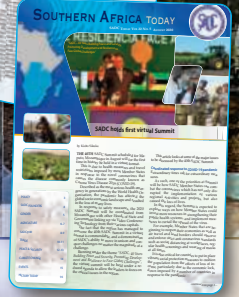
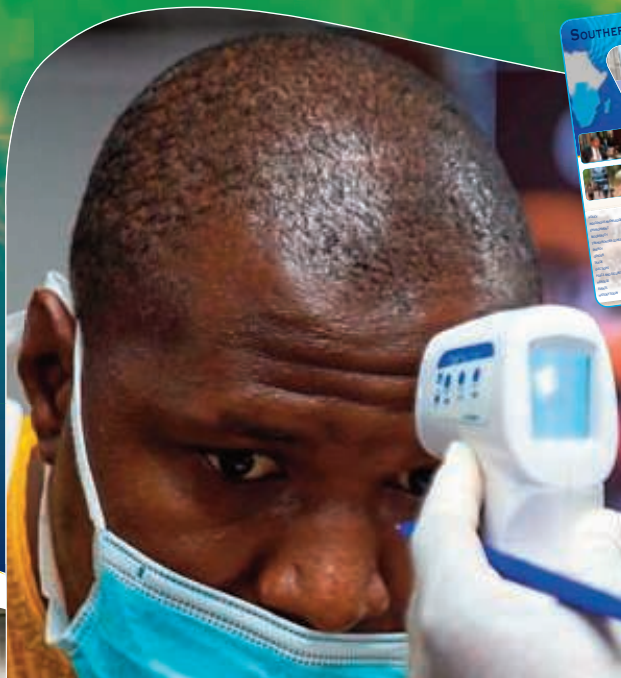


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2020 in Retrospect

...the year SADC showed resilience, solidarity, courage against COVID-19

by Kizito Sikuka

THE YEAR 2020 may go down in history as the year when the “earth stood still” after the world was hit by the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) at the end of the previous year, forcing many countries including SADC Member States to impose socio-economic lockdowns and other restrictions.

While the lockdowns helped to ease and contain the spread of the virus, the impact on the economy was severe and the spread of the virus resulted in the loss of many lives.

However, SADC Member States showed resilience, solidarity and courage to overcome this new challenge to regional development and integration.

SADC approved a variety of measures including the strengthening of public health and humanitarian support systems to contain the spread of the COVID-19.

Most SADC Member States channelled some of their resources to affected key economic sectors such as tourism, aviation and manufacturing to cushion the debilitating effects of the pandemic and ensure that they maintain their competitiveness.

Another important intervention was the development of Regional Guidelines on Harmonization and Facilitation of Cross Border Transport Operations to facilitate the movement of essential goods and services during the lockdowns.

The guidelines were approved in June and seek to balance, realign, harmonise and coordinate the response measures for COVID-19 with the requirements for trade and transport facilitation, including the promotion of safe transport and trade for economic growth and poverty alleviation.

This resilience shown by SADC Member States in 2020 was not confined to the containment of COVID-19 but extended to other sectors such as industrialization and trade, peace and security.

On its long-term development agenda, SADC leaders approved the SADC Vision 2050, which sets out the aspirations of the region until 2050, and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-30).

Both documents were approved by the 40th SADC Summit held virtually on 17 August and coordinated from Maputo, Mozambique.

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The SADC Vision 2050 is based on a firm foundation of peace, security and good governance, with three priority pillars of industrial development and market integration; infrastructure development in support of regional integration; and social and human capital development.

In a departure from the previous regional strategic plans, the RISDP 2020-30 incorporates the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation (SIPO) rather than a separate strategic plan.

In support of trade and market integration, SADC continued to register positive results in the financial sector, including the SADC Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) payment system.

By the end of June 2020, more than 1.8 million transactions had been settled via the RTGS, representing ZAR 7.17 trillion.

Launched in October 2018, the SADC RTGS has enabled Member States to settle payments among themselves in real-time compared to previously when it used to take several days for banks to process cross-border transactions.

This system has resulted in reduced transaction costs as it removes the need for correspondent banks.

With regard to politics, defence and security cooperation, SADC stood firm in its efforts to consolidate peace and security in southern Africa.

The Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in the first part of the year, President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe was instrumental in brokering a deal that saw the DRC and Zambia commit to amicably resolve their border dispute.

He also convened a regional meeting in May to discuss the security situation in northern Mozambique, and a second meeting convened in November by the current Chairperson of the Organ, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, agreed to develop a comprehensive regional response to the situation in which an armed insurgency has caused violent deaths and destruction.

SADC Member States continued to monitor the security situation in northern Mozambique and discussed this further at a Double Troika meeting in early December, hosted in Maputo by the current SADC Chairperson, President Filipe Nyusi.

Three SADC Member States held national elections this year, in conformity with SADC guidelines. These are Malawi, Seychelles and United Republic of Tanzania

With respect to history and heritage, the 40th SADC Summit approved the Mechanism to Honour the Founders of SADC. The mechanism is expected to encourage continuing appreciation and acknowledgment of the vision and actions of the leaders who established SADC, formerly the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980.

SADC has conducted a regional review of the history curriculum this year, initiated by Ministers of Education, to facilitate the inclusion of this history and its regional dimensions.

The year 2020 was also a sad one as SADC lost one of its gallant sons and passionate supporters – Benjamin William Mkapa, the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mkapa was passionate about the economic and political integration of the SADC region and is credited with the launch of the first RISDP.



On 25 October, SADC Member States once again showed solidarity with Zimbabwe in opposing the imposition of economic sanctions on the country by the US Congress. SADC leaders said the illegal sanctions have not only affected the people of Zimbabwe but the entire region.

Zimbabwe has grappled with economic and banking sanctions since 2002 when the United States and its 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 the DRC in 1998 in support of the government.

With respect to the environment, the second half of the 2019/20 rainy season brought relief to most parts of southern Africa, with increased water flows recorded in the major gauging station at the Victoria Falls along the Zambezi River.

The increased water flow at Victoria Falls was the highest since 1958 when the flow reached 10,000 cubic metres per second during the construction of the Kariba Dam.

The Victoria Falls on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border is one of the world's natural wonders, and an improvement in water flow is a big boost for the tourism sector, as it brings an extra attraction for visitors to the falls to watch the thundering wall of falling water at full length.

On energy development, SADC Energy Ministers in November approved an agreement amending a regional legal instrument that promotes the harmonious development of national energy policies for the balanced development of the sector throughout the SADC region.

To improve the management of water, energy and food issues, SADC Ministers responsible for Energy and Water approved the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Framework which highlights the interdependencies between achieving water, energy, and food security for human wellbeing while ensuring ecologically sustainable use of essential resources.

SADC also remained seized with the implementation of various regional programmes and initiatives such as the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap, and the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP).

At the continental level, SADC was engaged in negotiating with other African countries to ensure the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Set to be operational on 1 January 2021, the AfCFTA aims to boost intra-Africa trade by promoting the smooth movement of goods across the continent through improved infrastructure development, investment flows and enhanced competition.

The year 2020 was also a special year for SADC as the region celebrated its 40 years of achievements, with some impressive milestones in regional economic development and integration.

To celebrate its achievements, SADC commissioned a publication to document its regional integration journey. *SADC@40: The Southern African Development Community 1980-2020*, which was compiled by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat, is expected to be launched in 2021. □



President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana took over the chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation from President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.

Development of RSAP V on course

MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE for water have directed the SADC Secretariat to finalise the process of developing the next phase of the regional action plan for the water sector.

The SADC water programme is driven by the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) for integrated water resources development and management.

To date, the region has implemented four phases of the action plan since 1999.

The first phase, RSAP I, was implemented over the period 1999-2004 and its main focus was to create and establish an enabling environment for the integrated management of water resources in the region.

RSAP II ran from 2005-2010 and focused on water development through specific projects, while RSAP III (2011-2015) prioritised the three strategic areas of water governance, infrastructure development and water management.

RSAP IV is the latest five-year programme that has been implemented since 2016 and is expected to come to an end in December 2020. RSAP IV identifies 32 regional water projects for implementation.

The SADC Secretariat has commenced the process of designing RSAP V, with the support of a regional consultant.

As the first step in the process, a regional visioning workshop on the RSAP V design was held in February 2020 in Johannesburg, South Africa and attended by representatives of Member States, SADC subsidiary organisations in the

water sector and implementing partners.

The consultant started work on the formulation of the RSAP V in July.

A number of proposals are being considered in the formulation of the action.

With respect to climate resilience, it is envisaged that this will entail activities towards development of water infrastructure such as dams to guarantee water availability for irrigation, hydropower and potable water supply, as well as the development of water management strategies to improve assurance of water supply under the environment of drought and hydrological fluctuations arising from the impact of climate change and variability.

The strategies will also seek to increase resilience of the regional water sector against flood disasters.

With regard to the theme on creating a regional water pool, the proposal is to put in place strategies towards strengthening the shift from only viewing water as a national or transboundary water resource, but also as a regional resource.

This will be realised through more water transfer schemes across basins so as to increasingly service water demands centres along priority regional development corridors and industrial value chains centres to respond to the regional industrialisation and regional integration drive of SADC.

Another proposal is to develop a regional strategy on desalination and transfer of desalinated water to demand

centres. This will involve considering desalinated sea water as a resource that can also be transferred across the region, considering that in some cases the cost of such water reclamation is less than of freshwater development.

It is also proposed that RSAP V will pursue identification of newer models of water financing, and pilot the application of such proposed solutions.

It is also envisioned that the next phase of RSAP will involve the joint management and utilisation of transboundary surface and ground waters. This will seek to increase the joint management, governance and utilisation of surface and ground waters.

It is proposed that RSAP V will aim to have special programmes to ensure the water security of Island States.

This theme recognises that the region's Island States may not benefit in all activities of the mainland SADC in the sector, especially from activities related to strengthening transboundary water cooperation.

Yet the Oceanic States equally have pressing water challenges such as water and sanitation coverage, saline water intrusion and flood disaster risk issues.

The RSAP V will, therefore, identify targeted water interventions for the Oceanic States. The action plan will also aim to strengthen integrated planning and entrenching of the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) and other nexus approaches.

This will be done through the identification of activities

to promote implementation of the WEF nexus frameworks and tools already developed by SADC.

There are, however, emerging nexus arrangements that will need to be linked to the WEF nexus moving towards implementation.

For example, linking the Health dimension may be required to better respond to Covid-19 and other hygiene-related challenges.

It is also proposed that RSAP V should seek to promote more private sector and non-state actor players participation in water governance, as well as increased gender consideration and youth involvement.

The thinking here is that sustainable water management requires increasing levels of participation by traditionally sidelined stakeholders such as the private sector, non-state actors, youth and women.

The action plan is also expected to promote activities that seek to accelerate recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and increase resilience against future disasters.

COVID-19 has hampered progress in the delivery of the water programme, and has also exposed the weaknesses of the region's institutions in relation to their resilience to disasters.

RSAP V will consider outputs from ongoing assessment studies on the impact of COVID-19 in the water sector.

The development of the RSAP V is expected to be completed in early 2021. □

SADC Ministers agree to amend Energy Protocol

SADC ENERGY Ministers have agreed to amend the energy protocol to include institutional reforms and facilitate participation by the private sector.

The protocol that provides for the harmonious development of national energy policies was first adopted in 1996 and entered into force in April 1998.

The Committee of SADC Energy Ministers, meeting jointly with their Water counterparts approved the draft Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on Energy (1996) as well as the draft amendments to Annex 1.

The draft agreement and amendments have now been forwarded to the Committee of Ministers responsible for Justice/Attorneys General for legal clearance and subsequent submission to the SADC Council of Ministers for consideration and approval in March 2021.

The rationale for the review of the energy protocol was based on the need to eliminate inconsistencies, correcting inadequacies, capturing emerging institutional reforms and providing for private sector participation in infrastructure development.



This has necessitated the amendment of Annex 1 to the protocol that deals with guidelines for cooperation in the priority SADC energy sub-sectors of electricity, petroleum and gas, coal, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Various sections of the annex are outdated and need to be amended in line with emerging issues.

One such issue is the establishment of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), which did not exist at the time the protocol was adopted 24 years ago.

Based in Namibia, SACREEE was established in August 2015 following a decision by the SADC Council of Ministers to endorse a recommendation by the Committee of Energy Ministers.

The centre aims to contribute towards increased access to modern energy services and improved energy security across the SADC region through the promotion of market-based uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and energy services.

The protocol has also been reviewed to align it with provisions of the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, which was adopted in 2012.

The master plan guides the development of infrastructure in the six priority sectors of energy, information communication technology, meteorology, tourism, transport and water, and would also acts as a frame-

work for planning and cooperation with development partners and the private sector.

The ministers meeting, which was coordinated virtually by Mozambique, also reviewed progress towards development of the regional gas programme in SADC, in particular issues to do with policy, strategic, institutional and regulatory matters.

The ministers approved recommendations to promote development of gas infrastructure and markets in the region.

They also urged Member States to promptly develop gas infrastructure and markets in the Region and commended progress achieved in the development of the Regional Gas Master Plan Phase I, and noted the roadmap for development of the Regional Gas Master Plan Phase II, according to a statement issued after the meeting held via video conferencing technology on 30 October.

The region has some of the largest deposits of natural gas in the world and harnessing this would improve the energy situation in the region and contribute to the regional energy mix, which is dominated by coal.

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.

To operationalise this Summit decision, the Secretariat commissioned a study between November 2019 and April 2020 on the status of the

SADC natural gas sector.

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 was with the view of developing a SADC gas industry and establishing gas-to-power energy plants for diversifying the generation energy mix in the region, which is currently dominated by coal and hydropower.

The meeting reviewed progress towards the transformation of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) into a regulatory authority.

The transformation of the association into an authority is expected to address operational challenges related to regulatory governance experienced by some SADC Member States.

Officially launched in September 2002, RERA is a formal association of electricity regulators which provides a platform for cooperation among electricity regulators within the SADC region. However, it does not have powers to set legally binding rules.

Its membership is open to all electricity regulatory bodies in SADC. Currently, all SADC Member States, except Union of Comoros and DRC have electricity regulators, but Seychelles, Madagascar and Mauritius are not yet members of RERA. sardc.net □





Towards 50/50 gender parity

by Thenjiwe Ngwenya

EQUALITY FOR both women and men continues to be a top priority for SADC's development agenda.

Gender equality is firmly rooted in the Declaration and Treaty that established the shared community of SADC, and Member States have adopted gender equality and empowerment of women and men among the priorities for the attainment of sustainable development.

Member States have made significant progress toward the aspiration of gender equality and equity since the formation of SADC 40 years ago in 1980. However, barriers remain that hinder the achievement of gender equality in the region.

There is need for the people of the region through their regional community to maintain and strengthen the momentum as well as address some of the barriers to ensure that the region meets the equality and empowerment of both women and men by 2030.

A quick review of the gender progress in SADC over the 25-year period since the UN Fourth World Women Conference that agreed on the principles and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, reveals that some Member States are active and others are lagging behind in taking action toward gender equality.

In the area of politics and decision-making, SADC progress on the representation of women in the public and private sectors remains erratic with the majority of Member States not yet achieving the 50/50 representation target.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is a commitment to advancing the

rights of women, adopted in 1995 by the global community as a roadmap for the achievement of gender equality.

SADC Member States moved purposefully to integrate these commitments in their regional development agenda by approving the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development in 1997 and the Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children in 1998.

The SADC Declaration on Gender and Development of 1997 called for at least 30 percent representation and participation of women in politics and decision-making positions.

This target was later raised to 50/50 by the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development adopted in 2016.

During the period 1997-2015 when the target was at 30 percent, only three SADC Member States reached the target with regard to women representation in parliament—Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

At that time Mozambique had a representation of 34.8

percent, while South Africa and Tanzania had 32.8 percent and 30.4 percent respectively, according to the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor of 2016*.

In Tanzania, this was achieved through a constitutional clause that established special seats for women that constituted 30 percent of total seats in Parliament, and the percentage of women parliamentarians above that were elected in constituencies.

For Mozambique and South Africa, this was due to

their electoral systems of proportional representation and the policies of their leading political parties to overcome gender discrimination through having a fixed quota for women on their nomination lists – at first, one in three names were women and thereafter one in two.

In the past 10 years, representation of women has been inconsistent, for example, in Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho and Malawi there has been a downward trend. □

SADC commemorates World AIDS Day

SADC JOINED the global community on 1 December in commemorating the World AIDS Day under the theme “Global solidarity, shared responsibility.”

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said all stakeholders should continue to work together in curbing HIV/AIDS.

“Governments and all stakeholders have the responsibility of working together and putting people at the centre of their programmes by implementing human rights and gender responsive strategies that will leave no one behind and help to end AIDS and the COVID-19 pandemic,” Dr Tax said in a statement.

She said there is need for SADC Member States to increase collaborative efforts and resources and ensure that AIDS is curbed by year 2030. □

Bridging the gap in women's role in peace and security

AS AFRICA has dedicated the year 2020 to accelerating action and efforts towards ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence and prevention of genocide, the role of women and girls has been emphasized as an integral part of the implementation of the master roadmap to silencing the guns on the continent.

African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Minata Cessouma said there is need to scale up the involve-

ment the women and girls in prevention mechanisms, intervention for peace-building and the post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

She said contributions by women in peace initiatives cannot be limited to symbolic roles and, therefore, deliberate efforts must be taken to boost women and girls involvement in the peace and security agenda at the community, national, regional and continental levels.

UN Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe concurred, saying guns consistently continue to silence women's voices, depriving them of human dignity on unprecedented levels.

“Women can help improve Africa's economic growth exponentially and that growth can in turn help Africa's women as we seek to close the gender economic gap. We need to silence the guns now,” Songwe said. □



SADC launches regional appeal to combat outbreak of migratory locust

THE THREAT of migratory locusts can be eradicated in southern Africa through joint implementation of response measures.

This is contained in an international appeal by SADC for support to halt the African Migratory Locust (*Locusta migratoria*) outbreak that has affected at least 10 of the 16 Member States.

The appeal will increase capacity of SADC to strengthen emergency response in affected countries and regional support institutions to suppress the pest especially in the hotspots, establish community-based locust monitoring, early warning and control to strengthen the nexus between emergency response and community resilience.

It will strengthen early warning systems through community participation, surveillance, mapping and use of IT reporting and communication applications.

The fund will also assist in procurement of emergency monitoring and response equipment, pesticides and or services, undertaking of emergency ground spot spraying with environmentally friendly synthetic pesticides, as well strengthening of existing inter-country information exchange and coordination mechanisms for effective collective response.

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax called on Member States to accelerate disaster preparedness measures and to make use of data continuously generated and shared by the Secretariat.

“Enhancing engagement, coordination, capacity development, and monitoring and evaluation at the sub-national, national and regional levels, while adopting resilience-building initiatives cannot be overemphasised,” she said.

Locusts cause serious food and nutrition insecurity and loss of livelihoods through damage to crops and pastures, thereby compounding existing food insecurity in communities already affected resource constraints as a result of floods, drought and the impacts of COVID-19.

The 2020 Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme Synthesis Report indicate that 51,33 million in Southern Africa are food insecure.

Damage to crops from the 2019/2020 season was mini-

mal as harvesting was largely complete by the time of the outbreak. If not contained however, the pandemic is likely to impact negatively on the good prospects of the 2020/2021 cropping season that comes at the backdrop of expected favourable rains.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that one swarm can contain tens of millions of adults and that a 20 km² swarm of locusts with an average density of 60 million adults/km² can eat the same amount of food in one day that would feed 2,500 people for a year.

The African migratory locust outbreak, which started in May this year, has been reported in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa,

Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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.

The international appeal, supported by FAO Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa and IRLCOCSA, will focus on emergency response in the locust hotspots and strengthen coordination and information exchange among the affected countries. It will also enable aerial surveillance and mapping activities in hard-to-reach areas, and provide technical support for national locust surveillance and control units to be established. □

SADC records increase in fish production

SADC HAS recorded an increase in aquaculture production from 92,773 tonnes reported in 2019 to 100,950 tonnes.

The increase is a result of implementation of national aquaculture programmes stipulated in the SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy by a majority of the Member States.

The fisheries sector contributes an average of about 2 percent to the SADC Gross Domestic Product, with total average exports worth of US\$152 million and average imports of US\$100 million.

The fisheries sector employs an average of 145,000 people, with more than a million benefiting indirectly.

Per capita fish consumption in the region is 11 kg per person, which constitutes an average of 16 percent of the total animal protein intake and 5 percent of the total protein intake, making the contribution of fisheries to food and nutrition security in the region significant.

In addition to food security and economic contribution, ocean and inland waters such as lakes, rivers and reservoirs provide conservation and biodiversity values that are of global significance.

In order to optimise benefits from the fisheries and aquaculture SADC Heads of State in 2001 endorsed the SADC Protocol on Fisheries.

The Protocol aims to foster responsible and sustainable use of the living aquatic resources and aquatic ecosystems of interest to State Parties in order to promote and enhance food security and human health, safeguard the livelihood of fishing communities, and generate economic opportunities from nationals in the region.

It also seeks to alleviate poverty with the ultimate objective of its eradication, as well as ensuring that future generations benefit from these renewable resources. □





Water, energy and food security can be achieved

by Eglene Tauya

WATER, ENERGY and food security can be achieved in southern Africa through joint efforts and integration with other sectors of the economy.

This was the conclusion of a joint ministerial meeting held on 30 October, and chaired by Ernesto Tonela, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy of Mozambique, which is the current chair of SADC.

Minister Tonela applauded SADC Member States for their resilient ways of managing the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to enhance strategies to safeguard energy and water operations.

He called upon SADC Member States to adopt and operationalize coordination mechanisms.

He said joint efforts are needed to achieve a consistent supply of energy and water which will provide sustainable development, guarantee industrialisation, reduce poverty, achieve regional integration, stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life of the people of the SADC region.

The SADC region has been experiencing economic growth, population growth and improved living standards factors that have put

pressure on water, energy and food resources in addition to the impact of climate change.

To address these challenges the SADC Ministers responsible for Energy and Water approved the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Framework, which aims to secure the supply of these resources by strengthening synergies, and reducing trade-offs among these sectors.

The Ministers confirmed that a long-lasting solution to these challenges can only be realized when the related sectors find a truly collaborative arrangement as any strategy that focuses on water, food, or energy separately without considering the interconnections, risks serious unintended consequences.

The Nexus approach highlights the interdependencies between achieving water, energy, and food security for human well-being while ensuring ecologically sustainable use of essential resources.

It bridges the traditional divides between each of the sectors and takes a long-term perspective that is relevant to all major international processes aimed at sustainable development, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WEF-Nexus is, therefore, a central pillar of the SADC 2030 Agenda, as an enabler of sustainable development in its three dimensions.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, commended the decision

to adopt the nexus approach, saying, "we are indeed on the right track, and if we all commit to this course, we will definitely reap greater benefits in the near future."

Dr Tax further stressed the importance of the nexus approach as it greatly contributes towards regional integration, including industrialisation, environmental protection, and ultimately to peace and stability, socio-economic development, and reduction of poverty in the region.

Traditionally the design of water and energy systems has been done independently or considered simplified interdependencies between the systems. This approach misses valuable synergies between them and does not consider in detail the sharing and distribution of benefits between sectors, and or among Member States.

In relation to the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30 and the SADC Vision 2050, Dr Tax noted that the major focus area in 2020/2021 remains directed towards implementation of the remaining components of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), which aims to create a conducive environment for the attainment of water and energy security for all.

The water, energy and food security challenges are linked to reduced rainfall that has lowered the water levels in reservoirs, the changing climate and the increasing demand due to the growing

population and aspirations for higher living standards.

Predictions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicate a decrease in annual precipitation by as much as 20 percent by 2080 in most parts of the region while the duration of the rainy season will shorten.

About 70 percent of the population in the SADC region depends on rain-fed agriculture for crop production, and large segments of rural population are engaged in subsistence farming, livestock herding and artisanal fishing.

Demand for water, food and energy in the region is expected to rise by 30-50 percent in the next two decades.

Regional energy demand is expected to increase to over 115,000MW by 2030 according to the Southern African Power Pool.

Water withdrawals for irrigation are projected to increase by 10 percent by 2050, while 60 percent more food will be needed to feed the region in 2050. This is expected to increase the demand for energy and water.

As the three sectors are inextricably linked, uncoordinated development and management in one area has the capacity to negatively impact on others.

This water-energy-food security nexus therefore requires Member States to develop innovative and integrated approaches to management of the three sectors to optimize use of resources, balance competing demands and maximise benefits. sardc.net □



Extraordinary Summit

Advancing toward regional integration despite

SADC LEADERS are set to meet for an extraordinary summit in March 2021 to chart the development agenda of the region. The meeting is a follow up to the 40th SADC Summit held that was in August in a virtually format that was coordinated from Maputo, Mozambique. This edition of *Southern Africa Today* looks at the some of the major issues expected to be discussed at the Extraordinary Summit scheduled to be hosted by Mozambique in March 2021.

Strengthening implementation of regional initiatives

One of the priority focus areas for the summit will be to discuss the implementation of the SADC Vision 2050 that was approved in August.

The vision sets out the aspirations of the region until 2050, and seeks to consolidate SADC 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.

The extraordinary summit will assess how SADC Member States are rolling out the implementation of the Vision, nationally and regionally.

Closely linked to this, the meeting will also aim to encourage Member States to intensify the implementation of various other regional initiatives such as the new Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan.

Effective implementation of these strategic documents are key in advancing forward the integration agenda of southern Africa.



Harnessing an enlarged market

Another important issue for SADC in 2021 is making sure that the region fully benefits from the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which will start trading on 1 January 2021.

The AfCFTA is an enlarged market that brings together all the 55 AU members, covering a market of more than 1.2 billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

The operationalization of the AfCFTA has the capacity to change the global economic landscape and boost intra-regional trade across the continent.



Public-Private Sector Engagement

A vibrant public-private engagement is critical in advancing regional integration in southern Africa. In this regard, as part of the summit, a public-private sector engagement will be convened to

commemorate the 40th Anniversary of SADC.

The engagement is aimed at exploring ways of how governments and the private sector can work together to promote sustainable economic development in the region

The decision to strengthen private sector engagement in regional integration is in line with the recommendations of the SADC Strategic Ministerial Retreat on the "SADC We Want" held in Ezulwini, the Kingdom of Eswatini in March 2017.

The retreat agreed on measures aimed at strengthening implementation of the integration agenda and promoting inclusive participation by citizens in regional programmes.

It was noted that the lack of direct involvement by the private sector is a barrier to economic development.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are regarded as a viable model for attracting investment for public projects by allowing governments to have a larger access to additional capital and off-balance sheet financing.

PPPs also promote greater efficiency and sustainability to the provision of public services such as water, sanitation, energy, transport, telecommunications, healthcare and education.

Well-structured PPPs can assist governments to leverage the expertise and efficiency of the private sector in order to raise capital, and spur development.

Furthermore, PPPs are critical in helping allocate risk across the public and private sectors to where it can best be managed and ensure that resources are wisely allocated in addressing the most urgent development needs.

Recognizing that the involvement of private sector is critical for the successful implementation of the industrialisation strategy, the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with the private sector apex bodies in the region decided to establish the SADC Business Council, which was launched in August 2019.

Addressing the regional energy situation

Access and availability of energy is key to promoting trade and development in SADC. The extraordinary summit is expected to discuss ways to strengthen energy development to address power shortages that have hindered economic growth and development since 2007, due to diminishing generation capacity and growth in demand.



COVID-19 threat



SADC, through the Southern African Power Pool which coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity in southern Africa on behalf of Member State utilities, had planned to commission a total of 8,781 megawatts of new electricity to the regional power grid in 2020.

However, the advent of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 has hindered some of these plans. Therefore, it is now important for SADC to realign its plans and ensure the availability of energy to power regional integration and development.

The extraordinary summit is expected to discuss progress on ongoing efforts to improve the power generation capacity for the region.

Addressing COVID-19

Addressing the spread and impact of COVID-19 will continue to be a priority for SADC in 2021 and the extraordinary summit is expected to deliberate on progress.

COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the global economy and resulted in the loss of many lives, and forcing most SADC Member States to impose socio-economic lockdowns, as well as protective measures such as wearing masks.

While the lockdowns have helped to ease and contain the spread of the virus, the impact has affected regional development.

The extraordinary summit is expected to explore ways in which Member States could invest more resources in strengthening their public health systems and implement measures to curtail the spread of the virus.

For example, Member States that are beginning to reopen their economies as well as air travel and land borders may want to enforce anti-coronavirus standards such as social distancing at workplaces, regular health screenings and wearing of masks at all times.

It is also critical for countries to put in place vibrant social protection measures to cushion the population from the effects of loss of income, particularly due to the economic lockdown imposed by a number of countries in response to the pandemic.

Striving for food security

Agriculture is once again expected to come under the spotlight this year following increased rainfall after subdued and low rainfall in previous farming seasons, as well as climatic conditions such as floods, drought and cyclones.

In this regard, SADC Member States are expected to approve and implement measures aimed at improving food security in the region.

These measures include assisting affected populations with food supplies as well as providing

emergency livestock supplementary feeding to save livestock, and importing grain to supplement their reduced yields.

Other initiatives are the establishment of vibrant disaster risk strategies as well as the mainstream of Disaster Risk Reduction strategies in all national and regional programmes to ensure better and coordinated response to address the effects of climate change.

Launch of the SADC@40 publication

From a series of consultations held in the late 1970s by representative of the Frontline States to forge closer alliance, the nine independent states in southern Africa were able to form a vibrant regional organization, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980, which was later transformed to SADC in 1992.

SADC turned 40 years old in 2020 and as part of its celebrations, the Extraordinary Summit will take stock of its integration journey, which will be documented in a publication on *SADC@40: The Southern African Development Community 1980-2020* which presents the main achievements and milestones recorded by SADC since the formation 40 years ago.



Public lecture on 40th Anniversary of SADC

As part of its 40th anniversary, a public lecture on SADC will be held, where a former SADC Heads of State and Government is expected to deliver some important institutional history to present and future generations.

The SADC Public Lecture is organised by the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with a university in the SADC Summit host country. The public lectures help to publicize SADC so that people better understand the various benefits of belonging to a shared community of southern Africa.

The last SADC Public Lecture was given by the former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa (late) who called on the region to leverage the "vast knowledge dividend" that resides in its young people, as well as to harness new technology to ensure deeper regional integration.

Mkapa, who was president of the United Republic of Tanzania from 1995 to 2005, called on all stakeholders, including governments, private sector and civil society, to work together to empower young people who are the torchbearers of the regional integration agenda.

The public lecture, which took place ahead of the 39th SADC Summit held in August 2019 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, was jointly organised by Uongozi Institute, Tanzanian Ministry Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, the SADC Secretariat and the University of Dar es Salaam. □



Industrializing Africa

by Kizito Sikuka

THE COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the global socio-economic landscape has brought to the fore the need for Africa to industrialize and trade more with itself than with the outside world.

An industrialized Africa can have the capacity to shield from global volatilities in commodity prices that have continued to dictate the direction of Africa's trade and economic progress.

Furthermore, industrializing the continent would mean less raw resources being shipped and traded elsewhere, enabling African countries to fully benefit from their natural resources, as well as create employment for its citizens.

In this regard, it is critical for the continent to tackle and seize any hard realities or threats such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and turn them into opportunities for emboldening industrialization and intra-Africa trade.

For example, an increased demand for medicines and medical supplies during and post the COVID-19 period should create a conducive environment for Africa to establish its own pharmaceutical industries.

Another opportunity is to collectively work together to ensure that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – that aims to dismantle trade barriers among African countries by deepening integration through improved infrastructure development, investment flows and enhanced competition – is a huge success.

Speaking during the Africa Industrialization Week which ran from 16-20 November, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Dr. Vera Songwe said industrialization is imperative for Africa's development, particularly now that global community is faced with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has openly exposed the hollowness of African economies on several fronts including the fragility and weakness of Africa's industrial capabilities," she said, adding that there is an opportunity for the continent to reconfigure its development narrative towards prioritization of initiatives that support Africa's industrialization.



Dr. Vera said without a transition from commodities to value addition

and economic diversification, African economies will have limited room to grow and development, thus industrialization holds key towards building socio-economic resilience, and self-reliance in Africa.

She said even in the face against any difficulties or challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa should not lack determination to industrialize its economy because a large part of its growth and prosperity hinges on the continent trading more with itself.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax concurred, adding that the novel coronavirus had clearly shown how far we are from realizing the developmental goals of advancing integration and sustainable development in the region.

As a major driver of the planned transformation for the region, the industrial sector is one of the sectors significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, it is important for the region to understand and appreciate the extent of damage that the pandemic has on their economies, and respond with appropriate measures to ensure that the disruption does not seriously negate key developments in the industrialisation drive of the region.

One such measure is to put in place vibrant business stimulus to cushion the private sector from the effects of COVID-19 as well as gear them to partake in the opportunities created by the pandemic. sardc.net □

Russia ready to partner with SADC in producing COVID-19 vaccine

RUSSIA STANDS ready to collaborate with SADC Member States to produce the COVID-19 vaccine using local capacities and suppliers.

Outgoing Russian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Botswana and Special Representative to SADC, Dr Victor Sibilev said this in his meeting with the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax on 30 November in Gaborone.

Russia became one of the first countries to develop and distribute its COVID-19 vaccine, known as *Sputnik V*.

Dr Sibilev said his country is thus willing to share experi-

ence in anti-coronavirus vaccine production, having registered the first ever vaccine that is effective and affordable.

He stated that through the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which had exclusive rights to produce and supply the vaccine abroad, SADC Member States were invited to establish partnerships with RDIF to produce the vaccine in the SADC region using local capacities and suppliers.

Dr Tax said the collaboration was welcomed as it will help the region to contain the spread of the pandemic which has impacted global socio-economic landscape.



Furthermore, the collaboration will strengthen Russia-SADC partnership, which dates back many years ago.

Relations between Russia and SADC are contained in a Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Basic Principles of Relations and Cooperation signed in October 2018, as well as another agreement on Military Technical Cooperation signed in July 2018.

In 2019, SADC Member States attended the first ever Russia-Africa Summit and Economic Forum held in Sochi, Russia. □



SADC and ICPs chart a new collaboration

by Eglina Tauya

A NEW collaboration by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) has charted a course for post-COVID-19 circumstances and demonstrated attributes of true partnership.

This year's dialogue meeting between SADC and ICPs was held virtually on 20 November and hailed the dawn of a new era ushered by the approval of the SADC Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 by 40th SADC Summit in August 2020.

According to the vision, SADC envisions a peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle-to-high-income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom.

Supporting the vision, the RISDP 2020-2030 has priorities which are based on a firm foundation of Peace, Security and Democratic Governance, and is premised on the three Pillars of Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infrastructure Development in support of Regional Integration; Social and Human Capital Development.

Cross-cutting issues include Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management.

Interventions by ICPs are expected to be consistent with aspirations brought forth by the new strategic frameworks.

Addressing the meeting, Ambassador Alfredo Nuvunga, Director for Regional and Continental Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Mozambique, applauded the commitment by ICP to continue cooperating with SADC in the

implementation of Vision 2050 and RISDP 2020-2030.

He said this is in line with the aid effectiveness principles enshrined in the Paris Declaration of 2005, the SADC Windhoek Declaration of 2006, and the SADC-ICP Partnership Statement of 2012.

The SADC-ICP Dialogue Platform meetings are a key enabler in facilitating critical conversations with ICPs and create a common understanding regarding joint considerations and approaches for the implementation of the region's strategies and priorities.

The platform facilitates institutionalised political, policy and technical dialogue and exchange of good practice between SADC and ICPs.

This is in pursuit of improving coordination, alignment, synergy, complementarity and harmonisation of procedures between the two sides, with a view to stimulating effective development cooperation and achievement of results at national and regional levels.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax highlighted that the SADC region remains vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19.

She extended appreciation to the ICPs for extending national and regional support towards the COVID-19 response, and stated that as the transition to a new strategic direction and post-COVID era unfolds, it is important not to lose focus of the priority areas that have guided cooperation between SADC and ICPs over the years.

She emphasized that future cooperation will be

guided by the strategic priorities enshrined in the Vision 2050 and RISDP 2020-2030.

Discussions encompassed the need to broaden support to green recovery through the consideration of climate change and environmental degradation.

This is line with an earlier agreement between SADC and ICPs to establish a new Thematic Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for purposes of ensuring a robust engagement mechanism on climate change-related issues.

This would become the eighth thematic group established by SADC and ICPs to coordinate their activities in various sectors.

Other thematic groups are in the areas of Agriculture and Food Security; Energy; HIV and AIDS; Information Communication Technology; Peace and Security; Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment; Transport; and Water.

The thematic groups are established to realign the SADC regional integration agenda with the development agendas of the ICPs and thus improve efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the SADC policies and programmes, as outlined in the SADC Vision 2050 and RISDP 2020-2030.

The thematic groups are one of the outcomes of the Windhoek Declaration on a New Partnership between SADC and ICPs that was signed during a consultative conference held in the Namibian capital in April 2006.

The objective of the partnership is to contribute to-

wards the achievement of the SADC Common Agenda.

This involves the attainment of the SADC Mission of promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient productive systems; deeper cooperation and integration; good governance; strengthened capacity and participation of stakeholders; and durable peace and security, so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. □

The Windhoek Declaration on a New Partnership between SADC and ICPs calls for:

- Regular, institutionalised dialogue at the political, policy and technical levels for constructive engagement, information and experience exchange, and the promotion of best practices on development cooperation;
- Improved coordination between ICPs and SADC to ensure more effective development cooperation mechanisms with a view to achieving maximum impact; and
- Alignment, harmonization and streamlining of operational procedures, rules and other practices in the delivery of development assistance to SADC, taking into account local conditions. □

Regional response to support Mozambique security ch



SOUTHERN AFRICA is developing a comprehensive regional response amid fears that the drums of war could silence hopes of peace in northern Mozambique where an armed insurgency has triggered a humanitarian crisis due to a surge in internally displaced persons.

Worried about the effects of failure to resolve the growing Cabo Delgado civil war, the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security convened an extraordinary summit on 27 November in Botswana to map out a strategy for this and other regional hotspots.

The Organ agreed on urgent regional action to address the acts of terrorism in Cabo Delgado province and expressed continued SADC solidarity with the government of President Filipe Nyusi.

The Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit directed the finalization of a comprehensive regional response and support to the Republic of Mozambique to be considered urgently by the Summit, the Organ said in a communiqué.

SADC is due to hold an extraordinary summit involving heads of state and government of all the 16 Member States in March 2021 in Maputo, Mozambique.

The extraordinary summit of the SADC Organ Troika took place amid a surge in armed attacks in Cabo Delgado by militants who claim to be linked to the terrorist organisation, Islamic State.

The insurgency has displaced more than 500,000 people from hotspots in the province, with about 2,000 others killed.

The main concern for the region is that the longer it takes to resolve the issue, the

more complex the crisis will become and the more difficult it will be to find a solution.

Terrorism is very cancerous in nature. Once it finds fertile ground, it spreads out like bushfire. There is, therefore, an absolute need to urgently address it before it engulfs the entire region, Organ Chairperson and Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi said during the extraordinary summit.

Another issue of concern among regional players is that situation has already begun to attract political and economic vultures who are hoping to profit from the challenges in the province.

Many of them come with neo-colonial, racist and anti-Islam agendas, or are trying to use Mozambique as a pawn in global chess games.

Already a number of countries have shown interest in the goings-on in Cabo Delgado, among them France and United States.

Both Paris and Washington are trying to become involved in patrolling the coast of Cabo Delgado.

France has been discussing a military maritime cooperation agreement with Mozambique in the context of possible support in the fight against insurgents in Cabo Delgado.

The island of Mayotte, located about 500 kilometres east of the Mozambican coastal city of Pemba and part of the Comoros archipelago, is officially part of mainland France and has an important French military base.

In addition, France has several islands in the Mozambique Channel between Mozambique and Madagascar.

The US government believes that the situation in Cabo Delgado is a security threat

that has a nexus to criminality, to terrorism, and to looking at sort of governance capacity, law enforcement capacity, and military capacity within Mozambique."

At least one US private security company is already recruiting Portuguese-speaking US nationals to "provide strategic and tactical advisory support services" to the Mozambique government.

According to the Americans, there is a lot of overlap between the drug traffickers and extremists and the types of conditions that enable them to thrive.

The US State Department has, therefore, offered to support the Mozambican government's counter-narcotics efforts in order to cut-off what it believes is the financial life-line for the insurgents operating in Cabo Delgado.

Faced with this scenario, SADC is considering support to its member state, hence the decision to develop a comprehensive regional response.

The Organ Troika meeting also discussed the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and pledged regional support to the development and implementation of the Joint Strategy on the Progressive and Phased Drawdown United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).

Approved in October, the strategy calls for a gradual withdrawal of the MONUSCO peacekeepers from several regions of the DRC.

The UN last year adopted Resolution 2502 to reconfigure the Force Intervention Brigade, which falls under MONUSCO, and extended MONUSCO's mandate by another year up to 20 December 2020.

According to SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, there have been a number of engagements between the SADC Secretariat, the DRC government and the UN since the 40th SADC Summit held in August.

"These engagements were held with a view to ensure that the reconfiguration of the FIB, and formulation of the exit strategy are conducted in the best interests of the DRC and the SADCs support to the country," Dr Tax said.

The Organ Troika, which comprises the leaders of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, is responsible for promoting peace and security in SADC and protecting the region from instability.

challenge

It is currently chaired by President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa as deputy chairperson and President Emmerson Mnangagwa as outgoing chairperson.

Other SADC leaders who attended the Organ Extraordinary Summit were DRC President Felix Tshisekedi and President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi who is the SADC deputy chairperson.

They were joined by Mozambique's Defence Minister Jaime Neto and Tanzanian Vice President Samia Hassan. □



Regional counter-terrorism centre on the cards

by Kizito Sikuka

NEW AND emerging challenges such as terrorism and insurgencies are a serious threat to peace and stability in southern Africa, and the region is committed to develop a more coordinated approach to address the threats.

Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana said this at an Extraordinary SADC Organ Troika Summit, plus the Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique held in late November in Gaborone.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security is made up of Botswana (Chair), South Africa (Incoming Chair) and Zimbabwe (Immediate Chair), while the Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing consists of Malawi, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

"Even though the region's performance in the areas of democracy and peace remains the envy of many, there are some emerging issues that are threatening the preservation of our peace and security," President Masisi.

"These include terrorism, insurgencies, cybercrime and transnational organised crimes. By their very nature, these are not issues that Member States can individually deal with. As such, there is need for an integrated and coordinated regional approach to effectively deal with these eminent threats."

A recent Report on the Assessment of Security Threats to the SADC Region endorsed by the 40th SADC Summit held in August noted that a number of security threats continue to affect stability in the region.

Terrorism has been singled out as the most serious threat that needs urgent attention from all the Member States.

"As we all know, terrorism is very cancerous in nature. Once it finds fertile ground, it spreads out like bushfire. There is, therefore, an absolute need to urgently nip it in the bud before it engulfs the entire region," Masisi said.

In this regard, the Extraordinary SADC Organ Troika Summit came up with a number of recommendations on how Member States could deal with this eminent threat, including regional commitment to the SADC Mutual Defence Pact.

"Other practical and incremental steps that we agreed on include expediting the establishment of the SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre," Masisi said.

The regional counter-terrorism centre will among other things be responsible to detect, investigate, identify and combat terrorism and violent extremism across the region.

Other measures adopted at the Organ Troika meeting were the need to enhance dedicated national counter-terrorism coordination structures, as well as strengthening cyber-security response capacity at both the national and regional level. □

Construction of SADC Standby Force Depot progressing well

ALL IS on course for the SADC Standby Force Regional Logistics Depot to start initial operations by 2021 and attain full operations by 2023.

This follows the commencement of Phase Two of the construction of the logistics depot.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax said at a familiarisation tour of the depot by the Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Thomas Mmusi held on 21 October that Phase Two will involve major construction works, the designs and construction of all the buildings and supporting infrastructure.

Mmusi, who is the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security in Botswana, where the depot is located, pledged full commitment and dedication by Botswana to ensure that successful construction of the logistics depot.

Once completed, the depot that is located in Rasasa village, near Mochudi, Botswana will provide storage receipt, inspection and maintenance of equipments and materials for all components of the SADC Standby Force.

The depot is part of the SADC Standby Force to support regional peace operations under the African Union Standby Force Policy Framework.

The SADC Standby Force was officially launched at the 27th SADC Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia in August, 2007, while the decision to establish a SADC Regional Logistics Depot was proposed by SADC Defence Chiefs in 2006.

SADC Member States have demonstrated political commitment to ensure the completion of the depot with contribution of a total of US\$ 10 million as seed capital while the African Union has also promised to assist SADC to source the needed funds on the construction of the depot. The total estimated budget for the RLD is US\$45 million. □

Magufuli pledges to serve all Tanzanians

PRESIDENT JOHN Magufuli pledged to serve all Tanzanians regardless of their ethnic, religious, or political beliefs as he embarks on another five-year journey to further improve livelihoods in the country.

Speaking in the capital Dodoma after taking the oath of office for a second and final five-year term on 5 November, he called on his compatriots to set aside their differences and work towards eliminating poverty and corruption in the United Republic of Tanzania.

"The elections are over. Let's now join hands in completing flagship projects and launch new ones, accelerating the fight against corruption and embezzlement of public funds, fighting poverty and creating jobs," Magufuli said.

He also pledged to protect the country's natural resources, including minerals, marine resources, forests and wildlife for the benefit of Tanzanians.

Chief Justice Ibrahim Juma swore in the President and Samia Suluhu Hassan as Vice President at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma at a ceremony attended by leaders and representatives from various countries and international organizations.

Magufuli resoundingly won the 2020 presidential elections in Tanzania on 28 October which also chose Members of Parliament and ward councillors.

According to final results for the presidential election announced by the National Electoral Commission on 30 October, Magufuli won 84.4 percent of the valid votes cast against 13 percent for his main rival, Tundu Lissu of the main opposition Party for Democracy and Progress, commonly

known as Chadema party. Fifteen candidates contested the presidential poll.

Magufuli won with 58 percent of the vote during his first presidential election in 2015, but he has been very active in improving the infrastructure and the economy, and his popularity rating is high.

Lissu has rejected the outcome of the presidential election, alleging electoral fraud, claiming that ballot boxes were tampered with, and that his party agents were barred from entering polling stations on election day to observe the process.

NEC Chairperson Semistocles Kaijage dismissed the opposition claims, saying the allegations of fake ballot papers were unsubstantiated.

As well as taking part in the Tanzanian elections, voters on the semi-autonomous islands of Zanzibar also elected their own president on 28 October, with the CCM candidate Hussein Mwinyi emerging victorious after winning 76 percent of the votes.

Opposition leader wins Seychelles presidential poll

THE PEOPLE of Seychelles voted in a peaceful presidential election on 22-24 October that saw former priest Wavel Ramkalawan becoming the first opposition candidate to win the mandate to occupy State House since independence from Britain more than four decades ago.

According to results released by the Electoral Commission of Seychelles on 25 October, Ramkalawan avoided a second round ballot after winning 54.9 percent of the votes cast against 43.5 percent for incumbent Danny Faure of the recently renamed

United Seychelles Party that had been in power since 1977. A third presidential candidate, Alain St Ange of One Seychelles could only manage 1.58 percent of the votes cast.

It was sixth time lucky for the new president who has contested for the Seychellois presidency since 1998.

Ramkalawan had previously attempted to win the right to occupy State House in elections held in 1998, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2015.

The former opposition leader, who contested the 2020 presidential poll under a Linyon Demokratik Seselwa

or Seychelles Democratic Alliance (SDA) ticket, becomes the fifth president of the Seychelles.

In the outgoing National Assembly, 248 seats were occupied by men and 145 seats by women, for a proportion of 36.9 percent women.

SADC congratulated people of Tanzania for demonstrating their commitment to democracy by exercising their right to vote in a calm and tranquil manner.

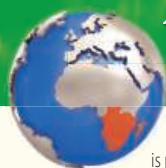
"In particular, SADC congratulates all political parties/candidates and encourage them to consolidate the gains made in the democratic space since the advent of multiparty elections in the country," said President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana who is the current Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Due to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, SADC was unable to physically deploy its electoral observation mission to Tanzania and instead consulted the electoral stakeholders virtually. □



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August – October 2020

December

25 Nov-10 Dec,
Global

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The annual worldwide campaign to oppose violence against women and children aims to raise awareness of the negative impact that violence and abuse have on women and children and to rid society of abuse permanently.

1, Global

World Aids Day

The commemoration of World Aids Day is an opportunity to recognize the essential role that communities have played and continue to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels.

8-10, Virtual

African Economic Conference

Running under the theme “Africa beyond COVID-19: Accelerating Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development,” the conference provides an opportunity for researchers, policymakers and development practitioners to debate and build knowledge on solutions for continental integration.

14, Mozambique

SADC Organ Troika Extraordinary Summit

The Troika of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation meet in the Mozambican capital Maputo to discuss the security situation in the north of the country. The meeting followed another one held in Botswana in November.

January 2020

11-15, Ethiopia

34th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly

African Heads of State and Government gather for the 34th Assembly of the African Union, which will be preceded by ministerial and technical meetings. The AU has declared 2021 as the “Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage.”

February

2, Global

World Wetlands Day

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

A life of service and dedication – B.W. Mkapa



THE 59TH national independence anniversary of the United Republic of Tanzania, then known as Tanganyika on 9 December comes following the sad loss of the former President Benjamin William Mkapa who died on 23 July 2020 in Dar es Salaam at the age of 81.

Speaking in a national address for the funeral, President Magufuli described the death of Mkapa as a loss not only for his family but for Africa and the whole world. He noted that, “Mkapa was a global citizen. He was a dynamic leader, a seasoned diplomat, a mediator and a peacemaker.”

Born in November 1938 in Lupaso, a village in Mtwara Region near the border between Tanzania and Mozambique, President Mkapa played a leading role in the development of the postcolonial Tanzania and the whole of Africa.

Following the attainment of national independence in his country under the leadership of Julius Kambarage Nyerere in 1961, Benjamin Mkapa served in several appointments which strengthened his learning and mentorship from Mwalimu Nyerere.

In his early years, Mkapa joined the foreign ministry as a junior officer, became managing editor of the party newspapers in English and Kiswahili, and then managing editor of the national newspaper.

From 1974 to 1976, he was appointed as the Press Secretary to the President during a strategic period of independence in southern Africa, particularly in Mozambique and Angola, and bargaining over independence for Zimbabwe and Namibia, and ending apartheid in Namibia and South Africa.

In 1977, he served as Minister for Foreign Affairs for three years before he was appointed Minister of Information and Culture, the Ministry he led from 1980 - 1982.

Mkapa then served in several posts until the year 1992 when he was made Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, the position he held until 1995, when he stood for presidency and won with 62 percent of the popular vote which increased to almost 72 percent for his second term in 2000.

President Mkapa was essentially the country's third president after independence in 1961, but was the first elected President under the multi-party system, put in place in 1992.

During his reign as president from 1995 - 2005, he prioritised economic development, stabilizing the macroeconomic environment and the exchange rate, widening the space for local and foreign investment, setting the example for economic liberation that has resulted in Tanzania being declared a “lower-middle income country” in June 2020.

President Mkapa believed in African unity, the removal of colonial boundaries, and in regional integration through the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Speaking during the 2019 annual SADC public lecture, he said “Our solidarity during the political liberation can serve as a strong anchor of economic transformation. SADC has a lot of successes to be proud about. We must not shy away from celebrating our collective achievements inspired by our common history.”

His efforts in strengthening regional integration agenda, consolidating peace and unity highlights his dedication to the furtherance of the legacy of Mwalimu Nyerere.

Mwalimu Nyerere led his country to independence on 9 December 1961, and became the first Prime Minister. A year later the country, then called Tanganyika, became a republic with Nyerere as President.

In his national independence address in 1961, Mwalimu said, “This is the day for which we have looked so long, the day when every Tanganyikan can say ‘I am a citizen of a sovereign, independent state.’”

He believed that the independence of his country is not complete without that of the whole region, and he supported that.

Tanganyika's independence hence became an inspiration to other African countries, and Dar es Salaam was the place that young people of the national liberation movements wanted to go to... north to Dar es Salaam “the haven of peace”, the place of freedom and unity – uhuru na umoja in the lyrical language of KiSwahili, itself a language of unity as it grew from the roots of several other languages.

The legacy of Mwalimu Nyerere and that of his student, Benjamin Mkapa will continue to give us echoes of African unity, peace and regional solidarity. □



Zimbabwe celebrates National Unity Day

DECEMBER 22 is an important date in the history of Zimbabwe, marked as the National Unity Day and is a public holiday.

The day commemorates the signing of a Unity Accord on this day in 1987 by two liberation parties, the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) and the Patriotic Front Zimbabwe African People's Union (PF ZAPU) represented by the then Prime Minister and First Secretary of ZANU, Robert Mugabe and the President of ZAPU, Joshua Nkomo.

The historic signing of this Unity Accord laid a strong and lasting foundation for national unity, a bedrock for stability, peace and national development.

After the signing ceremony in 1987, Mugabe said, “Today is a great day. It is great because we have come together in body, mind and spirit of our two parties.”

Nkomo added that the accord was “the beginning of unity, for unity is not just the signing of documents, unity is what follows.”

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2020 – February 2021

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