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Tribute p7



SADC integration journey has been worthwhile

by Kizito Sikuka

PRESIDENT FELIPE Nyusi of Mozambique, who is the current SADC chairperson, has described the journey travelled by the region since it was established in 1980 to where we are today, as "a miraculous development."

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) emerged from a series of consultations held in the late 1970s by the leaders and officials of the Frontline States to forge a closer alliance for political independence and economic development.

This resulted initially in the formation of a vibrant regional organization, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980, which was transformed to SADC in 1992.

Closer cooperation among the SADC Member States, who now total 16 countries, has led to the achievement of a number of milestones aimed at advancing political freedom into broader socio-economic independence that seeks to improve the living standards for its people.

In his Foreword to the book, *40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration*, that was launched in Maputo in June, President Nyusi said that without the determination shown by the Founding Fathers, the region would not have been as vibrant as it is today.

That generation of visionary leaders included the founding presidents of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, respectively Dr Agostinho Neto, Sir Seretse Khama, Samora Machel, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda and Robert Mugabe, made economic and political sacrifices to ensure that the rest of the region achieved political independence, including the end of systemic apartheid in South Africa.

Their commitment to establish SADC saw them chart a vision that has guided the development and progress of the region in the past 40 years, and is expected to continue shaping the destiny of current and future generations.

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"Driven by the strong desire of the SADC Founding Fathers to see southern Africa achieving political emancipation and economic development, the region has made significant progress in advancing regional cooperation and integration," President Nyusi said.

"Throughout the 1980s we were at war with the then apartheid South Africa which used military strength and economic pressure to prevent and destroy the progress of neighbouring countries."

He said the leadership at that time could not easily communicate with each other or travel freely throughout the region to strategize as well as to trade among themselves, as key infrastructure such as roads and railways were destroyed or damaged.

"The economic cost and the loss of human lives were of an unimaginable magnitude," President Nyusi said, adding, "To be where we are today is a miraculous development."

Since its establishment, SADC has achieved a number of milestones to promote deeper integration and sustainable development.

Initially made up of nine countries -- Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe -- SADC has since grown to 16 members which now include the Union of Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Seychelles.

The growth in membership is an indication of confidence in the regional organization.



On the economic front, SADC has overcome colonial barriers by opening up its borders to encourage the smooth movement of goods, services and people within the region.

This development has improved intra-regional trade, and facilitated the movement of skilled personnel in the region, as well as deepened people-to-people exchanges.

It is now possible for SADC citizens to move more easily within the region without first obtaining a visa, as most countries have signed bilateral agreements to remove any stringent measures that hamper movement.

One major step towards the movement of goods and services was realized in November 2009 with the launch of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) at Chirundu between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This has enabled travellers to be cleared just once for passage into another country, in contrast with the more cumbersome situation in which travellers had to be cleared on both sides of the border. The OSBP has reduced the crossing time, saving most travellers' resources since they no longer wait for long periods to cross the border.

The launch of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2008 has allowed SADC citizens to get better products at lower prices due to increased production in the region.

By attaining FTA status, producers and consumers in the region benefit from a tariff-free trade for all goods originating within the region.

Furthermore, the FTA has increased intra-SADC trade. For example, at its inception in 1980, intra-SADC trade was a mere five percent. However, the coming in of

the FTA has seen an increase from 16.3 percent in 2008 to 21.6 percent in 2016 and 19.3 percent in 2018, according to the *40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration* publication.

With regard to energy development, more SADC citizens now have access to sustainable modern energy services.

This has been made possible through a number of initiatives including the establishment of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), a regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of SADC Member State utilities.

According to the *40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration*, the region has commissioned a total of 24,554 Megawatts of new energy between 2008 and 2018.

SADC has also succeeded in consolidating peace and security.

Except for one or two trouble spots remaining, in eastern DRC and northern Mozambique, SADC is considered as one of the most stable regions in Africa.

In fact, the involvement of SADC to restore peace and stability in some of its Member States has given credence to its ability and effectiveness of the region to solve its own challenges without outside interference.

"Armed with our intimate knowledge of historical developments across the region, SADC has provided leadership whenever political challenges have arisen in Member States," President Nyusi said.

"Such timely interventions have helped to quell tension in situations that otherwise could be worsened."



To ensure the smooth implementation of regional activities, programmes and projects, SADC established a Secretariat in July 1981 as the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation, coordination and management of all SADC Programmes.

More than 33 regional protocols have been enacted to guide regional cooperation and to show commitment to deeper regional integration. These instruments have laid a strong legal and institutional base for advancing regional cooperation.

Another key milestone was the decision by SADC leaders to frontload industrialization in the regional economic integration agenda.

The decision was taken following realization that previous efforts to increase intra-regional trade were being hampered by the fact that there was little capacity in Member States to produce goods that can be traded with other countries.

40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration publication presents the achievements and milestones as well as the challenges since the formation of SADC in 1980 and its transformation from SADCC to SADC in 1992. The book was published by the SADC Secretariat in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

The objective of the publication is to show how far SADC has progressed as a region, with a focus on how regional integration has benefitted citizens, thus promoting greater awareness and participation by the people of the region and their institutions in the process of regional integration. sardc.net □



Mandate, mission of Standby Force to Mozambique approved

SADC HAS endorsed the recommendations of the Report of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation to deploy the SADC Standby Force Mission to Mozambique.

The endorsement was made by the SADC extraordinary summit held in Mozambique. The summit also approved the Mandate for the SADC Standby Force Mission.

In this regard, what is now left for SADC is to prepare and present the instruments of

authority for the deployment of the SADC Standby Force to Mozambique.

The presentation of instruments of authority is expected to be made to the Force Commander of the SADC Mission in Mozambique.

The Force Commander is set to work closely with the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation to carry out the mission.

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).

It 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.

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. □

SADC to collectively tackle COVID-19 pandemic

THE SADC region has made a commitment to collectively confront the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that the gains of integration and development in southern Africa are not reversed.

Described by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the most serious health emergency in generations, COVID-19 has affected the global socio-economic landscape and resulted in the loss of many lives.

Meeting at its Extraordinary Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique, leaders from SADC said as a matter of policy, the region needs to put together its resources and tackle COVID-19 collectively as the pandemic knows no boundaries.

The leaders said in addition to health measures and travel restrictions imposed by most Member States in response to the novel coronavirus, it is critical for the region to put in

place other measures to contain and curb the pandemic.

These measures include the need to pool resources and ensure the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines as a collective body, as well as investing in vaccine research capabilities and developing regional manufacturing capacity for vaccines.

To this end, the "Extraordinary Summit committed to enhance SADC regional and national capacities in research and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and other essential drugs and medicines, promotion of traditional and alternative medicines, and the development of vaccines," reads part of the communique released after the Extra-Ordinary Summit.

The leaders urged the World Trade Organization (WTO) to finalize negotiations on the waiver of certain provisions of the

Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and expedite its operationalization.

The waiver is critical as it will allow countries in the region to develop their own vaccines, thus ensuring that the vaccine is more widely available at a cheaper price.

The current situation is that the countries of the industrialized north that produce the vaccines are prioritizing their own citizens while vaccines are in short supply in non-producing countries of the South.

"Summit called for the end of vaccine nationalism and for equal access to vaccines by all countries," the 16 SADC Member States said in their statement.

The leaders called upon countries that are limiting SADC residents to travel to their countries based on origin and type of vaccine they received, to reconsider their positions.

There are various types of COVID-19 vaccines including that have been declared safe to use. However, there are reports of some countries barring travellers from visiting their countries based on the type of vaccine.

The Summit also emphasized the need for all SADC citizens to continue observing and adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures.

These measures include social distancing at workplaces, regular health screenings and wearing of masks at all times.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Mozambique was the first regional meeting to be held in a physical format since COVID-19 caused a global lockdown in March 2020.

The holding of a face-to-face summit was necessitated by an improvement in COVID-19 response as well as a decline in infections and an increase in the number of people being vaccinated in southern Africa. □



SADC has huge potential to boost its manufacturing sector

by Clarkson Mambo

SADC MEMBER STATES have achieved steady progress in developing and expanding the manufacturing sector.

However, there are still more opportunities for the region to fully harness its manufacturing capacity and ensure that the economies of Member States are diversified.

This is according to the *40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration* publication that was launched at the SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit held in June in Maputo, Mozambique.

The publication notes that in the past few years there has been a significant increase in the share of manufacturing to total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

GDP generally refers to the monetary value of all finished goods and services made within a country or region during a specific period.

For example, the manufacturing sector share of GDP in the region increased from an average of 10.3 percent in 2013 to 11.9 percent in 2018, with most Member States recording growth of above five percent, reads part of the publication.

However, more work needs to be done to expand the manufacturing sector in the region as the structure of industry remains largely undiversified, particularly agriculture and mining, which accounts for an average of over 25 percent of GDP.

This shows that there is vast untapped manufacturing capacity if there is intensified commitment towards value addition and beneficiation in the region, the publication said.

In his Foreword to the publication, the SADC chairperson, President Felipe Nyusi of Mozambique adds that the region should boost its manufacturing sector through value addition and beneficiation of its natural resources, as aspired in the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap aims to accelerate the momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of economies of southern African countries, anchored on three pillars:

- ❖ Enhancing Infrastructure;
- ❖ Strengthening Value Chains; and
- ❖ Corridor Development.

The frontloading of industrialization in the economic integration agenda, through the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap which was adopted in 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe, is yet another example of the region's determination to integrate its economies to claim its rightful place within the global economy, President Nyusi said at the launch of the publication.

Although endowed with some of the richest reserves of minerals in the world and

other natural resources, the region has been a net importer of processed goods until recently, because the bulk of the resources have been exported in raw form.

In this regard, he said improving the region's manufacturing capacity as well as value addition and beneficiation through industrialization, is one of the ways that SADC can dislodge the region's label as an exporter of unprocessed goods, as well as integrate its economies for sustainable development.

Nyusi said it is for this reason that the region adopted the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap in 2015 to ensure that southern Africa trades more internally and ensures that resources intended to develop the region are not shipped in raw form to improve the economies of countries in Europe, Asia and North America.

President Nyusi said value addition and beneficiation of natural resources would ensure that the region extracts maximum value from its natural resources, thus ensuring that the region has a greater portion of the socio-economic benefits that accrue from the resources.

An increase in the manufacturing sector's share of the region's GDP has ripple effects to the economy including an increase in production, employment and foreign cur-

rency generation from export of value-added products.

Most Member States are estimated to be earning a lot of income through the export of raw and unprocessed products such as tobacco, cotton, gold and diamonds.

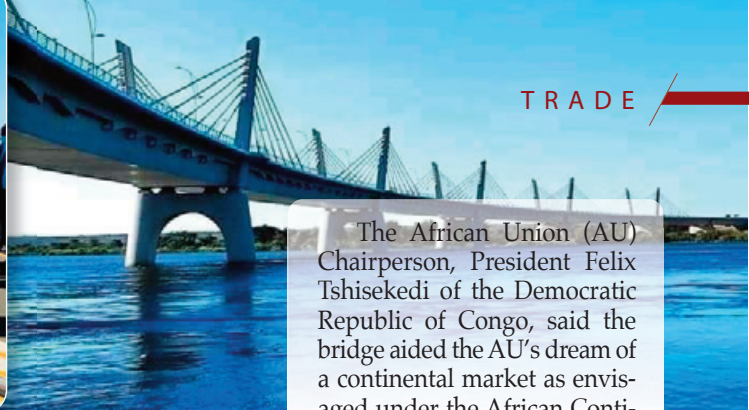
However, these earnings could be doubled if the products are sold in their processed form.

In fact, research shows that some of the raw or semi-processed products from the region are later sold back to the same countries that exported them, as finished goods at a much higher price.

In this regard, to move towards boosting manufacturing capacity, the region needs to come up with vibrant and innovative funding facilities that support the regional manufacturing sector to acquire state of the art machinery and equipment for production.

Ensuring access and availability of reliable energy supplies as well as a strong human resources base is also critical for SADC to expand its manufacturing industry.

The *40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration* publication which presents the achievements, milestones and challenges of SADC since its formation in 1980, was published by the SADC Secretariat in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC). sardc.net □



The African Union (AU) Chairperson, President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said the bridge aided the AU's dream of a continental market as envisaged under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

His Mozambican counterpart, President Felipe Nyusi, who is also the SADC chairperson, added that "the infrastructure is a materialisation of the SADC dream of removing boundaries and barriers between Member States, especially in tourism." □

Kazungula Bridge to promote regional trade

THE SADC REGION took a major step towards promoting regional integration and intra-regional trade with the commissioning of the Kazungula Bridge in May.

The 929-metre bridge built over the Zambezi River connects Botswana and Zambia.

It replaces an old ferry system that was for years used to transport haulage trucks and people from one side of the river to the other, between the two countries.

While the slow ferry system served its purpose, the latest development cuts transit time by allowing seamless movement of goods and persons, as well as making transportation cheaper, faster and safer.

It also decongests the Beitbridge Border Post, one of Africa's busiest posts, that links Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The Beitbridge Border Post was previously the major transit point for traffic destined to Botswana, Zambia and other SADC countries.

The bridge links the two SADC Member States and provides a gateway to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC).

The launch of the Kazungula Bridge and One-Stop-Border-Post in May marked the implementation of one of the flagship projects under the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP).

Approved in 2012, the RIDMP is the strategy for the development of integrated

regional infrastructure in southern Africa at an estimated cost of more than US\$500 billion to meet projected demand by 2027.

Implementation of the RIDMP is being done in three

phases, covering the Short Term Action Plan (STAP) 2012-2017, the Medium Term Action Plan that runs up to 2022, and the Long Term Action Plan to be implemented up to 2027.

SADC hands over chair of the Tripartite Task Force

SADC HAS relinquished the chair of the Tripartite Task Force (TTF) that it shares with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) on 8 June.

During the 33rd meeting of the TTF, the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, handed over the rotational post to the EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mutuku Mathuki.

Dr Tax expressed gratitude to the Secretary Generals of COMESA and EAC, and the technical teams from the Secretariats of COMESA, EAC and SADC for the cooperation, support and dedication which enabled the TTF to register significant milestones, notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

She said that, while the number of Member/Partner States that have ratified the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement (TFTA) increased from 6 to 10 during her tenure in the Chair, there is need to continue to encourage the outstanding Member/Partner States to fast-track the ratification of the TFTA Agreement in order to reach the threshold of

14 Member/Partner States required for the agreement to enter into force.

She stressed the importance of the TFTA as a stepping stone for the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

So far, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia have ratified the TFTA Agreement.

In addition to the approval of Harmonised Tripartite Guidelines on Trade and Transport Facilitation, are the Guidelines for Safe, Efficient and Cost-Effective Movement of Goods and Services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other milestones attained during SADC's tenure as Chair of the Tripartite Task Force include:

- Draft Tripartite Agreement on Movement of Business Persons;
- Draft Annex 1 on Elimination of Import Duties to the Agreement Establishing a TFTA Agreement;
- Vehicle Load Management Agreement;
- Cross Border Road Transport Model Law; and
- Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road Model Law.



These Legal instruments will be presented to Council during its next meetings, and are expected to facilitate effective operationalisation of the TFTA.

Dr Mathuki reaffirmed EAC's commitment to carrying forward the work initiated by the outgoing Tripartite Task Force Chairperson by, among others, mobilising outstanding Member/Partner States to ratify the TFTA Agreement and the AfCFTA so as to achieve a united and integrated Africa in which goods and services move seamlessly across the continent.

The main objective of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite is to strengthen and deepen economic integration of southern and eastern Africa through joint planning, design, coordination, and implementation of joint policies and programmes across the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure development, and industrialisation. *sadc.int* □

SADC launches book documenting 40 years of progress

IN 2020, SADC commemorated 40 years since its founding in 1980, and the culmination of the celebration was the launch in June 2021 of a publication that documents the achievements, milestones and challenges of that 40-year period, titled,

- ❖ *40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration*
- ❖ *40 Anos da SADC: Reforçando a Cooperação e a Integração Regional;*
- ❖ *Les 40 ans de la SADC: Renforcer la coopération et l'intégration régionales.*

The publication, which makes accessible the history and achievements of SADC, was launched in Maputo by the SADC Chairperson, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique.

Published by the SADC Secretariat in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), the book documents the major milestones and achievements as well as the challenges encountered by the regional bloc over the past 40 years.

This shares knowledge about the path the regional organisation has travelled in its quest to integrate, pointing the future trajectory of the Regional Economic Community (REC) as a building block for the African Union and the African Economic Community.

The publication is very informative and its target audiences are the SADC Member States and policy makers, the SADC Secretariat and its subsidiary organisations, international co-operating partners,



President Nyusi and Dr Tax at the launch of the 40 years of SADC Publication

the private sector and investors, scholars, researchers and academic institutions, as well as media houses.

40 Years of SADC covers the period from the formation of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980 through the transformation from SADCC to SADC in 1992, until 2020.

This is a commemorative publication intended to present and celebrate the achievements of unity and integration in the regional community, effective practices and lessons learnt, towards a shared future.

The publication describes milestones as those momentous events or development processes that have contributed to the development of SADC. These include the following, among many others:

- Historic Arusha and Lusaka conferences in 1979 and 1980 that led to the formation of SADCC with the declaration "Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation";
- Decision by the 12th SADC Summit to transform the organisation from a Coordi-

nation Conference into a Community;

- Decision of the Summit in Maputo in August 1999 that led to the restructuring of SADC and centralisation of activities;
- Adoption of the first Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) in 2003;
- Launch of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2008; and
- Adoption of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap in 2015.

The publication also highlights the development of various protocols and other legal instruments for Community Building.

The book is made up of six chapters that cover aspects of the 40-year journey travelled by SADC.

The first chapter gives the regional context and situation in the 1970s and 1980s, and the reason for establishing the SADCC in 1980.

The analysis looks at the role of the independence movement and the Frontline States, leading to Namibia's Indepen-

dence in 1990 and the signing of the SADC Treaty, and the transformation to SADC in Windhoek in 1992, and ultimately the democratic elections in South Africa in 1994.

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the main achievements and milestones in terms of establishing the legal and institutional frameworks for SADC since its formation, while Chapter 3 looks at the SADC governance structure as it has evolved over the years.

Chapter 4 focuses on the plans and achievements made over the past 40 years.

The analysis is presented using the approach adopted under RISDP 2015-2020 where programmes, projects and activities are clustered under three of the four priority pillars of Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infrastructure Support for Regional Integration; and Special Programmes of Regional Dimension.

Chapter 5 looks at the achievements under the fourth pillar of RISDP 2015-2020 that covers Peace and Security, which is regarded as the foundation upon which the three other pillars are anchored.

The final chapter provides some important lessons learnt over the last 40 years that could be considered to advance the regional integration agenda, including key observations and policy considerations.

40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration is a very useful publication to those seeking information about the reasons for the formation of SADC and its progress to date. sadc.int □



SADC pays tribute to President Kenneth Kaunda

THE FOUNDING President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda has died at age 97 after a lifetime of achievement.

His death has deprived Africa of a strong campaigner for unity and deeper economic integration.

Kaunda, who was popularly known as KK died 17 June while undergoing treatment for pneumonia.

Condolence messages from the region and the rest of the African and global community described him as a true son of Africa.

Kaunda was a strong campaigner for African unity and deeper regional integration, and he hosted the seminal meeting of African leaders that approved the Lusaka Declaration in 1969, which set out Africa's commitment to basic principles for freedom and independence.

He later hosted eight other independent countries at a historic summit in Lusaka in April 1980 that launched the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), now the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with the declaration *Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation*.

SADC has achieved many milestones in advancing polit-

ical and economic integration including, among others, the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA), the establishment of a SADC Standby Force as well as the creation of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), where regional utilities are afforded the platform to sell and buy surplus electricity from each other, thereby helping member utilities to meet their growing demand for energy.

The current SADC chairperson, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique said the late President Kaunda was a great leader who fought for the achievement of peace, independence and security in Africa.

He said that SADC and the entire African continent will remember Kaunda as a principled leader who played a key role in the movement that led Zambia to self-determination and full independence.

"The SADC region and the entire African continent are very grateful for the important contribution of former President Kenneth Kaunda to our common efforts to bring about and defend independence, peace and security in the region and across the continent," Nyusi said.

"In fact, his gigantic legacy will shine forever and will inspire the present and future generations of leaders in Zambia, in the region, across the African continent and beyond."

President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi, the incoming

SADC chairperson added that Kaunda was a true pan-Africanist.

"We have lost a part of our history and a pan-Africanist," he said, saying that Zambia and Malawi share a common liberation history.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania said the region and Africa has lost a liberation fighter and patriot.

Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana said the region will never be the same again without its icon, Kaunda.

"I have learnt of the demise of Kenneth Kaunda, the founding father of Zambia, a great statesman, and African leader," he said.

"Kaunda was Botswana's best friend and together with the likes of Sir Seretse Khama, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, championed the liberation and independence of our region."

Botswana declared a seven-day mourning period in honour of the contribution that Kaunda made to deepen regional integration.

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the incoming chairperson of the Organ described the late Kaunda as a pioneering champion of a decolonised, united and prosperous Africa.

"We bow our heads in grief at the passing of a beloved and rightfully revered father of African independence and

unity, President Kenneth KK Kaunda," he said, adding that "we recommit ourselves to building the Africa of KK's vision – an Africa of peace, justice, prosperity and innovation."

President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe paid his tribute to Kaunda saying, "our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the people of Zambia at this time."

Kenneth Kaunda was one of the SADC Founders who, together with other selfless leaders of his generation, sacrificed the economic development of their countries to ensure that the rest of the continent achieved political independence.

These leaders, including the founding Presidents of Tanzania and Botswana, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Sir Seretse Khama formed the core leadership of the Frontline States which guided the liberation struggle and laid the foundation for regional integration and development.

Born on 28 April 1924 in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, Kaunda was the Founding President of Zambia, serving from 1964 to 1991.

After leaving politics, the late Kaunda committed most of his time fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic, through the Kenneth Kaunda Foundation. ▣



SADC centre for humanitarian, emergency op



A REGIONAL humanitarian and emergency operations centre has been established to strengthen collective preparedness and timely response to disasters.

The SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) was launched in June in Nacala district in the Nampula province, Mozambique.

The event was co-chaired by Presidents Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique and his counterpart from Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi.

The centre will function as a regional co-ordination institution to meet the challenges and impacts caused by climate change and to assist in the rapid recovery of the affected Member States, including the supply of equipment for the support teams.

President Nyusi said that the magnitude of the humanitarian impact that has been registered so far has impelled Member States to seek and align their priorities and policies in this regard, to contain the impact and losses resulting from climate disasters.

He said the investment in such initiatives, whose multiple functions include prior notice, intervention before, during and after a disaster, and reinforcement of resilience, also has reasons of economic and social nature.

The centre is coming at a time when SADC has emphasised the need to strengthen climate resilience as well as general preparedness for disasters such as droughts, cyclones, and floods.

These multiple hazards have highlighted the importance of cooperation and coordinated response, as well as the need to develop innovative mechanisms to strengthen resilience, preparedness, and responsiveness for disasters, including pandemics, epidemics, and related hazards.

The establishment of the emergency centre is in line with the SADC Disaster Pre-



paredness and Response Strategy adopted by ministers responsible for disaster risk management in November 2016, which seeks to strengthen the preparedness and response mechanism for early warning as well as recovery from disasters in the region by 2030. □



SADC launches Online Vulnerability Atlas

SADC HAS launched a new Online Vulnerability Atlas as the region positions itself to effectively respond to the increasing impacts of disasters.

The Online Atlas developed by the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme is designed to store and share data relating to food, nutrition, and livelihood security from the 16 SADC countries.

SADC Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Director, Domingos Gove said that the high level of vulnerabilities that characterize the SADC region highlight the critical need for generating and providing decision-makers with credible information to facilitate informed decisions to address emergency food and nutrition insecurity in the region.

The Online Atlas which runs from a server hosted at the SADC Secretariat in

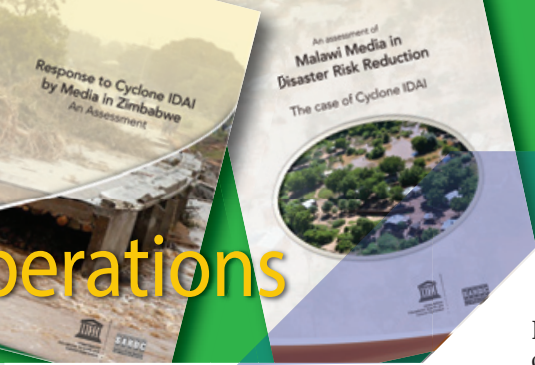
Gaborone, Botswana, is freely accessible from any location with internet connectivity.

It gives users various options such as finding data, analysing trends across space and time, comparing food security behaviour between and amongst different countries in the region and generating maps.

This milestone achievement is part of the initiatives that the SADC RVVA Programme has implemented since its establishment in 2005 to strengthen the capacity of Member States to undertake and utilise vulnerability assessments to inform policy formulation and emergency interventions.

Over the years, the programme generated a wealth of data and information on food, nutrition, and livelihoods security from SADC Member States. The data was however, shared and stored using unreli-

Operations



Regional media capacitated on vulnerability data

able tools which could easily be corrupted or misplaced.

The first phase of the SADC RVAA Programme, which ran from 2005-2011, sought to inform broader approaches to tackling food insecurity, including safety nets and social protection.

The second phase covered the period 2012-2016 and focused on expanding the scope of the programme to include urban areas and chronic poverty issues such as gender, HIV and AIDS, and climate change, as well as influencing policies and programmes.

The current phase of the SADC RVAA Programme, which spans the period 2017-2021, seeks to consolidate gains from the previous phases, while at the same time broadening the programme to cover chronic vulnerability, contributing to climate-resilient livelihoods, and addressing the challenges of institutionalisation and capacity development of national committees.

The new Online Atlas comes at a time when the region is beginning to recover from recurrent droughts and related climate extremes in the previous years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the food insecurity situation in southern Africa as it has adversely affected food and nutrition security and rural livelihoods through increased post-harvest losses as well as disrupting access to key agricultural inputs such as labour and output markets for farmers.

Despite these challenges, Member States have continued to implement similar strategies such as the development of the Atlas to reduce their vulnerability to disasters even during the COVID-19 lockdown phases.

In May 2020, the Ministers responsible for agriculture, food security, fisheries and aquaculture met to review the guidelines developed by the SADC Secretariat in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The strategies include supporting labour migration toward ensuring the uninterrupted harvesting of crops and promoting appropriate measures that increase shelf-life and improve packaging and storage to reduce food loss. □

IT IS important for the media to make sense of vulnerability assessment and analysis data to tell meaningful stories that allow governments and cooperating partners to produce vibrant and relevant developmental programming and emergency responses.

This was the key message from the media training workshop on data journalism which was organized by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in partnership with the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme.

The virtual workshop held on 17 June, aimed to strengthen the capacity of journalists on how they can use vulnerability assessment and analysis data in reporting on food and nutrition security at both national and regional levels.

The SARDC Executive Director, Munetsi Madakufamba, said the media plays an important role in creating public dialogue on food and nutrition security issues, thus keeping the citizenry informed.

He said that this is particularly important in this age where information and data are available from multiple sources, some of which are “fake sources”.

The Senior Advisor for the Disaster Risk Management Unit at SADC Secretariat, Alex Banda said the Secretariat is committed to working with all journalists and media houses to strengthen capacities for dissemination of information on the various vulnerabilities and efforts being undertaken by Member States to increase the region's resilience to shocks. □

Africa launches continental Green Recovery Action Plan

THE AFRICAN Union Commission has launched a Green Recovery Action Plan 2021-2027, a move expected to strengthen the continent's efforts to deal with the impacts of climate change.

The Green Recovery Action Plan seeks to strengthen action on five priority areas that include improving climate finance, supporting the just transition to renewable energy, nature-based solutions and a focus on biodiversity, resilient agriculture, and green and resilient cities.

Chairperson of the African Union, President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo said that a clean and resilient response in Africa will overcome challenges related to public health, prosperity, and climate change, and also create jobs in the industries of the future.

Tshisekedi said that the challenges confronting Africa today are a reminder of the need to think of a recovery that is both inclusive and respectful of the environment and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Chair of the African Islands Climate Commission and President of Seychelles, Wavel Ramkalawan applauded the Action Plan as being complimentary to the African Islands' commitment and efforts to reduce carbon emissions across all sectors, build re-

silience for communities and play a part in supporting the transition to a net-zero carbon emissions economy.

Implementation of the Action Plan is further expected to help Africa build back better and greener from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will contribute towards attaining the targets contained in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and support the continent in achieving the SDGs.

For southern Africa, the Plan will support similar programmes such as the SADC Great Green Wall Initiative, an initiative which aims to restore degraded landscapes and ensure that ecosystems are resilient to climate change, as well as to promote food and nutrition security while creating jobs for many communities, especially women and the youth.

The work on the Action Plan is already underway and will continue until 2027. Implementation of the Action Plan brings together champions from across the international community and AU Member States.

This initiative will utilize existing mechanisms to streamline and amplify green recovery action in partnership with Regional Economic Commissions and regional stakeholders. □



Regional aquaculture framework

SADC HAS piloted a project on “Aligning Regional and National Aquaculture Strategic Frameworks in SADC” in an effort to strengthen national and regional linkages towards achieving regional integration objectives.

The project is being implemented through the Strengthening of the National-Regional Linkages (SNRL) in SADC programmes.

The programme is a partnership between SADC, the European Union (EU) and the German Government as part of the regional process to domesticate, monitor and assess implementation of the Protocol on Fisheries in SADC Member States.

The objective of the aquaculture project is to ensure alignment between regional and national levels within the context of sustainable aquaculture development.

The project, which is being piloted in Botswana, Malawi and Namibia, has resulted in the development of aligned strate-

gies, as well as many other interventions and support to national processes aimed to strengthen implementation of the protocol in the respective countries.

The three pilot countries are on a path to developing sustainable aquaculture value chains, as spelled out in the aligned national aquaculture strategies.

Agriculture is among the priority sectors considered essential to the socio-economic development of citizens in the SADC Region.

By investing in agriculture, SADC Member States are able to leverage the benefits of regional agriculture and agro-processing value chains, access to international markets and

pool resources to achieve economies of scale.

The fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector is one of the components of agriculture which has over the years played a key role in providing socio-economic benefits and support livelihoods for many people and communities in the region. □

Seychelles, first country to report on fisheries transparency

SEYCHELLES IS the first in the world to submit its report to Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

The country is a major player in the global tuna industry, with Port Victoria one of the busiest industrial fishing ports in the Western Indian Ocean.

FiTI is a global multi-stakeholder partnership that defines information that national authorities must publish on the fisheries sector.

By making fisheries management more transparent

and inclusive, FiTI promotes informed public debates on fisheries policies and supports the long-term contribution of the sector to national economies and the well-being of citizens and businesses that depend on a healthy marine environment.

The SADC Secretariat commended Seychelles for having achieved this remarkable feat amidst challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“Seychelles has been exemplary and SADC Secretariat

wishes to encourage other Member States to learn from this,” the Secretariat said in a statement.

“The Secretariat and its partners are ready to support other Member States where necessary to emulate Seychelles and strengthen efforts to improve sustainable management of fisheries. All this is in support of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries, which encourages Member States to exchange and/or make available information essential for ensuring sustainable utilisation of the aquatic resources and ecosystems in the SADC region.”

Transparency is recognised as an important tool to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU). In fact, lack of transparency allows illegal operators to create as much confusion as possible around their identities; escaping detection by changing vessel names; concealing ownership; flying different flags to avoid detection; or removing ships from registers entirely.

These weaknesses allow illegal fishing to thrive.

It is estimated that IUU fishing costs the global economy between US\$10 and US\$23.5 billion every year, more than US\$50 million in the SADC region, and is a critical factor undermining efforts to achieve sustainable fisheries. □

Malawi signs charter on fisheries

MALAWI HAS signed the Charter establishing the SADC Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) and has launched the SADC-aligned National Aquaculture Strategy and a report on “Working Together to protect our Fisheries”.

Malawi became the ninth State Party to the Charter establishing MCSCC, joining Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Two-thirds of the 16 SADC Member States are required to sign the Charter for it to enter into force.

The Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources of Malawi, Hon. Nancy Tembo said that by signing the Charter establish-

ing the MCSCC, Malawi demonstrated the need for regional cooperation and recognised the important role that the centre would play in advancing the SADC regional integration agenda.

The objective of the Charter is to provide a legal framework for the establishment and operationalisation of an institution that will coordinate measures relating to fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance in the SADC Region.

Tembo encouraged the SADC Secretariat to continuously engage other Member States which have not yet signed the Charter to do so to enable the region to realise the commitment to fight Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing through establishment of the MCSCC.



Fisheries and aquaculture provide a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world.

However, in a world of growing population and persistent hunger, fish has emerged as an important commodity for the achievement of food and nutrition security, hence domestication and implementation of these regional priorities and instruments is very important for the SADC Region.

This is particularly critical if one considers the various challenges facing the fishery and aquaculture. These challenges include IUU fishing, fish diseases, degradation of aquatic habitats, overfishing and negative ecosystem impacts, as well as the current COVID-19 pandemic. □



SADC happy with new efficient lighting standards

EFFICIENT ELECTRICITY use in homes, businesses and public facilities is one of the fastest and cheapest ways of accelerating sustainable development and access to energy. SADC Member States are making steady to support the development of vibrant markets for energy efficient lighting and appliances across the region.

The SADC Cooperation in Standardisation (SADCSTAN) Executive Committee in late April reviewed and approved the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for lighting products.

This was in line with the Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) project, implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) which aims to support the development of vibrant markets for energy efficient lighting and appliances across east and southern Africa.

The review and adoption of the SADCSTAN was preceded by a regional consultation process that lasted several months.

A series of online meetings were held with the SADCSTAN Regional Technical Committee to discuss technical notes, content and the selection of metrics for the draft MEPS for lighting.

SADC Member States' input into the draft MEPS were a vital contribution that helped to strengthen the standards.

SADCSTAN Chairperson Romana Marunda, said that "the SADCSTAN looks forward to future collaboration under this programme in the work on hand for MEPS on air conditioning and refrigeration appliances."

"We also urge the SADC Member States to adopt the harmonized standards in

their respective countries. These deliverables will go a long way in demonstrating SADCSTAN's relevance in driving the regional agenda."

MEPS are used by regulators to make sure that products meet certain specified criteria related to energy performance, quality of service and longevity.

They are used by countries around the world as an effective way of encouraging suppliers to develop and deliver quality, energy-efficient products.

Thus, MEPS are one of the key policy options used to accelerate market transformation to energy-efficient and climate friendly appliances,

and protect markets from becoming dumping grounds for products and appliances rejected elsewhere.

Executive Director for the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), Kudakwashe Ndhelukula noted that "in the long-term, standardized approaches in all countries can also contribute to consumers saving money on their electricity bills, and increase industrial productivity and competitiveness, as well as reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions."

The standards are an important milestone in the realization of the decree adopted by SADC Energy Ministers to phase out inefficient lighting.

Work on Mpanda Nkuwa Dam to start in 2024

WORK ON the Mpanda Nkuwa hydroelectric dam in the western province of Tete in Mozambique will begin in 2024.

The Director of the Mpanda Nkuwa Construction and Development Office, Carlos Yum said preparations for the construction are going on well.

"The first stone will be laid in 2024, after the financial close of the project. The job will take between six and seven years because it will be aligned to the cycles of the rains."

The new dam, located about 60 kilometres downstream from the existing dam at Cahora Bassa, will generate about 1,500 megawatts of power.

He said before the construction begins, the design of the station will be revised in order to ensure that it is com-

patible with the current demands of the national and regional electricity sector.

This will involve revising studies on the social and environmental impact of the dam, the economic and financial impact, and the study on the transmission of the power generated at Mpanda Nkuwa. These are essential documents for guaranteeing that funds can be raised for the project.

The Mpanda Nkuwa hydroelectric dam project has been in the pipeline for many decades, and Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique relaunched the project in 2018.

When completed, it will be the second largest electricity generating infrastructure in Mozambique after Cahora Bassa, consolidating Mozambique's position as one of the major producers of electricity in southern African. □

"The adoption of a harmonized standards across the SADC region is a perfect example of the impact that such collaboration can offer. The standards will be an essential element in the long-term development of dynamic markets for energy-efficient lighting and appliances in Southern Africa." *sacreee.org* □

Tanzania to build new hydropower plant



THE UNITED Republic Of Tanzania has approved a US\$140 million deal to construct a 50MW Malagarasi hydroelectric power station.

The deal was signed with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF).

The AfDB is expected to provide a concessional loan of US\$120 million, while AGTF will finance the other US\$20 million.

The Malagarasi Hydropower projects involves the construction of a run-of-river power plant, and is expected to enable about 4,250 grid connections in rural areas, providing reliable renewable energy to households, schools, clinics and small and medium enterprises in the country. □

Mauritius ready to sign SADC gender protocol

by Nyarai Kampilipili

MAURITIUS IS expected to sign the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development soon, a move that signifies the country's commitment to gender equality and equity.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which entered into force in 2013 and was later revised in 2016, provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination, and achievement of gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

All SADC Member States are party to the Protocol, with the exception of Mauritius and the Union of Comoros, which is the newest member of SADC.

Mauritius had previously objected to the Protocol because of a clause on child marriage that conflicted with the country's civil code which allowed children to marry below the age of 18 but above 16 with parental consent.

However, a new legislation finalized in December 2020 and awaiting promulgation, will repeal the Child Protection Act and replace it with a more comprehensive and modern legislative framework which addresses the shortcomings of the Child Protection Act that allowed marriage below the age of 18.

The new Children's Bill of Mauritius states that no religious marriage shall be celebrated unless the parties to the religious marriage are aged 18 or above.

This development now opens the way for Mauritius to be party to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The process of being party to a regional instrument requires

various stages, first signing and then ratification, a process that differs from country to country.

The protocol enters into force following ratification by two-thirds of SADC Member States. This advances the regional law from being a stated intention to actual application.

Member states that join after a protocol has entered into force are said to "accede" to the protocol.

In this regard, once Mauritius signs the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, it will accede to the protocol and sign an Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which was revised in 2016.

According to Article 22 (11) of the SADC Treaty and Article 38 (3) of the SADC

Protocol on Gender and Development, an amendment to a protocol after it has entered into force shall

be adopted by a decision of three-quarters of member states who are party to the protocol.

A total of 12 SADC Member States have signed the agreement amending the protocol -- Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Malawi and South Africa are yet to sign the amendment. □



Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

SADC MEMBER States have, through the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, put in place mechanisms aimed at advancing the status of women and youth as they play a critical role in the attainment of SADC objectives.

The revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and attainment of gender equality and equity through enactment of gender-responsive legislation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was revised 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 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the African Union Agenda 2063.

SDG Goal 5, for example, 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 early and forced child marriages, and female genital mutilation; and ensuring the full and effective participation of women with 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.

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. □





Time to end child labour

MEMBER STATES should strengthen efforts to safeguard the wellbeing of children by taking decisive and practical actions to end child labour.

This was the key message from the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax on World Day against Child Labour.

Celebrated annually on 12 June, World Day against Child Labour aims to raise awareness on the illegal practice of child labour as well as the need to address this practise.

The theme for this year's commemorations was "Act Now: End Child Labour".

In fact, since 2002, the World Day against Child Labour has focused on the need for everyone to play a part in ensuring that children have the best foundation to realise their full potential as responsible and productive members of society.

Dr Tax said while other parts of the world are making steady progress to curb child labour, the situation in SADC is still worrisome.

In this regard, there is need for greater resolve and practical action by Member States to address the situation, particularly now that the rest of the global community is reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen most economies scale down and has destroyed livelihoods of many and deepened poverty, thereby adding pressure on children to supplement household incomes through work.

"To mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on children, may I call upon SADC Member States to continue implementing appropriate relief measures and interventions targeting the poor and vulnerable, including in particular children, who are

more disproportionately affected," Dr Tax said in her message.

She said the provision of adequate social security including cash transfers and food handouts, remain critical interventions for many families to curb child labour in these COVID-19 times.

"At the same time, education policies need to be sufficiently responsive to the plight of children, especially those from poor families whose capacity to meet basic schooling requirements such as school fees has been undermined."

According to the latest International Labour Organization (ILO) / United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) global report, sub-Saharan Africa has recorded an additional 16.6 million children in child labour in the last four years, while the estimated global figure increased from 152 million to 160 million.

Despite the challenges, Dr Tax said it was commendable that all SADC Member States have ratified the core international treaties relating to the protection of children from child labour.

These treaties include the ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) and ILO Convention No. 182 on Abolition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999), which has been universally ratified by all ILO Member States.

Convention 138 was developed to regulate child labour by setting a minimum age for admission to employment that the signatories are to respect.

Convention No. 182 calls for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, which includes slavery, forced labour and trafficking.

It forbids the use of children under 18 in armed conflict, pros-

titution, pornography, illicit activities such as drug trafficking, and in hazardous work.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by world leaders in 2015 include a renewed global commitment to ending child labour.

Specifically, target 8.7 of the SDGs calls on the global community to "take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms."

In addition to these international conventions, there are

various laws and policy measures put in place by SADC to prevent and combat child labour.

These include the SADC Code on Child Labour which provides guidelines for the Member States on the issue of combating Child Labour.

The World Day against Child Labour was launched by the ILO in 2002 to raise global attention on actions and efforts to combat child labour.

To commemorate the Day, various stakeholders including governments, employers and workers organizations and the civil society come together each year to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them. □



South Africa to host global conference on child labour

THE 5TH Global Conference on Eradication of Child Labour will be held in Africa for the first time in history. Scheduled for 2022, the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour (VGC) will take place in South Africa. The South African Minister of Labour, Thembelani Nxesi said preparations for the conference are moving smoothly. SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the region will support South Africa to ensure the event is a huge success.

"SADC looks forward to the 5th Global Conference on the Eradication of Child Labour, to be hosted by South Africa in 2022, and is confident that this occasion will provide the region with an opportunity to share experiences and intensify action to end child labour through global and regional solidarity."

At the conference, stakeholders will share experiences on ending all forms of child labour by 2025, and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030. □

SADC sends technical team to Eswatini

SADC IS studying the political and security situation in the Kingdom of Eswatini, and is working with the country to find a lasting solution.

The Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, dispatched a ministerial fact-finding mission to the Kingdom on two occasions, and later a technical team to assess the situation.

"The mission will analyse the political and security situation in the country, with a view to support the people of Eswatini towards finding a durable solution," President Masisi said in a statement.

Masisi called for national dialogue in efforts towards resolving the country's political and socio-economic challenges.

"SADC wishes to reassure the people of Eswatini and the Kingdom of Eswatini of its continued commitment and support. It is our hope that all concerned parties will continue to uphold and embrace peaceful means in addressing their differences and challenges," he said.

Orderly engagement in Eswatini is critical, particularly now that the country and the rest of the global community are battling to contain the spread and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zambia prepares for elections

ZAMBIANS WILL go to the polls in August for the sixth general elections since multi-party elections began in 1991 to choose a President, Members of Parliament and



The Government of Eswatini said citizens are free to exercise their constitutional right to protest, but took exception to the violent destruction of property.

Political disturbances in June resulted in widespread destruction of property and injuries to people when protests turned violent and protestors were engaged in clashes with security details.

The Acting Prime Minister, Themba Masuku said government had received the issues that protestors want addressed and they are "getting the necessary attention with the seriousness they deserve."

Protestors in Eswatini are calling for constitutional reforms and an end to the monarchy, as well as the lifting of the ban on opposition parties. □



SADC condemns violent protests in South Africa

SADC CONDEMNED the violence took place in South Africa as posing a risk to the region's economic recovery prospects.

The violent protests, which started in the province of KwaZulu-Natal and spread to Gauteng, seem to have been triggered by the arrest of former South African President, Jacob Zuma on contempt of court charges, but expanded rapidly into extensive looting of shops and warehouses, destruction of property and closure of main highways in the south of the country.

SADC Chairperson, President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique said South Africa occupies a strategic position in the region and instability in that country would have a negative impact on the region.

"The violent protests are not only a threat to human life, they breed instability, stifle economic growth, amplify risks and halt the much-needed return to investment," he said, adding that, "SADC therefore unreservedly condemns these attacks on properties, businesses and persons." □



Local Government representatives.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has registered about seven million voters, who are expected to cast their ballots in the polls in which 16 candidates are vying for the presidency and 156 parliamentarians will be elected.

As in the past two general elections, the incumbent, President Edgar Lungu, who is seeking re-election, faces opposition leader, Hakainde Hichilema, as his main challenger.

The party in government, the Patriotic Front (PF) which President Lungu leads, has expressed confidence of winning the polls, regardless of the stiff competition expected from Hichilema's United Party for National Development (UNDP).

President Lungu, who came to power in 2015 following the death of then President Michael Sata, was allowed to contest in this year's elections by the Constitutional Court in 2018, after the opposition had sought to have him blocked arguing that he had served two terms already.

In the 2016 elections, the PF party won 80 of the 156 parliamentarian seats, while the UNDP had 58, with the remainder shared among independent candidates and other smaller parties.

Addressing the challenges facing the country's economy was the main rallying point for campaigns by both President Lungu and Hichilema. President Lungu has also focused on tightening control of the country's natural resources.

Hichilema's campaign rode on the need to improve performance of the economy and reduce food prices as well as availing more employment opportunities for the youth.

Election campaigning is somewhat restricted in that large gatherings are not allowed as the country is battling the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw political parties resorting to door-to-door and social media campaigns. □



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June – August 2021

June

5, Global

World Environment Day

Celebrated each year on 5 June, World Environment Day is intended to raise awareness on the need to conserve and protect the environment. This year's theme is "Ecosystem Restoration."

16, South Africa

Youth Day

16 June is a significant date in the history of South Africa. On that day in 1976, the youth in Soweto resisted and marched against apartheid. Their peaceful march was met with force, resulting in many casualties but giving a new impetus and inspiration to resistance.

16, Virtual

SADC Education Ministerial Meeting

The meeting to be held in a virtual format will review progress and discuss ways of improving education as well as science, technology and innovation in the region.

17, Global

Desertification and Drought Day

The 2021 Desertification and Drought Day will focus on turning degraded land into fertile land. Restoring degraded land can bring economic resilience, create jobs, raise incomes and increase food security.

July

7, Virtual

Ministerial Committee of the Organ

This meeting of the ministerial committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation will discuss and assess progress on the political and security situation in the region, particularly the situation in northern Mozambique.

30, Virtual

SADC Ministerial Taskforce on Regional Integration

The Taskforce is expected to deliberate on issues of regional integration including implementation of SADC Vision 2050 and the Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030).

August

12, Zambia

General Elections in Zambia

Zambia will on 12 August hold its sixth general elections since multi-party elections began in 1991 to choose a President, Members of Parliament and Local Government representatives.

17, Malawi

41st SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government

SADC leaders meet annually in August to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The 41st Summit set for Malawi under the theme "*Bolstering Productive Capacities in the Face of COVID-19 Pandemic for Inclusive, Sustainable, Economic and Industrial Transformation.*"

26, Virtual

Gender Ministers Meeting

The Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs will review progress on the implementation of regional programmes aimed at advancing gender equality and equity in southern Africa.

30-31, Virtual

Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum

Climate experts from SADC Member states attend the annual SARCOF meeting to present a consensus outlook for the 2021/2022 rainfall season in SADC.

A momentous day for African unity

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

Speaking of this unity, *Mwalimu* Julius Kambarage Nyerere said, "Without unity, there is no future for Africa."

Mwalimu Nyerere was the founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and one of the founders of the OAU, East African Community (EAC), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Speaking of unity in 1963, he reminded the founding summit of the OAU that it was faced with one task, "the task of finding a common denominator, which will guide us in our determination to rid our continent of the remaining vestiges of colonialism and in our determination to see Africa speaking with the same voice."

His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia, who hosted the first OAU Summit, had this to say, "This is indeed a momentous and historic day for Africa and for all Africans."

"We seek, at this meeting, to determine wither we are going and to chart the course of our destiny...An awareness of our past is essential to the establishment of our personality and our identity as Africans."

The leaders were inspired by a common vision of African Unity, and from West Africa, Kwame Nkrumah the founding President of Ghana said, "A whole continent has imposed a mandate upon us to lay the foundation of our Union at this Conference. It is our responsibility to execute this mandate..."

The main purpose of the OAU was to accelerate political liberation of the African continent, with more than 20 countries still under colonial rule. Their tool for achieving this, the OAU Liberation Committee, was established at the first Summit, hosted by Tanzania, and most liberation movements were based there at one time or another.

After achieving that goal of political independence, the OAU was transformed into the African Union in 2002 to promote Africa's growth and economic development by championing citizen inclusion and increased cooperation and integration of African states.

Unity is still the key, and most recently the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) became operational on 1 January 2021.

This year, the 58th anniversary since the formation of the Africa Union is being celebrated under the theme *The AU Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want*.

The theme is in line with the aspirations of the AU vision, Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want. Aspiration 5 envisions "An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics." This calls for promotion, safeguarding and sharing of the Africa's common heritage.

In support of this, the UNESCO office in Nairobi hosted a virtual conference on 25-26 May on integrating the General History of Africa into schools curricula. The conference was titled, *Stock Taking and Experience Sharing on New Approaches for the Renovation of History Teaching and Learning about Africa*.

The objective of the conference was to promote the integration of the General History of Africa pedagogical materials into national school curricula and to share the positive experience from Kenya, while taking stock of relevant initiatives in the region and beyond.

In southern Africa, SADC in partnership with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa embarked on a review of the history curriculum in the region at the request of Ministers of Education. A Roadmap for integrating Global Citizenship Education and Liberation History in teaching and learning is now being developed, building on the material collected by SADC under the Hashim Mbita Project on *Southern African Liberation Struggles*.

SADC and UNESCO in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) have started to develop resource materials that support this initiative under the Regional Dimensions and Linkages of National Liberation Movements Heritage Programme.

These efforts seek to promote regional integration and linkages, social cohesion and values, and peaceful coexistence in the region, targeting especially youth through teaching of Southern African Liberation History, which is part of the broader concept of *Ubuntu*. □



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PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June – August 2021

3 June	Corpus Christi	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	Constitution Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
5 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
	Independence Day	Comoros
	Unity Day	Zambia
7 July	Saba Saba Industry Day	Tanzania
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
19 July	President's Day	Botswana
20 July	President's Day Holiday	Botswana
20 July	Ide el Kabir	Comoros
21 July	Ide el Kabir Holiday	Comoros
22 July	Birthday of late King Sobhuza	Eswatini
	Parents Day	DRC
2 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
9 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
10 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Seychelles
20 August	Muharram	Comoros
17 August	SADC Day*	All
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia

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