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Deepening and widening regional integration

THE ANNUAL SADC Council of Ministers held on 12 March discussed key initiatives to deepen regional integration and development, including the roadmap to industrialisation, the promotion of free trade at regional and continental levels, regional disaster risk management and response, and addressing the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Hon. Verónica Macamo Dlhovo, who is Mozambique's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, said timely and efficient implementation of decisions is needed to ensure continued peace and prosperity for the region. The Council meeting was held virtually and hosted by Mozambique.

On the regional response to disaster risk management, Dlhovo welcomed the decision that Mozambique is to host the proposed SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC).

When fully operational, the SHOC will be responsible for facilitating regional disaster preparedness, response and early recovery to support Member States affected by disasters. *See page 7 for more information on the SHOC.*

Council approved the Annual Corporate Plan and Budget of the SADC Secretariat for the 2020/2021 Financial Year to enable the Secretariat to deliver the outcomes based on the priorities of the SADC Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, presented a number of achievements recorded by the region to deepen regional integration.

A total of 1,995,355 transactions were settled through the SADC Real Time Gross Settlement System of bank transfers, as of December 2020, representing a value of ZAR 7.81 trillion since July 2013 when the system went live.

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 in Europe.

POLICY	3
PEACE & SECURITY	4-5
MAGUFULI	6-7
GENDER	8-9
LEADERSHIP	10
YOUTH	11
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	12-13
ENERGY	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16

continued on page 2...

On regional infrastructure development, Dr Tax said a total of 63 regional infrastructure projects, including 17 regional energy projects were developed under the second Priority Action Plan for Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA PAP 2), the African Union continental strategic infrastructure framework.

Three of the 17 projects that were shortlisted are from SADC and these are the Luapula Hydropower between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia; Baynes Hydropower between Namibia and Angola; and ZIZABONA transmission interconnector between Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

PIDA PAP 2 is a blueprint for African infrastructure transformation for the period 2012-2040. The programme was adopted by African leaders in January 2012 and provides a strategic framework for priority infrastructure projects expected to transform the continent into an interconnected and integrated region.

In relation to the continental integration agenda, the SADC Council noted the status of the signing and ratification of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite

Free Trade Area (TFTA).

In this regard, Council urged Member States who have not signed or ratified AfCFTA and TFTA to do so to allow for the implementation of the agreements.

The ratification of the TFTA Agreement is critical as it will pave way for the successful implementation of the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA is an enlarged market that brings together the 55 AU Member States, 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.

The establishment of the AfCFTA builds on the existence of other Free Trade Areas (FTAs) in the continent such as the SADC FTA and the "Grand" FTA involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community and SADC.

The "Grand" or Tripartite FTA has a combined population of some 600 million people and a Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1 trillion, covers half of the Member States of the AU



and is intended to boost intra-regional trade, increase investment and promote the development of cross-regional infrastructure covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa.

On the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the SADC Council noted that 17 companies from the region have been identified to manufacture COVID-19 medical and other pharmaceutical products under the initiative supported by the European Union and the German development agency, GIZ, which is aimed at strengthening capacities in research and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, essential medicines and medical supplies.

The SADC Council also directed the Expanded Technical Committee for Coordinating and Monitoring the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Health to continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation and provide timely advice, and to analyse the current COVID-19 situation in the African context and provide home-grown solutions.

Following the adoption of the guidelines on the Harmonisation and Facilitation of Cross Border Transport Operations across the SADC Region during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Council urged Member States to comply with the Guidelines, especially with respect to mutual recognition by Member States of COVID-19 test results and validity period of 0-14 days as stipulated in the Guidelines.

In a bid to accelerate regional industrialisation and infrastructure development, Dr Tax also called for speedy implementation of the SADC Regional Development Fund, as well as the enhancement of capacities and capabilities of Small and Medium Enterprises

(SMEs) for SADC citizens to benefit from employment and wealth creation.

She said the private sector has an important role to drive industrialisation, urging them to take advantage of the profiled regional value chains in priority areas such as mineral beneficiation, pharmaceuticals and agro-processing, which will benefit the investors, SADC citizens and the entire region.

Dr Tax also called for speedy finalisation of the SADC Digital Economy Strategy in order to realise the targeted long-term industrialization objectives, and added that digitisation of regional economies is a necessity, given the advent of the 4th Industrial Revolution and the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council endorsed the proposal to extend Kiswahili as a working language through interpretation at SADC Ministerial Committee meetings.

The decision follows the approval by Summit in August 2019 to introduce Kiswahili as the Fourth SADC Official Working Language on a gradual approach by first using Kiswahili as a working language through interpretation at SADC Summit and Council meetings only.

The SADC Council consists of Ministers from each Member State, usually from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning, or Finance, who meet twice a year in February/March and immediately prior to the SADC Summit in August or September.

The Council of Ministers oversees the functioning and development of SADC, and ensures that policies and decisions are implemented. □

"SADC regional integration progressing well"

ALMOST 80 percent of regional activities, programmes and projects aimed at deepening integration in southern Africa were implemented between April and December 2020 despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax told the Council of Ministers, although she added that the implementation rate was slightly lower compared to the previous period due to these and other challenges.

"In terms of implementation of the 2020/2021 Annual Corporate Plan, an implementation rate of 79 percent was recorded for April to December 2020 period," Dr Tax said in her opening remarks, adding that this implementation rate is lower by 5 percent compared to 84 percent recorded during the same period in the previous financial year.

Dr. Tax said progress towards the implementation of decisions made by the 40th Summit of SADC Heads of States and Government in August 2020 is also satisfactory.

"In terms of the August 2020 Summit Decisions, a total of 13 decisions were fully implemented out of the 26 decisions, representing 50 percent completion rate. The remaining decisions are long term in nature, and implementation is ongoing." □

SADC to deploy mission to Mozambique

ACTS OF extremism and terrorism that have left many people dead, injured or homeless in northern Mozambique requires a proportionate regional response, SADC leaders concluded at their Extra-Ordinary Double Troika Summit held 8 April in Maputo.

The Summit agreed to deploy a technical team to Mozambique to assess and investigate the security situation on the ground.

The SADC Organ technical team to Mozambique is expected to present its findings to the Organ Troika where a regional response will be made to address the security situation in that country.

According to the United Nations, more than 670,000 people have been displaced in the northern Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique since the beginning of the insurgency in 2017.

On 24 March, when the attacks targeted the town of Palma, media reports said that 55 people were killed and buildings destroyed throughout the town.

Various groups including those purporting to be Islamic fundamentalists, especially a group known as Ahlu Sunna Wa-Jama, have claimed responsibility for some of these attacks.

"The Double Troika Summit noted with concern the acts of terrorism perpetrated against innocent civilians, women and children in some of the districts of Cabo Delgado Province; condemned the terrorist

attacks in strongest terms; and affirmed that such heinous attacks cannot be allowed to continue without a proportionate regional response," reads part of a communiqué released soon after the Double Troika Summit.

The leaders said a meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ would be convened to receive a report on the findings of the technical team, which will then be presented to the next Organ Troika Summit for a regional response to the situation.

There are a number of responses that SADC can make including to help Mozambique with military and intelligence information to fight the insurgency since such acts of terrorism are transboundary.

Another available response is to provide military personnel and equipment to combat the instability, as well as deploying the SADC Standby Force.

Any regional response by SADC will respect its founding principles of respecting the sovereignty of Mozambique, and President Filipe Nyusi has said that there are some aspects that Mozambique will tackle on its own.

"Those who come from outside will not come to replace us. They will come to support us. It is not about empty pride. It is about a sense of sovereignty," he said.

President Nyusi, who is the current SADC chairperson, said that with continued support from the region, the acts of extremism and

terrorism in his country will be defeated.

The terrorists have been expelled from Palma, he said, adding that we do not intend to proclaim victory because we are in an ongoing fight against terrorism, but we are sure that if we are united, we will win.

SADC has already pledged its commitment to find a lasting solution to the conflict in Mozambique, noting that continued acts of extremism and terrorism in Cabo Delgado is a challenge to peace and security, not only in Mozambique but also in the region.

Since terrorism is cancerous in nature, SADC is well aware that if the challenge in northern Mozambique is not properly addressed, it can provide a fertile ground to spread out to other parts of the region.

The Double Troika Summit held 8 April in Mozambique was attended by leaders from

the Summit Troika and those from the Organ Troika.

The current leaders of the Summit Troika are President Nyusi of Mozambique (chair), his Malawian counterpart, Lazarus Chakwera (incoming chair) and President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania (outgoing chair).

The Summit Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation consists of President Masisi as chair, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa as incoming chair, and President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe as the outgoing chair.

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

SADC to continue virtual meetings until COVID-19 situation improves

THE SADC Committee of Ministers of Health has recommended that virtual meetings will continue to be used when conducting regional meetings until the COVID-19 situation has been contained. This position was endorsed by the SADC Council that met on 12 March. The Council directed the Expanded Technical Committee for Coordinating and Monitoring the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Health to continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation and provide timely advice, analyse the current COVID-19 situation in the African context and provide home-grown solutions. SADC put on hold the hosting of regional face-to-face meetings in March 2020 due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and recommended the convening of virtual meetings. □

SADC has responsibility to help Member State under terrorist threat

THE SOUTHERN African Development Community (SADC) has a responsibility as a bloc to help a fellow Member State whose sovereignty and territorial integrity is under serious threat, the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Hon. Dr Lemogang Kwape, has said.

In his remarks at the opening of the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique, on 28 April 2021, Dr Kwape said SADC has a duty to protect innocent civilians, as well as to ensure regional peace and stability.

The Extraordinary Ministerial meeting of the SADC Organ Troika was convened to consider the report of the Technical Assessment Team that was deployed to Mozambique following a decision by the Extraordinary SADC Double Troika Summit in Maputo on 8 April 2021.

"As we deliberate on the Report and course of action, we should also take into consideration that our way forward, as the Region, should be guided by the SADC Mutual Defence Pact, which entered into force

in August 2008," Dr Kwape said.

"The Pact provides for collective self-defence and collective action. In particular, Article 6 of the Pact states that an armed attack against a state party shall be considered a threat to regional peace and security and such an attack shall be met with immediate action.

"It is in this regard that I wish to reaffirm SADC's commitment to stand in solidarity with Mozambique."

Dr Kwape said SADC cannot afford to have, under its watch, continued heinous atrocities which are characterised by horrific killing of innocent civilians, beheadings and maiming of women and children, including gender-based violence.

"The rise in these dreadful attacks raises concern that they are most likely to spread quickly to other provinces in Mozambique and to the entire Region. Therefore, the sooner we respond collectively, the less likely that these barbaric acts of terrorism will continue to destabilise our Region," he said.

"We commend and recognise the important role played by our cooperating partners in assisting to find a long lasting solution to this problem."

Commander Fillipus Nghilondwa, who represented the SADC Executive Secretary,

Her Excellency Dr Stergomona Lawrence Tax, said the MCO meeting was a culmination of efforts to secure the Region by urgently addressing the security situation in Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique.

He expressed gratitude to H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, for exemplary leadership in the initiative to bring peace to Cabo Delgado in his capacity

as the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation in short, the Organ, is a SADC institution whose overall objective is to promote peace and security in the region in line with Article 2 of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Source: www.sadc.int □

Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation

THE SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation was launched in 1996 as an institutional framework for coordinating policies and activities on politics, defence, and security.

However, the Organ operated without a legal framework and clear objectives until SADC leaders approved the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in August 2001.

The Protocol was ratified and entered into force on 2 March 2004.

This Protocol establishes the objectives of the Organ in promoting peace and security across Southern Africa, protecting the people of the region from instability due to the breakdown of law and order, developing a common foreign policy throughout the region, and cooperating on matters related to security and defence.

The Protocol also specifies the operating structure of the Organ as the Chairperson, Troika, and various committees, and provides the responsibilities of these structures, as well as the systems of appointment and procedures for operation. The Protocol provides guidelines for the Organ's jurisdiction, methods and procedures, and relationship with international agreements and extra-SADC nations. □



Understanding the SADC Standby Force

by Kizito Sikuka

PEACE AND security are necessary preconditions for sustainable development and deeper regional integration.

In this regard, SADC continues to place top priority on developing and strengthening cooperation among the 16 Member States.

One joint initiative in peace and security is the SADC Standby Force, or Brigade, which was established by SADC Heads of State and Government through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Lusaka, Zambia in August 2007.

The SADC Standby Force is a regional, multidimensional, peace-support operations capability established under the framework of the African Standby Force (ASF).

This represents a commitment of purpose that ensures a collective approach to defence and security, protecting people and safeguarding the stability of the region.

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

These peace-building efforts include post-conflict disarmament and demobilisation and humanitarian assistance in

conflict areas and in areas impacted by major natural disasters such as drought and floods.

The Force is made up of multidisciplinary contingents of the Military, Police and Civilians who are stationed in their countries of origin and ready for deployment when necessary. Other support mechanisms could be in the form of logistical and medical services.

The SADC Standby Force does not have an actual physical presence as the Force is constituted when the need arises. The size of the regional Force is also not fixed but depends on the nature of the assignment as well as what individual Member States are able to contribute.

For every mission, SADC appoints a Force Commander, Commissioner of Police and Head of the Civilian Component to lead the operation. The SADC Standby Force is deployed on the authority of the SADC Summit, ensuring that SADC leaders have the final say on the deployment and objectives.

In preparation for its responsibility, the SADC Standby Force conducts various drills and exercises such as Exercise UMODZI held in 2018 and Exercise AMANI Africa II in 2015, and became fully operational in 2017. The Table shows some of the major training exercises conducted by the SADC Standby Force.

Some of the preparatory work for the Exercises is conducted at the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) located in Harare, Zimbabwe which hosts Scenario Development Workshops and Integrated Exercise Planning Courses.

These courses are aimed at strengthening the Exercise planning by sharing essential skills and techniques such as mastering the appropriate attitudes required for effective co-ordination of integrated multi-dimensional Exercises.

The RPTC also delivers training for peacekeeping practitioners from the SADC region and other parts of Africa, and has participated in the preparation and running of all major peacekeeping exercises conducted in the region.

The RPTC contributes to the core objectives of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, as one of the main implementing entities in training for military, police and civilian components for peace support missions in the region, and also conducts capacity-building courses for regional and national mediation to improve and strengthen domestic mediation capacities in SADC Member States.

According to the MoU establishing the SADC Standby Force, the SADC Heads of State and Government agreed on the need to establish a main logistics depot in one of the Member States. The depot will provide storage, inspection and maintenance facilities for equipment and materials for all components of the SADC Standby Force.

The construction of the SADC Regional Logistics Depot is progressing well in the Rasesa village on the out-

skirts of Gaborone in Botswana.

Major equipment and other materials for the depot will be contributed by Member States. In this regard, the main aim of the depot is to provide stocks on a just in time basis to meet the rapid deployment capability of the SADC Standby Force to support regional peace operations.

SADC has also adopted a Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2015, intended to strengthen the region's peace and security architecture by enabling a common approach.

This collective approach includes the sharing of information on suspected terrorists; enacting and reviewing legislation at national level on preventing and combatting terrorism; and strengthening capacity of the Financial Intelligence Units.

The SADC Standby Force is one of the building blocks of the ASF, a continental peacekeeping force established by the African Union and comprising Military, Police and Civilian components that are on standby in their regions of origin and available to the AU for deployment in times of need.

The ASF, which became operational in January 2016, draws from Africa's five sub-regions of North Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa and Southern Africa.

The SADC Standby Force successfully assumed its rotational leadership of the ASF on 1 January 2019 for six months up to the end of June 2019, accepting the primary responsibility of being the first responder to conflict situations on the continent by providing a rapid deployment capability. □

Major Training Exercises by SADC

Training Exercise	Place	Year
UMODZI	Malawi	2018
AMANI AFRICA	South Africa	2015
Golfinho	South Africa	2009
THOKGAMO	Botswana	2005
Tanzanite	Tanzania	2002
Blue Crane	South Africa	1999
Blue Hungwe	Zimbabwe	1997



On Africa's rich potential and vast resources
 "Our countries are not poor, they are very rich. We have all the resources to make us rich... We must therefore work together to ensure that we utilize and exploit these resources for the benefit of our countries and people. This is important because it is only through cooperation that we will be able to utilize these resources effectively and achieve our objectives."

Emotional farewell to H.E. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli

A DARK CLOUD engulfed the United Republic of Tanzania and the region on 17 March following the announcement that President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli had passed on, succumbing to a heart ailment that he had managed for over a decade.

African leaders and citizens of the continent paid tribute to the late President of Tanzania, describing him as "a great leader of our generation."

Addressing mourners at a packed State Funeral held 22 March in Dodoma, Tanzania, speakers said Magufuli was a true and dedicated son of Africa.

The ceremony in Dodoma was one of the many government observances that the State organized in seven cities across the country to allow citizens to pay their last respects to their President, and the emotional response confirmed their statements that he was "a man of the people".

SADC Chairperson, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique said the region and the rest of the African continent had lost a hard-working leader.

"The entire SADC is here, all of us are here at this big farewell to this great man, a great leader of our generation," President Nyusi said, adding that the region should uphold his ideals for the benefit of future generations.

The incoming SADC chairperson, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi added that Magufuli's legacy will last forever.

The late Magufuli, whom many had come to refer to as

the bulldozer for his record in driving government programmes, leaves behind a legacy of his unwavering desire to rid Tanzania of corruption as well as his no-nonsense approach to the way the government operated.

"Magufuli's love of country shall forever be a light on that pilgrimage. To us who have been entrusted with governing the nations of our beautiful and rich continent, Magufuli's leadership shall forever move us out of complacency," President Chakwera said.

The chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana described the late Magufuli as a doyen of democracy, unity and development, and "a great teacher".

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who is the incoming Chairperson of the SADC Organ, said Tanzania and Africa have lost a Pan-Africanist.

"The family of nations of Africa today is mourning the passing of an esteemed leader of his people and a tireless champion of the cause of African progress, with the death of President Magufuli, we have lost a true Pan-Africanist, a president who was unapologetic about being an African," President Ramaphosa said.

The outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Organ, President Emerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe said the late Magufuli was a patriot who led from the front, and always wanted to see Africa prosper.

He said Zimbabwe will forever be grateful to Magufuli for

his continued support to have all illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe to be removed unconditionally.

"The late President Magufuli was always unwavering on calling for the region to stand together on matters of principle.

The people of Zimbabwe will always remember him for the pivotal role he played as chairperson in having SADC set aside 25 October as a day for the collective call for the removal of the illegal sanctions imposed on our country. His visionary leadership will remain etched in the history of SADC," President Mnangagwa said.

Born on 29 October 1959, Magufuli was laid to rest on 26 March in his rural home in Chato district of Geita region, a gold-mining area in northwestern Tanzania near Lake Victoria.

Many Tanzanians followed the proceedings broadcast live on television and radio in the country where the populist leader was admired for his aggressive style of leadership, building infrastructure, and action against corruption.

Magufuli became the fifth president of Tanzania in October 2015 following his election victory when he won 58.46 percent of the vote in presidential polls.

In October 2020, he was re-elected president after better-

ing his previous performance, collecting more than 84 percent of the presidential votes. As President of Tanzania, Magufuli was the Chairperson of SADC between August 2019 and until August 2020.

His achievements at the helm of SADC, together with his colleagues, include the approval of the SADC Protocol on Industry as well as the adoption of Kiswahili as the fourth SADC Official Working Language, with English, French and Portuguese.

The SADC Protocol on Industry, which was adopted in August 2019 aims to improve the policy environment for industrial development and support implementation.

The protocol is a binding instrument that will entrench and give legal effect to the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap and will ensure adequate coordination, monitoring and evaluation of implementation.

Before becoming President, Magufuli served as a Member of Parliament for 20 years, representing the Chato constituency. He served in various cabinet posts including Minister of Works, under the late President Benjamin Mkapa as well as President Jakaya Kikwete. □

Removal of sanctions on Zimbabwe

"These sanctions have not only affected the people of Zimbabwe and their Government but the entire region. It is like a human body, when you chop one of its parts it affects the whole body. Therefore, I would like to seize this opportunity to urge the international community to lift sanctions it imposed on Zimbabwe. This embargo should be reconsidered and removed, so the people of Zimbabwe can enjoy their life and develop their country."



SADC MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF H.E. DR JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI, FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF SADC

THE PEOPLE and governments of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region have received with deep sorrow, the sad news of the passing of His Excellency, Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of SADC from August 2019 to August 2020.

In the passing of H.E. President Dr Magufuli, the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, the SADC Region, and Africa as a whole, have lost a great, committed and inspirational leader admired across the African continent and the world.

H.E. President Dr Magufuli will always be remembered for his development-oriented leadership, and commitment to SADC deeper political and socioeconomic regional integration. Upon assuming the SADC Chairpersonship in August 2019, H.E. President Dr Magufuli reiterated that, The United Republic of Tanzania is fully committed to SADC's vision, goals, principles and ideals, and indeed, we always consider SADC as an integral part of our future.

True to his commitment to the SADC ideals, he steered the Region to record a number of milestones such as the finalization of the development of the SADC Vision 2050 and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030, two blueprints that provide a strategic direction of the SADC Region in the years ahead.

H.E. President Dr Magufuli always sought practical solutions to increase industrial capacity and intra-regional trade in the SADC Region as reflected in the theme of the 39th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, A Conducive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, Increased Intra-Regional Trade and Job Creation. To attain this, H.E. President Dr Magufuli urged SADC Member States to harmonise policies, laws, regulations and improve the quality of standards of goods and services, so as to increase the volume and value of intra and extra regional trade.

The untimely passing of H.E. President Dr Magufuli comes barely a week before SADC commemorates the Southern African Liberation Day on 23 March, 2021, a day dedicated to honour men and women for their sacrifices in the liberation struggle. In his SADC Day Message on 17th August, 2020, H.E. President Magufuli paid tribute for the achievements of the SADC Founding leaders and successive leaders and added that: We should always guard against complacency since much still needs to be done in order to realise our Founding Fathers dream and vision. This is a call that SADC will carry forward in honour of this great leader.

As we mourn the demise of this beloved son of Tanzania, Southern Africa and the African Continent, we pledge our strong support to the new leadership in carrying on with His Excellency President Magufuli's remarkable legacy towards peace, security and socio-economic development in the SADC Region and beyond, and we trust that all Tanzanians will remain calm, united and peaceful.

On behalf of SADC and indeed on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Magufuli family, Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania. We wish them strength, good health, peace and comfort during this period of great loss.

Filipe Jacinto Nyusi,
President of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairperson of SADC
18th March, 2021

Importance of industrializing Africa

"By exporting our raw materials it means we are also exporting jobs. History has taught us that no country or region in the world has ever developed without undergoing the process of industrialization."



Time to focus priorities towards gender equality

by Nyarai Kampilipili and Thenjiwe Ngwenya

THE REGIONAL community continues to make significant progress advancing gender equality and women empowerment for sustainable development.

However, a number of challenges still hamper efforts by most countries to fully advance gender equality in all spheres of development including political, economic and social.

The 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) held from 15-26 March at the United Nations (UN) in New York acknowledged some of the challenges and said there is urgent need to address them to accelerate gender equality and equal representation of women in decision-making.

Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said this in her remarks during the opening ceremony of the CSW65.

She said various challenges hamper the participation of women in key processes that have the potential of changing the lives of many citizens.

"The pandemic (COVID-19) has been especially hard on women and girls, and violence against women in public life is a major deterrent to political participation, and it affects women of all ages, all ranks, and in every part of the world," she said.

"These are the women who shape policies and who can make decisions that positively change lives."

Mlambo-Ngcuka urged the commission to come up with Agreed Conclusions that would stop the regression brought about by COVID-19 and gender-based violence, among others. Most barriers that discourage women from participating in political life are an increase in violence, sexism and hate speech against the women in politics.

The Commission agreed to target young women leaders by expanding access to education, technology and skills development, mentorship programmes, increased financial support, and protection from violence.

While significant progress has been made to facilitate gender parity in political decision-making positions, there is still a lot more needed to attain the target of 50:50 representation.

The pace of progress is worrisome. For example, only three countries in the world have reached the 50:50 target. These are Rwanda at 61.3 percent, Cuba (53.4 percent) and the United Arab Emirates (50 percent).

Other countries have not reached the target, and as of January 2021 women accounted for only 25.5 percent of global parliamentary seats, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

In sub-Saharan Africa, women make up 25 percent of the total parliamentary seats.

In the SADC region, progress towards the equal participation of women in decision-



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

making positions, particularly in Parliament, has been gathering pace, significant in some member states and slow in others.

During the period 1997-2005 when the target was 30 percent, only three countries reached the target in parliament. These were Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania at 34.8 percent, 32.8 percent and 30.4 percent, respectively.

In 2016, the target was adjusted to 50:50 by 2030 in line with other global targets and only South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique are close to achieving the target, at 45.8 percent, 44.2 percent and 42.4 percent, respectively, although some other countries are not far behind.

In recent elections held in the region between 2019 and 2020, it has become apparent that most member states will not reach gender parity in political and decision-making positions by 2030 if the current trajectory continues.

The conclusions on this year's CSW have the potential to stop regression, refocus priorities and move the whole agenda forward by making sure that women are at the high table.

"It is inconceivable that we can address this situation that is faced in the main by women and solve the problems that women and girls face without the women themselves taking part in decision-making," said Mlambo-Ngcuka, who is a former Vice President of South Africa.

In the SADC region, Article 5 of the revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development calls upon Member States to put in place special measures with particular reference to women in order to eliminate barriers which prevent meaningful participation in all spheres of life and to create an environment conducive to participation.

The Commission has recognized that temporary special measures, including quotas, substantially contribute to increasing the representation by women in national and local legislatures, and called on all governments to set specific targets and timelines to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance in elected positions.

Some of the agreed conclusions from CSW65 are for member states and stakeholders to address cyberstalking and cyberbullying, and the lack of preventive measures and remedies; political parties to nominate equal numbers of women and men as candidates, to





promote equal leadership in party structures and to mainstream a gender perspective in decision-making bodies in order to make sure that women are able to enhance the quality of decisions that are made and engage young people and youth-led organizations.

CSW65 was held under the theme of "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."

CSW is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and meets each year in March, with a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA).

Measure to advance gender equality, empowerment

SADC IS committed to promoting gender equality and women empowerment and has put in place measures to advance gender equality.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said this during a virtual Panel Discussion hosted by African Union Sports Council Region 5 held on 15 March.

Dr Tax said Article 5 (1) (k) of the SADC Treaty adopted in 1992 recognizes the mainstreaming of gender as one of SADC's objectives and as an integral process of community building.

She added that SADC has developed legislation, policies, strategies, and programmes to ensure that gender equality and women empowerment are achieved.

Dr Tax addressed the topic, "Regional strategies to safeguard the rights of women and girls: Are there any targets and milestones?"

For example, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, revised in 2016, opens a unique possibility for Member States to intensify measures for strategic implementation of the gender commitments in collaboration with stakeholders from civil society, private sector, communities and other development partners.

For southern Africa to achieve gender equality, a level playing field must be provided for both men and women, and SADC Member States should safeguard the significant achievements already made in gender parity and develop innovative measures to fast-track equal representation



SADC Protocol aligned to global targets

THE REVISED SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and the promotion of gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

The protocol was revised in 2016 so that its objectives are aligned to various global targets and emerging issues.

Some of these global targets are contained in the post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

SDG Goal 5 deals with the Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls, and sets nine targets to be met by the global community by 2030.

These include ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls; elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual exploitation; elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation; and ensuring the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Other SDG Goal 5 targets include universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action.

In addition, the revised protocol captures emerging issues such as climate change and child marriages. Child marriages are regarded as one of the factors contributing to the slow progress in the reduction of maternal mortality, but the definition of a child by age remains controversial.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development entered into force in 2013 following the ratification of the instrument by the requisite two-thirds of member states. The Protocol was revised in 2016 and approved by the 36th SADC Summit held in Swaziland the same year. □

Promoting gender equality is a collective effort

ADVANCING GENDER equality and equity is a collective effort that should be championed by both women and men to ensure sustainable socio-economic development.

Often, there is a perception that only women ought to be the main supporters and advocates of gender empowerment.

"I am a man, but we need all men to stand up for women's empowerment," United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, António Guterres said in his address to a previous session of the CSW.

"Our world needs more women leaders, and our world needs more men standing up for gender equality."

Guterres said it is critical to break the cultural and patriarchal barriers that continue to look down upon women, as well as gender-blind legal and policy frameworks that constrain women from fully participating in socio-economic activities.

"We are all better off when we open doors of opportunity for women and girls in classrooms, boardrooms, in the military ranks and at peace talks, and in all aspects of productive life," he said, adding that studies show that nearly one billion women will enter the global economy in the next decade, hence gender empowerment will unleash the potential of women and make the world a better place. sardc.net □

President Samia Suluhu Hassan calls for unity of purpose

THE NEW President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan has pledged to continue advancing the work and ideals of her predecessor -- the late John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

The late Magufuli, whom many had come to refer to as the bulldozer for his record in driving government programmes, leaves a legacy of his unwavering desire to rid Tanzania of corruption as well as his no-nonsense approach to the way the government operated.

Magufuli died 17 March and as per the Tanzanian constitution, the Vice President should take over as President for the remainder of his five-year term, which ends in 2025.

Speaking soon after being sworn-in as the new President of Tanzania on 19 March, Hassan called for unity of purpose among all Tanzanians, saying that while her appointment had come in different circumstances, the late President Magufuli had prepared her for the task ahead and encouraged national unity.

"This is the time to stand together and get connected. It is time to bury our differences and show love to one another and look forward with confidence to build the new Tanzania that President Magufuli aspired to," she said.

Hassan who took her oath of office witnessed by several cabinet ministers, former Presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Jakaya Kikwete, and former President of Zanzibar Amani Abeid Karume, said nothing shall go wrong, as she is ready for the task to lead Tanzania.

President Hassan repeated the same message on 22 March in her address to thousands of mourners including several African Heads of State and Government who attended a State Funeral ceremony held in

Dodoma to pay their last respects to President Magufuli.

She assured the leaders that she will continue with the work of her predecessor in pushing forward the developmental agenda of Tanzania, the region and the rest of the African continent.

"The country is in safe hands," she said, adding that we will start where Magufuli ended.

Prior to her appointment as President, Hassan was the vice president since 2015.

During her tenure as vice president, she played a crucial role in strengthening deeper regional integration in southern Africa and attended most of the SADC Heads of State and Government Summits on behalf of President Magufuli.

In this regard, her appreciation and knowledge on regional integration is sound. In fact, Tanzania has always been a strong advocate of deeper regional integration in Africa.

Tanzania's Founding President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere had to bear the greatest burden of freeing Africa by accommodating liberation fighters in his country and providing them with logistical and military support.

Nyerere was also instrumental in April 1980 in establishing SADC -- formerly the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

Hassan, who becomes the first woman to be appointed President of the United Republic of Tanzania, said women are as capable as their male counterparts to perform any duties.

"To those who have doubts if a lady will manage to govern Tanzania I want to assure you that the one standing here is a president," she said.

President Hassan becomes the sixth President of Tanzania

since the country gained its independence in 1961.

Prior to this, Hassan held various senior positions including being elected as a special seat member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives in 2000.

She was also appointed a Minister of State for Union Affairs in 2014, and elected vice chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly tasked with drafting Tanzania's new constitution.

In 2015, Magufuli selected Hassan as his running mate ahead of several other prominent and senior members of the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

Hassan was born on 27 January 1960 in Zanzibar and holds qualifications in public administration and development economics.

The sovereign states of Tanganyika and Zanzibar were united in 1964 by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere into a union called the United Republic of Tanzania.

As per tradition, the ruling CCM is expected to convene a special meeting of its central committee on the appointment of a new vice president.

The established norm under the Union government is that when the President comes from the mainland then the Vice President comes from Zanzibar.

Since Hassan is from Zanzibar, the next vice president is expected to be from the mainland.

Zanzibar also has its own government under the Union with a President, two Vice Presidents and a House of Assembly, with responsibility for governing the islands while also participating in the Union Government. □



Youth participation, social innovations key to regional development

YOUTH in southern Africa have the capacity to develop social innovations that can help to address the region's socio-economic challenges.

However, there is need to improve the participation of young women and men, including the rural and marginalised youth, and to facilitate skills development and socio-economic and political inclusion of young people in the region.

Social innovations are new social practices that aim to meet social needs in a new and original way that improves or modernises the existing solutions.

These social innovations respond to social needs through use of safe entrepreneurial practices that share common heritage to facilitate positive social development.

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) has worked with youth organisations in SADC to develop two programmes supporting youth participation, development, and social innovations in southern Africa.

The joint initiative is made up of two concepts titled:

- AfriNet - Giving Voice to the SDG Generation: Engaging Young Women and Men as Partners for Development in Southern Africa, and
- Harnessing Social Innovations for Youth Development and Transformation in Southern Africa.

UNESCO and SARDC with youth networks have launched an online partnership-building campaign to appeal to potential sponsors

to fund these two youth-led programmes, and to raise awareness among stakeholders on the need to support social innovations and youth engagement in southern Africa.

Calling for support and partnership on these two interventions, the Director and Representative of the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, Professor Hubert Gijzen, noted the need to team up and support the youth for a common good.

"We need to support them to speak up and scale up their innovative solutions and approaches," Professor Gijzen said.

"We are ready and eager to engage and team up with you. Your partnership is what we need. Your ideas, energy and innovation power is what the world needs."

This initiative is in line with United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 and the initiative being developed by UNESCO and SARDC to support to youth development as well as AU Agenda 2063 on youth-driven development and a culture of peace.

Speaking about this project, the SARDC Executive Di-

rector, Munetsi Madakufamba emphasised the need to nurture youth social innovations to advance regional development and integration.

"These two interventions seek to address this by increasing the participation of young people in development issues through social innovation, which is not just about technology but many other innovations that respond to social needs in more effective ways," he said.

The AfriNet concept seeks to increase the participation of young women and men in development issues, promote socio-economic inclusion and consolidate a culture of peace in the region.

It also notes the need to increase capacity of the youth to develop social innovations to address socio-economic challenges in their communities as well as promoting youth social entrepreneurship.

The project is activity based and is intended to deliver on the following pillars: Youth civic engagement to foster a culture of peace and social inclusion; Media and information literacy for youth; and Youth entrepreneurship and social in-

novation in the cultural and creative industry.

The concept on Youth Social innovations aims to strengthen and support youth social innovations for the promotion of youth development and transformation, as well as socioeconomic development of the region.

It notes that most inventions and innovations by the youth fail to gain traction due to impeding factors such as the absence of institutional mechanisms with the capacity to identify and nurture youth innovations.

The project aims to facilitate development of an institutional mechanism to support, safeguard and encourage youth innovations; and promote the portrayal and sharing of a common heritage through youth social innovations.

These two initiatives observe that young people between the ages of 16 and 35 account for the majority of people in the southern Africa and Africa as a whole, hence, there is scope for the region to benefit from this demographic dividend if measures to tap into youth participation and social innovations are implemented. sardc.net □

Youth should be empowered

THE GLOBAL community should "move beyond platitudes" about young people, and deliver a better future for them all, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres said at the 10th Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum held early April.

"We should not be surprised that both online and in the streets, young people have been expressing their impatience with the pace of change...and their frustration with injustice and poor governance", he said, stressing the need to listen to youth to rebuild trust.

He said that "tangible improvements" are required in education, employment, environmental protection and digital connectivity – "through a just, inclusive, green and sustainable recovery".

"The UN's first-ever system-wide Youth Strategy, Youth2030, is our commitment to strengthen our work with and for young people", he said, referring to the UN monitoring platform on how it is responding to the needs of youth in the COVID crisis and its work in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). □

UNESCO, SARDC support natural disaster media coverage

by Sifelani Tsiko

THE SOUTHERN African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) has launched two new publications that aim to support regional news organisations in the coverage of natural disasters affecting the region.

The two publications titled: "Response to Cyclone Idai by Media in Zimbabwe: An assessment," and another: "Disaster Risk Reduction — The Case of Cyclone Idai," were launched recently at a virtual media workshop on Reporting Disasters in the SADC region.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, UNESCO regional adviser for Communication and Information Al-Amin Yusuph, hailed researchers at SARDC and other partners for producing the publications which sought to help news organisations in the SADC region to mainstream the coverage of natural disasters in a reliable and accurate manner.

"The launch of these two publications is very important for the news organisations in the region," he said.

"It will enable SADC citizens and regional and international partners to get correct and up-to-date information on natural disasters such as Cyclone Idai."

SARDC Executive Director, Munetsi Madakufamba said the new publications will help regional news outlets to tell the SADC story in a better way at a time when there was need to curb the misinformation and generalisations churned out by the global media.

"We have been able to tell our own story and with these two new publications, we



Effects of Cyclone Idai on infrastructure in Zimbabwe

should get important lessons on how we can tell our own regional story in a better and effective way," he said.

"The story about Cyclone Idai gripped the attention of the world and the publications offer useful insights on the important elements of what happened."

Reducing future disasters is at the heart of the two publications which track media coverage of Cyclone Idai of 2019 – one of the worst tropical storms to ever affect Africa and the southern hemisphere which tore through central and southern Mozambique, southern Malawi and eastern Zimbabwe causing severe flooding and destroying infrastructure and large tracts of crop-land in the three SADC countries.

An estimated three million people in the three countries were affected.

The reports broadly introduce the response of the media in Zimbabwe to Cyclone Idai and analyses the current capacity of the media for disaster reporting.

It highlights significant institutional and individual challenges and gaps the media faces in providing accurate and

timely information and gives ideas for the media and other stakeholders to work together to improve the abilities of the media in future disaster reporting.

In the foreword, Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Senator Monica Mutsvangwa said the media were essential service providers for citizens and governments during disasters and emergencies.

"The production and dissemination of timely and accurate information provides people with crucial lifesaving knowledge which can empower the planning and actions for effective responses," she wrote.

"The need for media to play an active and timely role in providing information to those affected by the disaster cannot be over-emphasised — before, during and after. Yes, tell us what we did wrong, it was an emergency and decisions had to be made quickly, but we also did some things right, so please tell us that too."

Minister Mutsvangwa said the publications will help to provide information that is necessary to guide informed

decision-making and efforts to empower SADC citizens in terms of access to accurate and reliable information on natural disasters.

"Media coverage analysis is not only about numbers and access, but about the quality of the reporting, its accuracy and reliability, the amount of research and understanding involved," she said.

"One well-researched report may have more impact than 10 that are thin on information or poorly presented. Human disasters need "good news" stories as well as the bad, and there were plenty about the responses by individuals, organisations, government and neighbours."

The two publications were launched at a regional media workshop organized by UNESCO and SARDC.

UNESCO is an international organization that seeks to build peace through international cooperation, while the SARDC is a regional research centre which seeks to enhance the effectiveness of development processes through the collection, production and dissemination of information. *The Herald* □



SADC to establish disaster and emergency operations centre

by Neto Nengomasha

SADC IS soon to establish a disaster and emergency operations centre tasked to strengthen regional disaster risk preparedness, response and early recovery to support Member States.

In the past few decades, southern Africa has experienced an increasing frequency and severity of droughts, floods, cyclones and locusts that were attributed to climate change and variability, resulting in food insecurity and other socio-economic impacts.

In January and April 2019 alone, the region faced a number of weather-related phenomena such as tropical cyclones Desmond, Enawo, Idai and Kenneth, which caused extensive flooding in SADC Member States such as the Union of Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

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

In 2020, a swarm of locusts, also attributed to climate change, invaded parts of Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and most of East Africa.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture

Organisation, a small swarm of locusts can consume enough food for 35,000 people in a single day.

The 2019 annual report of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change said 91 percent of all major disasters and 77 percent of economic losses from natural disasters during the year were attributed to extreme weather events.

These disasters have highlighted the importance of close cooperation and coordinated response by the region,

hence the establishment of a disaster and emergency operations centre to strengthen regional resilience, preparedness and responsiveness for disasters, including pandemics, epidemics and related hazards.

In this regard, the SADC Council of Ministers that met virtually on 12 March, approved an offer by Mozambique to host the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC).

Council noted that the draft SHOC and Standard Op-

erating Procedures (SOP) Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat and the SHOC; and a draft charter to establish SHOC have been developed. Council directed the Secretariat to work with the Government of Mozambique to operationalise the SHOC.

When operational, the SHOC is expected to coordinate regional preparedness and responses to disasters, and is part of efforts by the region to come up with vibrant disaster risk strategies. ▢

Costed action plan for regional desertification programme

THE DEVELOPMENT of a detailed costed action plan for the Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Southern Africa (SRAP 2015-2025) is a positive move that will assist SADC Member States to address the severe impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought in the region.

The SRAP 2015-2025 was adopted by SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources in 2015 to combat the impact of

desertification, land degradation and drought.

To ensure effective implementation of the SRAP, the Joint Council of Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources together with their colleagues in charge of Tourism directed the SADC Secretariat to develop a detailed costed action plan for the SRAP.

The plan is expected to outline actions and milestones to be achieved within the SRAP strategy; identify linkages between national and regional actions as well as estimating

costs against the outlined actions.

The development of the costed action plan for the SRAP comes at an appropriate time when southern Africa is experiencing increased trends of land degradation and desertification.

Some of the factors for the land degradation and desertification are attributed to rapid population growth and changing of consumption patterns which have generated excessive pressure on the finite land resources. ▢

Status of digitization in regional agricultural systems

SADC IS embarking on an exercise to assess the status of digitization in the agricultural system, particularly in the area of research for development, education, extension systems and market linkages.

The assessment will cover 13 of the 16 SADC Member States and is being conducted under the Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA).

APPSA is a programme funded by the World Bank and is regionally coordinated by the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Develop-

ment for Southern Africa (CCARDESA). Located in Botswana, CCARDESA is a regional institution that aims to coordinate and stimulate agricultural growth through research, technology development and dissemination of research information to farmers.

The exercise to assess the status of digitization in the agricultural system is expected to highlight the following:

- ❖ Available digital technologies;
- ❖ Gaps that exist in the digital space to facilitate digitization of the agriculture sector;

- ❖ Solutions (public policies, public and private investments related to agriculture research and development, education and agriculture extension) to fast-track promotion of digital technologies;
- ❖ Pathways to facilitate youth, women and other vulnerable groups to become digital entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector; and
- ❖ Key actors in the public and private sector at each stage of technological development. ▢

SADC partners strategize on energy cooperation

THE SADC Secretariat and its energy sector cooperating partners will meet in early May to discuss initiatives being undertaken by the region to ensure stable power supplies.

The SADC region is endowed with a wealth of energy resources that include solar, hydro, wind and coal, however, the region continues to be affected by a crippling power shortage.

The electricity shortfall that was first detected as early as 1999 and became more pronounced after 2007 has forced most countries to implement demand side management programmes such as load shedding.

While load shedding has to some extent succeeded in restraining the overall electricity demand in the region, the measure has greatly affected socio-economic development since the availability of energy is one of the key enablers of sustainable development.

Furthermore, the coronavirus pandemic, commonly known as COVID-19 has not spared the SADC energy sector to address its challenges.

The long-term implications of the COVID-19 lockdown measures are worrisome as significant delays are likely to be experienced in the implementation of both planned energy projects and where construction had already commenced.

Faced with such challenges, SADC and its energy sector cooperating partners will convene a virtual meeting of the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) on 5 May to discuss ways of strengthening their coordinated approach to regional energy cooperation and development.

The SADC ETG consists of representatives of the SADC Secretariat, SADC energy subsidiary organisations, International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) and a knowledge partner, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

The lead ICP for the energy sector is the African Development Bank (AfDB).

SADC energy subsidiary organisations are the Regional Electricity Regulators

Association of Southern Africa (RERA), SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), and the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

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

SACREEE is responsible for spearheading the promotion of renewable energy development in the region, while RERA regulates energy trading in the region.

SARDC is tasked with raising awareness among stakeholders about key regional energy issues.

According to the draft agenda, the meeting will discuss a wide range of issues, including progress on the implementation of priority energy activities, programmes and projects as well as investment in new projects.

Some of the priority projects include the construction of power interconnectors to allow SADC Member States to share surplus energy.

All mainland SADC Member States with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania are interconnected through the SAPP regional grid.

In this regard, construction of new interconnectors such as the Angola-Namibia Interconnector, the Mozambique-Malawi Interconnector and the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya (ZTK) Power Interconnector is critical as it will connect the power networks of three non-operating members of SAPP Angola, Malawi and Tanzania to the regional grid.

The ZTK will not only link Tanzania to the SAPP grid, but also connect the Eastern African Power Pool to SAPP, allowing countries in eastern Africa to share surplus electricity with those in southern Africa.

With respect to investment in new energy projects, the region needs about US\$114 billion to US\$233 billion between 2012 and 2027 to develop additional electricity generation capacity, according to the Energy Sector Plan of the SADC

Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan.

Another issue for discussion by SADC and its energy sector cooperating partners is how the region could harness and explore renewable energy sources that are in abundance.

Renewable energy sources are not only affordable, secure and reliable, but are also less polluting to the environment compared to fossil energy such as coal.

The aim for SADC is to achieve a renewable energy mix in the regional grid of at least 35 percent by 2030.

The regional energy mix is currently dominated by coal, which contributes more than 70 percent.

The SADC ETG is also expected to review its Terms of References to ensure that its operations and structure remain relevant and aligned to the changing dynamics in the energy sector at regional, continental and global levels. sardc.net □

Power transmission infrastructure

IN A bid to unlock and leverage the development of the power transmission interconnector projects, backbone transmission lines as well as those linked to the new power plants, the SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and support from the World Bank, is developing a study on the establishment of a Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF). Recommendations of the study are expected to be presented to relevant sectoral Ministerial committees for clearance and ultimately to Council of Ministers and the Heads of State and Government for consideration and approval.



April – June 2021

April 13-15, Zambia	Innovation Africa Summit Innovation Africa is firmly established as the continent's number one high level ministerial forum where industry partners enjoy pre-scheduled meetings and committed engagement with ministers and senior government officials from over 40 countries.
May 5, Botswana	SADC Energy Thematic Group The SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) is a forum of the SADC Secretariat and its energy sector cooperating to discuss initiatives being undertaken by the region to ensure that power supplies meet demand.
25, Africa	Africa Day Africa Day is the annual commemoration of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union. The African Union's vision is set out in Agenda 2063 which plans for an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. In recognition of the importance of achieving the Agenda 2063 objectives of regional integration, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development, the African Union declared the Year 2021 as "The AU Year of the Arts, Culture And Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want" .
June 17, Botswana	SADC Ministers of Education virtual meeting

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PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

May - June 2021

1 May	Workers Day	DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
	Labour day	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Eswatini
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
14 May	Kamuzu Day	Malawi
	Eid ul-Fitr (End of Ramadan)*	Madagascar, Mauritius, Tanzania
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
13 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Namibia, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Eswatini,
25 May	Africa Day	Angola, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe
	Africa Freedom Day	Zambia
3 June	The Fete Dieu (Corpus Christi)	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	Constitutional Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC

*Exact date depends on sighting of the new moon



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Chad: François N'Garta Tombalbaye



Congo: Fulbert Youlou



Libya: His Majesty King Idris I



Ivory Coast: Felix Houphouët Boigny



Ethiopia: Emperor Haile Selassie



Liberia: William V.S. Tubman



Madagascar (Malagasy): Philibert Tsiranana



Mali: Modibo Keita



Mauritania: Mokhtar Ould Daddah



Niger: Hamani Diori



Guinea: Ahmed Sékou Touré



Morocco: King Hassan II



Senegal: Léopold Sédar Senghor



Nigeria: Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa



Rwanda: Grégoire Kayibanda



Sierra Leone: Sir Milton Margai



Ghana: Kwame Nkrumah



Somalia: Abdulla Osman



Sudan: El Farik Ibrahim Abboud



Uganda: Milton Apollo Obote



Tunisia: Habib Bourguiba



Togo: Sylvanus Olympio



Tanzania (Tanganyika): *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere

ON 25 MAY 1963, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) (now the African Union) was formed as a vision of Pan-Africanism that grew in a new generation with unity at its core, by the 32 leaders of independent African countries who met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.