countries to also increase their earnings, penetrate new markets and contribute towards their national development.

A single African market will help turn the migrant challenge into a human capital boon for Africa, by allowing workers to fill skills gaps across the continent, as well as increase tourism arrivals.

Furthermore, the AfCFTA will resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping mem-

berships and expedite the regional and continental integration processes.

Currently, most countries in Africa belong to more than one REC, a situation that can cause conflicts of loyalty and confusion of commitment, thus hindering progress of integration in Africa.

Potential challenges

The successful implementation of the AfCFTA depends on a number of factors and, as stated by Amb. Albert Muchanga, "the journey of transforming Africa begins now".

One such issue is the sticking point on the "rules of origin" which determines which products or commodities get the preferential tariffs depending on its classification.

For example, is a product made from Chinese or American silk, but packaged and assembled in Africa eligible to receive AfCFTA preferential tariff rates?

Most important, one of the realities of implementing the AfCFTA is that it requires not just the governments but the input of African citizens, particularly the private sector, to ensure its success. ▢

AfCFTA Secretariat

TO ENSURE the realisation of the AfCFTA, plans are now at an advanced stage to establish a Secretariat that will monitor and track implementation.

According to the AU, the process has started for the establishment of the AfCFTA Secretariat, and an official report on progress will be submitted to the next meeting of the AU Policy Organs set for Niamey, Niger in July where a decision will be made on the structure and location of the Secretariat.

Seven countries have submitted bids to host the Secretariat -- Egypt, Kingdom of Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar and Senegal. ▢



Industrial centres of excellence and specialisation to support skills development, capacity

THE SADC Secretariat has begun the process of identifying regional industrial Centres of Excellence and Centres of Specialisation that will be tasked with spearheading the development of skills and capacity to implement the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2016-2063).

Adopted by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe, the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap aims to accelerate the momentum to strengthen the comparative and competitive advantages of economies of the region.

The strategy and roadmap is anchored on three pillars – Industrialization, Competitiveness, and Regional integration.

Strategic interventions for each of these pillars are proposed in the action plan. These include an improved policy environment for industrial development, increased volume and efficiency of public and private sector investments in the SADC economy, creation of regional value chains and participation in related global processes, as well as increased value addition for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services.

The establishment of the industrial centres of excellence and specialisation is in line with the recognition that education and skills development are important in facilitating industrial growth and improving the competitiveness of the region in the global economy.

Investment in education and skills development as well as in science, technology and innovation is one of the

broad strategic objectives of the SADC regional integration and cooperation agenda.

In fact, the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap identifies human capital development and in particular, skills development, as an important enabling factor for industrialization.

The strategy recognises the importance of technological and economic transformation of the region through industrialization, modernisation, skills development, science and technology, financial strengthening and deeper regional integration.

The region has over the past four years pursued activities aimed at rolling out the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

However, one of the major constraints is a lack of professionally and technically qualified personnel, as well as a weak scientific and technological base to advance the industrialization agenda.

To address this, the SADC Secretariat is conducting a scoping and mapping exercise to identify and recommend potential centres in the region.

The process will be guided by the Regional Framework and Guidelines for the establishment of Regional Centres of Excellence and Centres of Specialisation approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in 2018.

Since there are several institutions that already identify themselves as centres of excellence and centres of specialisation, the framework and guidelines will ensure that the identified institutions will operate within a common set of standards.

The exercise is expected to result in a report identifying and recommending centres in the priority value chains for industrial development.

Furthermore, the study is expected to propose viable funding options, as well as private sector linkages and partnerships.

The identified centres are expected to occupy a niche area of strategic importance determined by the long term vision of SADC for the development of the region and all its Member States.

Establishment of centres of excellences and centres of specialization is also in line with the Protocol on Education and

Training of 1997 and the Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation of 2008.

The Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation defines a centre of excellence as an “institution which has demonstrated a high quality of research and development capability in a specific science, technology and innovation field.”

In this regard, the aim of the regional centres will be to build competencies in research, development and innovation, technology development and transfer, and capacity building in support of industrial development in the region. □

Profiling of Regional Value Chains

THE PROFILING of SADC regional value chains in the priority sectors of agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and pharmaceuticals is nearing completion.

An aquaculture value chain profiling study as well as a study on the pre-feasibility of additional manufacturing capacity for essential medicines and health commodities was commissioned in March 2019.

The SADC Secretariat has been working closely with Member States and project promoters since August 2018 to compile a database of investment projects to be promoted both regionally and globally.

These investment projects focus on six priority value-chain clusters that are aimed at achieving sustained growth and the industrialisation of SADC economies through Agro Processing, Mineral Beneficiation, Pharmaceuticals, Capital Goods, Consumer Goods, and Services.

The development of an action plan to support regional mineral beneficiation projects with the objective of maximizing the developmental impact of mineral resources extraction is nearing completion and is expected to be finalised by August 2019.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) calls for the participation of Member States in domestic, regional and global value chains as one of the interventions to promote industrialization.

Promotion of value chains will enable SADC Member States to specialise in those productive processes and activities where they have competitive advantages. □

Food and Nutrition – Security and Vulnerability

SADC MEMBER States are undertaking detailed national assessments which are to be synthesized into the "SADC Regional State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa Report," for discussion by the Council of Ministers and the Summit of Heads of State and Government in August.

The SADC region is facing a subdued food security situation following low and poorly distributed rainfall during the 2018-2019 farming season.

According to a regional rainfall forecast, most parts of the region received "normal to below-normal" rainfall during the farming season.

Furthermore, the rains were late and erratic, and caused some farmers, particularly in southern and western parts of the region, to delay planting their crops.

A dry spell from mid-January to late February caused moderate to severe moisture stress in the central parts of the region resulting in permanent wilting of crops.

The food security situation was worsened by the Tropical Cyclone Idai that affected parts of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in March 2019.

The cyclone, which was accompanied by heavy rain, winds and storms destroyed a large hectareage of crop, killed hundreds of people and displaced thousands of others in the three affected countries.

Cyclone Idai has been recorded as one of the worst tropical storms to affect Africa and the southern hemisphere.

According to the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture produced by the UN

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), most countries in the region are likely to face food security challenges and will need to import grain to supplement yields.

In Angola, for example, reduced rainfall diminished crop production prospects in the southern and western parts of the country.

Although crops benefitted from adequate rains during the season in the main producing areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, ongoing conflict and the Fall Armyworm infestation resulted in below-average harvests.

In Malawi, favourable rainfall in the first half of the cropping season led to prospects of improved yields of about 3.3 million tonnes of maize. However, flooding in southern parts of the country lowered the expectations.

Losses of food supplies, damage to the soon-to-be harvested crops and reduced access to markets, are likely to aggravate food security conditions.

Cyclone-induced floods caused widespread damage to crops in the central provinces of Mozambique, and national cereal production is expected to decline compared to last year's above-average level.

The International Grains Council is forecasting a 14 percent decline in maize production in South Africa to 10.7 million tonnes.

Zambia and Zimbabwe face similar challenges, with the low rainfall patterns impacting on surplus-producing areas in Zambia which put in place export restrictions.

The Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers Union forecasts the maize output to decline to 900,000 tonnes this season, which is below the 1.8 million

tonnes the country consumes on an annual basis.

The country may need to import another 900,000 to cover a deficit widened by drought and Cyclone Idai. Farmers have been urged to plant traditional cereal crops and small grains which require less water and are more resistant to drought.

In Namibia, a preliminary crop assessment by the government shows that the 2019 cereal production is forecast at 72,000 tonnes, a 53 percent decline from last year and 35 percent down compared to the five-year average.

Tanzania, however, had surplus production and is seeking buyers. At the end of last year, the country had a stockpile of more than 4 mil-

lion tonnes of maize, and was expected to produce a further 16 million tonnes, with a local demand of 13 million tonnes.

The Minister of Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga, said government is intending to boost industrial development and employment through agro-processing industries that can add value to agricultural commodities.

"Agro-processing industries mean value addition, increased price and motivation to produce more," the Minister told an agricultural policy workshop.

"Agriculture directly employs 65% of the population while another 8% is benefiting indirectly through business, there is no way this sector can be ignored in an industrial drive." □

SADC reviews vulnerability assessments process

SADC MEMBER States are working towards harmonizing and improving the quality and relevance of vulnerability assessments and analysis by integrating emerging issues such as nutrition, gender, HIV and AIDS, and urban vulnerability.

Good nutrition is essential for achieving food security and to attain a strong immune system, and the HIV and AIDS pandemic is a major threat to economic growth, agricultural development and food security in the region.

In this regard, there is need to include individual and household level nutrition, HIV and gender indicators in vulnerability assessments.

Speaking at the Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme

Pre-assessment Workshop held in May in Gaborone, Botswana to review the reporting formats, indicators and dissemination strategies, SADC Senior Programme Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sithembiso Gina said policy and decision-makers need timely and credible information to respond effectively to several disasters that have affected the SADC region.

Gina added that the situation makes the 2019 assessments critical to inform disaster response.

The RVAA Programme pre-assessment workshop provided an opportunity for national vulnerability assessment and analysis committees to reflect on the previous reports and draw lessons to inform the 2019 assessments. □

Kasane Elephant Summit A call for global cooperation

THERE IS need for global co-operation in managing the elephant population to ensure sustainable development.

This was one of the main resolutions from the Kasane Elephant Summit held by five SADC countries in May.

The five countries – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe – are home to the largest elephant population in Africa.

The elephant population in Zimbabwe is estimated at more than 100,000, which is nearly three times its sustainable carrying capacity. In Namibia the elephant population stands at over 22,500.

According to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, southern Africa has the largest number of elephants in Africa and the world at about 350,000.

The bulk of this elephant population is found in the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), which is shared by the five SADC Member States. The population has grown in recent years, way above the carrying capacity of their forests.

The ballooning population is due to a number of factors, including an international ban imposed on ivory trading to protect elephants and rhinoceros, which were facing extinction.

In this regard, the leaders of Angola, Botswana,

Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe who attended the Kasane Elephant Summit said they are committed to effectively engaging the international community on matters related to elephant conservation and management.

“We note with concern the recent upsurge in illegal off-take of elephants on much of the African continent. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue unabated, it will pose a very real threat to the survival of this iconic species in much of its range,” read part of the communique released by the leaders after their meeting held in Kasane, Botswana.

The leaders said there is need for the global community to consider removing the ban imposed on ivory trade to allow communities that are home to the elephant population to benefit from the resources.

“We contend, however, that communities deserve to derive benefits from the sustainable utilisation of natural resources, including elephants; particularly since they are the ones who bear the brunt of living side by side with these elephants.”

Elephants from southern Africa are listed in Appendix II of CITES, meaning that commercial international trade in live animals is allowed. However, trade in ivory is banned.

The leaders of KAZA TFCA countries argued that the ban on ivory trade has seriously eroded the revenue for wildlife conservation, and that they have accumulated huge ivory stockpiles which they cannot dispose of.

The ban has led to an increase in poaching as communities are no longer benefiting from proceeds from the ivory trade, the leaders said.

Furthermore, the rising elephant population in southern Africa has worsened cases of human-wildlife conflict, and has led to extensive environmental degradation, in the form of increased soil erosion, vegetation damage and loss of biodiversity.

The elephant population in Namibia is found in the northern part of the country with serious challenges of water, and it is reported that thousands of elephants in Botswana continue to add pressure on wildlife habitats.

The growth of elephant population in Zimbabwe has added pressure on available water resources as most of these populations are concentrated in drought-prone areas

forcing the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to use borehole water as an alternative though it is very expensive to pump.

Countries supporting the total ban of ivory are proposing the inclusion of all populations of the African elephant in Appendix I through the transfer from Appendix II of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Appendix I of CITES lists species that are threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is illegal while those on Appendix II are not necessarily threatened with extinction.

Southern Africa believes that a controlled marketing system is the way forward rather than a total ban of ivory trade, as bans fuel demand in the absence of a legal market. □

SOME OF the major resolutions agreed by the Kasane Elephant Summit held on 7 May in Botswana are as follows:

- Conduct transboundary coordinated and synchronized KAZA-wide aerial surveys of elephants (and other wildlife populations) according to standardized methodologies to allow comparability across the KAZA landscape;
- Harmonise management of elephants as much as possible while taking into account national peculiarities and priorities;
- Provide for integrated land use planning and harmonisation of policies at KAZA level;
- Provide incentives for communities to continue tolerating and co-existing with elephants;
- Ensure that the management of elephants is adaptive;
- Standardize approaches to stockpile management;
- Improve regional collaboration on wildlife crime through implementation of the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy;
- Engage transit and destination countries to address issues of demand reduction for illegal ivory; and
- Effectively engage the international community on matters related to elephant conservation and management, including lobbying for support for the proposals submitted by KAZA member states to CITES CoP 18. □



SADC takes stock of regional infrastructure projects

by Kumbirai Nhongo

SADC IS reviewing the status of projects lined up for implementation under the first phase of its regional infrastructure blueprint.

The Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) was adopted by SADC Member States in 2012 and outlines the region's infrastructure vision to be achieved by 2027.

The main objective of RIDMP is to create a solid infrastructural base for sustainable economic development, anchored on the six priority sectors of energy, transport, Information Communication Technology (ICT), meteorology, water and tourism.

The implementation of RIDMP is being conducted in three phases, starting with Short Term Action Plan (STAP) which was scheduled to run from 2012-2017.

The Medium Term Action Plan would be the successor programme to STAP, running up to 2022 while the Long Term Action Plan is expected to proceed thereafter and conclude by 2027.

The Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan recognises that the transport sector is a key pillar for regional economic development, being largely responsible not only for the movement of people, but also of goods and services.

As such, 32 STAP projects valued at more than US\$16.65 billion were identified for implementation within the region's spatial development corridors adopted by SADC in 2008.

In the energy sector, several transmission projects were planned under the STAP to help distribute power from countries with

surplus electricity generation to those with shortfalls.

In addition, RIDMP seeks to tap into the region's other forms of energy such as oil and gas which are available in abundance.

To this end, 16 energy projects with an estimated value of US\$12.27 billion, were to be implemented under STAP during this period.

SADC Member States recognise the importance of investing in the water sector, not only to spur economic development, but also to enhance the quality of life of its citizens.

Findings by the Water Diagnostic Study of 2011 show that the SADC region only retains 14 percent of the available renewable water resources, with the rest going to the oceans.

In a bid to overcome this challenge, SADC identified eight STAP projects worth US\$13.48 billion designed to expand the region's water infrastructure.

In line with the ICT Sector Plan, which forms part of RIDMP, SADC has identified projects aimed at the deployment of a region-wide pervasive, reliable, resilient, affordable, modern, fully integrated, interconnected and complementary network.

The review of STAP is therefore also looking at the 18 STAP projects that were estimated to cost US\$21.4 billion.

To mitigate the challenges posed by climate change and variability to regional development, SADC also identified infrastructure projects for the improved provision of climate information, prediction, early warning and related applications to support sustainable development in the SADC region.

Nine meteorology projects worth an estimated US\$192 million were prioritized under STAP and are being reviewed as part the on-going RIDMP assessment.

The region recognises the urgent need to improve tourism infrastructure in readiness for the forecasted growth that could see the SADC region receiving approximately 58% of the total continental traffic by 2027.

As such, 15 STAP projects in the tourism sector, worth US\$324 million were identified with the objective to boost infrastructure mainly in trans-frontier parks, so as to create the relevant capacity for the projected increase in tourism traffic.

Preliminary findings show that financial constraints have been one of the major draw-backs impeding the successful implementation of the region's infrastructure projects.

To mitigate this challenge, SADC has partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB).

This development is in line with a decision made by the leaders at the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in March 2017 in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini, approving the recommendation for SADC to work with AfDB to develop the necessary fi-

nancial instruments and frameworks to support RIDMP projects.

Some of the instruments that the AfDB will develop to strengthen the resource mobilisation efforts of Member States include infrastructure bonds, partial risk guarantees, insurance guarantees and partial credit guarantees.

The March 2017 Extraordinary Summit further directed Member States to create a priority list from the portfolio of infrastructure projects under RIDMP so as to make engagements with the AfDB more focused and effective.

A report presented to SADC Ministers of Transport and Meteorology at their meeting held in Namibia in September 2018 shows that about 62 regional infrastructure projects have been shortlisted for AfDB support.

These targeted regional infrastructure initiatives, which cut across the six strategic sectors, have gone through project preparation and are ready for resource mobilisation.

Since September 2018, SADC Member States have been working on a roadmap to finalise the engagement process with the AfDB to pave way for the implementation of identified priority RIDMP projects. □

Projects originally targeted for RIDMP STAP implementation

Sector	Number of Projects	Estimated Cost (US\$)
Energy Sector	16	12.27 billion
Transport	32	16.65 billion
ICT	18	21.40 billion
Meteorology	9	192 million
Water	8	13.48 billion
Tourism	15	324 million
Total	98	64.32 billion

Towards 39th SADC Summit ...as Tanzania begins preparations



by Kizito Sikuka

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania is intensifying preparations for the annual regional summit where southern African countries will discuss ways of advancing integration and sustainable development.

The 39th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is scheduled for Dar es Salaam in August.

Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, said the country is ready and looks forward to host this important meeting that gives shape and focus to the regional integration agenda of southern Africa.

"Hosting the SADC Summit is a great honour to us as a nation," Prof. Kabudi said on 8 May at the commencement of preparations for the 39th SADC Summit.

The last time that Tanzania hosted a SADC Summit was in 2003, and the country is determined to once again take leadership in advancing regional integration when it assumes the chair of SADC in August.

President John Magufuli of Tanzania, who is currently the deputy chairperson of SADC, will take over the rotating leadership of the regional organization from his Namibian counterpart, President Hage Geingob, at the Summit.

In his capacity as the SADC chairperson, President Magufuli will be tasked with promoting peace and security as well as sustainable development in the region.

The theme for the 2019 Summit is "A Conducive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development".

This continues the trend of the previous five summits to focus on various aspects of the regional priority of Industrialization, marking the first time in the 39-year history of SADC that a similar theme has run for such a long period, thus indicating the emphasis placed on this goal.

As part of the preparations, Tanzania will convene the annual SADC Industrialisation Week on 22-26 July.

The main objective of the industrialization week is to popularize the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap and identify industrialization projects that can be implemented jointly by the public and private sector within SADC Member States.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap was adopted by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2015, and aims to accelerate the momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of the economies of the region.

The industrialization strategy and roadmap is anchored on three pillars – industrialization, competitiveness and regional integration. Strategic interventions for each of these pillars are proposed in the action plan.

These include an improved policy environment for industrial development, increased volume and efficiency of public and private sector investments in the SADC economy, creation of regional value chains and participation in related global

processes, as well as increased value addition for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services.

The theme for the 2019 SADC Industrialization Week is "Competitive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development."

Prof. Kabudi has urged the private sector in Tanzania to leverage on the Industrialization Week to network, showcase and explore trade opportunities with other organizations from the SADC region.

"We hope that our people will seize this opportunity and participate fully in the industrialization week," he said.

The first-ever SADC Industrialization Week was held in August 2016 in the Kingdom of Eswatini, while subsequent events took place in 2017 and 2018 in South Africa and Namibia respectively.

The outcomes of the SADC Industrialization Week normally feed into the Summit agenda, and the July meeting is thus expected to look at ways in which SADC could promote a conducive environ-

ment for the private sector to fully contribute to regional integration.

Prior to the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government scheduled for 17-18 August, there will be meetings of senior officials, followed by the SADC Council of Ministers.

The SADC Council of Ministers, which usually consists of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning, or Finance, oversees the functioning and development of SADC, and ensures that policies and decisions are implemented.

The Council of Ministers sets the agenda for the SADC Summit.

According to the last Council of Ministers meeting held in March in Windhoek, Namibia, the SADC Summit is expected to deliberate on a wide range of issues, including implementation of the region's operational plans and priority programmes such as industrialization, trade, infrastructure development, as well as possible establishment of a regional parliament and consolidation of peace and security. sardc.net □

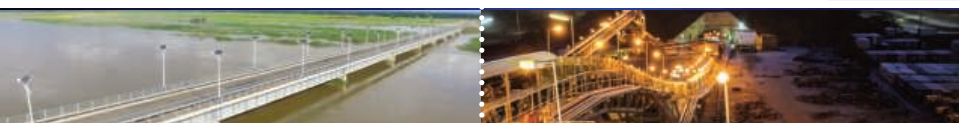


THE SADC Summit is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the Community, ultimately making it the supreme policy-making institution of SADC.

It is made up of all SADC Heads of States or Government of Member States and is managed on a Troika system that comprises the current SADC Summit Chairperson, the incoming Chairperson (the Deputy at the time), and the immediate past Chairperson.

The Troika System vests authority in this group of three leaders to take quick decisions on behalf of SADC that are ordinarily taken at policy meetings scheduled at regular intervals, as well as providing policy direction to SADC institutions between the regular SADC Summits.

The Summit usually meets once a year in August/September. □





Realigning the regional energy agenda ...as SADC reviews Protocol on Energy

by Kizito Sikuka

THE PROVISION of reliable and sustainable energy continues to be a priority for southern Africa's development agenda.

Recognising the fundamental role of energy in achieving the aspirations for sustainable development and poverty eradication, SADC has developed a number of legal tools and instruments such as the Protocol on Energy, which provides a basis for cooperation on energy issues among its Member States.

While most of these documents offer a strong legal framework to develop the energy sector, a major concern raised by energy experts at various fora is that the documents are now outdated and need to be revised to reflect the changing dynamics in the region and the continent as well as globally.

Furthermore, most of the documents have obligations that are neither legally binding nor obligatory, making them difficult to enforce and implement.

In view of these shortcomings, SADC is reviewing the Protocol on Energy to ensure that the targets contained in the regional energy blueprint are more manageable and practical.

The Protocol, which was signed in 1996 and entered into force in 1998 aims to promote the harmonious development of national energy policies and matters of common interest for the balanced and equitable development of energy throughout the region.

The Protocol also clearly outlines the institutional mechanisms and financial provisions in place for implementing the Protocol.

Meeting at their annual meeting in Windhoek, Namibia on 24 May, SADC Energy Ministers said the review process of the Protocol is progressing well, and will be completed soon.

"Ministers noted progress made in the amendment of the Protocol on Energy of 1996 and approved the Roadmap to finalize the review and amendment of the Protocol, and urged Member States who have not yet acceded to the Protocol to do so," reads part of a statement released by the ministers soon after their meeting.

As of August 2018, before the admission of the Union of Comoros as the newest member of SADC, all SADC countries with the exceptions of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Seychelles had ratified the Protocol on Energy.

Energy Pooling

ONE OF the major focus areas of the Protocol is to promote energy pooling among SADC countries to allow Member States to share surplus energy.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) is thus making progress in ensuring that the power grids of all its 12 Member



States are interconnected to allow utilities in these countries to trade in electricity.

All mainland SADC countries, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected to the regional grid through SAPP, allowing them to trade in electricity.

The island states of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles are not members of SAPP.

SAPP has since embarked on 10 transmission projects aimed at ensuring that all its members are interconnected by 2020 and that the regional grid is strengthened to facilitate greater power trading by 2024.

Priority power transmission projects include the construction of the ZiZaBoNa Interconnector Project linking Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia, as well as the establishment of the Angola-Namibia interconnector that will connect the former to SAPP.

The Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Interconnector will connect the latter to the regional grid and improve regional integration and energy trade between SAPP and the East African Power Pool.

At their meeting in Namibia, the SADC Energy Ministers urged SAPP, which coordinates the management of electricity in the region to speed up the implementation of various energy activities, programmes and projects to ensure supplies meet demand.

According to the SADC Secretariat, the region has in terms of supply and demand for electricity a current installed generation



capacity of 71,950 Megawatts (MW) of electricity, therefore, in regard to the current peak demand and generation capacity reserve margins, the region has a deficit capacity of more than 650 MW.

“Ministers urged Member States to commit to the Regional Priority Power Projects aimed at enhancing security of energy supply and directed the Secretariat to present a comprehensive report on energy projects that are under preparation and development by regional project preparation facilities.”

Towards Renewable Energy

ON THE promotion of renewable energy sources as an alternative source of energy, the ministers approved the SADC Industrial Energy Efficiency Programme (SIEEP) as a programme to promote energy efficiency and energy conservation practices in the SADC industrial sector.

The SIEEP was developed by the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) in 2018 to support the region to attain industrial competitiveness through addressing barriers to energy efficiency in industry such as lack of capacity and finance.

SACREEE is one of the regional energy institutions tasked with spearheading the promotion of renewable energy development in the region.

Based in Namibia, SACREEE is responsible for implementation of the SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP), which was approved in 2016.

The REEESAP, which spans the period 2016-2030, provides the framework for SADC Member States to develop renewable energy strategies, leading to the greater uptake of renewable energy resources as well as mobilization of financial resources in the sector.

The Energy Ministers also directed the SADC Secretariat, assisted by the Regional Energy Regulatory Association of Southern Africa (RERA), to establish appropriate structures to develop and implement regional regulatory initiatives pertaining to other energy sub-sectors namely petroleum, gas and renewable energy under its expanded mandate.

Southern Africa has some of the largest deposits of natural gas in the world, hence exploration of gas would enable the region to address its energy challenges.

SADC has already approved plans to develop a regional master plan that will guide the exploitation of the vast natural gas resources that exist in the region.



The approval was made by the SADC Council of Ministers who met ahead of the 38th SADC Summit in August 2018.

Council directed the SADC Secretariat to operationalize the SADC Regional Gas Committee, and to develop the SADC Regional Gas Master Plan.

The committee will be charged with ensuring the inclusion and promotion of natural gas in the regional power generation mix, which is currently dominated by coal. *sardc.net* □

Balancing competing water, energy needs in SADC

AVAILABILITY OF adequate water and energy supplies is critical in advancing regional development and integration in southern Africa.

This is the key message that came out from the joint meeting of SADC Energy-Water Ministers on 24 May in Windhoek, Namibia.

The meeting said limited access to water and energy has the capacity to render the integration agenda of SADC meaningless, hence the need to collectively work together in addressing challenges facing the two sectors.

SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo said performance in the water sector indicates that out of the more than 300 million SADC population, approximately 60 percent have access to safe drinking water while only 40 percent has access to adequate sanitation facilities.

With regard to energy, installed generation capacity stood at 71,950 megawatts (MW), therefore, in regard to the current peak demand and generation capacity reserve margins, the region has a deficit capacity of more than 650 MW.

Therefore, it is important for SADC to balance and integrate its water-energy linkages to advance sustainable development in the region and ensure that the management of water development does not undermine energy issues or vice versa. □

Women's economic empowerment programme approved SADC gender ministers

by Nyarai Kampilipili

SADC GENDER ministers have approved a programme aimed at promoting equal participation of women and men in policymaking processes.

The Regional Multi-Dimensional Women's Economic Empowerment Programme (RMDWEEP) was approved by SADC Gender Ministers on 29 May in Windhoek, Namibia. This followed a validation meeting by regional experts in March.

The women's empowerment programme will guide the region in reviewing, amending and developing laws that provide for equal access to wage employment, decent work and social protection, all of which are fundamental to promoting socio-economic empowerment.

In this regard, the economic programme is in line with the provisions of the Revised Protocol on Gender and Development, which aspires for social inclusion and justice as well as providing the basis 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, projects and programmes.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has said gender mainstreaming in all policymaking processes remains one of the guiding objectives of SADC.

In fact, gender equality and empowerment is firmly rooted in the Declaration and Treaty that established the shared community of SADC, and member states fully realize that equality and empowerment of

both women and men in all spheres of life is crucial for the attainment of sustainable development.

"The empowerment of women and girls is central to regional integration, sustainable development and poverty alleviation," Dr Tax said, adding that the programme will go a long way in promoting the active participation of both women and men in policymaking.

The economic empowerment programme is expected to contribute towards the development of gender-responsive policies that are effective and equitable to advance socio-economic development in the region.

Currently, the regional policymaking process – from formulation to implementation – tends to exclude women and thus fail to take into account gender issues.

The development of the programme was necessitated by the need to ensure a multi-stakeholder response and action to improve the status of women and to empower women in all areas of their life.

The SADC Gender Ministers meeting also urged member states to continue intensifying efforts to mainstream gender as a strategy towards the achievement of women empowerment and gender equality.

According to a draft report on the Analytical Assessment of Gender Mainstreaming in the SADC region presented to the ministers, a majority of SADC countries do not have sufficient capacity and resources to mainstream gender, despite the fact that the inclusion of women in mainstream decision-making would improve capacity and resources.



The report evaluates the extent to which member states have mainstreamed gender in national policies and strategies.

Furthermore, a baseline on the status of women and the economy scheduled to be launched at the 39th SADC Summit set for August in the United Republic of Tanzania highlights that significant efforts have been made by SADC countries towards gender equality in the region, but more needs to be done.

The baseline study produced by the gender institute of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) shows that SADC Member States have made progress in enacting laws and policies that promote gender equality, but the domestication and implementation mechanisms remain sluggish and there is still a general discord between statutory and customary laws.

In addition, the majority of member states do not have legal frameworks that recognize the multiple roles of women or ease the burden of these roles, hence limiting the participation of women in other livelihood enhancing tasks.

Without legal frameworks that recognize the multiple roles that women play, women will continue to spend large

amounts of time travelling long distances to collect firewood and water, among other tasks.

Therefore, there is need to embrace the use of renewable energy services and sources and to mainstream gender in the sector.

The Gender Ministers were also informed of preparations for the launch of the SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security (2018-2022) at the 39th SADC Summit set for August.

The strategy aims to address challenges experienced by women and children by ensuring that they fully participate in peace and security activities, programmes and projects.

The strategy was first presented to SADC Gender Ministers in 2017 at their meeting held in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini, and was further presented to the Ministerial Council of the Organ for approval.

The development of the strategy involved various stakeholders who included gender and security experts from all the SADC member states.

The strategy and its action plan are to be implemented in the period 2018-2022 and member states have been urged to develop national action plans and mobilise resources to implement proposed activities at national level. sardc.net □





d by



SADC Member States progress towards the 50:50 target for gender equality

SEYCHELLES AND South Africa have become the first countries in the SADC region to achieve 50:50 representation of women and men in Cabinet.

Envisaged almost 10 years ago, the target of 50:50 representation of women and men in politics and decision making positions seemed unattainable and an impossible target.

However, in 2018, President Danny Faure of Seychelles announced a new cabinet comprised of five women and five men in addition to the President and the Vice president.

This was an improvement from three women ministers out of 14 in 2015, representing 21.4 percent.

In South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a cabinet of 28 ministers comprising of 14 women and 14 men.

Key ministries such as Defence and Military Veterans, International Relations and Co-operation and State Security are being headed by women.

The 50:50 achievement is an improvement from 38.8 percent in 2012 and 40.5 percent in 2015.

In the new South African Parliament, almost half of the members (45 percent) are women.

This is another step towards equal representation of women and men in political and other decision-making positions as

the previous National Assembly had 42 percent women.

The South African Parliament is made up of an elected National Assembly of 400 members and the National Council of Provinces which consists of 90 provincial delegates, with 10 delegates for each of the nine provinces.

A provincial delegation consists of six permanent delegates appointed by the provincial legislatures and four special delegates.

South Africa uses a system of Proportional Representation in which the electorate votes for a political party, not individuals.

The political party gets a share of seats in the National Assembly in direct proportion to the number of votes won in the election.

Each registered political party submits a list of candidates to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in advance of the election, and the IEC determines the number of seats for each party based on the election results. The parties rank their candidates with the most preferred making the top list.

Malawi also registered some progress in women representation after the 21 May elections, however, more needs to be done to ensure gender equality and parity in decision-making positions.

A total of 44 women won parliamentary seats, representing about 22.8 percent. This is a slight improvement from 16.7 percent registered in the last election held in 2015.

The 50:50 by 2015 target was set in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which was adopted in 2008 and came into force in 2013.

However, by 2015, no SADC Member State had reached this target.

The protocol was revised in 2016 and approved by the 36th SADC Summit held in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The protocol was revised so that its objectives are aligned to various global targets and emerging issues. □

Mainstreaming gender in energy development

AFRICAN COUNTRIES will soon convene a high level ministerial meeting on how to mainstream gender in the energy sector.

The meeting scheduled for 12 June in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia follows a workshop held in April, which placed the need to mainstream gender in energy as a high priority for Africa.

This is particularly important as the provision of energy services has different impacts on women and men.

For example, the majority of women in Africa, especially those who reside in the countryside, face energy-related hurdles and are tied into servitude by the type of energy sources available for their cooking and lighting needs.

Women also still face challenges in accessing some energy products and technologies because of the prohibitive start-up cost of installing such equipment.

As a result, they walk long distances to collect firewood, which is usually heavy, compromising their physical health and wellbeing.

Therefore, mainstreaming of gender in the energy sector has the capacity to promote socio-economic development and poverty alleviation because access to energy is regarded as a "liberating factor for women, and a key enabling factor to allow women to play an equal role in the development of any region." □



SADC a peaceful and politically stable region

SADC HAS consolidated its credentials as a peaceful and politically stable region following the holding of elections in four Member States in the past three months. The region witnessed elections in the Union of Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi and South Africa. This edition of *Southern Africa Today* provides a review.

ANC wins fresh mandate to govern South Africa



THE AFRICAN National Congress has won a fresh mandate to govern South Africa following national and provincial elections held on 8 May.

The ANC, which has been in power since the end of apartheid in 1994, got 57.5 percent of the votes, down from 62.1 percent in the previous elections held in 2014.

According to final results released by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the largest opposition party, Democratic Alliance (DA), got 20.8 percent of the votes against 22.2 percent it achieved in 2014, while the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) got 10.8 percent of the ballots cast, up from 6.4 percent in 2014.

In the last election held in 2014, the ANC won 62.1 percent of the popular vote while in 2009, the party got 65.9 percent.

The ANC has been losing some support in recent years and Ramaphosa said the party is committed to "win back" its sup-

porters by addressing the challenges facing the country such as corruption, unemployment and poor service delivery.

"We have learnt our lesson...We have heard the people of South Africa. We have heard the very clear message of what they expect from us," Ramaphosa said.

Ramaphosa, who was sworn-in as President on 25 May, said it is important for all stakeholders to work together for a better South Africa.

"Let us now work together, black and white, men and women, young and old, to build a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it as proclaimed by our forebears," he said.

South Africa uses a system of Proportional Representation in which the electorate votes for a political party, not individuals.

The political party gets a share of seats in Parliament in direct proportion to the number of votes won in the election.



In this regard, the election results mean that the ANC secured 230 seats in the Parliament, down from 249, while the DA was allocated 84 seats compared to 89 in 2014.

The EFF has almost doubled its parliamentary seats from 25 in 2014 to 44 this year.

Under the South African Constitution, the President is elected by the National Assembly from among its members, usually the leader of the majority party.

The May elections were the sixth since the majority of South Africans were allowed to vote, with the end of apartheid system in 1994. Almost half of the elected representatives are women, with 45 percent.

According to the IEC, voter turnout was about 65.9 percent. More than 26.7 million South Africans had registered to vote on 8 May. □

Rajoelina-led coalition wins Madagascar parliamentary elections



A COALITION led by President Andry Rajoelina won parliamentary elections held in Madagascar in May, according to the electoral commission.

Provisional results of parliamentary elections held on 27 May announced by the Independent National Election Commission, the Isika Rehetra Miaraka amin'i Andry Rajoelina (We Are All With Andry Rajoelina) coalition won 84 of the 151 seats in the National Assembly.

Tiako I Madagasikara led by former president Marc Ravalomanana was a distant second, with 16 seats or 10.6 percent of the seats.

Independent candidates got 46 seats while more than 80 other political parties could only manage five seats among them.

A total of 85 parties and 459 independent candidate contested in the parliamentary elections.

The provisional results were submitted to the High Constitutional Court, which has right to announce definitive results within 16 days. □



Assoumani re-elected President of Comoros



AZALI ASSOUMANI was re-elected President of the Union of Comoros after winning 60.77 percent of the popular vote in elections held on 24 March.

Main opposition leader, Ahamada Mahamoudou came a distant second with 14.62 percent of the vote.

Speaking at his inauguration ceremony held in the capital Moroni on 26 May, Assoumani pledged to relaunch dialogue among the various political stakeholders and put in place "appeasement measures" during his term.

Assoumani pledged to involve the opposition "in making decisions on major national questions", a move expected to lead to stability in the island nation.

Initially the elections were scheduled for 2021 but the presidential election was moved to this year following a referendum held in July 2018.

The elections were the first to be conducted under a new Constitution, one of

whose provisions allows the president to hold a maximum of two five-year terms. Previously the president could only do one five-year term.

The unique rotation of presidential power among the three islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli has been retained in the new Constitution.

This arrangement is aimed at promoting sustainable peace and security in the country after years of political instability that resulted in several coups d'état in the late 1990s.

Observers from African Union, the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa and opposition candidates have alleged that the elections were characterised by irregularities.

A total of 13 candidates contested in the elections. □





Mutharika wins Malawi presidential race

PETER MUTHARIKA was re-elected President of Malawi after winning 38.57 percent of votes cast in presidential elections held on 21 May, concurrently with polls for members of the National Assembly and local government councillors.

The results were announced on 27 May after the High Court of Malawi ruled in favour of the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) following a petition by the opposition party Malawi Congress Party (MCP) which had raised allegations of vote-rigging.

According to the MEC, MCP leader Lazarus Chakwera came second in the presidential poll with 35.42 percent of the vote in what was a tight race for the country.

Former Vice President Saulos Chilima of the United Transformation Movement (UTM) was a distant third, with 20.24 percent of the votes.

Under the Malawian Constitution, the president is elected using the First-Past-The-Post system under which the candidate with the highest number of votes is declared the winner, even if they scored less than 50 percent of the valid votes cast.

Speaking soon after his inauguration, President Mutharika extended an olive branch to the opposition and called for peace and national unity.

"The elections are over. This is a time to unite and develop this country," said Mutharika, who is now serving his second and last term as per the constitution.

In terms of National Assembly elections, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) headed by Mutharika managed to secure 62 seats out of the 192 seats in parliament.

The opposition MCP managed to get 55 seats, while the United Democratic Front got 20 seats and the UTM secured four seats.

Other political parties that won seats in the National Assembly include the People's Party with five seats and the Alliance for Democracy with one seat.

Independent candidates managed to get a combined total of 55 seats.

Issues which took the centre stage during the campaigning period were mainly to do with creating employment and fighting corruption.

A total of 44 women won seats in the National Assembly, which represents 22.9 percent of the legislature.

This shows a progression in the representation of women in the National Assembly. In the previous elections in 2014, 32 women managed to get seats in the assembly and in 2009 only 12 percent of women were in the national assembly.

For parliamentary elections, Malawi also uses the First-Past-the-Post electoral system under which the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner.

The turnout for the general elections was 74 percent and around 6.8 million people had registered to vote.

Malawi attained independence from Britain in 1964 and these were the sixth presidential election held since the multi-party system was initiated in 1994. □



PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS released by the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) said the elections held in Malawi and South Africa were held in conformity with regional standards.

The SEOM delegation to the two countries was led by Zambian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Joseph Malanji, and observed the elections in three phases: the pre-election period, election-day and post-election.

Expectations of the SEOM are guided and measured mainly against provisions and requirements of the respective country's Constitution, as well as the SADC Treaty, the Revised SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. □

SADC reviews conduct of Exercise UMODZI

IN A bid to improve its peacekeeping duties in the region and the rest of the African continent, SADC conducted a review process of Exercise UMODZI.

Exercise UMODZI was carried out by SADC in October 2018 in Malawi in preparation for its peacekeeping duties in Africa.

SADC assumed its peacekeeping responsibilities at continental level under the African Standby Force (ASF) in January 2019 and is expected to relinquish its lead tasks in June.

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

To peer review and improve its capacity, SADC conducted the After Action Review (AAR) of Exercise UMODZI on 8-10 April in Gaborone, Botswana.

The objective of the Exercise UMODZI AAR workshop was to review and document the lessons learnt and identified during the planning and conduct of the exercise with the view of recognising the successes and challenges and also propose make recommendations on how to improve the conduct of future SADC Standby Force (SADC SF) exercises.

One of the recommendations by the workshop was for the SADC SF to undertake a Field Training Exercise in 2021 as part of the enhancement of its full operational capability.

The SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) was also urged to conduct more training seminars for Member States to strengthen capacity in peacekeeping.

Based in Harare, Zimbabwe, the SADC RPTC provides military and civilian training for the citizens of Member States to facilitate their active participation in United Nations and African Union peace support operations.

Since its establishment in 1996, the centre has trained over 5,000 individuals – military, correctional services, police and civilians – drawn from Member States. □

SADC to honour Founding Fathers

SADC IS working on a mechanism to recognize and honour the legacy of its founding fathers for their contribution to the region.

The proposed mechanism presents an opportunity to increase awareness by SADC citizens about the ideals and benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa.

According to the SADC Secretariat, a draft document will be tabled for consideration by the SADC Council of Ministers in August.

This is in line with a directive by the 35th SADC Summit held in Botswana in 2015, which tasked the Secretariat to draft a concept note for a mechanism to honour the legacy of the Founding Fathers of SADC, and through them the people of their countries.

The leaders and people of the countries that first gained independence made economic sacrifices to ensure that neighbouring countries in the rest of the region achieved political independence.

That generation of dedicated Pan-African leaders mobilized their people and contributed morally and materially in the belief that they would not be truly independent when other countries remained under colonial rule.

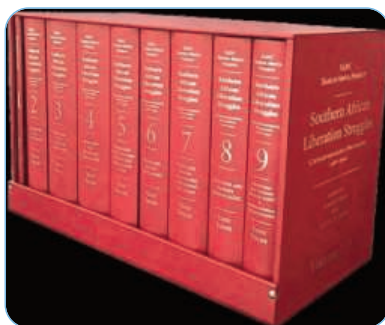
This was initiated under the leadership of Julius Kambarage Nyerere, whose country gained independence in 1961, then called Tanganyika and later the United Republic of Tanzania after unity with Zanzibar. Tanzania hosted the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from its inception in 1963.

Hashim Mbita hero of liberation in Africa

HASHIM MBITA, a hero of the liberation struggle in Africa was widely respected for his principles and dedication. Brigadier-General Mbita (rtd) from United Republic of Tanzania, was the Executive Secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee for 22 years, from 1972 until his mission was accomplished in 1994 when the liberation of the subcontinent was completed with democratic elections in South Africa leading to majority rule.

He conceived and inspired the SADC History Project and served as active Patron, mobilizing resources from governments within the region. The result is the

Southern African Liberation Struggles 1960-1994, a publication of nine volumes which contain a narrative and stories about the liberation movement in the region, the role of Front Line States, and support by various organisations and countries outside the region. □



Southern African Liberation Struggles 1960 - 1994 published for SADC by Mkuki na Nyota



Back from left: Minister Dick Matenje, Malawi; Cde Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister-designate of Zimbabwe; Rt. Hon. Prince Mabandla Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland; Hon. Mooki Vitus Molapo, Minister of Trade and Tourism, Kingdom of Lesotho. **Front from left:** HE Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola; HE Sir Seretse Khama, founding President of Botswana; HE Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, founding President of Zambia; HE Samora Moises Machel, founding President of Mozambique; HE Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania, at Summit in Lusaka, Zambia, in April 1980.

The founding presidents of Botswana and Zambia joined Nyerere in the creation of an informal grouping called the Frontline States, later joined by the presidents of Angola and Mozambique after those countries gained independence in 1975.

These formed the leadership of the Frontline States, and later established the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) with four other countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) in 1980, which was transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1992 at a Summit hosted by independent Namibia.

These groupings achieved a number of milestones aimed at advancing political and economic development, and the region is becoming increasingly integrated under SADC, as a building block of the African Union.

The development of a mechanism to recognize and honour the legacy of the Founding Fathers of SADC will support the ideals of unity and self-reliance, inclusion, sovereignty and prosperity for the benefit of future generations.

There is an African proverb that says, "The further behind you look, the farther ahead you are likely to see." □



VARIOUS INITIATIVES have already been implemented at national and regional level to pay tribute to some of the SADC Founding Fathers. One such initiative was a picture book on the life and wisdom of former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere.

The book was launched at the 35th SADC Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana in 2015. The commemorative picture book, titled *Asante Sana, Thank You Mwalimu*, was co-published by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), House of Books and African Publishing Group in Zimbabwe as well as Mkuki na Nyota of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The book is a compilation of key statements and perspectives by Nyerere on development issues, and is well illustrated with historical photographs.

Born on 13 April 1922 in Butiama near Lake Victoria, Mwalimu dedicated his life to the ideals of human dignity and common humanity. □

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Southern African Development Community
SADC Secretariat, SADC House, Private Bag 0095,
Gaborone, Botswana
Tel +267 395 1863 Fax +267 397 2848/318 1070
E-mail registry@sadc.int Website www.sadc.int

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Munetsi Madakufamba

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Comments and contributions should be sent to
sadctoday@sadc.net

Southern African Research and Documentation Centre
Julius K. Nyerere House, 15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel +263 242 791 141
www.sadc.net
Knowledge for Development
[f sadc.net](https://www.facebook.com/sadc.net) [@sadc.net](https://www.instagram.com/sadc.net)

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SARDC
Southern African Research and Documentation Centre

June

5, Global

World Environment Day

This day is observed each year to raise awareness on the need for the global community to work together on preserving the environment. China will host the global commemoration for 2019 with the theme of "Air Pollution".

17-21,
South Africa**SADC Infrastructure Report, Data Collection and Validation Meeting**

The meeting will bring together senior officials responsible for infrastructure development in SADC Member States and technical officers from development partners to validate an assessment of the Short Term Action Plan (STAP) of the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) as well as discuss priority projects for the next phase.

17-21, Namibia

Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for ET-STI

SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Training (ET), and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) meet in Windhoek to discuss policy issues for consideration and approval by Council of Ministers and the Summit of Heads of State and Government. The meeting will begin with a Ministerial Policy Roundtable Dialogue with a keynote address on "Entrepreneurship, Education and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Africa". The SADC Charter on Women in Science, Engineering and Technology will be signed by the Member States who have not yet signed.

28 June-2 July

SARDC Board

The Board of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) will meet in Butiama, the United Republic of Tanzania to discuss the work programme and vision of the regional knowledge resource centre and SADC knowledge partner. Chaired by Hon. Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly in Namibia, the Board comprises members from various countries in southern Africa. Founding Patron was Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

July

7, Niger

Extraordinary AU Assembly on the AfCFTA

African Heads of State and Government will converge in Niamey, Niger for an extraordinary summit to officially launch the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). This follows the entry into force of AfCFTA in May after ratification by "at least 22" of the 55 AU Member States, as required by AU statutes.

8, Niger

AU-RECs Coordination Meeting

The first coordination meeting of the African Union Commission with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to assess the progress made in the implementation of the continental integration agenda. The meeting is part of the AU institutional reform agenda adopted in January 2017 and further refined during the 11th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly in November 2018. This replaces the traditional second AU Summit, usually held in June or July.

15-19, Namibia

SADC Finance and Investment Ministers

Ministers responsible for Finance and Investment will meet to discuss several issues that include operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund and finalization of the SADC Resource Mobilisation Framework.

15-20, Zambia

SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ

The ministerial committee will meet to deliberate on matters of peace and security in the SADC region. The committee involves Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Public Security and State Security from the countries that make up the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

22-25, Tanzania

SADC Industrialization Week

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

31 July-2 August,
Namibia**SADC Justice Ministers Meeting**

Ministers responsible for Justice and Legal Affairs will meet to discuss several issues, including the development and review of legal instruments.

August

17 – 18, Tanzania

39th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government

SADC leaders meet annually in August to discuss regional integration and development. The summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers. Tanzanian President John Magufuli becomes SADC chair.

Respecting the Past... ...building the Future

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in collaboration with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre are working on the production of resource material on the regional dimensions and linkages of national liberation movements in the SADC region, following endorsement and shaping of the project by a history experts meeting in Namibia last year.

Officially opening the history experts meeting and setting the tone, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Hon Peter H Katjavivi, emphasised the need to reflect on the inter-linkages of the liberation struggles in the region.

"There is need to undertake deeper interrogation of what happened, why it happened and the aspect of taking ownership of these events," Prof. Katjavivi said.

Director and Representative of the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, Professor Hubert Gijzen, said the experts meeting was the first phase of a programme entitled National Liberation Movements Heritage Programme: Using the History of Independence to Promote Inclusion, Cultural Diversity, and Civic Education.

He said the aim of the programme is to utilize the diverse experiences of the liberation struggle in Southern Africa to help the region to address its contemporary challenges of xenophobia and other forms of discrimination as well as to promote tolerance, unity and social cohesion.

The development trajectory of southern Africa in the present and future builds on the unity and solidarity which resonates from the connected experiences of the national liberation movements which dislodged apartheid and colonial rule.

The resource material on National Liberation Movements (NLMs) will be presented in modules which can be used for different levels of education, including primary, secondary and tertiary, as well as out-of-school youth.

The modules will have three components: a video, social media posts, and an illustrated text version.

The initiative seeks to generate awareness and educational tools to sustain shared knowledge about the independence movement across the region and regenerate the shared cohesion across borders that emerged during that period. This speaks to the need for regional integration and the realisation of African unity.

The liberation struggle which brought political independence was achieved through organized coordination and cooperation across the region.

However, the loss of knowledge about this liberation heritage is a setback for the significant achievements made in regional development and cooperation in southern Africa, leading to the growth of a "we and they" syndrome at national levels, especially but not only in South Africa, resulting in xenophobia, intolerance and damage to social cohesion.

The idea of looking into the rich historical past is captured by Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican-born black nationalist and leader of Pan-Africanism, who sought to unify and connect people of African descent worldwide. He said, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

The purpose of the resource material will be to supplement existing material on NLMs in Africa; improve the teaching of NLM history, heritage and values through provision of relevant materials; stimulate youth debate and access through relevant linkages and platforms; promote the unity and shared values of regional integration; and the values of inclusion, diversity, peace and tolerance.

It conveys that the youth then did not work in isolation to achieve their goal of political independence and the struggle for the youth now is economic. It therefore requires tolerance and unity among the youth to achieve a common goal of regional economic development. □



Mozambique
Independence, 25 June 1975

"Josina, you are not dead, because we have assumed your responsibilities and they live in us. ... The flowers which fall from the tree are to prepare the land for new and more beautiful flowers to bloom in the next season. Your life continues in those who continue the Revolution."

Samora Machel, poem for Josina Machel, 1971



DRC Independence 30 June 1960

Patrice Lumumba, letter to Pauline Lumumba, 1960. ...
"Africa will write its own history and, both north and south of the Sahara it will be a history full of glory and dignity."



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June- August 2019

5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
17 June	Public holiday	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
20 June	Corpus Christi	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
1 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Unity Day	Zambia
7 July	Saba Saba Industry Day	Tanzania
15 July	President's Day	Botswana
16 July	President's Day Holiday	Botswana
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
22 July	Birthday of late King Sobhuza	Swaziland
1 August	Parents Day	DRC
5 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
12 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
13 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Seychelles
17 August	SADC Day*	All
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia

* SADC Day is not a public holiday but a commemoration of signing the SADC Treaty on 17 August 1992