



SADC approves regional parliament

by Munetsi Madakufamba

SADC LEADERS have approved the much-awaited SADC Regional Parliament, bringing on board what has long been seen as the missing piece in the regional integration jigsaw puzzle.

"Summit approved the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a SADC Parliament as a consultative and a deliberative body," said the outgoing SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, in delivering the final communiqué at the closing session of the two-day 41st SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 17-18 August.

ASADC Regional Parliament will ensure broader citizen participation in regional affairs. It will also facilitate a more extensive debate on regional issues and thus accelerate the implementation of SADC protocols that need to be ratified and domesticated into national legislation.

This can become a key driver of integration and development, bridging the gap between citizens and policy makers.

The Summit decision is to establish the SADC Parliament as a "consultative and

deliberative body" with no law-making or other binding authority in the initial instance.

The regional parliament is expected to observe and respect the sovereignty of SADC Member States while in operational terms it would consult and liaise with other SADC institutions and structures such as the Council of Ministers through which its recommendations would be channeled for consideration by Summit.

Regarding the relationship with national parliaments, the new regional parliament is expected to facilitate the drafting of model laws while the former will continue their legislative role in domesticating regional laws as well as oversight role on the effective implementation of executive programmes and projects at the national level.

The Legislature has long been seen as the missing arm of the three arms of SADC, the other two being the Executive, represented by the SADC Secretariat headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana, and the Judiciary, represented by the Tribunal, based in Windhoek, Namibia.



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The SADC Secretariat was established through a decision of Summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1981 and operational from 1 July 1982.

The Tribunal was formally established through a Summit decision of 2005 in Gaborone with its first judges being sworn in later the same year. It would later be disbanded in 2010 and reconstituted in 2012 with its mandate confined to the interpretation of the SADC Treaty and Protocols relating to disputes between Member States.

Thus, with the Executive and Judiciary firmly in place, SADC lacked a systematic and coordinated channel for the collective voice of Member State parliaments at continental and global fora, for example in processes and deliberations at the Pan African Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

It is widely acknowledged that the establishment of the SADC Parliament is an important milestone in SADC's integration agenda.

This is a crucial step that will also ensure that citizens' views are incorporated into regional policy-making processes.

But even more important, the decision puts SADC in line with other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that have their own regional parliamentary assemblies.

Other African regional parliaments include the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development Member States (IPU-IGAD) for the Horn of Africa, and the Network of Parliamentarians of the Economic Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).

The first historic steps towards the establishment of a regional parliament were taken at a SADC Summit in 1997 in Blantyre, Malawi when the decision to form the SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF) was made to "constitute a Parliamentary Consultative Assembly, the ultimate goal being the establishment of a Regional Parliamentary Framework for dialogue on issues of regional interest and concern."

The SADC PF was established as an autonomous institution of SADC to bring regional experiences to bear at the national level, and to promote best practices in the role of parliaments in regional co-operation and integration.

It currently has a membership of 15 parliaments representing over 3,500 parliamentarians in the SADC region.

The member parliaments are Angola, Botswana, Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

However, the SADC PF has not been functioning as a parliamentary institution but rather as an association of parliaments, discharging its mandate mainly through the convening of conferences, workshops and seminars. It had until this decision struggled to have its mandate transformed into a regional parliament.

The latest Summit decision has come following an extended lobbying mission championed by some Speakers of national parliaments who saw clearly the vision of transforming the SADC PF into a regional parliament. The lobbying missions were largely aimed at building regional consensus on the need for a SADC Parliament, and to expedite the process.

"We are delighted to finally witness the fruits of our long toil to have our status upgraded coming to fruition," the SADC PF Secretary General, Boemo Sekgoma said, reacting to the historic decision of the Lilongwe Summit.

She added, "The SADC PF Secretariat stands ready to work with our colleagues at the SADC Secretariat to implement our proposed roadmap to

transform the Forum into a regional Parliament."

According to a SADC PF statement, Summit has also approved a roadmap that outlines steps to be undertaken to establish the regional legislature, including the amendment of the SADC Treaty and adoption of the Protocol establishing the regional legislature.

"To expedite the transformation process, the Summit directed the SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with the SADC PF Secretariat, to commence on the amendment of the SADC Treaty with a view to recognize SADC Parliament as one of the SADC institutions under Article 9(1) to be considered by Council during its next meeting in March 2022, and subsequently by Summit in August 2022," says a SADC PF statement.

Further, the Summit has directed the two Secretariats to commence the process of drafting a protocol establishing the SADC Parliament. The details of the composition, powers, functions, procedures and other related matters of the regional parliament are expected to be prescribed in the protocol that is soon to be considered for adoption by Summit.

The SADC PF's current headquarters in Windhoek are expected to serve as the headquarters of the SADC Regional Parliament. sardc.net □



SADC makes decisions on integration, security

SADC HAS made far-reaching decisions aimed at deepening integration and promoting sustainable development through industrialisation and ensuring continued peace and security in the region.

The measures are contained in a communique released soon after the 41st SADC Summit held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 17-18 August.

In line with the industrialisation agenda, the Summit endorsed the theme, "Bolstering Productive Capacities in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, for Inclusive, Sustainable Economic and Industrial Transformation."

"The theme takes forward the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 with a specific focus on enhancing regional productive capacities," the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said while reading out the communique.

Under the industrialisation strategy and roadmap, SADC is aiming for more investment and diversification to boost the performance of its manufacturing sector to produce and sell more processed goods.

The target is to double the share of manufactured goods that the region produces and sells to 30 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2030 and to 40 percent by 2050.

However, to aid the region's growth and development agenda, SADC has said peace and security is the cornerstone.

To this end, the 41st Summit endorsed an Action Plan for the Implementation of a Security Threats Report and urged Member States to implement interventions contained in the plan.

The leaders also received an update on the security situa-

tion in Cabo Delgado Province in northern Mozambique and commended SADC Member States for pledging personnel and providing financial support towards the deployment of the SADC Standby Force to Mozambique.

In relation to this, the Summit noted that an Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, and an Agreement regarding the Status of the SADC Standby Force and its components deployed within the region for training, peace support operations, exercises and humanitarian assistance, would be signed by Member States.

"Some Members States have already signed the Agreements at this Summit," Dr Tax said.

In support of its objective of ensuring the region is safe and peaceful, the Summit commended the United Republic of Tanzania for offering to host the Regional Counter Terrorism Centre, which will offer dedicated and strategic advisory services on terrorism threats.

The Summit also received a social-economic overview of the region, regional food and nutrition security, gender and development, HIV and AIDS, and the implementation of the 40th Summit theme.

The 40th Summit theme, "SADC 40 Years, Building Peace and Security, Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges," was implemented under the leadership of the outgoing SADC Chair, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique.

The leaders reaffirmed the region's position on the creation of a SADC Central Bank and Monetary Union as a long-term objective to be

premised on fulfilling preconditions that include the harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies of SADC countries and greater convergence of banking systems.

With regards to the African Union (AU), the Summit expressed concerns and objected to the unilateral decision taken by the African Union Commission in July 2021 to grant the State of Israel observer status to the AU.

SADC has called for the observance of principles of international law and all relevant United Nations Resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State based on the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital in implementation of the two-State solution.

The Summit reiterated its call for the unconditional removal of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe, and pledged to support the country in its efforts to promote sustainable development.

At its 39th Summit held in Tanzania, SADC leaders declared 25 October "as the date on which SADC Member States can collectively voice their disapproval of the sanctions through various activities

and platforms until the sanctions are lifted."

The 41st Summit elected President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi as the SADC Chairperson, and President Félix Tshisekedi of the DRC to follow as Incoming Chairperson.

President Cyril Ramaphosa was elected Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and President Hage Geingob of Namibia to follow as Incoming Chairperson of the Organ.

The Summit appointed a new SADC Executive Secretary to replace Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax of the United Republic of Tanzania, who was appointed in 2013 and has completed two four-year terms.

The new Executive Secretary is Elias Mpedi Magosi from Botswana.

Dr Tax was commended for "having served the Organisation professionally, diligently, and with high level of competence."

As the new SADC Chairperson, President Chakwera said the "Summit's landmark resolutions are the impetus that we need to drive the SADC regional integration agenda and address the numerous challenges that we face." □

Consultations begin for SADC Model Law on GBV

THE SADC Parliamentary Forum has begun consultations to develop the SADC Model Law on Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The GBV Model Law will be a useful tool for SADC as it will encourage national legislatures to enact GBV laws where none exist, or to review such laws where they do exist and ensure conformity with this Model Law, and with regional and international human rights frameworks.

It will also provide a yardstick to national policy analysts, legislators, and implementers as to best practices.

The proposed process of drafting a SADC model law on GBV is in response to the prevailing shortfalls in legislation on GBV and the chronic implementation gap across the region. □



SADC to speak with one voice on climate

by Neto Nengomasha

THE NEW SADC Chairperson has been urged Member States to speak with one voice and use a common strategy in addressing the impacts of climate change.

President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi emphasized this in his remarks to the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government hosted in Lilongwe on 17-18 August.

President Chakwera said that COVID-19 has exacerbated the impacts of climate change which accounts for many disasters in the region and threatens to reverse developmental gains.



He said that the unusual climate impacts have claimed thousands of lives, displaced communities, and hampered infrastructure development, as well as regional efforts to eradicate poverty and food insecurity.

"I therefore urge member states to employ a common strategy to address the impacts and speak with one voice especially

now as we approach the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change."

The COP26 summit scheduled for November this year in Glasgow, Scotland is expected to accelerate action toward the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This comes after the Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa 2021 was released in August, indicating the possibility of widespread food and nutrition insecurity in the region.

The report says that this year, in the 10 SADC Member States that submitted data, an estimated 47.6 million people are food insecure, which is a 5.5 percent increase from last year.

Although favourable rainfall led to improved cereal and livestock production over most of the region, the above-average rainfall season was coupled with a destructive cyclonic activity, with five such weather systems making landfall.

In January 2021, large areas of cropland were flooded by Tropical Cyclone Eloise in Mozambique, and affected parts of Eswatini, Madagascar, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The central and southern provinces of Mozambique were also affected by Tropical Cyclone Guambe in the beginning of February. In late December

2020, Tropical Storm Chalane caused some flooding in Mozambique.

These storms are estimated to have affected more than 500,000 people and damaged 220,000 hectares of farmland, while some member states also experienced localized prolonged dry spells, including Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Madagascar, and Mozambique.

The report further indicates that even with sufficient production, lower or lost incomes due to COVID-19 have led to a reduction in household purchasing power. The lockdowns have also caused a catastrophic seven percent reduction in regional Gross Domestic Product.

The SADC region has suffered similar disasters previously which negatively impacted on food security and livelihoods, and many lives were lost.

Between January and April 2019, southern Africa faced several weather-related phenomena such as Tropical Cyclones Desmond, Idai and Kenneth, which caused extensive flooding in the Union of Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Cyclone Idai, recorded as one of the worst tropical storms to ever affect Africa and the southern hemisphere, claimed hundreds of lives and left a trail of destruction, including severe damage to key infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools and clinics.

More than 800,000 hectares of cropland as well as crops and seed stocks were destroyed by the cyclone, while some 3.3 million people were left in need of immediate humanitarian assistance such as food, shelter, clothing, potable water, sanitation and medical support. □

Tanzania to host Meteorological Association of Southern Africa

SADC MEMBER States have agreed to the offer made by the United Republic of Tanzania to host the Secretariat of the Meteorological Association of Southern Africa.

This was one of the key outcomes of the meeting held by SADC Ministers responsible for Transport, Information Communication Technologies, and Meteorology on 9 July to dis-

cuss various sectoral issues around infrastructure and development in support of the regional integration and development agenda.

The decision was further confirmed by the 41st SADC Summit held in August in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The Meteorological Association of Southern Africa (MASA) was established to promote the

e change



development, establishment, and operation of efficient, affordable, and accessible meteorological services within the SADC region.

The Association was established in pursuance of the co-operation envisaged in the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology which came into force in July 1998.

MASA is composed of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of the region, and replaces the Sub-Sectorial Committee on Meteorology which had been in existence since 1999.

Discussions among the National Meteorological Services began in 2006 and the formation of MASA was approved in Gaborone, Botswana during the SADC Transport Ministers meeting in October 2007.

The MASA constitution was signed by nine countries in May 2009 in Swakopmund, Namibia, prior to the meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Transport and Meteorology.

Having attained the required quorum of signatories, MASA immediately became operational with the interim secre-

tariat being institutionalized in the South African Weather Service in Pretoria.

The establishment of MASA is set against the background of the important role that meteorological services play in socio-economic development of SADC countries, the protection of life and property and the sustainable protection of the environment.

Ministers at this meeting also called for the strengthening of cooperation between SADC and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and encouraged Member States to collaborate with WMO to improve the delivery of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to better serve society and socio-economic needs.

This development is part of the efforts being made by SADC to prepare for the post-pandemic era and to implement the SADC Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30.

On the question of Climate Change, the SADC Vision 2050 seeks to strengthen resilience to climate change and improve disaster risk management in the region, while RISDP 2020-30

emphasizes on resilience and the need to strengthen climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

The hosting of MASA by the United Republic of Tanzania is

therefore a welcome development during this time when southern Africa continues to face an array of vulnerabilities emanating from climate change. □

Regional weather forecast and projections to be released soon

THE REGIONAL weather forecast for the 2021/22 agricultural season will be released in late August. According to the SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC) which is mandated to produce the forecast, the 25th Southern African Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-25) will be held on 30-31 August. This seasonal forecast aims to strengthen the contribution by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) to early warning and disaster preparedness, using information on major climate drivers such as the ENSO signal.

In this regard, the expected results of SARCOF-25 are to:

- Develop and issue the seasonal climate outlook for the region for overlapping three-monthly sub-seasons, that is – October-November-December 2021 and January-February-March 2022;
- Strengthen the products at national level;
- Advise on the evolution/development of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), and its potential impacts; and
- Production of an early warning advisory bulletin/note.

The SARCOF forecast is indicative and relevant only to seasonal (overlapping three-monthly) timescales and relatively large areas, and may not fully account for all factors that influence regional and national climate variability, such as local and month-to-month variations.

Therefore, users are advised to contact their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for interpretation of the outlook and further guidance and updates. □



SADC mulls regional central bank

by Clarkson Mambo

SADC APPRECIATES the role of a strong and stable banking system as the backbone of an effective regional economy that is able to facilitate growth in line with its long-term vision.

In this regard, the region has put in place an ambitious goal of creating the SADC Central Bank as well as a Monetary Union.

Central banks play a critical role in any economy, which are not limited to being the banker, agent and advisor to governments, but also custodian of cash reserves and foreign balances, lender of last resort, controller of credit, and protector of depositors' funds.

On the other hand, a Monetary Union is where two or more countries achieve macroeconomic convergence, stable and harmonised exchange rate systems, thereby liberalising their capital and current accounts transactions, adopting a market-oriented approach to the conduct of monetary policy.

According to the SADC 40th Anniversary publication titled: 40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration, the region had hoped to have a Monetary Union by 2016, but various challenges stalled the development.

To facilitate this milestone as well as to develop an integrated banking system that will facilitate trade among Member States and with the rest of the global community, SADC developed its Protocol on Finance and Investment which entered into force in 2010.

The Protocol seeks to facilitate harmonisation of the financial and investment policies of the State Parties

consistent with objectives of SADC and ensure that any changes to financial and investment policies by one State do not necessitate undesirable adjustments in other State Parties.

In keeping with this vision, the 41st SADC Summit held in Malawi on 17-18 August said it is critical for the region to step up efforts to create a SADC Central Bank and a Monetary Union.

"Summit reaffirmed SADC's position that the creation of the SADC Central Bank and Monetary Union, as a long-term objective to be premised on fulfilling pre-conditions that include, the harmonisation of the fiscal and monetary policies of SADC countries, and greater convergence of banking systems," reads part of the communique released soon after the annual summit.

"In this regard, the African Monetary Institute and the African Central Bank should be long-term objectives."

Research shows that similar financial and monetary arrangements in the region, particularly in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) are achieving results and easing the way of business between and among members.

SACU consists of five SADC Member States that have managed to harmonise their banking system --

Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

The Committee of Central Bank Governors in SADC (CCBG) and the SADC Banking Association were set up in 1995 and 1998 respectively as part of the ground work for the regional central bank.

Made up of central bank governors of each SADC Member State, the Committee is responsible for promoting development of financial institutions and markets through cooperation and consensus on financial, investment, and foreign exchange policies.

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of South Africa chairs the CCBG and hosts the CCBG Secretariat.

A Central Bank Model Law has already been put in place for adoption by Member States, setting standards that will make it easy for future harmonisation in the establishment of a regional SADC Central Bank.

On the other hand, the SADC Banking Association, which works closely with the CCBG, coordinates the cross-border banking activities of its members, influences policy, interacts with stakeholders, and initiates projects that can contribute to sustainable banking and investment policies in the SADC region. □



Towards financial integration

NOTABLE PROGRESS has been registered in financial integration and inclusion in the region, outgoing SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said at the 41st SADC Summit.

She said the introduction of the SADC Real Time Gross Settlement (SADC-RTGS) system has lowered transaction costs and removed the need for correspondent banks. As of June 2021, a total of 83 participating banks from 15 SADC Member States except the newest member, Union of Comoros, were electronically linked to effect cross-border payments and settlement in real time.

"From July 2019 to June 2021, total number of transactions settled reached US\$591.38 billion," Dr Tax said.

The SADC-RTGS, which went live on 22 July 2013, is an automated interbank settlement system operated by the South African Reserve Bank. □





SADC to use African trade opportunities

SADC MEMBER States are ready to use the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area to drive industrialization and boost the region's agricultural production.

President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi said this in his acceptance speech after taking over as SADC chair at the 41st Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Lilongwe.

He said the region already has the right tools in place to achieve its goals including vast mineral resources and a strong base of human capital.

"The African Continental Free Trade Area has unveiled to SADC the opportunity to become the breadbasket and export basket of Africa, and we must seize the moment, and fully implement the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap, SADC Regional Agricultural Policy, SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan among others," said President Chakwera.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

which became operational in January 2021 is an enlarged market that brings together all the 55 Member States of the African Union (AU).

It covers a market of more than 1.2 billion people and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

The AfCFTA builds its existence on the other FTAs in the continent such as the SADC FTA and the Tripartite FTA involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community and SADC.

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

In fact, the creation of an integrated market in Africa is one of the initiatives to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid that has seen Africa

trade more with the outside world than within the continent.

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

For example, when SADC attained the status of the FTA in 2008, intra-regional trade in southern Africa increased from US\$89.3 million in 2001 to US\$394 million in 2012, representing a 341 percent increase over an 11-year period.

Furthermore, consumers in the region are now getting better products at lower prices due to increased production, while producers are benefiting from a tariff-free trade for all goods originating within the region.

In this regard, the AfCFTA will go a long way in promoting the smooth movement of goods and services across borders, as well as allow member countries to harmonize re-

gional trade policies to promote equal competition and increased trade.

The AfCFTA will also resolve some of the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships and expedite the regional and continental integration processes.

Most countries in Africa belong to more than one regional economic community, a situation that can cause confusion, thus hindering the progress of integration in Africa.

Therefore, addressing the issues of overlapping membership has the capacity to accelerate the pace of integration in Africa.

Establishment of the AfCFTA is one of the flagship projects or initiatives under the African Union's *Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want*, which is a continental vision and strategic framework adopted in 2013 to optimize the use of the continent's resources for the benefit of all Africans. □

Tracking implementation of Protocol on Industry

SADC MEMBER States should sign and ratify the Protocol on Industry to ensure smooth implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

Industrialization is a top priority for southern Africa, and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap that was adopted in March 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe aims to accelerate economic growth through industrial development.

The SADC Protocol on Industry, which was approved by the 39th SADC Summit in August

2019 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania seeks to strengthen the economies of Member States driven by industrial development.

The protocol is a binding instrument that gives legal effect to the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and seeks to ensure adequate coordination, monitoring and evaluation of implementation.

As of July 2021, the Protocol had been signed by 13 countries, but only Seychelles has ratified, according to the SADC Secretariat.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Zambia are yet to sign the Protocol. In this regard, the

SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration (MTF) and Committee of the Ministers of Trade (CMT) that met in July has urged Member States to urgently sign and ratify the protocol to ensure the region unlocks the industrial potential.

"SADC Member States should address the slow progress in ratifying the Protocol on Industry," said a statement released after the meeting, adding that "the policy environment for industrial development and value addition needed to be improved in order to facilitate increased industrial investments at Member State level." □



New Executive Secretary for SADC

HIS EXCELLENCY Elias Mpedi Magosi is the new SADC Executive Secretary, with responsibility to implement the regional integration agenda of 16 Member States in Southern Africa.

He was appointed by the 41st SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government that met 17-18 August in Lilongwe, Malawi. He was sworn in as the 7th SADC Executive Secretary and takes office on 1 September.

He succeeds the Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax from the United Republic of Tanzania, who has been at the helm of the SADC Secretariat for two terms, since August 2013.

The Executive Secretary heads the SADC Secretariat and steers the course set by SADC leaders, with responsibility for strategic planning, coordination and management of programmes, guided by Vision 2050 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2020-2030).

H.E. Magosi has a sound understanding of the coordination and workings of governments, and effective linkages with political levels, private sector and academic institutions, including regional cooperation and coordination.

He has over 30 years of experience in large-scale performance and process improvement, strategic management, human resource management and change management in the public, parastatal and private sectors. He has a strong background in effective organizational design, planning and budgeting, and project management, and very good skills in communication, facilitation, team development and management, strategic thinking, negotiation, advocacy and high level advisory.

H.E. Magosi started his career in public service as Management Analyst in the Directorate of Public Service Management of Botswana in 1989 and rose through the ranks to become Permanent Secretary in different ministries before his appointment as Principal Secretary to the President in February 2020, effectively becoming the head of Public Service in Botswana. In this role, he coordinated and facilitated delivery linkages for ministries and parastatals to achieve national and international obligations; and provided advisory support to the President, Vice President, Cabinet, Permanent Secretaries, private sector and regional bodies.

The new SADC Executive Secretary took the oath of office in the presence of the Heads of State and Government at the 41st SADC Summit, pledging to “perform my duties and exercise my powers honourably, faithfully, impartially and independently according to the best of my knowledge and ability.”

Head of the judiciary in Malawi, Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda, administered the oath of office.

H.E. Magosi will lead the regional organisation until 2025 and has an option to extend for a second four-year term, on approval by Summit. He becomes the 7th Executive Secretary of SADC since its formation in 1980. (See the Table showing the SADC Executive Secretaries and Deputies) The Government of Botswana said he “has a wealth of experience and requisite leadership competencies gained in executive management in both the public and private sectors, as well as within international organisations. Mr. Magosi possesses comprehensive understanding and knowledge about the workings of SADC.”

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics/Statistics from the University of Botswana, a Diploma in Management Services from Bolton University in the United Kingdom, and a Masters Degree in Organisation Development from the Bowling Green State University in the USA.



In welcoming the new Executive Secretary, the SADC Chairperson, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi said, “We look forward to working closely with you during our tenure as SADC chair and beyond, in pursuit of the collective goal of regional integration and implementation of the 2020-2030 Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and SADC Vision 2050.”

“We wish you nothing but success as you steer the Secretariat to fulfil the region’s aspirations and ambitions in social and economic spheres,” he said.

Dr Chakwera praised Dr Tax for “the excellent way” she had led the organisation.

“We have achieved great milestones during your term including formulating and operationalisation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 and the SADC Vision 2050, among others,” Dr Chakwera said.

List of past SADC Executive Secretaries and Deputies

Executive Secretary	Term	Country
Ambassador Frederick Arthur Blumeris	1982-1984	Zimbabwe
Dr. Simba Makoni	1984-1993	Zimbabwe
Dr. Kaire Mbuende	1993-1999	Namibia
Dr. Prega Ramsamy*	2001-2005	Mauritius
Dr. Tomaz Augusto Salomão	2005-2013	Mozambique
Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax	2013-2021	United Republic of Tanzania
Deputy Executive Secretary		
Mr. Lengolo Bureng Monyake	1994-1998	Lesotho
Ambassador Albert M. Muchanga	2001-2005	Zambia
Eng. João Samuel Caholo	2005-2013	Angola
Ms. Emilie Ayaza Mushobekwa	2010-2018	Democratic Republic of Congo
Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo	2013-2021	South Africa
Ambassador Joseph Nourrice	2018-2022	Seychelles

40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration 1980-2020



"I leave SADC a happy woman" - Dr Tax

by Clarkson Mambo

DR STERGOMENA Lawrence Tax made history during her tenure as the 6th Executive Secretary (2013-2021) and the first woman to head the SADC Secretariat.

During her eight years at the Secretariat, she ably steered the regional integration agenda.

On 18 August at the end of the 41st Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Lilongwe, Malawi, she bid farewell to the SADC leaders in the same city where she was appointed to lead the organisation nearly a decade ago.

Dr Tax, from the United Republic of Tanzania, took over from Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão of Mozambique, who had served two four-year terms as SADC Executive Secretary.

"It started well and is ending well here in Lilongwe. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity and guidance and support that you rendered to me during my tenure," Dr Tax told the Summit.

SADC has made significant progress in regional development and integration since its establishment as the Southern

African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) on 1 April 1980 and subsequent conversion to a formal regional community in 1992, reprioritizing its agenda toward industrialization and empowering men and women in all spheres of life.

"There is still ground to be covered but with excellent leadership and a commitment that the region has to women empowerment, that will be achieved," she said, adding that unity is an imperative in facing past and future challenges.

"I am and will forever be proud of the unity exhibited by SADC Member States, it gave me a sense of belonging and identity," she said.

"I am very proud of SADC resilience and unity when confronted with such adversities."

Among her long list of achievements, Dr Tax oversaw the formulation of SADC Vision 2050 and the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 which were approved by Summit in August 2020.

"It is imperative that these policies are used to transform our region to achieve 'The SADC We Want'. I am confident that the Secretariat, under my successor will drive regional integration through this strategic

framework for the betterment of the region," she said.

The SADC Emergency and Humanitarian Centre was launched during her tenure, and also the SADC Hashim Mbita Project which assembled experiences of the liberation history of southern Africa.

SADC Liberation Day established on 23 March each year to mark the last major battle with apartheid South Africa, at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola.

The region remained largely peaceful and consolidated democracy, with SADC having played a key role in addressing security challenges in Democratic Republic of Congo, Kingdom of Eswatini and Republic of Mozambique.

In the economic sphere, major milestones including an increase in intra-SADC trade from around 16.3 percent in 2008 to 21.6 percent in 2016, as well as major initiatives in trade and customs, infrastructure development were undertaken.

SADC participated actively in securing ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which began operations on 1 January 2021; and Dr Tax also represented SADC at the first joint meeting of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with the African Union.

The Kazungula Bridge across the Zambezi River between Botswana and Zambia was commissioned in May 2021, replacing a ferry crossing and changing the dynamics of transportation in the region.

New policies and strategies for disaster management, in HIV and AIDS management, gender mainstreaming, food and nutrition were also put in place during her eight-year tenure.

Dr Tax said the region needs a dynamic and efficient Secretariat to achieve its goals: "A vibrant and dynamic Secretariat facilitates a vibrant and dynamic SADC."

Dr Tax said SADC must honour its founders, who opened the way for the successes that it is now enjoying.

"It is befitting that SADC recognizes their contribution and in acknowledging their contributions in August 2020, the SADC Summit approved a mechanism to honour the founders of SADC," she said.

"May I implore the SADC Members States to operationalize the mechanism which will ensure that the history of SADC and the legacy of the founding fathers remain engraved in the history of our organization and is imparted to the generations to come." *sardc.net* □

Dr Tax said in her farewell address that she has served with at least 39 Heads of State and Government who came to power in the region during her tenure.

"I am proud of what the region has achieved over the eight years under Your Excellencies' stewardship. I am grateful for the wealth and experience that I have acquired over the eight years, which I will always treasure," she said.

sardc.net □



SADC Secretariat – A key institution in regional integration

THE INTEGRATION agenda of southern Africa hinges on the effectiveness of the SADC Secretariat to coordinate and implement regional programmes aimed at promoting socio-economic development. Headed by an Executive Secretary, the Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and management of all SADC Programmes. The Secretariat is based in Gaborone, Botswana. The SADC Executive Secretary has two deputies, one for Regional Integration and the other for Finance and Administration. The Secretariat is structured into Directorates, with stand-alone Units responsible for crosscutting issues. □



SADC needs to operate its own development fund

by Clarkson Mambo

THE ABILITY of the Southern African Development Community to be the main driver and funder of its integration, development and growth agenda is one of the imperatives for the region to attain the goals set out in SADC Vision 2050.

SADC envisions “a peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle-to high-income industrialized region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic wellbeing, justice and freedom” in the next 30 years.

One of the key targets in pursuit of this objective is acceleration of resource mobilization and putting in place of mechanisms “to shift away from a previous reliance on international cooperating partners towards a more diversified approach that is better integrated and complementary.”

In 2016, the SADC Secretariat estimated that only 9.2 percent of regional projects were funded by Member States, while International Co-operating Partners (ICPs) funded the remaining 90.8 percent. Such a situation compromises the ownership and sustainability of regional programmes.

For the region's long-term desire to be achieved, it is imperative for all SADC Member States to fully support the SADC Regional Development Fund (SADC RDF), as most have yet to sign and ratify the Agreement.

Proposed nearly a decade ago, the SADC RDF is a self-financing and revolving mechanism intended to end the reliance on external support to drive its development agenda.

The Fund will provide a window for financing economic development and sustainable growth through supporting regional infrastructure development, industrial development, integration and economic adjustment as well as social development at concessionary rates.

All these are enablers for economic growth which is critical to poverty eradication and improving the standard of living for SADC citizens.

Despite the good intentions, there have been a number of setbacks over the years, among them the pressing financial commitments caused by climate change-induced droughts and cyclones, energy shortages and most recently the Covid-19 pandemic, which have stalled establishment of the Fund.

Previously, the prolonged negotiations on which country will host the Fund were an issue, as well as staffing.

But the most critical has been lack of support by the majority of Member States, who are yet to sign and ratify the Agreement that establishes the SADC RDF.

The number of Member States that have signed the Agreement has remained stuck at nine for more than two years -- Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo,

Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

However, none of the nine has yet deposited instruments of ratification with the SADC Secretariat.

The Agreement establishing the Fund enters into force a month after it has been ratified by at least two-thirds of the 16 SADC Member States.

The SADC Finance, Investment and Customs Directorate (FIC) said in an update to the 41st Summit held in Malawi on 17-18 August that, “The SADC Secretariat is in the process of recruiting a consultancy firm to recommend on the full operationalization of the Fund.”

“The consultancy assignment will review Member States’ challenges in ratifying the SADC RDF Agreement as well as proposing suitable approaches for fast-tracking the operationalization of the fund.”

The consultant’s work will include the development of governance, institutional and organizational frameworks, as well as proposals for alternative funding mechanisms for the Fund.

The FIC is responsible for facilitating trade and financial liberalization and the creation of an enabling environment for investment, contributing to deeper regional economic integration, inclusive growth and poverty eradication.

The 39th SADC Summit held in August 2019 in the

Tanzania had set August 2021 as the target date for the Fund to become operational.

To inject some impetus into the initiative, SADC Ministers of Finance and Investment met virtually on 15 July and approved the constitution of a Working Group of senior treasury officials supported by other specialists from Member States.

The Working Group will provide leadership and policy guidance in the course of conducting the consultancies on operationalizing the Fund and development of financial instruments to support implementation of integration projects at regional and national levels.

According to the Agreement signed by the nine Member States in 2019, the initial authorized capital for the SADC RDF will be US\$13 billion. Each Member State is expected to pay an initial subscription fee of US\$120 million.

SADC Member States will hold a majority shareholding of 51 percent in the RDF, with 37 percent allocated to the private sector and 12 percent for international cooperating partners.

Despite the region facing financial challenges, made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic, the establishment of the fund and ensuring its sustainability will provide a framework for the resource-rich SADC to drive its own development agenda, with full ownership and control of its programmes. sardc.net □

"Let us embrace technology"



THE REGION should embrace the use of technology to deepen integration and promote socio-economic development.

The Vice President of Malawi, Dr Saulos Chilima said this in delivering the SADC Public Lecture ahead of the 41st SADC Summit held in Lilongwe in August.

The theme for the lecture, which is held each year was "Promoting Digitalisation for the Revival of the SADC Industrialisation Agenda in the COVID-19 Era."

Dr Chilima said the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the need for SADC and the rest of the global community to invest more in technology.

This is critical since COVID-19 has changed the ways of doing business including encouraging greater reliance on technology for work, studies and access to knowledge, thus the need for digitalization and Information Communication Technology (ICT).

"The global and domestic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic like state lockdowns, have depressed many economic development factors leading to hiking of fuel prices among others, therefore, in this view innovation becomes a necessity," he said.

"We must move fast to embrace the digital economy and continue making profits amid the COVID-19 pandemic as a SADC bloc."

Dr Chilima, who is also the Minister of Economic Planning, Development and Public Sector Reforms said that SADC and Member States should consider investing in technological development if the region is to realize tangible improvement in living standards for its citizens.

"The digital ecosystem will carry the economy forward as it enables citizens to continue accessing services that includes financial inclusion during the social economic vulnerabilities caused by COVID-19 pandemic."

He said it is also important to strengthen the capacity of Member States to explore possibilities of establishing a regional centre of excellence on digital technology.

The Deputy Executive Secretary for SADC Regional Integration, Dr. Theminkosi Mhlongo proposed that strategic planning institutions should take the lead in reviving industrialization and advancing digital technology in the region.

"The academia, planning institutions in the SADC Member States should be in the forefront to embrace digitalization," he said.

Regional efforts to digitize and embrace technology are contained in various legal documents and strategies such as the SADC Declaration on Information and Communication Technology.

The SADC Declaration on Information and Communication Technology formally acknowledges the economic and social benefits of an affordable,

reliable ICT infrastructure and suggests SADC Member States adopt a coherent regional policy and strategy for its development.

The SADC Public Lecture is held annually to raise awareness about SADC and its integration agenda. □

SADC MEMBER States have been urged to establish National Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) by December to ensure smooth coordination of cyber security in the region. The CIRTs will serve as a national focus point for coordinating cybersecurity incident response to cyber-attacks in the country.

A computer emergency response team with national responsibility is designated by a country or economy to have specific responsibilities in cyber protection for the country or economy.

A National CIRT can be inside or outside of government but must be specifically recognized by the government as having responsibility in the country or economy.

The SADC Region has over the years been exposed to cyber threats and risks at a time when cyber-crime is now among the world's fastest growing crimes which is estimated to be causing losses of more than US\$105 billion worldwide every year. Cyber-crime involves use of the computer networks to harm the reputation of individuals or organisations and includes copyright infringement, fraud, hacking, account thefts, identify thefts, computer viruses and unsolicited mail, commonly referred to as spam. Using modern telecommunication networks such as emails, chat rooms and social networks, cyber-crime has threatened the world's security and financial health. □

Towards affordable roaming tariffs in the region

SADC MEMBER States are making steady progress to harmonize the regulation of roaming services within the region.

A harmonized roaming service in SADC is expected to lead to reduced tariffs, and ultimately to see communications operators do away with tariffs, making SADC competitive for business.

According to the 41st SADC Summit Publication, the SADC Roaming Project is being implemented in three phases with phases 1 and 2 already completed. These phases are:

- Phase 1: Liberalization, Transparency to roaming tariff, Information and Data Collection;
- Phase 2: Wholesale and Retail Price Cap Regulation: Roam Like At Home (RLAH); and

- Phase 3: Cost-based Roaming Price Regulation.

The SADC Roaming Project targets the development of policy and regulatory frameworks for the provision of transparent and affordable mobile roaming tariffs for Voice, SMS and Data services within the SADC region and thus contributing towards making the region more competitive.

The completion of Phases 1 and 2 has resulted in an increase in the transparency, consumer choice and reduction in pricing of Roaming Services.

In Phase 3, the SADC Roaming Cost Model resulted in the computation of the wholesale and retail tariff ceilings for various roaming types of calls, SMS and data services.

The SADC Roaming Regulations (2015) have been revised and now includes a schedule that refers to the wholesale and retail cost-based pricing proposals approved by SADC ICT Ministers in September 2019 as well as timelines for Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to renegotiate the wholesale prices within the timelines of Phase 1 of the Final Phase of the SADC Roaming Project.

The revised regulations also address the issue of permanent roaming in the context of fair use policy.

Member States will need to implement the new regulations and review appropriate regulations to allow for harmonization of International Termination Rates. □



SADC takes pivotal step towards countering terrorism

by Clarkson Mambo

“SADC’S VISION for 2050 is for the community to remain a peaceful and stable region, enabling the further prioritisation, pursuit, and achievement of its objectives of socio-economic development, poverty eradication, and regional integration.”

In this forward-looking statement, SADC identifies peace and stability as the foundation for the achievement of all its other goals, whose ultimate aim is to see SADC citizens live in a safe and prosperous environment.

For this reason, the SADC Vision 205 and the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 approved in August 2020, place peace and security as a strategic priority.

The region has remained largely peaceful, except for a few pockets of instability.

However, in preparation for such incidents, SADC leaders approved the creation of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security in 1996, and five years later the Protocol establishing the Organ was put in place.

The role of the Organ is to promote peace and security across southern Africa, protecting the region’s people from instability due to the breakdown of law and order, and facilitating cooperation on matters related to security and defence.

The Organ has been instrumental in the manner in which SADC has tackled threats to regional peace and continues to lead in ensuring that citizens continue to enjoy their rights in a secure environment.

A new threat of terrorism and violent extremism, not previously experienced in the

region, has however emerged, and most recently appeared in northern Mozambique where the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that 732,000 people have been displaced in the past four years and thousands killed.

Due to the serious threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism, and its potential to spill over across borders, SADC developed and approved the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy in 2015.

Terrorism is known for trampling on all aspects of human rights as defined by international conventions and declarations.

A UN panel in 2005, described terrorism as “any act intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.”

At its 41st SADC Summit held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 17-18 August 2021, SADC moved a step towards attaining one of the goals of SADC Vision 2050, of establishing a Regional Counter Terrorism Centre (RCTC).

“Summit commended the United Republic of Tanzania for offering to host the Regional Counter Terrorism Centre, which will offer dedicated and strategic advisory services to the Region on terrorism threats,” outgoing SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, while delivering the final Summit communique.

Tanzania is among the founders of SADC, and hosted the conference in July 1979 that eventually led to the birth of the SADCC, the predecessor of SADC, in 1980.



The Regional Counter Terrorism Centre will play a big part in ensuring the region’s objectives of establishing effective conflict prevention, management, and resolution systems, as well as providing early warning systems that are capable of tracking and monitoring political, security, and socio-economic threats.

Member States will be capacitated to observe and monitor indicators of insecurity, including structural factors, triggers and accelerators of conflict, disasters, and pandemics.

The Centre is expected to strengthen early warning and coordination of measures to

address terrorism, and to enable synergies with National Early Warning Centres and the Regional Early Warning Centre.

Another imperative will also be tackling the financing of terrorism to restrict access to funding and financial services.

As part of SADC Vision 2050, regional leaders have said the RCTC will also assist in the development and adoption of policies to tackle new and “non-traditional” security threats such as climate-induced migration, environmental hazards, and health pandemics.

The overall aim for the Centre will thus be ensuring that SADC has an “enhanced collective defence and security system that is capable of safeguarding the territorial integrity of the region. □

SADC HAS presented instruments of authority for the deployment of the SADC Standby Force to Mozambique. SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax presented the instruments of authority on 16 July as mandated by the Extraordinary Summit held in June in Maputo, Mozambique. Dr Tax said SADC has high confidence in the capabilities and abilities of the leaders who have been appointed to lead the SADC Mission to achieve the desired objectives of attaining peace and security in Cabo Delgado, as well as creating a conducive peaceful environment for the people of Mozambique, and of the region at large. The SADC Standby Force is a regional, multidimensional, peace-support operations capability established under the framework of the African Standby Force. □





Hakainde Hichilema sworn in as President of Zambia

by Clarkson Mambo

"WE CHOOSE not to call it a transfer of power..." but "transfer of leadership..."

His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema said this during his inauguration ceremony as the President of Zambia when he extended an olive branch to the outgoing President Edgar Lungu and opposition parties, and rallied the nation to come together and focus on improving socio-economic development.

"Fellow Zambians, our focus over the next five years will be on restoring macro-economic stability and promoting growth of the economy because we know what this brings," President Hichilema told a cheering crowd who filled the National Heroes Stadium to witness his inauguration as the seventh President of Zambia on 24 August.

"We must put aside our election related and other differences and pull in one direction as a country. We have a lot more things that unite us than those that divide us. We must devote our energies to contribute meaningfully to our national development."

President Hichilema, who described himself as a "simple village boy," said "economic diplomacy" will be his government's key focus in its dealings with neighbouring countries, the region, continent and international community.

"We do not take this responsibility lightly, we will be your servants and you will truly be our masters," he said,

adding that the new administration will aim to "grow our economy so that we lift more people out of poverty than ever before."

According to the SADC economic report for 2020, Zambia's economy contracted by three percent compared to a growth of 1.4 percent in 2019.

A gradual recovery is expected in 2021, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projected at one percent due to improvements in mining, tourism, and manufacturing sectors.

President Hichilema said that addressing unemployment, lack of capital for entrepreneurs, and substance abuse among the youth, will also remain a priority for the new government.

"We will undertake an ambitious economic and social transformation agenda to move Zambia forward, create equitable opportunities for all our people, and reduce poverty. We will aggressively promote the creation of jobs and opportunities that will create wealth, especially for our youth, women and indeed all citizens," he said.

With regard to agriculture, he said this is the backbone of the economy and there is need to invest more in ensuring food security.

"In agriculture, we will work to enhance production, agricultural extension services, market access, value addition and lowering the cost of inputs," he said, adding that "no Zambian should go to bed hungry."

President Hichilema also said a "competent economic team" based on "competence, diversity and ability to deliver" will be set up to deal with the challenges facing the Zambian economy including high public debt.

Zambia's stock of public debt at end of 2020 amounted to US\$19.8 billion, up two percent from 2019 while external debt increased by nine per cent to US\$12.74 billion during the same period.

Hichilema is a well-known businessman in Zambia's corporate sector and is highly rated by most economic agencies as a leading economist.

Born on 4 June 1962, he has a degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Zambia and a Master in Finance and Business Strategy from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom.

Affectionately known as HH, he rose to political fame when he won the party leadership of the main opposition, the United Party for National Development (UPND) in 2006, following the death of the founding president of party, Anderson Mazoka.

After contesting in five previous polls and failing to win, the tide finally turned in his favour in the 12 August elections after he garnered 2,852,348 votes against 1,870,780 for his closet rival, the incumbent President Lungu of the Patriotic Front (PF).

The other 14 candidates trailed far behind in the presidential elections.



In the parliamentary elections, UPND secured a majority with 82 seats out of 156, while the PF got 59 seats.

Thirteen independent candidates won seats in the election, with the remaining seat going to the Party of National Unity and Progress.

According to the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), a total of 7,023,499 people registered to vote.

Despite isolated incidents of violence, regional and international election observers said the elections were held in conformity with regional and international standards.

Hichilema becomes Zambia's seventh President since independence in 1964.

The founding President was Dr Kenneth David Kaunda who served from 1964-1991, followed by Frederick Chiluba 1991-2002. Levy Mwanawasa was in power from 2002 until his death in August 2008, after which Rupiah Bwezani Banda finished his term from 2008-2011.

President Michael Sata was at the helm from 23 September 2011 until his death on 28 October 2014. He was succeeded by Lungu until August 2021, and now Hichilema. sardc.net





Media is key in advancing integration in SADC

THE MEDIA has a critical role to play in advancing regional integration in southern Africa.

This was said by the Malawian Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Luckie Sikwe in his address to an editor's roundtable held 29 July aimed at capacitating the local media on SADC regional integration.

"Lack of information is hindering key players from fully exploiting opportunities that SADC offers," he said, adding that the media should actively popularize the SADC regional integration agenda in Malawi and the rest of the region to ensure citizens are fully aware of the benefits and opportunities of regional integration.

The Executive Director of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) which is a SADC partner, Munetsi Madakufamba supported the notion that the media is an important player in the SADC integration agenda as it has the power to decide which voices are published or broadcast.

"The media acts as a bridge between the governments and citizens of SADC Member States by conveying government policies to citizens as well as feedback from the citizens to their governments," he said.

Madakufamba said it is critical for SADC institutions to strengthen the capacity of the media to report objectively on regional integration since most people are still unaware of the

benefits, opportunities and challenges of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa.

"We believe that capacitating the media on SADC issues will assist to create a constructive dialogue between SADC Member State governments and their citizens on various regional integration issues."

A well-informed media can educate SADC citizens on integration issues, but also contribute to shaping the integration agenda of SADC and the agenda for SADC leaders to discuss at their regional meetings as well as track the implementation of regional agreements signed by Member States to ensure accountability of the integration agenda, he said.

The editor's roundtable on SADC regional integration is part of a series of workshops organized by the Government of Malawi in partnership with the SADC Secretariat and SARDC, with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to strengthen the knowledge base of journalists to report objectively on SADC issues.

The workshops held on 29 July to 2 August included a three-day training seminar for local journalists on 30 July-1 August to increase awareness of SADC processes among journalists in Malawi.

A knowledgeable local media will be important in articulating Malawi's leadership role in guiding the SADC regional integration agenda during its tenure as Chair of the regional body from August 2021 to August 2022.

On 2 August, a seminar was held for members of the SADC National Committees (SNC) in Malawi. SNCs are a



key component of the institutional arrangements within SADC.

They were established to provide inputs at national level in the formulation of regional policies and strategies, as well as to coordinate and oversee the implementation of programmes at national level.

The committees are also responsible for the initiation of

SADC projects and issue papers as an input into the preparation of regional strategies.

The committees comprise key stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society in each Member State and a provision for their establishment is reflected in the SADC Declaration and Treaty. □

SADC should tell its story

IN HIS address to a Conference on Understanding Contemporary Africa held in New Delhi, India in 15 February 1996, the Founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere highlighted one of the threats to regional integration in southern Africa.

He said lack of information is hindering the region from fully exploiting the benefits and opportunities that exist in the shared community of southern Africa.

For example, while a lot has been achieved by the SADC since its formation in 1980, the narrative has remained largely untold and in most cases negative.

"Among the good, but generally unreported things of Africa, is the Southern African Development Community," Mwalimu Nyerere said at the 1996 conference.

His assessment echoed the Declaration and Treaty that transformed the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) into SADC in 1992.

The Declaration and Treaty clearly acknowledges the critical role of the media in its integration agenda, and states that the "regional integration will continue to be a pipe dream unless the peoples of the region determine its content, form and direction, and are themselves its active agent."

The SADC Communications and Promotional Strategy of 2016 adds that "without effective communication, SADC will continue to be misunderstood and its achievements will remain invisible and the organisation will not fully realise its developmental goals." □



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August

12, Zambia

General Elections in Zambia

Zambia will hold general elections on 12 August to choose a President, Members of Parliament and Local Government representatives. Elections have been held at regular intervals since Independence in 1964, and this is the sixth since multi-party elections began in 1991.

17, Malawi

41st SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government

SADC leaders meet annually in August to discuss goals, achievements and challenges for advancing regional integration and development. The 41st Summit scheduled for Malawi will run 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 to advance gender equality and equity in southern Africa.

30-31, Virtual

Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum

Climate experts from SADC Member States will meet at the annual Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) to develop a consensus outlook for the 2021/2022 rainfall season in SADC.

September

7, Kenya

Inaugural Africa-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit

The inaugural Summit will discuss ways of deepening economic trade and investment opportunities between Africa and the Caribbean. Deliberations are also expected to institutionalise CARICOM-African Union collaboration, as well as agree on hosting the summits on a bi-annual basis.

9, India

13th BRICS Summit

Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) celebrate their 15th anniversary of collaboration this year and the Summit will review the achievements and contributions of BRICS to the global agenda. The theme is "BRICS @15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus".

14-30,
New York

76th Session of the UN General Assembly

The General Assembly serves as the main deliberative and policy-making body of the United Nations on a wide range of issues, including matters of international peace and security that are not currently being addressed by the UN Security Council (UNSC). The UNGA theme for this year is "Building resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations."

13-15, Virtual

International Summit on the SDGs in Africa

The International Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa 2021 is a three-day conference to be hosted by the University of Cape Town in South Africa and attended by African and global university networks and other stakeholders with an interest in sustainable development.

21-23, Virtual

9th SADC River Basin Organizations Workshop

The RBOs workshop aims to promote sustainable industrial development in SADC by fully realizing the benefits of cooperation across shared watercourses. It will provide a platform for stakeholders from water and related sectors to share information and experiences on inclusive transboundary water financing and collaborative development in line with the theme of "Promoting Inclusive and Collaborative Transboundary Water Financing for Sustainable Industrial Development".

October

11, Global

International Day of the Girl Child

The Day of the Girl Child was adopted by the United Nations in 2011 to recognize the rights of girls and the unique challenges that girls face around the world.

27,
South Africa

South African Elections

South Africa is set to hold municipal elections on 27 October 2021, to elect councils for district, metropolitan and local municipalities in each of the country's nine provinces.

HONOURING SADC FOUNDERS

Mechanism in Honour of SADC Founders

"SUMMIT APPROVED the Mechanism in Honour of the Founders of SADC, and urged Member States to operationalize the Mechanism." *From Communiqué of the 40th SADC Summit held on 17-18 August 2020 in Maputo, Mozambique*

The 40th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government approved the Mechanism in Honour of SADC Founders in August 2020, including the use of modern technology to capture the attention of the younger generation. Its implementation includes the naming of venues and rooms at the SADC Secretariat and satellite offices; and in Member States to (re)name public buildings including Government buildings and Parliament Offices, airports, streets and universities, after the SADC Founders.

The construction of a modern museum was identified as one of the major initiatives to sustain the legacy of the Founders in perpetuity as a one-stop-shop for archiving artefacts and documents about the Founders and their legacy, including the permanent preservation of the SADC Founders' historical record, Southern Africa's liberation struggle, and progress made in regional integration, as well as wide accessibility of such information to the public.

The museum will collect and showcase the heritage of the Founders through a collection of books, artefacts, memorabilia, regalia, movies and works of art, and its construction is expected to start in the 2022-2023 Financial Year. □

Gradual Introduction of Kiswahili among SADC Languages

"Summit approved Kiswahili as the Fourth SADC Official Working Language, in recognition of its contribution, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere's role in the liberation struggle of Southern Africa." *From Communiqué of the 39th SADC Summit held on 17-18 August 2019 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania*

Kiswahili is now an official working language of SADC through interpretation at SADC Summits, Council meetings, and Ministerial Committee meetings, following the decision to introduce Kiswahili on a gradual approach by using it first through interpretation at SADC Summit and Council. The decision to add Ministerial Committee meetings was taken in March 2021.

The decision to adopt Kiswahili as the Fourth SADC Official Working Language was to honour the Founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania, *Mwalimu Julius Nyerere*. Tanzania hosted and supported the OAU Liberation Committee for 30 years from 1963, and the people of Tanzania contributed significantly to freeing Africa by accommodating liberation movements in their country, supporting them and providing diplomatic, logistic and material support.

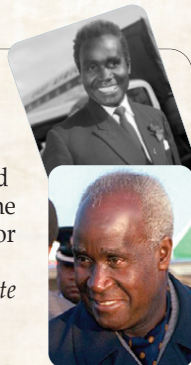
Mwalimu Nyerere was Chairman of the Frontline States and one of the Founders of SADC.

The Legacy of H.E. Dr Kenneth David Kaunda

"Summit expressed deepest condolences... following the passing on of H.E. Dr Kenneth David Buchizya Kaunda, first President of the Republic of Zambia and the last surviving founding father of SADC...; and paid tribute to late former President Dr. Kaunda for the pivotal role he played in the liberation struggle, and for laying a solid foundation for regional integration of Southern Africa."

From Communiqué of the Extra-Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held on 23 June, 2021 in Maputo, Mozambique

The death of the founding President of independent Zambia, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda has robbed Zambia of its liberation leader and deprived Southern Africa of a strong campaigner for African unity and deeper regional integration. He served as President of Zambia from Independence in 1964 until 1991, and he hosted the historic summit in April 1980 in Lusaka, that established the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and its resultant Community known as SADC. Dr. Kaunda, popularly known as KK, died on 17 June 2021 in Lusaka.



"If you don't know your history, you do not know where you are going."

Sir Seretse Khama, Founding President of the Republic of Botswana and a Founder of SADC

He is shown in Lusaka on 1 April 1980 signing the Declaration, *Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation* during the founding Summit of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADC), which became the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1992. Botswana hosts the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

August - October 2021

1 August	Parents Day	DRC
2 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
10 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
	Muharram	Comoros
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Seychelles
17 August	SADC Day*	All
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia
4 September	Umlhanga Reed Dance	Eswatini
6 September	Independence Day / Somhlolo Day	Eswatini
7 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
11 September	Ganesh Chaturthi	Mauritius
17 September	National Heroes Day	Angola
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Botswana Day	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
	Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Mozambique
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day	Tanzania
15 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
18 October	National Day of Prayer	Zambia
19 October	The Prophet's Birthday	Comoros
	Maulid Day	Tanzania
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia

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