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SADC @40 Deepening regional integration in 2020

by Kizito Sikuka

THE YEAR 2020 provides an opportunity for SADC to review its integration agenda but also to chart the region's development path as it enters 40 years of regional cooperation. This issue of *Southern Africa Today* looks at some key issues for SADC this year.

Towards Vision 2050

One of the priority focus areas for SADC in 2020 is the formulation of a new 30-year vision that will set a strategic direction for the region to implement its programmes and activities until 2050.

The current regional blueprint, the Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which was approved in 2015 is coming to an end in December 2020.

The proposed SADC Vision 2050 is expected to be predicated upon the existing SADC vision, which is that "of a common future in a regional community that will ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice, and peace and security for the people of Southern Africa".

The SADC Vision 2050 will be aligned to the African Union Agenda 2063, and the region has resolved that the Strategic Plan 2020-2030 should be termed the RISDP 2020-2030.

The two strategic documents are expected to be presented for approval at the 40th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for August in Maputo, Mozambique.

Strengthening implementation of regional initiatives

Closely linked to the development of a new vision, the year 2020 is historic as it marks the last year of implementation of the Revised RISDP 2015-2020.

SADC Member States are this year expected to intensify efforts to implement activities set out in the plan as well as the industrial development strategy.

The SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 provides a framework for major economic and technological transformations in southern Africa.

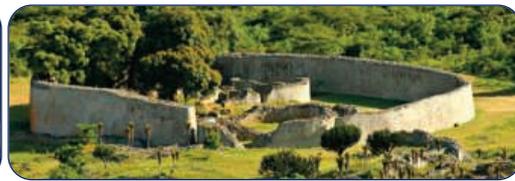
To support its implementation, a SADC Protocol on Industry, which aims to improve the policy environment for industrial development, was approved in August 2019.



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SADC @40 Deepening regional integration in 2020



The protocol is a stand-alone and binding legal instrument that will entrench and give legal effect to the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and its related Cost-Action Plan and will ensure adequate coordination, monitoring and evaluation of implementation both at the regional and national level.

Advancing gender development

On gender and development, SADC and the global community will this year mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action (BDPfA) in 1995.

The BDPfA is an agenda for empowerment of women that aims to accelerate the implementation of gender progressive initiatives as well as removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making.

While SADC has made significant progress in advancing gender equality and equity, the year 2020 provides an opportunity for the region to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, while taking note of the barriers that hinder the acceleration of gender equality, especially in the private sector.

Addressing the regional energy situation

During the year, SADC will continue to strengthen energy development at regional level to address power shortages that have hindered economic growth and development since 2007 due to diminishing generation capacity and growth in demand.

SADC plans to commission a total of 8,781 megawatts of new electricity to the regional power grid in 2020 through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) which coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity in southern Africa on behalf of Member State utilities. Another priority in the energy sector is finalizing the review of the SADC Protocol on Energy, which is now outdated and does not capture some of the changing dynamics in the energy sector such as the priority given to greater uptake of renewable energy sources and technologies as well as the impact of climate change.

SADC is expected to conclude a study on the modalities and operations of a regional policy framework to guide the exploration of gas and oil.

Establishment of a regional parliament

SADC will remain seized with the proposed transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF) into a regional parliament.

The 39th SADC Summit held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania in August 2019 "directed the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with the SADC PF Secretariat to develop the model that the proposed SADC Parliament would assume, in terms of mandate, powers and functions; and to develop a Roadmap towards the transformation of the SADC PF into a SADC Parliament."

The model is expected to be finalized this year and presented for approval at the 40th SADC Summit scheduled for August in Mozambique.

The newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique, Verónica Macamo Dlovu, who will chair the SADC Council of Ministers for the year starting in August 2020, was instrumental in lobbying for the transformation when she was President of the National Assembly of Mozambique and Chairperson of the SADC PF before her appointment to her new post in January.

The proposed establishment of the SADC Regional Parliament will provide a representative institution for the SADC citizenry, thereby serving as a valid interlocutor for the needs and desires of the general public.

Silencing the Guns

Peace and stability are key ingredients for the success of regional integration and sustainable development. As such, mechanisms for peace-building and peace-keeping will be another focal area of attention for SADC in 2020.

In line with the African Union aspiration of "Silencing the Guns by 2020", SADC will strive to end wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, and violent conflicts in the region.

The SADC region has generally enjoyed stability despite some pockets of volatility in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Kingdom of Lesotho and Madagascar.

SADC will thus continue to take stock of interventions undertaken by the region to promote peace and stability in these and other Member States.

Buoyed by successful elections held in 2019, at least two SADC Member States will go to the polls this year – Seychelles and United Republic of Tanzania .

Tanzanians will vote in October to elect their President, parliamentarians and councillors, while Seychelles has its presidential election on a date to be announced between September and November.

Solidarity with Zimbabwe

On 25 October, SADC Member States will stand with Zimbabwe in challenging the imposition of economic sanctions on the country.

The region declared the 25 October of each year as the date on which SADC Member States can collectively voice their disapproval of the sanctions through various activities and platforms until the sanctions are lifted.

The SADC Chairperson, President John Magufuli of Tanzania said the illegal sanctions "have not only affected the people of Zimbabwe and their government but our entire region."

Zimbabwe has grappled with economic and banking sanctions since 2002 when the United States and its western allies imposed an embargo on the country in response to the land reform programme and the leading role played by Zimbabwe in the SADC intervention in Democratic Republic of Congo in 1998 in support of the government there.

40th SADC Summit

The region will convene its 40th annual SADC Summit in Mozambique in August to track and advance the implementation of its integration agenda.

At the summit, Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique will assume the rotating SADC chair from his Tanzanian counterpart, John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana will become the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, taking over from President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

The SADC Organ is responsible for promoting peace and security in the SADC region. It is mandated to steer and provide Member States with direction regarding matters that threaten peace, security and stability in the region. sardc.net □

Assessment of strategy on women, peace and security

SADC PLANS to undertake an assessment of the progress made and challenges being faced by Member States in implementing the SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security.

The SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security (2018-2022) provides an overarching framework to guide implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on mainstreaming gender into peace and security in the region.

It also calls on the operationalization and implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 as well as the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development to address the specific challenges experienced by women and children, particularly in participating in peace and security processes.

Active participation of both women and men in peace and security processes, as well as the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and the protection of women during conflict and post-conflict situations are essential in promoting sustainable development.

According to the SADC Secretariat, the assessment of the Strategy on Women, Peace and Security is expected to start in February, with completion set for around April.

Some of the expected outcomes of the assessment include:

- Assessment of the progress of SADC Member

States' implementation of the UNSCR 1325 at regional and national levels;

- Identification of specific challenges experienced by women and children and the measures to address the issues to ensure that women fully participate in peace and security decision-making; and

- Development of a strategy with recommendations on how to address issues and challenges in SADC Member States' implementation of the UNSCR 1325. The strategy should also provide details of progress, representation and gender-mainstreaming in SADC Member States. □

SADC strategizes with international cooperating partners

SADC AND its International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) held a dialogue to discuss policy and technical issues aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two parties.

Convened annually, the SADC-ICP dialogues are held in the spirit of the Windhoek Declaration on a New Partnership between ICPs and the SADC, which was adopted in Windhoek, Namibia, in April 2006, as well as the SADC-ICP Partnership Statement, adopted in Gaborone, Botswana in February 2014.

Speaking at the 2019 dialogue held December in Gaborone, the Acting Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Co-

operation in the United Republic of Tanzania, Agnes Kayola, said the engagement provides a unique platform for engaging with ICPs as equal development partners.

She said ICPs should align their support to priority sectors and issues such as the implementation of the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

The ICPs expressed commitment to support regional integration and cooperation, as well as to align their support to the SADC priorities.

At the dialogue meeting, seven thematic groups presented the status of implementation of various SADC priorities, including achievements made and challenges faced. The seven thematic groups are:

- ❖ Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment
- ❖ Peace and Security
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Information Communication Technology
- ❖ Water Strategy Reference Group
- ❖ Health Equity and Inclusive Development

- ❖ Agriculture and Food Security.

The dialogue also witnessed the creation of a new thematic group, focusing on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

This is due to the devastating effects of climate change and the need to accelerate interventions aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability.

The operations of the thematic group will reflect linkages with other sectors as climate change issues are cross-cutting in nature.

The thematic groups represent the technical, programmatic level of the partnership dialogue between SADC and ICPs and are derived from the priority areas identified by SADC, which are coordinated to match individual ICP thematic areas of interest.

Each thematic group is chaired by a SADC Secretariat Director/Head of Unit and co-chaired by representative of the Lead-ICP for the group.

The thematic groups meet at least twice a year in Gaborone. However, meetings may be convened more frequently as appropriate, depending on need or issues to be addressed. □

UNITED NATIONS Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.

It stresses the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provides 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, programmes and projects. □



8,780 MW of new power in 2020

SADC AIMS to commission almost 8,800 Megawatts of electricity in 2020 to ensure that energy supply in the region meets the demand.

According to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), which coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity in southern Africa on behalf of Member State utilities, most of the new power will come from South Africa and Zambia.

South Africa is expected to contribute about 6,700MW while Zambia will add 970MW to the regional grid.

Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo are expected to contribute 600MW and 360MW, respectively.

The commissioning of the electricity in 2020 is part of a bigger plan by SADC, through SAPP, to add a total of 25,927MW between 2020 and 2023.

A total of 6,181MW will be commissioned in 2021, 8,932MW in 2022 and 2,033 in 2023.

The Table below shows the committed generation capacity including the quantity that each SAPP member can contribute. □

Committed Generation Capacity 2020 to 2023

Country	Committed Generation Projects, MW				Total (MW)	% Share
	2020	2021	2022	2023		
Angola	34	67	0	0	101	0.4%
Botswana	10	0	500	0	510	2%
DRC	360	0	0	0	360	1%
Eswatini	10	0	0	0	10	0.04
Lesotho	0	20	0	0	20	0.1%
Malawi	60	278	0	258	596	2%
Mozambique	30	0	550	0	580	2%
Namibia	40	44	180	0	264	1%
South Africa	6 667	4 837	4 920	600	17 024	66%
Tanzania	0	235	2 530	1 012	3 777	15%
Zambia	970	100	252	163	1 485	6%
Zimbabwe	600	600	0	0	1 200	5%
TOTAL (MW)	8 781	6 181	8 932	2 033	25 927	100%
Decommissioning		75	1 870	2 280	4 225	

Source: Presentation by SAPP to the SADC Energy Thematic Group in October 2019

Seychelles to build floating solar plant

SEYCHELLES IS constructing the first utility-scale floating solar photovoltaic system in Africa.

The Seychelles Energy Commission announced in early January that agreements for the construction of Africa's first utility-scale floating solar PV system are

expected to be signed in the first quarter of this year.

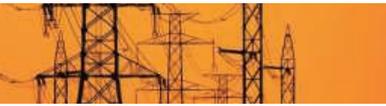
This follows the awarding of the licence to construct the solar plant to a local company, Quadran Seychelles Ltd.

Once the power purchase and government support agreements are signed, con-

struction will start for the four-megawatt power plant in the Providence lagoon on Mahe, the main island.

The plant is expected to provide affordable and clean power to the national grid. Bidders submitted financial proposals with a bid for the tariff in US dollars per kilo-





watt hour at which they would supply electricity to the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC) through a 25-year power purchase agreement.

Quadran was the best bidder for the project at 9.5 cents per kilowatt hour which represents a significant financial saving compared to the current cost of producing electricity in Seychelles, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa.

The chief executive of the Seychelles Energy Commission, Tony Imaduwa said the project is expected to contribute about 5.8-gigawatt hours annually, adding that the new initiative will go a long way towards reducing the importation of fossil fuels, allowing the country to make saving on foreign currency.

He said "marine floating PV holds immense potential for islands and other land-scarce countries, which may have excellent solar potential but lack available land for traditional ground-mounted solar PV."

Floating solar PV has been deployed at scale in markets including Asia and Europe, but these installations have been in freshwater sites such as lakes and reservoirs. No floating solar PV has yet to be implemented in a seawater environment at utility-scale.

This innovative project represents an important step forward for the technology, as the power plant will be located in a saltwater environment and designed to cope with challenges such as salinity, tidal fluctuations, and water currents.

"We are pleased to lead such an innovative project and are confident that it is the first of many to come," Imaduwa said. *Seychelles News Agency.* □

DRC, Zambia developing Luapula power plant

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS has been made by the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia to develop a hydro power plant at the Luapula River.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Coordination Centre manager, Stephen Dihwa said the two countries are conducting a pre-feasibility study that will determine the next phase of the project.

SAPP coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity in southern Africa

on behalf of Member State utilities, and the centre is thus coordinating the development of the Luapula power plant project.

Dihwa said that after the pre-feasibility study is completed, an assessment will be made with regard to construction of the power plant.

"We want to reach a point where a decision has to be made, whether the Luapula hydro power plant is a project worth pursuing or not," he said, adding that "we are at that stage where we want to understand the

possibilities of this project, because projects like these might look good on the surface, yet there are some cracks inside."

The Luapula plant is expected to produce about 1,000 megawatts of power, and its construction includes a powerhouse, control rooms, a substation, a dam and access roads, and the installation of transformers, pumps and turbines, and the laying of transmission lines. □

Review of energy protocol to be finalized this year

ONE OF the priorities for southern Africa this year is the finalization of the review of the SADC Protocol on Energy.

Adopted in 1996, the protocol is now outdated since it does not capture some of the changing dynamics in the energy sector at regional, continental and global levels such as the greater uptake of renewable energy sources and technologies as well as the impact of climate change.

Another challenge with the existing protocol is that its provisions are not legally binding, making it difficult to enforce and implement.

The revised SADC Protocol on Energy is expected to have clear, practical and more manageable targets to enable the region to strengthen its energy security and ensure that power supply meets demand.

Once approved by SADC ministers of energy and ministers responsible for justice, the instrument will be tabled before the SADC Council of Ministers before it is elevated to the 40th SADC Summit of Heads of States and Government set for August in Maputo, Mozambique for final approval.

Kunene solar plant now operational

NAMIBIA HAS completed the construction of a 150-kilowatt solar plant in the Kunene region. Speaking at the official handover of the plant in January, Environment Minister Pohamba Shifeta said the new plant will easily address the energy situation in the country, and increase the uptake of renewable energy sources. Emissions from fossil fuels have increased climate warming and caused environmental damage. Renewable energy sources such as solar are affordable, secure and reliable but also less polluting to the environment compared to fossil energy. □



UNECA High Level Policy Dialogue “Land reform will transform SADC”

LAND REFORM and administration in southern Africa is key to economic transformation and sustainable development.

This was the message that emerged from a High Level Policy Dialogue on Land Policy Reform and Social Economic Transformation in Southern Africa held in early January in Gaborone, Botswana, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The dialogue noted that access to land was limited in most SADC Member States despite the fact that beneficiaries could derive economic benefits through effective utilisation of the land.

Concerns were also raised over correcting colonial land ownership imbalances and the sale of land in southern Africa to foreign investors.

In this regard, it was proposed that foreigners should be given short-term leases, while locals must be accorded preferential treatment in accessing and owning land.

Another issue discussed was lack of access and rights to land by women, youths, the elderly and people living with disabilities.

Botswana's Minister of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Service, Kefentse Mzwinila said the region would benefit from the reallocation of land through accelerated socio-economic growth and development.

“Botswana considers land reform as a key and strategic part of our overall socio-economic transformation as we continue to accelerate economic diversification,” he said, adding that land reform has the potential to diversify the economy, contribute to economic

empowerment and increase job opportunities.

“Attainment of the United Nations SDGs particularly goal number one of poverty eradication and Agenda 2063 hinges to a large extent on land reform and the utilisation of the land as an economic asset. The challenge is how to use land reform to create development.”

The UNECA Director for Southern Africa, Professor Said Adejumo concurred saying land reform was the most important contempo-

rary public policy discourse in the region.

“It is quite emotive, controversial, divisive and tense. Given the history of settler colonialism, the dispossession of land and the brutality that accompanied the process, it continues to evoke pain and dire consequences for the majority,” he said.

“Land in Africa is not only an economic resource, but also has social and spiritual significance. The landless in Africa are usually regarded as powerless especially in many

rural communities. The agrarian nature of African societies makes land central to livelihoods, social relevance and human existence.”

The High Level Policy Dialogue organised by UNECA brought together a wide range of stakeholders including Government ministries responsible for land and agriculture, academia and research. It was aimed at providing a platform for stakeholders to share experiences on land reform and development. *The Herald* □

The land question in SADC

LAND IN southern Africa is a basic source of livelihood for the majority who mainly depend on agricultural production to earn a living.

The agricultural sector contributes between four and 27 percent of the regional Gross Domestic Product, and about 13 percent of the total export earnings.

While differences exist in the nature of land tenure and usage and ways in which the issue is being addressed across southern Africa, there remain critical similarities in the fundamental socio-political and economic questions that fuel persistent conflicts, arising from unequal land distribution and discriminatory land-tenure systems.

In Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique for example, farmland belongs to the state and can be leased for varying periods for agricultural or commercial purposes.

Zimbabwe repossessed its land as state land in 2000 after the rural population which had been crowded into communal areas on unfertile land, became impatient following two decades of war and a fur-

ther two decades of unsuccessful negotiations based on “willing seller/willing buyer”.

This action resulted in the United States, UK and Europe imposing an embargo on the country, which has been formally condemned by SADC leaders at their annual Summit in 2019.

“Summit noted the adverse impact on the economy of Zimbabwe and the region at large, of prolonged economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe, and expressed solidarity with Zimbabwe, and called for the immediate lifting of the sanctions to facilitate socio-economic recovery in the country.”

Namibia, which is facing similar challenges in redistributing land, held its second national land conference in 2018 to address the land reform and the resettlement programme, as well as urban land and housing delivery.

South Africa's White Paper on Land Reform contains three main elements – restitution, redistribution and tenure reform.

A World Bank report in 2018 firmly supported com-

prehensive land reform in South Africa as the only means of reducing poverty and income disparities and promoting social cohesion.

“South Africa has come a long way since the advent of democracy, but its transition remains incomplete,” the World Bank report said, because “the highly skewed distribution of land and productive assets is a source of inequality and social fragility, fuelling contestation over resources.”

The report is titled An incomplete transition - overcoming the legacy of exclusion in South Africa.

The land question in SADC therefore calls for the region to come together and find a common solution to tackle these challenges.

Furthermore, it is important for SADC Member States to ensure that the current wave of land reform initiatives, which often coincide with political and economic reforms, help to establish needed changes in land rights as well as legal and institutional frameworks. □



Spotlight on second phase of regional infrastructure programme

by Kumbirai Nhongo

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT remains a key priority as SADC marks 40 years of cooperation.

Member States recognise that the infrastructure that existed in 1980 when the then Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was established, can no longer sustain the developmental aspirations of a modern SADC.

It is for this reason that in 2012, the Regional Infrastruc-

ture Development Master Plan (RIDMP) was adopted, to modernise and expand southern Africa's infrastructure so as to create a solid foundation for economic growth and development.

RIDMP, which is being implemented in three phases, identifies a number of priority projects within six sectoral clusters – transport, energy, water, information communication technology, meteorology and tourism.

With the first phase of RIDMP having lapsed in

2018, focus has shifted towards the implementation of the second phase, the Short Term Action Plan (STAP) II.

In implementing STAP II, SADC is drawing lessons from the experiences gained in the first phase of RIDMP, so as to improve the overall programme going forward.

One of the tools that SADC is using to inform the second phase is a 2019 study by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), reviewing the first phase of RIDMP.

Study findings show that just five percent of Phase One projects had been completed by August 2019.

The study identifies challenges and makes a series of recommendations designed to consolidate the RIDMP implementation framework.

A key challenge outlined in the study is the inadequate funding for regional projects, with 70 percent of project owners highlighting how they have not been able to secure the required financial resources for their respective projects.

Related to this is the finding that SADC national governments face a skills and capacity shortage in terms of the preparation and implementation of projects.

To mitigate these challenges, the Secretariat has partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to strengthen the capacity of Member States in project preparation to improve resource mobilisation efforts for regional infrastructure projects.

One of the key outcomes of the partnership with the AfDB has been the development of a priority list of 62 regional projects deemed ready for funding under STAP II.

Examples of such priority projects include the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Power Transmission Project and the Lesotho Highlands Phase II Project.

Furthermore, SADC is exploring synergies that exist through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, an infrastructure development strategy being implemented at the African Union level.

One such avenue is the African Investment Forum, an annual platform convened by the AfDB to link project owners with potential funders. □

SADC targets space programme

SADC MEMBER States have begun implementing the Framework for SADC Shared Satellite Programme, whose purpose is to improve intra-regional communication and strengthen participation by the region in the space industry.

This follows the launch of the satellite-sharing programme at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Satellite Applications Training Workshop held in Luanda, Angola in January.

During the event, the Angolan Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technologies, José Carvalho da Rocha emphasised that the implementation of the shared satellite framework was vital for sustainable regional development.

He reiterated that sharing technologies among Member States would help reduce the cost of telecommunications and enable citizens to access quality services at affordable tariffs.

The workshop attracted the participation of SADC Member States, SADC Subsidiary Organisations, regula-

tory bodies and mobile network operators among other stakeholders.

Participants were trained on various aspects such as governance issues, cost-sharing models and modalities of sharing the satellite and network.

George Ah-Thew, the SADC Senior Coordinator for Science, Technology and Information, said as part of the implementation process, SADC Member States were now drafting national policies to support and domesticate the satellite-sharing framework.

The satellite-sharing framework was approved by SADC ICT and Information Ministers at their sectoral meeting held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania in September 2019.

A SADC Satellite Expert Committee was established in March 2018 to strengthen coordination, comprising Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa.

Angola and South Africa are leading innovations in satellite and space technology

in the region, with Member States being urged to collaborate with these two countries when building their respective satellite capacities.

In December 2017, Angola successfully launched its first satellite (ANGOSAT-1) into orbit but was forced to terminate the project after three months when the satellite was lost in space.

A replacement, AN-GOSAT-2, is under construction, with the country targeting to launch this satellite by 2022.

In recognition of its advancements in space technology, Angola now chairs the SADC Satellite Expert Committee and represents the region at the ITU on issues relating to satellites and frequencies. Similarly South Africa has a well-developed space affairs policy and regulatory framework, comprising a National Space Policy and a National Space Strategy.

The country is in the process of establishing capacity-building programmes on Space Sciences, Space Engineering and Space Applications at various universities. □



Essential for human survival

WETLANDS OUTLOOK

Urgent action needed to save Wetlands

by Eglina Tauya

SOUTHERN AFRICA is facing wetland loss and degradation at a rapidly increasing rate, a development that calls for urgent action as this loss impacts on human wellbeing.

Wetlands are among the world's most economically valuable ecosystems, but are disappearing three times faster than forests.

This is the key finding of the first-ever global wetlands Outlook published by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, a global treaty to protect wetlands and promote their wise use.

According to the Ramsar Convention, "wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres."

The well-researched report titled *World Wetlands Outlook* published in 2018 revealed that about 35 percent of the wetlands in the world were lost be-

tween 1970 and 2015, and the loss rate has been accelerating annually since 2000.

Echoing the same challenge, the 2019 National Biodiversity Assessment in South Africa found that over 65 percent of the wetlands and river systems in the country have been damaged and nearly half have been lost.

Similarly, 82 percent of wetlands in Zimbabwe have been degraded, and 21 percent are stable, according to the National State of Environment report of 2017. The Monavale Vlei, for example, is threatened by infrastructure developments, dumping of waste, fires, illegal farming, and alien plants.

The global outlook warned that at this rate, wetlands will disappear by 2040 – especially in urban areas if corrective measures are not taken to protect this crucial part of the ecosystem.

Losses have been driven by major trends such as climate change, population increase and urbanization, particularly of coastal zones and river deltas, and changing consumption patterns that have fuelled

changes to land and water use and to agriculture.

For Lake Chilwa in Malawi, the periodic drying and filling are cyclical in nature. However increasing and unsustainable resource exploitation, climatic variability and increasing demographic pressure threaten the wetland.

The *Zambezi Environment Outlook 2015* reported that charcoal production as well as slash-and-burn agriculture in Zambia have led to the deterioration of the Lukanga swamp ecosystem, resulting in soil erosion and loss of water quality.

The *World Wetlands Outlook* is a wake-up call on the rate of loss of wetlands and the critical services they provide.

Wetlands play an irreplaceable role in regulating the global climate. The ability to absorb carbon dioxide, slow global heating and reduce pollution has led to wetlands being referred to as the "Kidneys of the Earth".

Healthy wetland ecosystems such as mangroves and peatlands, absorb up to one third of carbon dioxide emissions.

Scientists have concluded that restoring wetlands can offer 14 percent of the mitigation potential needed to limit global warming to 2°C.

Wetlands are essential in the supply of freshwater. They act like sponges by absorbing water during the rainy season and slowly releasing it into streams, rivers, and boreholes during the dry season.

Wetlands help to reduce disaster risk, as they mitigate floods and protect coastlines.

In addition, wetlands serve as natural sewage treatment works, absorbing chemicals, filtering pollutants and sediments, breaking down suspended solids and neutralizing harmful bacteria.

Environmental experts agree that without wetlands, cities will have to inject more resources on water treatment to provide clean water.

Wetlands, protect ecosystem diversity, and safeguard human welfare. About 40 percent of all species live or breed in wetlands.





The first ever report on the *State of the Environment in Southern Africa*, published 25 years ago in 1994, states that wetlands provide temporary habitat for migratory species including birds which fly long distances between the southern and northern hemisphere, and are a refuge for some wildlife during droughts.

The Bangweulu swamps in north-eastern Zambia are occasionally flooded lands that support more life than the land around them.

Floodplains such as Malagarasi and Kilombero in Tanzania, Barotse and Kafue flats in Zambia or Marromeu in Mozambique provide breeding for fish as well as wildlife habitat, grazing and specialised agriculture.

Some of the wetlands in southern Africa include the Etosha pan in Namibia, and the Makgadikgadi pans in Botswana where communities engage in flood recession agriculture known as *molapo* farming. This has helped communities to derive livelihoods even in times of drought years.

The Okavango Delta in Botswana faces threats due to development pressure. The Delta is home to indigenous peoples and some of the world's most endangered species of large mammal, such as the cheetah, white rhinoceros, black rhinoceros, African wild dog and lion.

In 2019, Angola, Botswana and Namibia agreed on a roadmap to explore the boundary extension of the

Okavango Delta World Heritage site to protect the river basin and the unique wetland system.

At the centre of wetlands restoration is the need to recognize the role of indigenous communities who have long been the custodians of ecosystems. Securing their rights and building on their knowledge is critical for the success of restoration and for protecting a large portion of the region's biodiversity.

As a way of conserving wetlands local farmers from the Simlemba Wetlands in Malawi, of which the majority are women, have developed sustainable strategies that allow the community to use

the surrounding dambos and vleis without destroying the productive ecosystem

In Zimbabwe, following the growing pressure and conflict in the manner in which wetlands are managed, the Government is in the process of formulating wetlands management guidelines. These are expected to be ready for use during the first quarter of 2020 to provide a road map and tool kit on the protection of wetlands.

At regional level SADC Member States have developed various strategies including regional policies and legislation to protect and manage wetlands to ensure sustainable development.

The SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development as well as the SADC climate change strategy speaks strongly on the need to conserve wetlands ecosystems.

At international level, most SADC countries are party to the Ramsar Convention that was signed on 2 February 1971.

To raise awareness about the importance role of wetlands in sustainable development, the global community has set aside 2 February each year as World Wetlands Day. The theme for this year's celebration is "Wetlands for Biodiversity". □

Regional action to ensure food security

THERE IS need for a regional, multi-stakeholder action to improve food and nutrition security and build resilience in the SADC region.

This was said by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Director for Southern Africa, Lola Castro and the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax when the two met in Gaborone Botswana on 24 January to discuss mutual cooperation.

The two noted the need for SADC to ensure efficient regional cross-border road transport and transit networks, transport and logistics services, systems and procedures that would facilitate movement of food and other relief supplies to reach those

in need in a timely manner.

Furthermore, the meeting underscored that natural disasters, such as floods and droughts threaten the ability of the SADC region to end food insecurity and malnutrition in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. As such, it is critical for SADC Member States to strengthen disaster preparedness.

WFP and SADC also committed to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2019, which seeks to promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation for improved

food and nutrition security in the region.

The two organizations agreed to set up a joint technical team to develop an Action Plan to operationalise the MoU, and to develop an immediate multi-sectoral regional Anticipatory Action Plan for preparedness and effective response to climate related disasters. sadc.int □



Lola Castro and Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax have called for multi-stakeholder action to improve food and nutrition security in the region.

Ushering in African Decade of Action AU Chair calls for action on continental priorities

by Joseph Ngwawi

THE ROLLOUT of an integrated continental market, infrastructure development, advancement of women and the youth and a push for peace and political stability will be among the main issues to be championed by South Africa during its tenure as chair of the African Union.

In his acceptance speech after assuming the rotating AU Chair during the 33rd Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February, President Cyril Ramaphosa said South Africa would prioritize operationalization of some of the aspirations contained in Agenda 2063.

Agenda 2063 is a continental strategic framework adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2013 to optimize the use of the continent's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

"As incoming AU Chair, we have set ourselves key priorities to enhance the progress that is already underway during the African Decade of Action," Ramaphosa said.

He pledged to work towards "deepening the unity of our continent and advancing inclusive economic growth and sustainable development."

He said South Africa would push for collective action to ensure political and economic unity, good governance and peace are strengthened to support continental programmes such as industrialization, economic development, and trade and investment promotion.

"In pursuit of this priority, we will host the 13th Extraor-

inary Summit on the AfCFTA to be held back-to-back with the Extraordinary Summit on Silencing of the Guns in May 2020.

He said working closely with President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger, who is the AU Champion on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), efforts would be made to ensure "the finalization of outstanding issues around the agreement."

"We must all ensure that the AfCFTA does not become a conduit for products with minimal African value addition to enter and penetrate our local markets under the guise of continental integration," he said.

The AfCFTA was launched in July 2019 and is expected to become operational in July 2020, with a Secretariat based in the Ghanaian capital Accra.

When fully operational, the AfCFTA is expected to increase intra-African trade from the present 10 percent to about 40 percent.

Ramaphosa, however, acknowledged that the success of the AfCFTA would depend on infrastructure development, in particular those identified under the Presidential Infrastructural Champion Initiative (PICI).

"We must all drive the implementation of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, so that priority and high-impact projects act as catalysts for the AfCFTA," Ramaphosa said.

The PICI was born out of a proposal in 2010 by former South African President Jacob Zuma to accelerate regional infrastructure development through political championing of certain projects.



The role of the champions is to bring visibility, unblock bottlenecks, coordinate resource mobilisation and ensure project implementation.

Ramaphosa promised that South Africa would use its tenure as AU Chair to promote peace and stability around the continent.

"We will make a contribution to promote peace and security in our collective effort to Silence the Guns."

He said South Africa would work with the AU Peace and Security Council and the AU Commission to "focus our efforts on conflict resolution across the African continent, especially those experiencing protracted conflicts."

The proposed Extraordinary Summit on Silencing of the Guns is scheduled for South Africa in May 2020 to look at the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, "and at the same time respond to emerging circumstances on the African peace and security landscape," Ramaphosa said.

"The Summit must come up with real actions we as Africans must take to end conflicts, and deal with acts of terrorism that are raging in many countries and regions such as the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and now spreading to other parts of Southern Africa as well."

He criticised interference by western nations in African countries such as Libya.

"We must also deal with the actions of other countries outside our continent that are

fighting proxy wars and fuelling the ongoing conflicts," he said, adding that the "principle of finding African solutions for African problems must be our over-riding theme in addressing all the conflicts on our continent as we work within the frameworks of the AU and the UN."

Among others, the AU chairperson pledged to work with President Denis Sasso N'Guesso of the Republic of Congo to convene an intra-Libyan Conference this year to promote ceasefire and dialogue.

N'Guesso is Chairperson of the AU High Level Committee on Libya.

Beyond trade integration and infrastructure development, Ramaphosa said South Africa would during its tenure as AU chairperson push for initiatives to support green growth on the continent, "and on ensuring that the continent takes advantage of the opportunities presented by the green transition."

"This includes new industries in energy, materials engineering, the circular economy, sustainable agriculture and clean production," he said.

He called on the continent to take advantage of the youth dividend as well as the largely untapped potential of women in its quest to become a prosperous and people-driven continent based on inclusive growth, unleashing the potential of young people and women as shown in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. □



by Kumbirai Nhongo

A **POLITICAL** champions programme for continental infrastructure projects is beginning to reap rewards amid indications that there is movement in the implementation of priority projects across Africa.

Speaking at the Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative (PICI) held on the sidelines of the 33rd Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly in Ethiopia, AU Chairperson and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said there has been progress in unlocking funding for a number of priority projects, thanks to the efforts of the presidential champions.

He cited four projects that have been shortlisted for fast-tracking and implementation along the North-South Road/Rail Corridor, which is being championed by South Africa.

These projects are the Beit-bridge Border Post, the Inga III Hydropower Project, Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II and the manufacture of rail stock for the African market.

"We are pleased to report that there has been substantive and very good progress on all four projects," Ramaphosa said.

Assessments by the AU show that PICI is making an impact, given reports that the Kinshasa-Brazzaville Bridge Road and Rail Project has se-

AU infrastructure champions programme paying off

cured funding following the 2019 African Investment Forum held in South Africa.

Furthermore, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has agreed to finance the Abidjan-Lagos Highway Project, which is being championed by Cote d'Ivoire.

PICI was adopted by the 16th AU Summit in January 2011 to accelerate regional infrastructure development through a system of political champions appointed at the Head of State and Government level.

The role of the champions is to bring visibility, unlock bottlenecks, coordinate resource mobilisation, provide leadership and ensure rapid project implementation within a specified period.

Since its inception, PICI has grown from eight African leaders in 2011 and the number has grown to 12.

Sudan was formally unveiled as the newest member of PICI during the just-ended 33rd AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and is responsible for championing the Sawakin-Port Sudan Project.

Ramaphosa acknowledged the financing challenges faced by the continent with respect to infrastructure projects.

Quoting AfDB statistics, the AU chairperson said the continent requires between US\$130 billion and US\$170 billion a year for infrastructure such as dams, power plants, fibre optic cables, ports, roads, schools, public housing and clinics.

He, however, noted that Africa "cannot sate our continent's infrastructure hunger

with our limited resources", and requires assistance from funding partners.

"According to the AfDB, the financing gap is between US\$68bn and US\$108bn. This means we must think creatively and expansively about how we can close this gap," Ramaphosa said.

Infrastructure development is a top priority in Africa, given its link with economic growth and poverty reduction.

It is for this reason that in July 2010, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) was launched to guide the implementation of transport, energy, water and information communication technology infrastructure on the continent.

PIDA identifies a number of infrastructure projects and programmes for implementation during the period 2010 to 2040.

The SADC has a number of projects on the PIDA priority list. These include the Batoka Hydropower Plant, the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya (ZTK) Power Interconnector, the Kinshasa-Brazzaville Road and Railway Bridge and the Central Corridor in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Construction of the Batoka Gorge hydropower station is expected to add 1,600 megawatts of electricity, enough to ease shortages in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The ZTK interconnector is a high-voltage power transmission line connecting Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya.

The project aims to connect the power grids and create a link between the

Southern African Power Pool and the East African Power Pool, making it possible to transmit power from Cape to Cairo. □

South African to head AfCFTA Secretariat

SOUTH AFRICAN trade expert Wamkele Mene has been appointed Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat.

The appointment of Mene was announced during the 33rd African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February.

A former World Trade Organisation official, the 43-year-old South African led his country's delegation during negotiations that culminated in the signing of the AfCFTA Agreement in 2019.

He is expected to oversee the implementation of the AfCFTA, a trade arrangement aimed at creating a single continental market for goods and services and expanding intra-African trade.

The free trade area is expected to start operating in July 2020 and the AfCFTA Secretariat will be headquartered in the Ghanaian capital Accra.

The Secretariat is expected to be fully operational by the end of March. □





Court orders rerun of Malawi presidential elections

by Tanaka Chitsa

THE CONSTITUTIONAL Court of Malawi has ordered the electoral commission to organise fresh presidential elections before July this year.

The court also ruled that in the period before the new polls, the composition of the presidency should revert to what it was before the national elections were held on 21 May 2019.

However, the incumbent President, HE Peter Mutharika, has criticized the judgement and is planning to appeal. In the Malawian justice system, the Constitutional Court is not the top court of final judgement, as there is a Supreme Court of Appeal. Submission of an appeal to a higher court suspends the judgement pending the outcome of the appeal.

In a judgement handed down on 3 February at Lilongwe District Registry of the High Court of Malawi, a panel of five judges led by Justice Healy Potani cited widespread irregularities in the conduct of the elections as the reason for declaring the outcome of the polls as null and void.

"In every election there will be irregularities but in the present matter, it has been our finding that the irregularities were so widespread, systematic and grave that the results of the elections have been compromised and cannot be trusted as a reflection of the votes," Potani said while reading part of the 500-page court judgement.

Some of the irregularities include failure by the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) to adhere to statutory requirements on handling tally sheets and log books,

delegation of statutory powers belonging to MEC commissioners to the chief elections officer and accepting tally sheets that had been altered using correction fluid.

The court ruled that the composition of the presidency should revert to what it was before the elections were held on 21 May 2019.

This means that former Vice President Saulos Chilima, who broke away from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to form his own party in 2018, would retain his post as the vice-president pending the holding of fresh elections. However this would be suspended by appeal.

President Mutharika said he would appeal against the court judgement, describing the verdict as "a serious subversion of justice, an attack on democratic system and an attempt to undermine the will of the people."

"The judgement, as it is, cannot stand unchallenged," Mutharika said in an address to Malawians on 5 February, adding that, "As it stands, the judgement, if not cured, represents a flawed precedence for all the elections in the future." He said he had instructed his legal team to appeal against the judgement.

The court decision that fresh elections should be held within 150 days means that the MEC should call for a rerun of the presidential elections before 3 July 2020.

The Constitutional Court of Malawi made the ruling on the elections results after Lazarus Chakwera of the opposition Malawi Congress Party (MCP) and Chilima of the United Transformation Movement

(UTM) approached the court for an order overturning the presidential poll outcome, citing widespread irregularities in the conduct of the presidential elections.

Mutharika had emerged victorious in the 2019 poll, defeating a strong field of six other presidential candidates.

He narrowly defeated Chakwera by winning 38.57 percent of votes cast during the presidential elections held concurrently with polls for members of the National Assembly and local government councillors.

Chakwera won 35.42 percent of the votes while Chilima was a distant third, with 20.24 percent of the ballots cast.

Under the Malawian Constitution, the president is elected using the First Past The Post electoral 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.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has acknowledged the decision by the Constitutional

Court and called on all stakeholders in Malawi to respect the judgment and maintain peace and tranquillity, while the relevant national institutions prepare.

Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Emmerson Mnangagwa said the region will remain seized with the situation in Malawi.

"SADC commends the Constitutional Court for upholding the Malawian Constitution, and the electoral law in the conduct of the petition," President Mnangagwa said.

"SADC will continue to support the Republic of Malawi in the election process, as guided by the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, and will remain seized with the developments in Malawi."

Other regional and international organizations that observed the 2019 presidential elections in Malawi, such as the African Union, also noted the Constitutional Court ruling. sardc.net □

Comoros legislative elections



THE RULING Convention for the Renewal of the Comoros (CRC) led by President Azali Assoumani won legislative elections held on 19 January.

According to the final results announced by the Comoros electoral commission, the CRC got 17 of the 24 contested legislative seats.

Two other seats were won by parties in coalition with the CRC.

A second round of voting is scheduled for 23 February to allocate the remaining five seats.

A number of opposition parties boycotted the legislative elections, citing irregularities in the electoral process. □

Unity is key to sustainable development - President Nyusi

MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT Filipe Nyusi has called for peace and national unity, saying a united nation is key to sustainable development.

In his inaugural address on 15 January, Nyusi said as leader of the country he will ensure that all Mozambicans despite their political affiliations benefit from various socio-economic activities, programmes and projects initiated by the government.

"Five years ago, in a ceremony like this, I announced that I would be president of all Mozambicans. I renew this promise, to work for the Mozambique we all dream for.

"Our agenda is to develop Mozambique. Our agenda is that this development is not done at the cost of injustice, conceit, or inequality," he said, adding that "we should all work together so that Mozambique grows and accommodates all Mozambicans."

Nyusi, who is now serving his second and final term in office as stipulated by the Mozambican Constitution said his priority focus will be on improving key areas of the economy such as agriculture, tourism, health and industrialization as well as consolidating and promoting peace in the country.

To drive and implement the aspirations of the nation, Nyusi has appointed a vibrant cabinet made up of experienced ministers.

For example, Speaker of National Assembly, Veronica Macamo has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Macamo was an active chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF), which is lobbying for transformation to a regional parliament.

To ensure continuity, Adriano Maleiane was reappointed

Minister of Economy and Finance, while Augusta Maita, who has been the general director of the country's relief agency, the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) was appointed Minister of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries.

On regional integration, President Nyusi said Mozambique will continue to uphold the ideals of the founding fathers of SADC.

The founding fathers of SADC who included the founding Presidents of the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana (Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda and Seretse Khama respectively) sacrificed the economic freedom of their countries to ensure that the rest of the region achieved political independence.

This golden generation of selfless leaders believed in a united region where all the citizens enjoy high living standards and peace.

"Regional integration within SADC will be at the top of our agenda. We will reshape the relationship of friendship, solidarity and cooperation with African states."

In August this year, Mozambique is scheduled to host the 40th SADC Heads of States and Government Summit, where President Nyusi will assume the SADC chair from his counterpart, President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli of Tanzania.

Nyusi, who is the leader of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) was re-elected President after winning the 15 October 2019 national elections with 73 percent of the votes cast, against 21 percent by his closest rival, Ossufo Momade of the Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo).

The results were further validated by the Mozambican Con-



stitutional Council in November 2019 after the opposition party challenged the results announced by the National Elections Commission.

Under the Mozambican electoral law, the president is directly elected after winning 50 percent plus one of the valid votes cast.

Nyusi, who first assumed office in 2014 is the fourth president of Mozambique since the country gained its independence in 1975.

In the 250-member House of Assembly, Frelimo got 71 percent of the seats, while Renamo and the MDM garnered 22 percent and four percent, respectively.

Parliamentarians in Mozambique are elected through a system of party-list proportional representation based on the country's provinces.

This was the first time that elections for provincial governors were held following a change to legislation on provisional assemblies that that made in early 2019.

In the provincial assembly elections, Frelimo won in all 10 provinces, with majorities ranging from 60 percent in Nampula to 95 percent in Gaza.

Under the legislation change, the person who heads the list of the winning party automatically becomes the provincial governor. sardc.net □

Two SADC countries to hold elections in 2020

TWO COUNTRIES in the region will go to the polls in 2020 – Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Tanzanians will vote in October to elect the president, parliamentarians and councillors, while Seychellois will have presidential elections between September and November.

For Tanzania, the incumbent President John Magufuli of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party will be seeking re-election for a second and final term.

The ruling United Seychelles Party will be represented by the incumbent, President Danny Faure, while the main opposition coalition Linyon Demokratik Seselwa will be represented by Wavel Ramkalawan. Seychelles has 12 registered political parties. □



New report says unpaid work of women now a global crisis

by Thenjiwe Ngwenya

A **NEW** report says the unpaid work of women has created a wealth gap that is causing a crisis in economic development and hampering economic growth.

The report recommends that the global community should address this crisis as a matter of urgency.

This is contained in an international report titled "Time to Care" that was released ahead of the World Economic Forum held on 21-24 January in Davos, Switzerland.

"It was noted that there is a huge wealth gap between the rich and the poor, and that the issue of unpaid and underpaid care work of women and girls has now become a crisis that the world should deal with," says the report released by Oxfam.

The report says that, on average, gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa over US\$95 billion annually which negatively affects the continent's efforts to achieve inclusive human development and economic growth.

Unpaid care work refers to all unpaid services provided within a household, which includes the care of persons as well as housework and community work, while underpaid care work is described as paying wages less than what is due or normally required.

Unpaid care work is both an important aspect of economic activity and an indispensable factor that contributes to the

wellbeing of individuals, families and societies.

However, unpaid and underpaid care work is a major contributing factor to gender inequality and poverty among women.

Women earn much less compared to male counterparts despite all the gender equality campaigns around the world, and the report states that worldwide men own 50 percent more wealth than women.

In most cases, women face a double burden due to multiple-role responsibilities that include being a wife, caregiver, mother and also being an employee.

These multiple roles mostly provide cheap or free labour which should be paid for accordingly.

Unpaid care work alone, calculated by Oxfam, reaches to the value of at least US\$10.8 trillion a year and women also work 12.5 billion hours without pay or acknowledgement every year.

SADC policy on integration of unpaid work into national accounts and budgets

THE SADC Gender Policy, adopted in 2007, stipulates that Member States shall integrate domestic unpaid work into national accounts and budgeting processes, with the objective of acknowledging and valuing unpaid labour done by women, as well as budgeting essential services in this regard.

In Article 16 of the revised SADC Protocol on Gender and

Numerous studies in southern Africa reveal that two-thirds of caregivers are women and one-quarter of these are over 60 years of age.

In South Africa, a national evaluation of home-based care found that 91 percent of caregivers were women. This is due to several societal and cultural demands on women to adopt the role of a family caregiver.

The Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) did research on the HIV and AIDS care burdens that women encounter.

There was evidence that women and girls continue to do most unpaid caregiving in all contexts, which hinders economic empowerment and also showed major policy implications, especially in reducing poverty.

However, gender inequality in unpaid and underpaid care work influences gender gaps and has significant implications

for the ability of women to actively take part in the labour market.

Governments are recommended to facilitate the participation of unpaid carers and care workers in policy-making fora and processes at all levels, and invest resources into collecting comprehensive data that can better inform policy-making and evaluate the impact of policies on carers.

Furthermore, the structures of family, society and governance are recommended to follow the 4Rs framework of care, which involves:

- "Recognising" that unpaid care work is mainly done by women;
- "Reducing" the total number of hours spent on unpaid care;
- "Redistributing" unpaid care work within the households; and,
- "Representing" caregivers in decision-making. □

Development, Member States agreed to "recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies."

However, the Oxfam report has shown that most countries including SADC Members States still have a long way to go in terms of recognising the importance of caregivers, and in the

SADC region women spend more time on unpaid care work than men do.

In the region, the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and water and energy shortages are among the factors that have caused further constraints on the multiple roles of women, thus burdening women with additional labour that is unpaid and unacknowledged. □

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February
2, Global**World Wetlands Day**

World Wetlands Day is marked by public actions to raise awareness of legislators, policy-makers and implementers, and business, of the essential nature of wetlands to water supply and therefore human survival. Construction and abuse of wetlands continues and a recent report says wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests (See p8,9).

9-10, Ethiopia

African Union Summit

The 33rd Summit of African Heads of State and Government meets in Addis Ababa to pursue the theme of "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development". African leaders discuss the advancement of continental integration at their annual Summit. South Africa will become chair for the next year.

15-20,
South Africa**SADC Water Strategy Reference Group**

The Water Strategy Reference Group meets to discuss implementation of the regional water programme in the SADC region. The Water Strategy Reference Group consists of the SADC Secretariat and international cooperating partners.

16-21, Zimbabwe

RERA Annual Conference and General Meeting

The annual meeting provides a platform for members of the Regional Energy Regulators Association (RERA) to discuss harmonisation of regulatory policies, legislation, standards and best practices within the SADC region.

24-27, Zimbabwe

6th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The conference, jointly organised by the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Government of Zimbabwe, will review progress made by the continent in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The theme for this year is "2020-2030: A Decade to Deliver a Transformed and Prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063."

27, Zambia

ZAMCOM Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission provides policy guidance for the cooperative management and development of the Zambezi River Basin. The council approves the annual work plans and budgets, and considers recommendations from the ZAMCOM Technical Committee.

March

3-4, South Africa

Africa Energy Indaba

The indaba will bring together international and continental experts to share insights into and solutions to the energy challenges faced by Africa while exploring the vast energy development opportunities on offer for Africa. The theme for 2020 is "African Energy – Catalysing Investment and Business Opportunities."

4-7, Zimbabwe

2020 Infrastructure Summit & Expo

Government officials, infrastructure experts and bankers from South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and other countries will gather in Victoria Falls to discuss measures to strengthen infrastructure development and related opportunities in the three SADC Member States. The theme is "Infrastructure Key to Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity".

8, Global

International Women's Day

This is an occasion to reflect on progress made in advancing equality and discuss further changes needed. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meets at UN Headquarters in New York for a global review. The theme for this year is #IWD2020 #EachforEqual

9-20,
UN New York**64th Session of CSW/Beijing +25**

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meets annually and is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

10-15, Tanzania

SADC Council of Ministers

The SADC Council of Ministers, which meets twice a year, is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are implemented to advance regional integration.

22, Global

World Water Day

World Water Day is marked on 22 March every year to focus attention on caring for water. This year's theme "Nature and Climate Change" explores the linkages between water and climate change.

Namibia celebrates 30 Years

THIS YEAR 2020 marks the 30th national independence anniversary of Namibia from South Africa's apartheid occupation.

Following the Berlin Conference of 1885, where imperialist powers of Europe came together to divide Africa mainly for their mineral resources interest, Namibia was allocated to Germany.

After Germany's defeat in World War I, Namibia was ruled from Pretoria under a League of Nations mandate, and following the end of World War II, the United Nations instituted a Trusteeship system to bring the former German colonies in Africa under UN control but South Africa objected arguing that a majority of the territory's people were content with South African rule. It sought to expand the influence of apartheid policies enacted in South Africa, and crushed any resistance with the same racial retribution faced by the black South Africans.

However, in 1966, the UN General Assembly decided to end the mandate, declaring that South Africa had no other right to administer the territory and that henceforth South-West Africa was to come under the direct responsibility of the UN.

Through the leadership of Sam Nujoma and Andimba Toivo ya Toivo the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) was established in 1960 to demand national political independence. In June 1966, Peter Nanyemba, commander of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the military wing of SWAPO announced the commencement of the war of independence saying, "We have no alternative but to rise in arms and bring about our own liberation. We are our own liberators."

The first shots of the war were fired on 16 August 1966 at Omugulugwombashe in the Omusati Region of northern Namibia. That marked a strategic shift from reliance on the politics of protests and petitioning as the main form of anti-colonial struggle, although these continued in tandem.

Following a protracted armed struggle, and the defeat of the South African defence force in southern Angola by a joint military force of Angola, Cuba and PLAN, SWAPO negotiators signed a ceasefire agreement with the South Africa in March 1989, setting the pace for the first democratic elections in Namibia and its transition to independence on 21 March 1990.

This political victory did not come in isolation, but was rather a regional effort through the organised and strategic cooperation of the Front Line States and the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity.

This reflects the unity and regional linkages that led to the liberation African countries from colonial rule, and can continue to be harnessed through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union as the struggle continues for economic development and integration. □

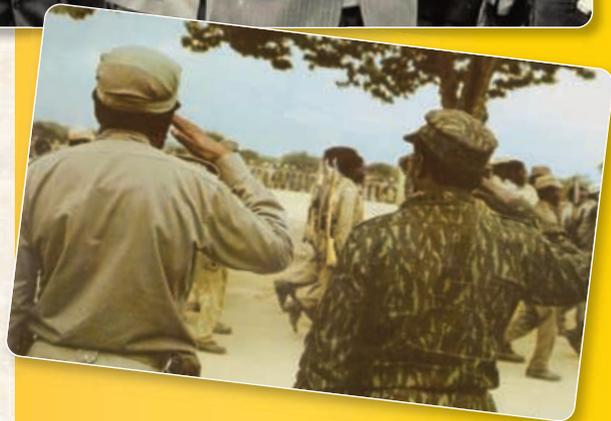
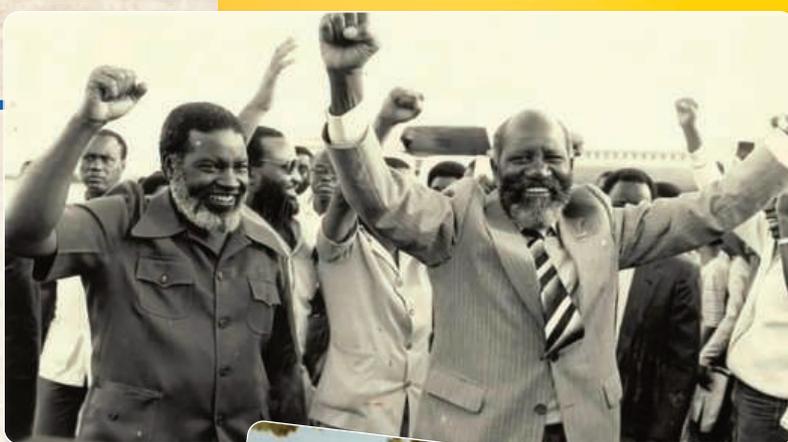
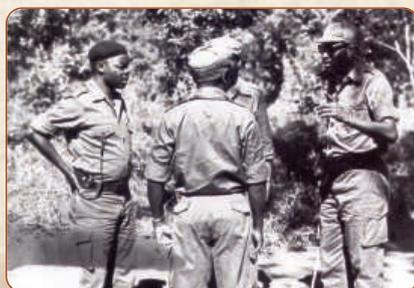
FREEDOM through the Eyes of General Tongogara

JOSIAH MAGAMA Tongogara was born on 4 February 1940 and became involved in the liberation struggle of his country Zimbabwe as youth in the 1950s. He rose through the ranks until he became Commander of the ZANLA forces and participated in the Lancaster House negotiations for independence before he lost his life in a vehicle accident in Mozambique on 26 December 1979.

An exhibition of photos, documents and objects, including letters to his wife and his operational notebook, opened at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe on his birthday, 4 February under the theme, FREEDOM through the Eyes of General Tongogara.

The exhibition portrays his life as an Activist Youth, a Family Man, and a Freedom Fighter, and will be open through February and March 2020 at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe.

At a special private preview of the exhibition, His Excellency ED Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, emphasised the value of the heritage preserved by Mrs Tongogara and family, urging others who have historical photos, papers and documents to safeguard them and share with the youth of today in publications and public exhibitions, as well as preserving them in museums and archives. □



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

February – April 2020

1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
21 February	Maha Shivaratri	Mauritius
	National Youth Day	Zimbabwe
25 February	Carnival	Angola
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
*9 March	Women's Day (in liue)	Angola, Zambia
11 March	Moshoeshe's Day	Lesotho
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
	Youth Day	Zambia
18 March	Cheikh Al Maarouf Day	Comoros
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
	Human Rights Day	South Africa
22 March	Leilat al - Meiraj	Comoros
23 March	Southern Africa Liberation Day	Angola
25 March	Ougadi	Mauritius
29 March	Martyrs Day	Madagascar
4 April	Peace and Reconciliation	Angola
7 April	Women's Day	Mozambique
	Sheik Abeid Karume Day	Tanzania
10 April	Good Friday	All SADC except ...
		Comoros, DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique
11 April	Holy Saturday	Zambia
12 April	Easter Sunday	Namibia, Zimbabwe
13 April	Easter Monday	All SADC except ...
		Angola, Comoros, DRC, Mauritius, Mozambique
	Family Day	South Africa
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Eswatini
20 April	Public Holiday	Eswatini
25 April	National Flag Day	Eswatini
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa