



40th SADC Summit approves Vision 2050



by Kizito Sikuka

THE 40TH SADC Summit on 17 August was held in a virtual format for the first time, co-ordinated from Maputo, Mozambique, and approved initiatives ranging from trade and finance to health and peace and security, aimed at advancing regional integration and sustainable development.

Among other decisions, the leaders agreed on a coordinated approach to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SADC economy.

This followed a massive slowdown in economic activities in sectors such as tourism, aviation and manufacturing due to the novel coronavirus that forced most countries in the region to impose a lockdown in March this year to contain the spread of the virus.

The summit approved measures to address the sectoral impacts of the lockdown to support the SADC economy during the debilitating global economic downturn.

The summit noted that while Member States should continue to strengthen their public health systems and humanitarian sector, it is also critical to invest and channel some resources to affected economic sectors so these can be resuscitated and maintain their competitiveness.

According to the SADC Secretariat, economic growth in the region is expected to de-

cline by about 3.8 percent in 2020, mainly due to the adverse impacts of COVID-19.

The SADC Chairperson, President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique said that in order to address the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, Member States have to work together since the pandemic knows no borders, race or class.

"In a time of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of us are required to make additional efforts, greater solidarity, coordinated and concerted action to fight the pandemic," President Nyusi said in his address to heads of state and government, who participated via video conferencing technology from their various countries.

On the post-2020 development agenda, the 40th SADC Summit approved a long-term vision that sets out the aspirations of the region until 2050 as well as a new strategic plan for the next 10 years until 2030.

The SADC Vision 2050 is premised on a firm foundation of peace, security and democratic governance.

It envisages that cooperation in the region over the next 30 years will be based on the three interrelated thematic pillars of Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration; and Social and Human Capital Development.

POLICY	3
SADC SUMMIT	4-5
AGRICULTURE	6-7
INTEGRATION	8-9
ENERGY	10
GENDER	11
DISASTER RISK	12
TRADE	13
ELECTIONS	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16

The Vision envisages the mainstreaming of crosscutting issues such as gender, youth, environment and climate change, as well as disaster risk management in the three thematic pillars.

The leaders also approved the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30 as the new strategic plan for SADC, replacing the Revised RISDP 2015-20 that ended in March this year.

The new strategic plan is expected to operationalise the Vision 2050, and is the regional blueprint that guides the SADC integration agenda.

In a departure from the previous regional strategic plans, the RISDP 2020-30 combines interventions previously presented under the Revised RISDP and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation.

The decision to incorporate peace, security and governance issues into the RISDP 2020-30 is recognition by the region that the two strategic plans are complementary and seek to achieve the same common objective.

The outgoing SADC Chairperson, President John Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania said the approval of the two documents is a major milestone as it provides the region with a new approach to achieving the objectives of the "SADC We Want".

"It is my belief that in the two documents we will provide a new approach to our objectives of the SADC We Want," he said.

The "SADC We Want" envisages a united, integrated and prosperous region where citizens fully enjoy the benefits of belonging to a Shared Community in southern Africa.

With respect to history and heritage, the 40th SADC Summit approved the Mechanism to Honour the Founders of SADC.

The mechanism is expected to inspire the citizens of SADC Member States, at both national and regional levels, to appreciate and acknowledge the vision and actions of the leaders who estab-

lished the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980, becoming SADC in 1992.

This generation of visionary leaders included President Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana, President Julius Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania, President Samora Machel of Mozambique, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

These leaders sacrificed the economic freedom of their countries to ensure that the rest of the region achieved political independence.

On the political and security front, the summit was seized with the situation prevailing in the region, especially in northern Mozambique, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Kingdom of Lesotho.

They pledged to support Mozambique in addressing the insurgency in the northern part of the country.

On emerging security threats in the region, the summit "urged Member States to take pro-active

measures to mitigate external interference, the impact of fake news and the abuse of social media, especially in electoral processes."

The Summit hailed outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe for leading regional efforts to ensure stability in the region during his tenure from August 2019 to August 2020.

President Mnangagwa brokered an agreement that saw the DRC and Zambia committing to amicably resolve their border dispute, and he convened a re-

gional meeting in May to discuss the security situation in northern Mozambique.

According to a communiqué released soon after the Summit, SADC is expected to convene a physical Summit in March 2021 in Maputo, Mozambique should the COVID-19 situation improve.

The 40th SADC Summit was held under the theme "SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security, Promoting Development and Resilience to Face Global Challenges."

The 41st SADC Summit is scheduled for August 2021 in Malawi. □

New SADC leadership

THE 40TH SADC Summit saw the annual leadership transition, with Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi taking over the post of SADC Chairperson from President John Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania.

President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi was elected Deputy SADC Chairperson, also known as Incoming Chairperson.

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

and is managed on a Troika system. Under this system, the Troika comprises the SADC Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Outgoing Chairperson.

Between Summits, the Summit Troika is now made up of Presidents Nyusi, Chakwera, and Magufuli.

With respect to the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana assumed the chair from President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa was elected Deputy Chairperson of the Organ, which is responsible for

promoting peace and security in the SADC region.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is also managed on a Troika basis and is responsible for promoting peace and security in the SADC region.

It consists of the current Chairperson (President Masisi), Deputy Chairperson (President Ramaphosa) and Outgoing Chairperson (President Mnangagwa), and reports to the SADC Chairperson.

The SADC Summit and the Organ Troika are mutually exclusive, and the Chairperson of the Organ does not simultaneously hold the chair of Summit. □



Protocol on Employment and Labour to be revised

THE PROTOCOL on Employment and Labour is being revised to ensure it takes into account the changing global dynamics in the labour market.

The decision to review protocol was taken during the 40th SADC Summit held on 17 August.

"Summit approved the development of a new Protocol on Employment and Labour, and to this effect, approved the withdrawal of the existing Protocol on Employment and Labour," reads part of a communiqué released by the re-

gional leaders at the end of the Summit that was held using video conferencing technology and coordinated from Maputo, Mozambique.

The existing Protocol on Employment and Labour was adopted in August 2014 and had until the latest decision not yet entered into force since it has only been ratified by one Member State.

For a SADC protocol to enter into force and become binding it must be ratified by at least two-thirds of the 16 Member States.

In this regard, the region has now decided to remove the current instrument and develop a new protocol that is acceptable to Member States.

The revised protocol is expected to make it easier for the region's employment and labour sector to promote common interests through deeper cooperation among the various stakeholders.

At their meeting held in March in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, SADC Ministers responsible for Employment and Labour said the

new regional instrument will accelerate progress towards a harmonised and coordinated regional labour market that can deliver on the decent work agenda.

The objectives of the new protocol should also be aligned to global targets and emerging issues such as decent work and social security, the ministers said.

Ultimately, the new protocol will be an essential tool to provide strategic direction on the employment and labour agenda in the SADC region. □

Towards SADC Minimum Standards for Food Fortification

SADC IS in the process of developing minimum regional standards to promote cooperation on food fortification in southern Africa.

Food fortification or enrichment is the process of adding micronutrients, especially essential trace elements and vitamins to food.

The enrichment is usually carried out by food manufacturers or by governments as a public health policy, which aims to reduce the number of people with dietary deficiencies within a population.

In August, the SADC Secretariat, together with the European Union, convened a regional validation meeting for the SADC Minimum Standards for Food Fortification.

The development of minimum standards is in support of the operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP), which is an overarching policy framework that guides agriculture sector development for the region.

The objectives of RAP are to enhance sustainable agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness; improve regional and international trade and access to markets of agricultural products; improve private and public sector engagement and investment in the agricultural value chains; and reduce social and eco-

nomics vulnerability of the region's population in the context of food and nutrition security and changing economic and climatic environment.

The proposed minimum standards are also one of the priorities in the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy, a framework for the region's nutrition and agriculture sector that contributes to the SADC Common Agenda on sustainable and equitable economic growth.

Speaking at the validation meeting, the Director of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the SADC Secretariat, Dr Domingos Gove said

good nutrition is an important part of leading a healthy lifestyle for SADC communities, which are faced with high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies.

It is envisaged that the adoption of minimum regional standards on food fortification would:

- ❖ Accelerate the development of national mandatory food fortification legislation and expand the coverage of micronutrient-rich foods in the region;
- ❖ Allow for intra-regional trade of fortified foods and promote an increase in the intake of key micronutri-

ents within Member States; and

- ❖ Prevent, reduce and control deficiencies in essential vitamins and minerals and improve nutritional health outcomes.

According to SADC procedure, the minimum standards will now be presented to various regional structures for consideration.

These are then considered by the meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Health that is scheduled for November, before recommendation for approval by the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in 2021. □

Combating the rise in illegal firearms

IN ITS bid to curb the proliferation of small arms and other ammunitions that are commonly used in the perpetration of violent crimes across the region, SADC has reviewed the Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

The 40th SADC Summit approved an Agreement amending the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials at their annual meeting held on 17 August.

The draft agreement seeks to broaden the scope of applica-

tion of the protocol to include conventional weapons.

It also aims to align the protocol with international conventions as well as to incorporate contemporary threats of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region and best practices and standards for prevention and combating the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of firearms, ammunitions and related materials.

Signed in 2001, the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials came into force in 2004, and aims to

prevent and eradicate the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, possession and use of firearms.

In recent years, there had been a proliferation of small arms and political instability in some Member States, threatening peace and stability.

Furthermore, the majority of the firearms used in the perpetration of violent crimes were either unmarked, unregistered, or are stolen, hence the need for SADC to review its Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials to combat the rise in illegal firearms in the region. □

New SADC leaders pledge deeper regional cooperation

by Nyarai Kampilipili

NEWLY ELECTED leaders from southern Africa have pledged to continue with the work of their predecessors to advance deeper integration in the SADC region.

The new leaders, President Dr Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi and Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro of

Lesotho, said this in their maiden speeches at the 40th SADC Summit held on 17 August in a virtual format.

Dr Majoro was sworn into office in May 2020 following the resignation of the former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane. He said Lesotho remains committed to the ideals of a united, integrated and prosperous region.



Prime Minister Dr Moeketsi Majoro



President Dr Lazarus Chakwera

SADC to prioritise measures to combat terrorism, security threats

PEACE AND security in SADC are of paramount importance if the region is to achieve its objectives of sustainable development and economic growth to alleviate poverty and enhance the standard and quality of life of its peoples.

The absence of peace and security threatens regional integration, which is built on democratic principles and equitable and sustainable development.

It is against this background that SADC leaders received a report from the Secretariat on emerging security threats in the region.

The leaders commended the Secretariat for the detailed report, and directed it to prepare an action plan for its implementation prioritizing measures to combat terrorism, violent attacks and cyber-crime.

The report by the Secretariat comes in the wake of a security threat in Mozambique's northern Cabo Del-

gado province where militants believed to be linked to the Islamic State group had reportedly seized the heavily defended port in the town of Mocimboa da Praia.

The town is near the site of natural gas projects estimated to have attracted US\$60 billion in investments.

The discovery of huge quantities of natural gas in Mozambique has ignited interest by investors to exploit the resource, thereby brightening prospects of the country's economic development.

But threats of insecurity negate these prospects and blight the SADC region's quest for peace and security as a precursor to economic development.

The summit welcomed the decision by Mozambique to bring to the attention of SADC the violent attacks in the country, and commended the country for its continued efforts towards combating terrorism and violent attacks.

"Lesotho fully subscribes to SADC aspirations for improved socio-economic conditions for all its citizens," he said.

Dr Majoro said that Lesotho is grateful for the continued support from SADC to help the country find a lasting solution to its political challenges.

President Chakwera paid tribute to SADC for support to Malawi, saying his country is ready to continue working with other Member States to promote and strengthen sustainable development and regional integration.

He said a united SADC is critical and will be an honour to one of the illustrious son of



Late President Benjamin Mkapa

the region – former President of the United Republic of Tanzania Benjamin William Mkapa – who died in July.

Mkapa was passionate about the economic and political integration of the SADC region and is credited with the launch, in 2004, of the first Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the region's long-term strategic plan.

A strong believer in the power of regional cooperation in the fight against poverty, Mkapa often called on SADC Member States to "run while others walk".

Mkapa chaired SADC between August 2003 and August 2004 and was an advocate for gender equality and youth empowerment.

"I humbly request you, the incoming Chairman, President Felipe Nyusi of Mozambique to give us all no rest during your tenure until we join hands in honouring the legacy of His Excellency Late Benjamin Mkapa by fully liberalizing trade across the SADC region and unlock the economic possibilities that our peoples dream of," Dr Chakwera said.

"Should this appeal be regarded favourably by Your Excellencies, I can promise that you will find in Malawi and my Government an eager partner ready to give of herself in service to this noble idea, whose time I believe has come."

Dr Chakwera was sworn in as President of Malawi on 28 June 2020 following an election rerun against former President Peter Mutharika. He becomes the sixth President of Malawi. □



We are making progress despite challenges – Magufuli

SADC HAS made significant progress over the past year to deepen cooperation and attain socio-economic development despite the numerous challenges confronting the region.

This was said by President John Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania when he handed over the SADC instruments of office to President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique during the 40th SADC Summit on 17 August.

He cited the cooperation among Member States to contain the spread of COVID-19 as one of the main achievements during the period that Tanzania chaired SADC between August 2019 and August 2020.

"It is true that there are many side effects that we have experienced from this disease, but we have tried very hard to cope with this epidemic, contrary to some people's predictions," Magufuli said.

SADC Member States have, among other measures, implemented strict regulations to ensure the COVID-19 pandemic does not spread across the region. The measures included the closure of borders, adherence to World Health Organisation health protocols and the adoption of harmonised guidelines on the cross-border movement of goods within the region.

"I would like to commend all Member States and the Secretariat for the various steps they have taken to address coronavirus disease.

"As you will recall, even before the World Health Organization declared coronavirus an international epidemic, on 9 March 2020, Tanzania, as SADC Chair, convened an Emergency Meeting of SADC Health Ministers to discuss

how to tackle the disease," Magufuli said.

The meeting adopted various guidelines and strategies to deal with the disease.

"And based on these guidelines, I am happy to say that, to a large extent, we have been able to control this disease in our region."

He was hopeful that, with greater cooperation among Member States, the region would be able to eventually emerge out of the pandemic.

"In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Secretariat and Member States to work together to expedite the establishment of our Disaster Risk Preparedness and Response Strategy Fund," Magufuli said.

Another major achievement for the year was the conclusion of the process of developing the post-2020 development agenda for SADC.

The process culminated in the approval by Summit in August of the SADC Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030.

SADC Vision 2050 will be operationalised through the RISDP 2020-2030, which replaced the Revised RISDP 2015-2020 that lapsed in March.

"It is my belief that these two documents, which will be

discussed at this Summit, will provide direction on how to achieve our 'SADC We Want' goals," Magufuli said.

The launch of the e-certificate on rules of origin during the 39th SADC Summit held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in August 2019 was yet another achievement cited by the outgoing SADC Chairperson.

"The launch of this system will facilitate cross-border trade, especially for our small businesses," Magufuli said.

The past year also witnessed the launch of the SADC Business Council during the SADC Industrialisation Week hosted by Tanzania in August 2019.

"It is clear that the establishment of this council will stimulate productive activities and strengthen cooperation between the public sector and the private sector, which is crucial in building a modern economy," the outgoing SADC Chairperson said.

On peace and security, Magufuli noted the prevailing stability in the region and paid tribute to the outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security

President Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe for his efforts to find a lasting solution to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I also congratulate the people of Lesotho for reaching a Peace Agreement under the arbitration of the Republic of South Africa, which led to the appointment of Dr Moeketsi Majoro as the Prime Minister of the country following the retirement of Dr Thomas Thabane."

He congratulated the leaders of Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique and Namibia for the largely peaceful elections held in these Member States during the past year.

"The election of these leaders is a sign of the maturity of the principles of democracy in our Community," Magufuli said.

Another achievement during the past year was the adoption of Kiswahili as one of the four official SADC languages.

Magufuli said it is hoped that the adoption of Kiswahili in SADC will promote cooperation and cohesion within the region.

The Tanzanian leader wished President Nyusi the best as he assumes the position of SADC chairperson for the period August 2020 to August 2021. □





Adequate rainfall forecast for SADC during 2020/21 season

by Egline Tauya

THE REGIONAL rainfall pattern for the 2020/21 agricultural season is encouraging as the bulk of southern Africa is expected to receive adequate rainfall throughout the growing season.

This is an improvement from the previous season when less rainfall resulted in adverse impacts on agriculture, water resources and hydropower generation in most of the region.

The latest outlook produced by regional climate experts forecasts that there will be normal to above-normal rainfall across most of SADC between October 2020 and March 2021.

The consensus forecast was produced by the 24th Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF 24) that met virtually on 27-28 August.

The SARCOF forecast is divided into two parts, covering October-November-December (OND) 2020 and January-February-March (JFM) 2021.

The forecast shows that the bulk of the SADC region is likely to receive high rainfall termed normal to above-normal between October and December, although north-western Angola, bulk of the Democratic Republic of Congo, eastern Madagascar, northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania, and north-eastern Zambia are forecast to receive low rainfall termed normal to below-normal.

Above-normal rainfall is defined as being within the wettest third of historically recorded rainfall amounts, while below-normal is within the driest third of rainfall amounts and normal is rainfall within the middle third.

The second half of the agricultural season, which covers the period January to March 2021, is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall for the entire SADC region.

The prospects of adequate rainfall means that the region is likely to experience a good harvest during the 2020/21 agricultural season.

This is expected to be well received news following successive seasons of poor harvests in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 agricultural seasons.

Based on the forecast, governments in the region were encouraged to ensure adequate availability of farming inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.

Given the previous recurrent droughts in some parts of the region, governments and development partners were encouraged to support farmers by providing inputs.

Experts noted the need to upgrade storage facilities to reduce chances of loss of harvests.

The positive forecast points to improvement of river flows and dam levels in most parts of the SADC region, a development that is crucial for irrigation.

The expected good rains will be an opportunity for water harvesting in most of the SADC region. Governments and farmers were encouraged to invest in rehabilitation of water storage facilities as well as in soil conservation, given the potential for waterlogging.

The experts warned of the likelihood of flash floods in the low-lying areas of the entire region, especially during the second half of the season.

Based on this potential threat, experts advised on the need for member states to be proactive by activating disaster risk management plans to ensure they are prepared when the need arises for evacuating people and livestock to higher ground.

Farmers in flood-prone areas were encouraged to plant upland and undertake good land management.

The experts also warned that heavy rains are often accompanied by outbreaks of crop and livestock pests and diseases.

In this regard, governments were encouraged to stock up on chemicals and other pesticides as well as to step up efforts to ensure regular dipping of livestock and pest control activities for crops.

In the regions expected to experience below-normal rainfall in the first half of the agricultural season, farmers were encouraged to plant short-season varieties as there will be a delayed onset of the rain season in these areas.

The forecast provides relief to southern Africa as the region is still trying to rebuild its food reserves after the occurrence of tropical cyclones, locust outbreaks and the COVID 19 pandemic, which have resulted in adverse impact on agriculture, water resources and hydropower generation.

In coming up with the outlook for the 2020/21 season, the climate scientists took into account oceanic and atmospheric factors that influence the climate over the SADC region, including the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which is currently in its neutral phase.

ENSO is a naturally occurring phenomenon that involves fluctuating ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

El Niño is a term for the warm phase of the ENSO and is associated with droughts in southern Africa.

La Niña is the opposite of El Niño and refers to the cooling phase of the same sea surface temperature oscillation. It is associated with wet conditions in southern Africa.

According to SARCOF-24, the ENSO is projected to evolve into a La Niña phase during the forecast period.

Other factors considered by the climate experts to come up with this outlook were an increased chance of a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and a neutral Sub-tropical Indian Ocean Dipole (SIOD) by the end of the March 2021.

The IOD is an irregular oscillation of sea surface temperatures in which the



SADC tackles locust outbreak

THE SADC Secretariat has partnered with two other organisations to launch a project to co-operate on efforts to control an outbreak of African Migratory Locusts.

The Secretariat launched the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa and the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in September.

The project is meant to address the outbreak of the African Migratory Locust (AML) in the region.

In 2020, locust outbreaks have been reported in a number of countries in Africa, Asia and South America, and the SADC region has not been spared.

Locusts cause serious food and nutrition insecurity and loss of livelihoods through damage to crops and grazing.

In May 2020, AML were recorded in eight SADC Member States. These are Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

The outbreak has since then spread to Zimbabwe and other Member States.

The pest has spread from its traditional breeding areas in the Okavango Delta, Chobe wetlands and the Zambezi plains into new areas.

According to the SADC Secretariat, "the growing number of AML hotspots and spread is of great concern given the threat to irrigated crops as well as to the main planting season, which is imminent."

"The threat from the AML can have a multiplier effect on the already precarious food and nutrition security situation," the Secretariat said in a statement after the launch of the TCP.

It said the AML outbreak exacerbates the serious economic challenges Member States are already facing, including resource constraints posed by Covid-19 response mechanisms.

SADC presently has 44.8 million people who are said to be food-insecure and the locust outbreak poses a threat to efforts to restore food security in the region, the Secretariat said.

In addition, Member States have to deal with other pressing priorities, including management of other pests and diseases such as Tomato Leaf Miner, Banana Bunchy Top Virus Diseases, and the Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease.

Under the project, SADC is working with FAO, IRLCO-CSA to strengthen the capacity of affected countries and regional institutions to respond to the AML threat.

To successfully fight the African Migratory Locust threat, SADC Member States have agreed to come together to strengthen emergency response capacity of affected countries and regional support institutions to suppress the pest in the hotspots.

They have agreed, among other measures, to:

- establish community-based locust monitoring, early warning and control to strengthen the nexus between emergency response and community resilience;
- strengthen early warning systems through community participation, surveillance, mapping and use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) reporting and communication applications;
- strengthen emergency procurement of monitoring and response equipment, pesticides and or services;
- undertake emergency ground spot spraying with environmentally friendly synthetic pesticides; and
- strengthen existing inter-country information exchange and coordination mechanisms for effective collective response.

The SADC region has experienced outbreaks of a number of transboundary plant pests and diseases in recent years, with the Fall Armyworm being the latest to be introduced in 2017.

Climate change is believed to be the major driver of new introductions due to changes in weather patterns that create conducive environment for introduction, establishment and spread of new pests and diseases. □



western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer (positive phase) and then colder (negative phase) than the eastern part of the ocean, while the SIOD is featured by the oscillation of sea surface temperatures in which the south-west Indian Ocean, is warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean.

Local and month-to-month variations are expected to occur and farmers and other users of the SARCOF-24 forecast are advised to contact their national meteorological and hydrological services for interpretation of the outlook.

The rainfall outlook was prepared by climate scientists from national meteorological and hydrological services from SADC member states as well as experts from the SADC Climate Service Centre.

The SARCOF-24 meeting was convened under the theme Sustaining Climate Services in the SADC Region during a Pandemic. sardc.net □

SADC approves Vision 2050, RISDP 2020-30

SADC LEADERS have approved a long-term vision that sets out the aspirations of the region until 2050 as well as a new strategic plan as they seek to further deepen regional integration over the next 10 years.

The SADC Vision 2050 and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 were approved by the 40th Ordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which was held virtually on 17 August and hosted by Mozambique.

"Summit approved the SADC Vision 2050, which is based on a firm foundation of Peace, Security and Democratic Governance, and premised on three interrelated pillars, namely: Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infrastructure Development in support of Regional Integration; and Social and Human Capital Development," read a communique issued at the end of the summit.

"Summit also approved the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 to operationalise the Vision 2050."

The RISDP 2020-2030 follows the Revised RISDP 2015-20 that ended in March 2020.

The approval of the SADC Vision 2050 is the culmination of a long consultative process that began more than eight years ago when an extraordinary SADC Summit held in June 2012 in Angola decided that the region should develop a long-term vision that will be predicated upon the existing SADC vision "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 peoples of Southern Africa."

The approved Vision 2050 sets out the long-term aspirations of SADC over the next 30 years while the RISDP 2020-30 outlines the proposed development trajectory for the region until 2030.

The 10-year strategic plan is informed by the aspirations as set out in the long-term vision. Under the SADC Vision 2050, the region has five aspirations:

- ❖ Creation of a conducive environment to foster regional cooperation and integration and uphold fair/free movement of goods, people or labour, capital and services;
 - ❖ Accelerated mobilisation of resources from within the region and external sources to fast-track the implementation of SADC policies and programmes, and a shift away from the current reliance on International Cooperating Partners towards a more diversified approach that is better integrated and complementary;
 - ❖ Improved implementation of SADC policies and programmes through the effective realisation of roles and responsibilities undertaken by various actors and entities through institutional reforms at the levels of the SADC Secretariat, SADC National Committees and National Contact Points;
 - ❖ Strengthened compliance by Member States through the implementation of effective compliance monitoring and assurance mechanisms to track progress in implementation of SADC programmes and compliance to Protocols and legal instruments. This will require regular review of the SADC RISDP 2020-30 to allow the effective and authentic application of variable geometry, facilitate active learning and the leveraging of relevant and emerging technologies; and
 - ❖ Strengthening of visibility and awareness programmes as a means to trigger and maintain the interest, awareness and participation of the SADC citizenry and Member State officials responsible for driving the regional integration agenda.
- Both the SADC Vision 2050 and RISDP 2020-30 envision a peaceful, middle- to high-income industrialised region, where

all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom.

The vision seeks to consolidate the Community by leveraging areas of excellence and implementing priorities to achieve sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development underpinned by good governance and durable peace and security in the region.

According to the vision, SADC Member States "commit to upholding the core principles of the Community, namely: the sovereign equality of all Member States; solidarity, peace and security; human rights, democracy and the rule of law; equity, balance and mutual benefit; and the peaceful settlement of disputes."

The vision seeks the removal of all barriers to deeper regional integration, guided by the objectives and principles of the SADC Treaty and Common Agenda.

In building the foundation for Peace, Security and Democratic Governance, SADC envisions to remain a peaceful and stable region, which is seen as a necessary condition for ensuring the attainment of the objectives of socio-economic development, poverty eradication, and regional integration by 2050.

This is expected to be achieved through the strengthening of the regional early warning systems as well as conflict prevention, management, and resolution mechanisms to enable the region to track and monitor political, security and socio-economic threats before they become serious problems.

It is envisaged that by 2050 SADC would have strengthened its collective defence and security system that is capable of safeguarding the territorial integrity of the region.

Under the Industrial Development and Market Integration pillar, the vision is for SADC to be an indus-

trialised and integrated region where citizens equitably benefit from the opportunities of a stable regional market.

This target would be informed by the objectives of the African Union's Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa, African Mining Vision, Boosting Intra-African Trade and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and would be integrated into the broader African Continental Free Trade Area.

By 2050, SADC undertakes to have an industrialised regional economy that is based on a competitive and facilitative environment, which includes robust infrastructure, skills development and the promotion of science, technology and innovation to ensure the sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

It is envisaged that by 2050 the SADC agricultural sector would have been transformed through mechanisation and other mechanisms in order to contribute to the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.

The agricultural sector is regarded as an engine for socio-economic development in most SADC Member States, hence the drive towards deeper cooperation and collaboration to boost production and address food insecurity.

The SADC Vision 2050 and RISDP 2020-30 also envisage interconnected, integrated competitive blue and green economies that will be sustainably developed for the benefit of all SADC citizens.

Deepened regional market integration will be developed, together with deepened financial market integration, monetary cooperation and investment, as well as enhanced macroeconomic stability and convergence.

On the second pillar of Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration, the target is that, by 2050, SADC would have efficient and effective cross-border infrastructure apparatus, services and networks to support and facilitate deeper regional integration and reduce or avoid transboundary conflicts.

The region envisions integrated and quality seamless infrastructure and networks, including improved capacity for construction, maintenance and operation of affordable regional infrastructure and services.

Under the third pillar of Social and Human Capital Development, SADC wants, by 2050, to have a high quality of life in which the citizens are well educated and enjoy long, healthy and productive lives that reinforce the link between economic growth and sustainable human development in order to end poverty in all its forms.

This strong and inclusive human capital base is expected to enable SADC citizens to play a pivotal role in socio-economic development through enhanced productivity.

Under this pillar, SADC seeks to strengthen and harmonised regional health systems for the provision of standardised and accessible health services to all citizens, improved food and nutrition security for the socio-economic wellbeing of people in the region.

In addition, the vision seeks increased access by SADC citizens to quality and relevant education and skills development, including in science and technology, and increased job creation with decent work opportunities for full and productive employment in the region.

Regarding the crosscutting issues of Gender, Youth and Climate Change, the vision is that, by 2050, SADC would be a community where citizens are treated equally, regardless of their gender, and where the youth are empowered.

SADC undertakes intensify gender equality, the empowerment and development of women, while there will be a robust and responsive regional statistical system to underpin regional integration processes, including measurement of progress and impact, by 2050.

The target is also to aim for improved youth empowerment and participation of young people in all aspects of social and economic development as well as strengthened climate change resilience and disaster risk management. □



SADC strengthens efforts to exploit gas resources

SADC IS exploring ways of harnessing the potential of the massive reserves of natural gas that exist in the region and has strengthened efforts to exploit these resources with the Secretariat presenting key outcomes and recommendations of a report on the Regional Gas Master Plan.

During the 38th SADC Summit held in Windhoek, Namibia in August 2018, the Secretariat was directed to operationalise the Regional Gas Committee and to develop the Regional Gas Master Plan (RGMP).

With funding support from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Secretariat commissioned a study on the status of the natural gas sector which was undertaken between November 2019 and April 2020.

Given the complexities of the sector and the imperative to build consensus at national and regional levels with regard to the role and future of natural gas in the region, it was resolved to adopt a phased and incremental approach to the development of the RGMP.

It was agreed that Phase 1 would involve defining the conceptual and policy framework, focusing on investiga-

tion of the natural gas supply and demand dynamics.

The second phase would involve master planning for the sector, which would focus on mapping the strategic location of natural gas-based industries or projects, and development of the RGMP with an investment blueprint.

As part of Phase 1, the SADC Secretariat commissioned a study in 2019 to contribute to the process of developing the RGMP that will guide the exploitation of natural gas resources in the region.

The key outcomes and recommendations of the study were presented during a virtual seminar convened in late August by the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with DBSA, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Business Foundation, the SADC Business Council and the SADC Development Finance Resource Centre.

The study report unpacked the drivers for a regional gas market, analysed the enabling regulatory frameworks, and assessed the natural gas supply and demand situation in the region as well as the regional gas infrastructure development outlook.

This is being done to facilitate the development of a SADC gas industry and establish gas-to-power energy plants for diversifying the generation energy mix in the region, which is currently dominated by coal and hydropower.

The study assessed the markets within SADC and other Regional Economic Communities such as the East African Community, and identified potential industries that can participate in a regional value chain for natural gas. This included an assessment of the potential for companies that will act as off-takers and purchase the natural gas once there is wide-scale regional production.

It recognizes the trends and outlook of the natural gas industry globally and how these could impact on the RGMP and has compiled a database of relevant reports and studies about natural gas resources in the region.

The study unpacks the challenges that must be addressed in order to build a robust gas economy in the SADC region and looked at the potential contribution of the

natural gas sector towards the achievements of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, SADC Industrial Development Strategy and Roadmap, Africa Union Agenda 2063, and the United

Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

According to the *SADC Energy Monitor 2016*, the contribution of gas to the regional energy mix is very minimal, accounting for a mere 1.3 per cent of the total power generation mix.

However, natural gas is becoming more significant to the region's energy sector as Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania develop their respective gas-fields.

It is envisaged that the exploitation of the vast reserves of natural gas, shale gas and coal-bed methane that are available in SADC Member States would result in significant job opportunities and contribute billions of dollars to the regional Gross Domestic Product.

Natural gas has various potential uses in SADC. It can be used to generate electricity or as chemical feedstock in industrial processes or as fuel for vehicles. Another potential use of gas is in the production of fertilizers.

Therefore, the exploration of natural gas presents a significant opportunity for SADC to address its energy challenges and move forward the industrialisation agenda and deepen integration.

One of the key advantages of gas is that it has a low carbon emission profile, making it a cleaner energy source when compared with other fossil fuels. In addition to this, it is affordable, secure and reliable. □



Legislative agenda for gender mainstreaming in renewable energy should be strengthened

by Nyarai Kampilipili

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT in southern Africa have been urged to take concrete action in driving the legislative agenda to advance gender equality in the renewable energy sector.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Hon. Advocate Jacob Mudenda said during a virtual workshop with parliamentarians from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) that women entrepreneurship within the energy sector has the potential to significantly enhance economic growth.

Women face challenges in accessing renewable energy products and technologies because of the prohibitive start-up cost of installing such equipment. As a result, women walk long distances to collect firewood, which is usually heavy, compromising health and wellbeing.

It is of significance that Members of Parliament take a concrete legislative agenda whose objective is to expeditiously gender mainstream renewable energy in their respective countries, Mudenda said.

In this regard, there is a need for SADC Member States to formulate and implement policies that mainstream these gender variables in renewable energy initiatives, including ways to make renewable energy more accessible to more women.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Hon. Professor Peter Katjavivi said parliamentarians should play an important role in facilitating

gender representation, participation and mainstreaming in all areas.

It is our role as parliamentarians to ensure that we push for the enabling legislation to facilitate gender equal representation, participation and mainstreaming in all areas, including renewable energy, so that both women and men reap the benefits and livelihoods are improved, Katjavivi said.

The Secretary-General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Boemo Sekgoma said the renewable energy sector has different impacts on women and men, therefore it is critical to develop gender-responsive laws and policies in SADC Member States.

It is essential that SADC governments work with national parliaments to devise gender-responsive laws and policies that close the existing gaps and give women and young girls the necessary education, knowledge and skills to understand the prospects which renewable energy offers and to become part of the renewable energy revolution, she said.

The Executive Director of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Munetsi Madakufamba assured parliamentarians that SARDC is ready to join forces and support national parliaments and the region in building capacity to advance the gender and renewable energy agenda.

SARDC is an independent regional knowledge resource centre that seeks to strengthen regional policy perspectives through relevant research that informs development.



Established in 1985, SARDC has a strong track record of experience and expertise in research, collecting, analyzing, writing, documenting and disseminating knowledge from a regional perspective in a way that is accessible for different audiences, including policy and decision makers in the public and private sectors, parliaments, academics, development agencies, the media and the public.

One of the most prominent of the SARDC institutes is the Beyond Inequalities Gender Institute that produces a regular publication for SADC on gender mainstreaming, the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor*, and organised this virtual workshop for parliamentarians with the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

The main aim of the virtual workshop was to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to integrate gender issues into the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in the SADC renewable energy sector.

The workshop stimulated dialogue among the parliamentarians on how to cham-

pion gender mainstreaming in the renewable energy sector through the passage of appropriate legislation and monitoring of implementation.

The lively workshop was well-attended, drawing participants from nine SADC Member States who were enthusiastic in their discussions and clear about their capacity needs which they said were largely related to access to relevant knowledge to drive forward the agenda and achieve results.

Workshop participants, who were drawn from the parliamentary committees responsible for gender and energy in SADC Member States, said they would use their constitutional mandates of law-making, oversight and representation to promote gender equality and equity in the renewable energy sector.

The workshop, which was hosted by the SARDC in collaboration with the SADC PF and the Parliament of Zimbabwe, was attended by legislators from Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. sardc.net □

Oil spill threatens Mauritian blue economy, will take decades to recover

by Admire Ndhlovu

AN OIL spill off the coast of Mauritius in July is threatening the island nation's efforts to attain a blue economy.

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

The oil spill was caused by a Japanese-registered cargo vessel, the MV Wakashio that ran aground on July 25 after striking a coral reef, spilling more than 1,000 tonnes of engine oil into the pristine coastal waters of Mauritius.

The oil, which has coated beaches, coral reefs and mangroves with a poisonous sludge, has been described as the biggest ecological disaster ever to happen in the Indian Ocean.

"We are talking of decades to recover from this damage, and some of it may never recover," notes Mauritian oceanographer, Vassen Kaup-paymuthoo.

Mauritius relies heavily on tourism, a sector already heavily impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The sector is the third pillar of the economy after manufacturing and agriculture.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 domestic and international tourists annually visit the Blue Bay, where the spill occurred.

Scientists note among the factors that are causing great concern are the location of the spill, the type of oil used by the vessel, the time of year, as well as the nature of the beaches.

The oil spill occurred at the centre of a network of three internationally renowned and protected nature refuges containing some of the most endangered species on the planet.

The Blue Bay Marine Park and the Pointe DEsny Mangrove Forests are designated as UNESCO Ramsar Protected Sites, as well as the nature preserve of Ile aux Aigrettes, which contain some of the rarest species in the country such as the country's last remaining low-lying ebony forests, which is not found on any other location on the island.

The oil spill is reported to have spread to other outlying islands which are protected nature reserves for endemic species. These habitats and populations have been carefully monitored for years and had been on the path to recovery prior to the oil spill.

The vessel was using Heavy Fuel Oil, a type of engine fuel commonly used in shipping. It is highly toxic in nature and requires special handling during clean-up operations.

As a result, there are ongoing efforts to have it completely banned due to its risk to the environment.

This oil is already banned in Antarctica and the International Maritime Organization is final-

izing plans to have it banned from the Arctic due to the fragile nature of the Arctic ecosystem and high exposure to ultraviolet light from the sun, which makes it more lethal.

Whales and dolphins rely on specific ocean habitats for breeding, and the oil spill occurred during the cooler Southern Hemisphere winter, a time when they migrate to the coast of Mauritius.

At the beginning of September nearly 50 whales were found dead along the south-east coast of Mauritius, including pregnant females and juveniles.

Apart from the death of whales and dolphins, the spill has threatened the conservation of local seabirds and plant species in a nearby protected reserve.

In addition, the recovery of the oil can be challenging due to the sandy nature of the beaches and the root system of the mangroves which act as giant sponges to the toxic oil. Thus, while a lot of the oil may not be visible, its presence will be felt for many years to come.

It is for these reasons that the 40th SADC Summit held in August called upon SADC Member States and the international community to support Mauritius in containing the disaster.

This assistance will help the country in the clean-up effort and environmental, historical, cultural, social and economic assessment of damage, restora-

tion of ecosystems and revival of fisheries.

Eight SADC Member States are coastal or oceanic and face a similar threat of oil spills which can impact on their efforts to attain a blue economy.

These are Angola, Union of the Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The notion of a blue economy and the need to stimulate blue growth was first raised during the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development aimed at capturing the potential for maritime-based activities and resources to stimulate economic growth and significantly contribute to sustainable development.

The blue economy concept essentially seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the oceans and coastal areas.

It has diverse components, including established traditional ocean industries such as fisheries, tourism and maritime transport, but also new and emerging activities such as offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, seabed extractive industries and marine biotechnology and bio-prospecting. sardc.net □

Africa ready to trade more with itself

by Kizito Sikuka

AFRICA REMAINS resolute to change the global economic landscape that has seen the continent trade more with the outside world than with itself.

President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana said this in Accra when he officially launched the headquarters for the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He said the decision by African leaders to establish an integrated market is a game-changer that has the capacity to boost intra-regional trade across the continent.

"A large part of the growth and prosperity that we seek on the continent will come from us trading more among ourselves," President Akufo-Addo said at the launch held in August.

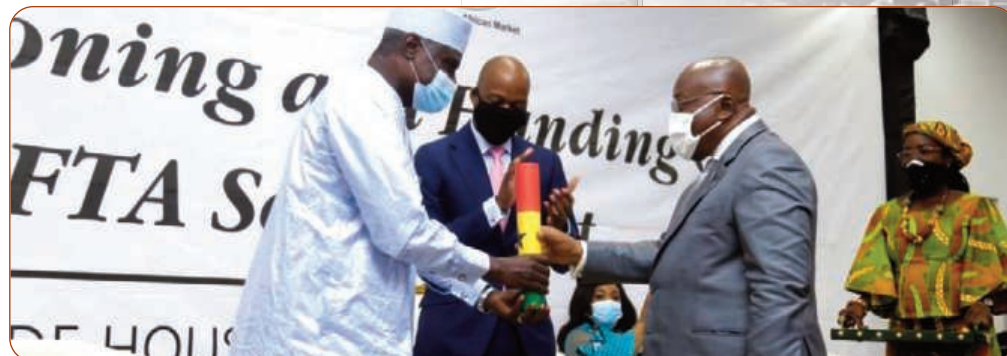
"Therefore, Ghana as caretaker of the AfCFTA Secretariat will put all the requisite facilities at its disposal so that the Secretariat is run as a world-class organisation."

The AfCFTA Secretariat is responsible for the overall management of the day-to-day activities and implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, which aims to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across all the 55 African countries.

To date, a total of 54 countries have signed the AfCFTA Agreement, while 30 have ratified the agreement in their national assemblies. Of these, 28 have already deposited instruments of ratification with the African Union (AU) Commission.

The process of approval of a continental legal instrument requires, first, signing, and then ratification, a process that differs from country to country.

A protocol "enters into force" following ratification by at least 22 AU Member States, thus ad-



vancing the continental law from being a stated intention to actual application.

President Akufo-Addo said Africa should collectively work together to ensure that the enlarged market is a huge success.

"The world is watching to see whether the AfCFTA Secretariat will, indeed, provide the springboard for Africa's economic integration and rapid growth, and I am confident that if we work together we will succeed."

"So, I urge Member States to put in an extra effort to conclude all outstanding implementation issues, for their adoption by the AU Assembly in the next Extraordinary Summit scheduled for December 2020, to pave way for the smooth commencement of trading on 1 January 2021."

Trading under the AfCFTA Agreement was due to commence on 1 July. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the date was postponed to 1 January 2021.

AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said the operationalization of the AfCFTA Agreement will mark a giant step towards realizing the vision set by the Founding Leaders of the AU.

The Founding Leaders of the AU – formerly the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) – envisaged an integrated, prosperous and united continent.

"Indeed, the launch of the AfCFTA Secretariat marks a historic milestone in the road to fulfil the vision of our Founding Fathers for Continental Integration that dates back to the inaugural session of the OAU in 1963, articulated most strongly by then President Kwame Nkrumah in his landmark speech," Dr Mahamat said.

He said it was befitting that the AfCFTA Secretariat is based in Ghana – a country whose founding president pioneered Pan-Africanism together with other African leaders such as Julius Nyerere, founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat, Wamkele Mene said an integrated market offers Africa the opportunity to confront the significant trade

and economic development challenges such as market fragmentation, over-reliance on exports of primary commodities, under-developed industrial regional value chains, as well as high regulatory and tariff barriers to intra-Africa trade.

"In other words, Africa continues to be trapped in a colonial economic model, which requires that we aggressively implement the AfCFTA as one of the tools for effecting a fundamental structural transformation of Africa's economy," Mene said.

"The AfCFTA is therefore a critical response to Africa's developmental challenges. It has the potential to enable Africa to significantly boost intra Africa trade and to improve economies of scale through an integrated market." □

Seychelles ratifies SADC Protocol on Industry

SEYCHELLES HAS become the first Member State to ratify the SADC Protocol on Industry, which aims to improve the policy environment for industrial development in the region.

The process of approval of regional legal instruments in SADC requires, first, signing, and then ratification, a process that differs from country to country.

A protocol only "enters into force" following ratification by two-thirds of the 16 SADC Member States.

The Protocol on Industry was approved in August 2019 and is expected to give legal effect to the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, which aims to unlock the industrial potential of the region. □

Tanzania gears up for elections

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania will go to the polls on 28 October to choose a president and Members of Parliament to serve for the next five years.

According to the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Tanzania, a total of 15 candidates will contest the presidential poll.

These include the incumbent President John Magufuli of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

Other candidates include Tundu Lissu, leader of the main opposition Party for Democracy and Progress (Chadema), and Bernard Membe, a former foreign minister and ex-senior official of CCM, who now leads the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo).

President Magufuli, who is seeking re-election for a second and final term, has pledged to focus on boosting the country's economy and completing key projects aimed at making Tanzania "a great nation".

Since he was elected in 2015, Magufuli has implemented a number of projects aimed at transforming the country – and in July 2020 the country duly achieved its middle-income vision, five years ahead of schedule.

"We have the capability to implement these projects, and we will implement them with speed using local resources," Magufuli told supporters during a recent campaign rally, adding that some of the initiatives planned over the next five years include the purchase of five new planes for the national airline, the creation of jobs for eight million people, and increasing tourism earnings.

Lissu said his top priority is to improve education and health service in the country.

"We want to see all Tanzanians with health insurance cards and this is possible and practical, because a better health system is crucial for the development of any country," he said.

Lissu returned to Tanzania in July after spending three years in Belgium.

Membe, who served as foreign minister from 2007 to 2015, has pledged to improve the economy and address poverty.

Tanzania uses the First-Past-the-Post electoral system to choose its president and Members of Parliament.

In the last election held in 2015, President Magufuli won 58.46 percent of the total votes cast against 39.97 percent collected by his nearest rival, Edward Lowassa, then leader of Chadema.

The presidential poll will be held concurrently with parliamentary elections, in which parties will contest for 264 seats in a unicameral Parliament.

The National Assembly of Tanzania, the *Bunge*, has 393 members – of which 264 are elected in single-seat constituencies and 118 are indirectly elected, including 113 women elected by political parties in proportion to their share of the electoral vote and five members from Zanzibar, two of whom must be women.

Ten members are appointed by the Union president, of whom five must be women, and one seat is reserved for the Attorney General. The Speaker may be designated from outside Parliament and becomes a member of Parliament by virtue of holding the office of Speaker.

In the outgoing National Assembly, 248 seats were occupied by men and 145 seats by women, for a proportion of 36.9 percent women. Just over 24 percent of the members were under the age of 45.

The semi-autonomous islands of Zanzibar, comprising Unguja and Pemba islands, will hold elections on the same day.

Tanzania's founding president Mwalimu Julius Nyerere united the mainland Tanganyika with the islands of Zanzibar in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

The ruling CCM party has chosen Hussein Mwinyi as its presidential candidate in Zanzibar, and he is contesting against Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad of the ACT-Wazalendo.

The Chadema party is not fielding a presidential candidate in Zanzibar, and is backing Hamad.

Local, regional and international organizations are expected to observe the elections, including the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM).

The SEOM will be headed by the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation from Botswana, Dr Lemogang Kwape.

The SEOM is in Tanzania at the invitation of the NEC and its conduct will be consistent with the Constitution and electoral law of Tanzania, and the provisions of the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

The SEOM will issue a statement after the elections on the conduct of the poll.

This is in line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, which encourage Member States to promote common political values and systems. sardc.net □

Regional guidelines for election observation during pandemics

SADC IS developing guidelines for election observation during pandemics such as COVID-19, which has affected the global socio-economic landscape and resulted in the loss of many lives.

The SADC Guidelines for Election Observation under Public Health Emergencies will address the potential risk of spreading the virus and other such diseases during elections, by providing elaborate mitigation measures and steps on how to manage and observe elections amidst pandemics with relative safety.

The draft guidelines were considered by the Ministerial Committee of the Organ in September, and would mainly be used as a guide for the region to observe elections under new public health protocols to govern all SADC observer missions.

The guidelines were developed after SADC noted that the region was largely unprepared to deploy its observer missions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus directed the SADC Secretariat in June craft to strategies to complement measures to mitigate the further spread of the disease. sadc.int □

October – December 2020

October

15 virtual

SADC Energy Thematic Group

The Energy Thematic Group is a coordination meeting of SADC and its subsidiary organizations with cooperating partners and experts to review the energy situation in the region. The meeting is taking place via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

15 virtual

SADC Water Strategic Reference Group

The Water Strategic Reference Group will meet via video conference to discuss developments in the SADC water sector. The group is made up of stakeholders involved in water sector development and conservation in southern Africa.

22-24, Seychelles

General Elections

Seychelles will hold its presidential and legislative elections on 22-24 October. As is the case with all elections in Seychelles, voters in the “outer islands” will vote on the first day, followed by the “inner islands” of Mahe, Grand’ Anse and La Digue, which are home to more than 90 percent of the Seychellois population.

28, Tanzania

General Elections

Tanzania will hold presidential, parliamentary and local government elections on 28 October. These elections are held every five years and were last held in October 2015. SADC will send an observation mission headed by Botswana’s Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation.

29, DRC

Executive Committee of Southern African Power Pool

The 49th Executive Committee meeting of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) will discuss the energy situation in the region. The SAPP is a regional body that coordinates the planning of generation, transmission and marketing electricity in SADC.

29-30 virtual

International Water Resources Association

The virtual conference of the International Water Resources Association seeks to address the challenges and priorities on climate change resilience in the management of groundwater resources, including the exchange of scientific and policy knowledge, and will contribute to discussions and activities in the framework of COP26 in 2021, and UN Water’s theme for 2022 dedicated to groundwater.

November

06, SADC

SADC Malaria Day

SADC Member States use this day to mobilize participation in malaria control initiatives and to generate awareness about the disease, which has about 200 million cases in Africa annually and claims more than 400,000 lives worldwide. Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by a parasite spread by female Anopheles mosquitoes.

20, Africa

Africa Industrialization Day

The annually Africa Industrialization Day is celebrated on 20 November to raise awareness about the importance of industrial development in Africa to address some of the economic challenges faced by the continent.

December

1, Global

World AIDS Day

This day is dedicated to raising awareness of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) pandemic and sharing knowledge about the condition that is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which damages the immune system and the body’s ability to resist infection and disease.

8-10, virtual

African Economic Conference

The conference offers an opportunity for researchers, policymakers and development partners from Africa and elsewhere to explore Africa’s existing knowledge generation approaches and frameworks, the efficacy of its knowledge and innovation institutions in developing needed skills, technology and innovation capacities. The theme for the conference is “Africa Beyond COVID-19: Acceleration Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development”.

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11 November 1975

ANGOLA 45 years of Independence

THIS YEAR marks the 45th anniversary of national independence for Angola from Portuguese colonial rule.

Angola had its first colonial settlement in 1575, while independence was achieved 400 years later. For centuries, colonial settlement was mainly of interest to Europe as a source of slaves, or as a dumping ground for exiled criminals.

Colonial control was officially instituted in the late 19th century following the Berlin Conference of 1885, where Africa was divided by the European powers mainly for their mineral resources interests.

After decades of exploitation, plundering and deprivation of rights and human dignity, sons and daughters of Angola with the support of the regional community stood in resistance of colonial rule to reclaim their lost pride.

The contribution of these heroes and heroines in the liberation history of Angola is now commemorated on 17 September every year. This date was marked in honour of the founding President Agostinho Neto, who was born on 17 September 1922 in the village of Kaxicane, Icolo e Bengo, in the province of Bengo, Angola.

The day profiles the legacy of Dr Neto as the founding President of Angola who, together with his compatriots founded the Popular Movement for Liberation of Angola (MPLA) on 10 December 1956 to fight and dislodge Portuguese colonial rule.

Speaking during the liberation war in 1968 over Radio Tanzania, Neto said, "Our struggle is not an isolated struggle in the world. It is part of a global struggle by humanity to bring an end to the exploitation of man by man, and it is within this framework that we must view our struggle outside the narrow limits of racial prejudice."

Neto stood for freedom and majority rule thus he led the MPLA in the fight for Angola's independence and became Angola's first president following the proclamation of independence on 11 November 1975, until his death in 1979 at the age of 56.

Angolan independence in 1975 did not bring peace as part of the country was controlled by other groups that were well-armed by apartheid South Africa, which also occupied an area in the south of the country, a 50-km strip along the border said to be for defence purposes, but in practice to weaken Angola and attack the SWAPO liberation fighters from South West Africa (now Namibia) which was occupied by South Africa.

Apartheid South Africa invaded the southern part of Angola in 1975 August, prior to independence in November and engaged in periodic airstrikes in the area targeting Angolan army, SWAPO fighters, and refugee camps, including direct South African military attacks until the formal peace agreement in 1989.

Among the atrocities of the South African apartheid forces during this period was the Cassinga massacre on a camp for Namibian refugees in Huila Province of Angola on 4 May 1978.

The Cuito Cuanavale battle which ended on 23 March 1988 in the province of Cuando Cubango in southern Angola changed the face of southern Africa and was the last final blow against apartheid.

This was followed by successful negotiations for the independence of Namibia (1990) and end of the apartheid administration in South Africa (1994). March 23 is now marked by SADC as Southern Africa Liberation Day.

This reflects regional solidarity and unity that contributed to the realisation of political liberation in southern Africa, and can continue to be harnessed through the Southern African Community (SADC) for regional integration and economic development. □

Neto, an icon of independence in Angola

AGOSTINHO NETO is respected as the father of independence in Angola, and his role and legacy is celebrated on 17 September as the National Heroes Day.

The life of the founding President who would have turned 98 this year is being celebrated with an exhibition of arts, crafts and material on his life and work that was launched in Lubango, Huila province.

The honour and recognition of Neto's dedication and outstanding contribution to the liberation struggle is in line with the recent endorsement by SADC Ministers responsible for peace and security of the need to establish a mechanism to honour SADC Founders.

The establishment of a mechanism to honour the legacy of SADC Founders is expected to appreciate and acknowledge the vision and actions of the leaders who initiated the journey towards regional integration in southern Africa more than 40 years ago. □



Upon achieving the goal of political independence of Angola in 1975, Agostinho Neto became a member of the Front Line States to advance the political struggle for independence in the region.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

October - December 2020

4 October	Independence Day Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Lesotho Mozambique
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day	Tanzania
15 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
18 October	National Day of Prayer	Zambia
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
29 October	The Prophet's Birthday Maulid Day	Comoros Tanzania
1 November	All Saints' Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
2 November	Arrival of Indentured Labourers All Souls Day	Mauritius Angola
11 November	Independence Day	Angola
14 November	Diwali (Festival of Light)	Mauritius
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC except Angola, Mozambique Angola, Mozambique
26 December	Family Day Day of Goodwill Family Day Boxing Day	South Africa Namibia Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
28 December	Incwala Day	Eswatini