



Ready to consolidate regional integration

REGIONAL INTEGRATION must be advanced from “stated intention to actual application” to ensure that citizens fully enjoy the benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa.

The new SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Mpodi Magosi emphasised this when he paid a courtesy call on the SADC Chairperson, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi in September.

He said one way of advancing regional laws from being stated intention to actual application is for Member States to sign and ratify all protocols and agreements.

Since the transformation of SADC in 1992 from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), more than 33 protocols ranging from trade and investment, peace and security, to transboundary natural resources management and the empowerment of women and young people have been signed by Member States to push forward the regional integration agenda.

However, not all the protocols have been ratified, affecting the pace of integration in SADC and resulting in most people

in the region failing to actively participate and contribute to the integration agenda.

In this regard, Magosi said one of his priorities as the new SADC Executive Secretary is to support and facilitate Member States to sign and ratify SADC protocols and agreements so that all Member States and ultimately its citizens fully benefit from the regional integration and development initiatives.

According to SADC legal statutes, any signed regional protocol should be ratified by member countries for it to enter into force at national level in the 16 Member States.

At least two-thirds of the Member States (10 countries) are required to ratify a protocol for it to enter into force.

The process of approval of a regional legal instrument requires, first, signing, and then ratification – a process that differs from country to country, with some requiring approval of Parliament.

“Under my stewardship, the Secretariat will not lose focus of the main goal of SADC, which is regional integration,” Magosi said, adding that he will continue from where his predecessor, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax left.

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SADC Member States have adopted a number of strategic documents such as the SADC Vision 2050 and the Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030), whose implementation period has now begun.

In this regard, Magosi will pursue the implementation of these initiatives as SADC aims for deeper integration and sustainable development.

He said it is therefore critical for all stakeholders including co-operating partners to align their support to the regional vision and the strategic plan – the SADC Vision 2050 and the Revised RISDP 2020-2030.

Alignment of support to these plans will ensure the smooth implementation of

agreed activities and programmes in advancing socio-economic development and deeper integration.

The SADC Vision 2050 was approved by the 40th SADC Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique in August 2020, and sets out the aspirations of the region for the next 30 years.

The SADC Vision 2050 is based on a firm foundation of Peace, Security and Democratic Governance, and premised on three interrelated pillars: Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infrastructure Development in support of Regional Integration; and Social and Human Capital Development.

It envisions a peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle-to-high income industrialized

region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic wellbeing, justice and freedom.

The regional strategic plan, the Revised RISDP 2020-30 was also adopted by the 40th SADC Summit in Mozambique last year.

The strategic plan prioritizes the key regional integration issues of infrastructure development, industrial development and market integration, social and human capital development, and crosscutting issues including environment, climate change, disaster risk management, and gender and youth empowerment.

In a departure from the previous regional strategic plans, the RISDP 2020-30 combines interventions previously presented under the RISDP and the

Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation.

The decision to include peace, security and governance matters in the RISDP 2020-30 is important as the two strategic plans are complementary and support the achievement the same objective.

Magosi began his four-year term as the new SADC Executive Secretary on 1 September after his appointment by the 41st SADC Summit held in Lilongwe, Malawi in August.

He is a national of the Republic of Botswana and succeeds Dr Tax from the United Republic of Tanzania who served from September 2013 to August 2021.

Magosi has almost 30 years of experience in large-scale performance and process improvement, strategic management, human resource management and change management in public, private and parastatal sectors and, prior to the current appointment, he served as the Principal Secretary to the President, effectively becoming the head of Public Service in Botswana.

Magosi holds numerous qualifications including a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics/Statistics from the University of Botswana, and a Master Degree in Organization Development from the Bowling Green State University in the USA.

“His Excellency Magosi understands that achieving SADC goals and objectives requires collective and collaborative efforts of all Member States, partners and stakeholders, and has an unwavering commitment to working closely with relevant structures in the SADC Member States, the private Sector, international cooperating partners as well as regional and international bodies in the promotion and furtherance of SADC objectives,” reads part of a statement by the SADC Secretariat. □

Deeper integration key to sustainable development

SOUTHERN AFRICA will achieve sustainable development if SADC Member States continue to work together in deepening integration.

Speaking soon after meeting the new SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Elias Mpedi Magosi, the SADC Chairperson, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi said the region has all it takes to be a model of shared prosperity in Africa.

This is mainly due to the vast untapped natural resources, a youthful and large population of over 350 million people and an enviable record of relative peace and security, despite isolated cases of instability in some parts of the region.

President Chakwera said the region must invest more in industrializing its economy to ensure that it does not export its natural resources such as gold, coal and diamonds in their raw form, but rather as processed



goods so that more value is derived from the resources.

A vibrant industrialized sector would mean that proceeds from natural resources remain in the region to finance the development agenda.

In respect to a large and youthful population, Chakwera said there is need to actively engage all stakeholders including the youth and women in driving forward the SADC integration agenda.

President Chakwera also underscored the importance of maintaining and strengthening stability in southern Africa

since peace and security are a necessary condition for sustainable development.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected the global socio-economic landscape, he said SADC and the rest of the African continent has learnt lessons, particularly on vaccine inequality, hence it has become evident that SADC needs to strengthen its manufacturing and industrial capacities.

President Chakwera said this year's SADC Summit theme, *Bolstering Productive Capacities in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Inclusive, Sustainable, Economic and Industrial Transformation*, is thus a call for SADC to embrace digitisation to industrialize, using comparative advantages of Member States on value chains and ultimately, increase the level of SADC intra-regional trade. □

Regional financing facility for transboundary conservation

A REGIONAL financing facility has been launched to support transboundary conservation in southern African.

The Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources of the Republic of Malawi, Nancy Tembo launched the facility on 5 September to support transboundary conservation actions in SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs).

TFCAs are relatively large areas that straddle frontiers between two or more countries and cover large-scale natural systems encompassing one or more protected areas.

The SADC TFCA Financing Facility aims to reach a volume of EUR 100 Million in the medium to long term, benefiting 18 TFCAs in most SADC Member States and covering over 700,000 sq km of shared ecosystems in the SADC region.

Tembo said the financing facility will complement efforts by governments to develop sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation of natural resources which cross international boundaries in the region.

The Director of the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) directorate at the SADC Secretariat, Domin-

gos Gove said the importance of TFCAs in collaboratively managing shared natural and cultural resources across international boundaries is a major component of the SADC TFCA programme.

"This financing facility is a basis for long-term and more sustainable investment in tangible measures that strengthen ecological, economic, cultural and institutional connectivity within SADC TFCAs," he said.

SADC, UN discuss cooperation on peace and security

THE UNITED Nations and SADC remained committed to promoting stability in the region and the rest of the global community.

The UN Assistant Secretary General for Africa, Martha Pobe and SADC Executive Secretary His Excellency, Elias Magosi said this at their recent meeting as they deliberated on areas of mutual interest between the two institutions on matters of peace and security as well as democracy and governance.

During the virtual meeting held on 21 October, Magosi

The SADC TFCA financing facility will be executed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in eastern and southern Africa. IUCN will manage the grant-making process through a dedicated Programme Management Unit.

The TFCAs are founded on the realization that natural resources that straddle international boundaries are shared assets with the potential to

meaningfully contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the socio-economic development of rural communities.

TFCAs provide a means of creating an enabling environment for local participation in decision-making processes, increasing opportunities for investment in income-generating activities for communities to improve local economies resulting in poverty reduction. □

Towards implementation of the SADC RISDP

SADC AND the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reaffirmed their collaboration and commitment towards implementation of key components of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030.

The UNICEF representative to Botswana and SADC, Dr Joan Matji and the SADC Executive Secretary made the undertaking at their meeting on 15 September.

Dr Matji said UNICEF will continue to support the implementation of priorities in line with regional integration focusing on Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Education, HIV and AIDS, Social Protection, and Child Protection.

She said UNICEF has also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in significant socio-economic impact in our societies with a rise in violence and exploitation towards women and children.

In this regard, UNICEF will work with the SADC Secretariat to support the development and implementation of social policy instruments and to strengthen child-protection programmes, and will contribute to the regional multidimensional poverty analysis to inform Regional strategies that address poverty. □

Collaboration in higher learning

THE NEW SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi has said the region considers universities as catalysts and key players in learning environments, pillars of innovation, fresh thinking and leaders in areas of research, technological advancement and development.

Magosi said this in his meeting with the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) on 20 October.

The AAP is a consortium founded by Michigan State University in collaboration with 10 African universities to collaborate in addressing global challenges and to strengthen capacities of institu-

tions of higher learning including centres of excellence, advanced research institutes and thinkmtanks in support of the implementation of SADC development frameworks.

"With support from various partners such as institutions of higher learning, tertiary and universities, the SADC region is working towards finding solutions to address many challenges like youth unemployment, inequalities, marginalised members of communities and lack of women participation at various levels, and is focused on closing the knowledge gap and bringing those disadvantaged closer to

mainstream economic development," he said, adding that AAP has potential to provide this service in building capacity of SADC universities.

Africa Director of Alliance for African Partnership and Chairperson for the Planning Commission for Malawi, Prof. Richard Mkandawire said there is need for SADC to have specialised institutions that will spearhead the creation and dissemination of knowledge and the training of qualified personnel specialised in technical fields, and he called upon universities to redefine a regional programme on youth employment. □



Prospects of adequate rainfall in the 2021/22 agricultural season

by Neto Nengomasha

THE 2021/22 agricultural season is set to bring joy to farmers across the region as the bulk of southern Africa is expected to receive adequate rainfall this season.

The expected rainfall over much of the region will boost agricultural production which is the foundation of most economies in the region, as well as hydropower generation and filling of major water reservoirs following good rainfall conditions in the previous season.

According to the latest outlook produced by regional climate experts, "normal to above-normal" rainfall is expected across most of the SADC region between October 2021 and March 2022.

The consensus forecast was produced by the 25th Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF 25) that met virtually on 30-31 August. The SARCOF forecast is divided into two parts, covering October-November-December 2021 and January-February-March 2022.

The forecast shows that most of the SADC region will receive high rainfall, termed "normal to above-normal" between October and December. "Above-normal" rainfall is defined as being within the wettest third of historically recorded rainfall amounts, while "below-normal" is within the driest third of rainfall

amounts and "normal" is rainfall within the middle third.

The bulk of the Democratic Republic of Congo and some small parts of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia are however expected to receive normal to below normal rainfall in the first half.

The second half of the agricultural season, which covers the period January to March 2022, is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall except for the south-western coastal region of Angola, and western coastal regions of both Namibia and South Africa.

In the regions expected to experience below-normal rainfall throughout the agricultural season, farmers are encouraged to plant short-season crop varieties.

The prediction of adequate rainfall means that the region is likely to experience a good harvest during the 2021/22 agricultural season which would position the region to achieve its food security status, which has been under threat from recurrent droughts.

In the 2020/21 season, a number of countries were able to record good harvests despite the occurrence of cyclones such as Eloise and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted on the farming community as it did on others, resulting in increases in post-harvest losses.

The Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Se-

curity and Vulnerability in Southern Africa 2021, released in August shows that maize production in Eswatini is expected to increase by 15 percent this year to 98,988 tonnes while in Namibia maize yields are estimated at 53,700 tonnes, which is 25 percent above average and four percent higher than last year.

South Africa expects a maize harvest of 16.18 million tonnes, which is 5.8 percent higher than last year while Zambia produced 4,461,188 tonnes of maize against a national requirement of 2,932,208 tonnes.

The United Republic of Tanzania is expected to record surpluses in food crop production while maize production in Zimbabwe increased by 199 percent to reach 2,717,171 tonnes, accounting for a surplus of 828,263 tonnes.

In view of the predicted rainfall in the 2021/22 season, climate experts urged Member States to strengthen flood control mechanisms due to the threat of floods, and ensure that dams are in optimal condition to handle high volumes of water, as well as improving grain storage to minimize post-harvest losses.

There is a possibility of leaching in some areas and the outbreak of livestock diseases and crop pests such as Fall Armyworm which farmers need to prepare for.

The meeting emphasised the need for the SADC region to improve water harvesting

infrastructure to capture as much water as possible for the subsequent seasons which may be drier.

Climate experts however stressed that this outlook is only indicative and relevant 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.

Users are advised to contact their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for interpretation of the outlook and further guidance and updates.

The SARCOF-25 meeting was convened under the theme, "Impact of warming ocean on our weather and climate".

The climate scientists considered oceanic and atmospheric factors that influence the climate over the SADC region, including the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which is currently in its neutral phase. The ENSO is projected to evolve into a weak La Niña phase during the forecast period resulting in the predicted rainfall conditions.

There is also an increased chance of a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and a neutral Subtropical Indian Ocean Dipole (SIOD) by the end of the March 2022, both of which were considered when the forecasts were developed. sardc.net □



Towards increased climate financing

by Neto Nengomasha

ONE OF the key issues for southern Africa at the forthcoming climate change conference in Glasgow, Scotland is the need for increased access to climate finance to cushion and allow the region to adapt to the impact of climate change.

Despite the region being the least polluter, it is the most affected.

Set for 31 October to 12 November, the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) comes at a time when the UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) released a report indicating that greenhouse gas emissions hit a new record high in 2020, despite the coronavirus-related lockdowns.

Greenhouse gases are emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane released from industries, agriculture and other human related activities, which warm the atmosphere resulting in change of the climate.

The WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin released on 25 October shows that the concentration of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, is now 50 percent higher than before the industrial revolution, while methane levels have more than doubled since 1750.

The report highlights that all key greenhouse gases rose faster in 2020 than the average for the previous decade and this trend has continued in 2021.

The report warns that increases in greenhouse gas emissions have strong implications for reaching the goal of the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to well below 2° C, highlighting that this will require adjustments

in the timing and/or size of the emission-reduction commitments.

A similar report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also indicates that the impacts of climate change continue to intensify, and that the world is already certain to face further climate disruptions for decades, even centuries, to come.

The Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis report, which is a contribution of the IPCC Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report states that it is no longer debatable that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900.

The report is clear that the pledges so far by developed countries are inadequate to address the challenges of increasing heat waves, wildfires, floods, droughts, sea-level rise, longer warm seasons, and shorter cold seasons, already being felt in most parts of the world.

For southern Africa, this is now a reality as the region has of late suffered major disasters which have left millions of people food insecure and thousands displaced.

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, in-

cluding severe damage to key infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools and clinics.

In view of this increasing vulnerability, southern Africa and the rest of Africa are therefore pushing for increased financial resources, arguing that the current flow of climate financing has not been adequate to meet the needs of adaptation and mitigation programmes in Africa.

To close this funding gap, the negotiators from Africa including those from southern Africa have already made recommendations that at least 50 percent of all available climate funds should go towards climate change adaptation.

The negotiators further expect COP 26 to agree on timelines for improving access and harmonizing processes across multilateral funds and to initiate negotiations on a new and higher post-2025 finance goal. The negotiators expect COP26 to make a commitment towards enhancing transparency and accountability of climate finances.

This position also came up very strongly during the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) COP 26 Preparatory Workshop that was held 7-8 October in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

While presenting during the meeting, the Africa Group Lead Negotiator Washington Zhakata highlighted the need for parties to ensure additional and predictable long-term finance especially with regard to adaptation planning.

Earlier this year, the African Group of Negotiators agreed that the industrialised countries must pledge to meet their pre-2020 climate finance gap of US\$100 billion and that the US\$100 billion per year should be the floor, not the ceiling, and continuing efforts must be made to determine and meet the needs and priorities of developing countries.

In addition, southern Africa is requesting for the establishment of a green COVID-19 recovery funding mechanism to assist developing countries to restore momentum for the revision of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and development of NDCs Implementation Frameworks in view of the delayed climate actions experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. □



SADC economy to recover from COVID-19

by Clarkson Mambo

THE YEAR 2020 was not a good period for most economies due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic that affected business operations.

However, all is not doom for SADC as the 16-member regional economy is forecast to grow by 4.2 percent in 2021 and 3.2 percent in 2022.

This is according to the SADC regional Economic Performance Report for 2020 released by the Directorate of Finance, Investment and Customs (FIC) at the SADC Secretariat.

In its report, the Directorate says successful rolling out of COVID-19 vaccinations is key to regional recovery going forward.

"The forecasted economic recovery in 2021 and beyond largely hinged on vaccine roll-outs which will allow for the opening up of economies," reads part of the report.

The improvement in regional economic performance will be accompanied by a projected reduction of inflation to 15.4 percent this year from 49.6 percent in 2020.

SADC Member States have rolled out Covid-19 vaccination campaigns since the first quarter of the year.

However, it is critical to note that progress has been slow due to various challenges including unavailability of the vaccine as well as negative perceptions on vaccination.

The SADC chairperson, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi has raised concern at "vaccine discrimination" that has seen industrialised countries hoarding vaccines at the expense of developing economies.

In this regard, it is estimated that most countries in Africa have to date managed to vaccinate less than 10 percent of their populations.

Therefore, improved access to COVID-19 vaccines will be a game changer and will benefit the region in its economic recovery and growth.

The report by the FIC notes that in the first year of dealing with Covid-19 in 2020, only two SADC Member States (Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania) managed to record positive Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.

This could be because the two countries did not impose any lockdowns in 2020, thus it was business as usual while the rest of the region partially closed its business, affecting the economy.

According to the report, regional GDP contracted by 4.8 per cent in 2020, from a growth of 2.1 per cent in 2019.

This was due to the fact that COVID-19 exposed the region, which is reliant on the export of unprocessed natural resources mainly agricultural produce, minerals and oil, as global commodity prices fell and export markets closed their borders, thus limiting trade.

There is need for the region to urgently implement its industrialization agenda which promotes the processing and value addition of goods before export, as well as increased opening up of borders to pro-

mote trade within the region.

Other key recommendations for SADC governments to drive the momentum in 2021 and beyond include sound management of debt and transparency, support for the banking industry which is still grappling with non-performing loans as companies struggle to service their debts and bolstering investments in broadband infrastructure to leverage on use of digital technologies.

Observance of tight fiscal and monetary policy measures until the economic recovery is firmly underway is also a key ingredient according to the report. □

Tunduma border to boost regional trade

TANZANIA HAS signed an agreement that sub-delegates the implementation of coordinated border management activities and construction of a border market at the Tunduma border post with Zambia.

Upgrading of the Tunduma border post feeds into the framework of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement arrangement involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC, whose main objective is the creation of a single economic area.

The European Union allocated a total of EUR 2.7 million to this initiative under the COMESA Small-Scale Cross Border Trade Initiative (SSCBTI) and Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP), respectively.

The progressive removal of trade barriers will facilitate trade and increase formal small-scale trade flows between the two countries.

Through the sub-delegation agreement, the United Republic of Tanzania will also receive support in the development of improved and harmonized regulatory frameworks and proce-

dures at its border crossing with Zambia.

In concrete terms, activities will focus on upgrading priority cross-border infrastructure and the procurement of equipment, which is needed to improve cross-border trade and transport facilitation at the Tunduma border post.

The project will also support the capacity-building of border agencies and national stakeholders on coordinated border management, customs valuation, harmonized system classification, setting up and management of Joint Border Committees, risk management and "One Stop Border Post" procedures.

The COMESA Secretary General, Chileshe Kapwepwe, and the Tanzanian Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Doto James, signed the Sub-Delegation Agreement separately in Lusaka and Dodoma.

Mr. James thanked the COMESA Secretariat and the European Union for the continued development support in



Tanzania, saying that the support will enhance operational efficiency of the Tunduma OSBP and rehabilitation/construction of Small-Scale Market at Majengo Area in Tunduma Town Council.

He said the upgrade will also boost regional trade, particularly between Zambia and Tanzania.

The project is funded under the 11th European Development Fund Small-Scale Cross Border Trade Initiative (SSCBTI), EUR 684,000 and Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP), EUR 1,954,000, through a EUR 65 million grant agreement of the EU with COMESA, signed in 2018.

The two programmes have key results areas that include deepening regional integration, improving inclusive regional economic growth, institutional capacity building, better data collection and enhancing the competitiveness of the COMESA region. □



Lift sanctions against Zimbabwe – SADC

by Clarkson Mambo

“THESE SANCTIONS have not only affected the people of Zimbabwe and their government, but the entire region. It is like a human body, when you chop one of its parts, it affects the whole body.”

“We should unite to support Zimbabwe against sanctions imposed by western countries because they are hurting Zimbabweans and people from across member states.”

The late President of the United Republic of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli was speaking at the 39th SADC Summit held in Dar es Salaam in August 2019.

As the then chair of SADC, President Magufuli said it is critical for the region to stand together on matters of principle such as calling for the immediate and unconditional scrapping of western sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe two decades ago.

And indeed, the region made an important statement at the 39th SADC Summit when southern African leaders declared October 25 as the date on which SADC Member States collectively voice their disapproval of the sanctions through various activities and platforms until the sanctions are lifted.

At the first anniversary of the regional anti-sanctions day in October 2020, the then SADC chairperson, President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique said the embargo on Zimbabwe should be removed to allow the country to focus on sustainable development.

“For SADC as a region, the call for the unconditional removal of sanctions assumes even greater importance,” President Nyusi said.



“It is not just a solidarity call in support of Zimbabwe, but also a clarion call for justice, fairness and full enjoyment of human rights. The sanctions are no longer relevant, and are detrimental to the socio-economic development and self-determination of Zimbabweans.”

Zimbabwe has grappled with economic sanctions since 2002 when the United States imposed a unilateral embargo on the country, called the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA) in response to the land reform programme and the leading role played by Zimbabwe in the SADC intervention in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1998 in support of the government there.

The country has not been able to freely access multilateral funds while state-owned companies have had their foreign funds frozen.

Ultimately, ordinary citizens have been affected the most through economic decline, and restricted access international services such as foreign currency remittances.

As SADC prepares for the second anniversary of the regional anti-sanctions day on 25 October, the United Nations has dispatched its Special Rapporteur to Zimbabwe to look into the negative impact of the sanctions.

The UN Special Rapporteur, Alena Douhan will be in Zimbabwe on 18-28 October, and will meet with President Emmerson Mnangagwa on 18 October at the start of the visit.

Douhan and her team will collect information and hold a series of meetings with government authorities, civil society organizations, private sector and opposition political parties.

She will present a public report to the UN Human Rights Council during its 51st Session scheduled for September 2022.

“The purpose of the mission is to examine, in the spirit of co-operation and dialogue, whether and to what extent the adoption, maintenance or implementation of unilateral sanctions impedes the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development,” reads part of a statement released by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The fact-finding mission by Douhan follows a Human Rights Council resolution 34/13 which stresses that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international

humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among states.

The resolution highlights that these sanctions in the long-term result in social problems and raise humanitarian concerns in the targeted countries.

President Mnangagwa has stressed at numerous fora the negative impact of the sanctions on the country and its citizens.

“The unjustified and oppressive illegal sanctions continue to cause untold suffering to the ordinary people of our great country. Their direct and indirect debilitating impacts have equally been felt by our neighbours,” he said, adding that “the illegal sanctions are an albatross to development, wellbeing and prosperity of the people of Zimbabwe.”

President Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe is grateful to SADC for its unwavering support in calling for the immediate and unconditional removal of illegal sanctions imposed on the country, as well as declaring 25 October as a day for the region to show its support.

As a part of commemorations, various activities and platforms will be held by SADC Member States to voice their disapproval of the sanctions. sardc.net □

HONOURING THE SADC FOUNDERS AND PRESERVING HISTORY OF SADC ACHIEVEMENTS

SADC museum to honour Founders

SADC PLANS to establish a museum to honour the men and women who nurtured the dream of a common future within a regional community.

The construction of a modern museum is part of a mechanism approved by the 40th SADC Summit held in August 2020, to preserve and pay tribute to the legacy of the SADC Founders.

"The museum will be viewed as a very useful one-stop shop for archiving artefacts and documents about the Founders and their legacy," according to a document published on the SADC website.

The proposed museum will "ensure the permanent survival of the SADC Founders' historical record, Southern Africa liberation struggle and progress made in regional integration, as well as wide accessibility of such information to the public."

It will collect and display the heritage of the Founders through a collection of books, artefacts, memorabilia, regalia, movies, music and art.

The museum will be constructed on an existing open space inside the premises of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana.

Other activities proposed to honour the legacy of the SADC Founders include the naming of venues and rooms at the SADC Secretariat and satellite offices after some of the leaders who formed the regional organization.

Similar initiatives are expected to take place in the 16 SADC Member States where some public buildings such as government and parliament offices, airports, streets and universities would be named after the SADC Founders.

The leaders or representatives of nine countries (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) met in Lusaka, Zambia on 1 April 1980 to establish the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) following a series of consultations by the then Frontline States and others to forge a closer alliance.

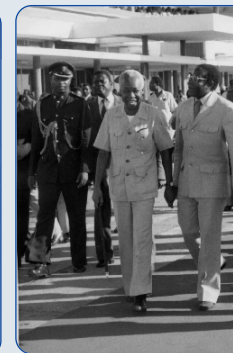
The SADCC was transformed into SADC at the historic 12th Summit in Windhoek, Namibia on 17 August 1992 that transformed the organization from a coordination conference into a community. That date is now commemorated as SADC Day.

This generation of visionary leaders included the founding Presidents of Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, respectively Seretse Khama, Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda, who delayed the economic development of their countries to ensure that the rest of the region achieved independence.

They formed the core leadership of the Frontline States, joined by Samora Machel and Agostinho Neto, later Jose Eduardo dos Santos, after the independence of Mozambique and Angola.

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

One of the first notable achievements was the solidarity shown by the region as it championed the global campaign against apartheid in South Africa.



Back from left: Hon. Dick Matenje, Malawi; Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister-designate of Zimbabwe; Rt. Hon. Prince Mabandla Dlamini, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Eswatini; Hon. Mooki Vitus Molapo, Minister of Trade and Tourism, Kingdom of Lesotho. **Front from left:** HE Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola; HE Sir Seretse Khama, founding President of Botswana; HE Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, founding President of Zambia; HE Samora Moises Machel, founding President of Mozambique; HE Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The culmination of this pressure led to the collapse of the official apartheid system, the independence of Namibia in 1990 and democratic elections in South Africa in 1994. sardc.net □

Significant advances

THANKS TO the spirit of togetherness and common vision exhibited by the SADC Founders more than four decades ago and others who followed, the region has made significant advances. These include the establishment of a regional force to support member states when the peace and security situation in a member state or the region is under threat.

The SADC Standby Force was launched in 2007 and became fully operational in 2017 as a multidisciplinary peacekeeping force made up of military, police and civilian components which can be deployed swiftly in response to a crisis, based on a standby arrangement.

The Standby Force is also part of the African Union Standby Force and serves its turn in the rotational command structure.

The SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) based in Harare, Zimbabwe supports the work of the SADC Standby Force by providing peacekeeping training for military, police and civilian components.

Established in 2003, the SADC RPTC provides training for peace support missions in the region and for joint operations with other parts of Africa.

On the economic front, there has been significant progress in integrating the economies of Member States.

"If you don't know your history, you do not know your future."
Sir Seretse Khama, a SADC Founder and Founding President of Botswana



easing the movement of goods and services, and facilitation of movement of persons within the region.

Another complementary activity was the decision to prioritize industrialization in the regional development and integration agenda.

The decision to frontload industrialization was taken in 2014 after reviewing previous efforts to increase intra-regional trade which were hampered by the little capacity in Member States to produce goods for competitive trade within and outside the region.

This led to the adoption of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, which recognizes the private sector as a major player in SADC industrialization and regional integration.

One of the aspirations of the SADC founders, as contained in the Lusaka Declaration adopted at the inaugural SADCC Summit in Zambia in 1980, was the need for a coordinated approach to infrastructure development.

That objective has received significant attention culminating in the adoption of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan in 2012.

The master plan was informed by the understanding that infrastructure development and maintenance is a priority for accelerating regional economic integration and development.

This includes the concept of one-stop border posts as a key element of the transport and logistics infrastructure to reduce transaction costs for crossing borders.

Other milestones achieved since 1980 include cooperation in the areas of agriculture and food security as well as the promotion of gender equality in the region.

The story of these achievements in building a regional community is told in a new publication, *40 Years of SADC: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Integration*, launched by SADC in June 2021.

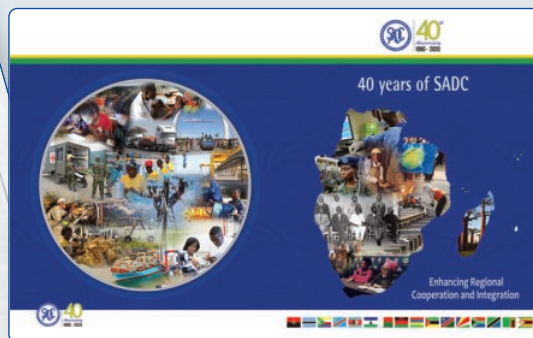
The publication is well documented and illustrated, produced for SADC by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in Zimbabwe whose premises are named in honour of its Founding Patron as Julius K. Nyerere House. sardc.net □

not know where you are going."

ounding President of the Republic of Botswana

Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation

A Declaration by the
Governments of Independent
States of Southern Africa
made at Lusaka on the 1st April 1980



HERITAGE



Preserving and teaching regional history

THE LIBERATION of southern Africa was a major achievement of the 20th century, as the end of colonial rule and dismantling of the apartheid regime had far-reaching consequences, not only for the continent, but also for the world.

The regaining of independence released millions of people to be free from institutionalized racial oppression, economic exploitation and political exclusion.

Today, the expectations of the people of the region are presented in the SADC vision of a "Common Future, a future within a regional community that will ensure economic wellbeing, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the people of Southern Africa."

However, as we go forward, the history is being preserved for sharing with current and future generations.

Some of the liberation experiences are documented in the SADC Hashim Mbita Project on *Southern African Liberation Struggles*, an ambitious project mobilized by Brigadier-General Hashim Mbita (late), who was Patron of the project.

He was the last Executive Secretary of the Liberation Committee established by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 and operational for 30 years from 1964-1994.

The Hashim Mbita research project received initial approval at the SADC Summit in Mauritius in 2004 and started in August 2005, following final approval by the SADC Summit in Botswana, and was fully funded by SADC Member States.

The Project Unit was based in the United Republic of Tanzania, in Dar es Salaam, with national project leaders. The editors were Professor Arnold Tembe and Professor Joel das Neves Tembe.

The nine-volume publication was published in three languages by the SADC Secretariat with the respected Tanzanian publishers, Mkuki na Nyota, and launched on 17 August 2014 at the SADC Summit in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The project's primary objective was to document the experience of the liberation of Southern Africa through the collection, cataloguing and compiling of oral texts and data in SADC Member States and outside the region.

The SADC Council of Ministers took the decision in 2018 to include Southern African Liberation History (SALH) in the school syllabus, confirming a recommendation from the SADC Ministers of Education, and requested the Ministers of Education to operationalize the decision.

The roadmap was approved in 2021. SADC, SARDC and UNESCO have started producing accessible modules on the regional dimensions and linkages of this liberation heritage. *See page 10* □



Taking SADC to the youth through Southern African Liberation History

Teaching and Learning Liberation History

SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation convened a virtual meeting on 16 June 2021 where they approved the roadmap for the integration of Southern African Liberation History (SALH) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in the school curriculum in SADC Member States, requesting UNESCO and other partners to support the Regional Working Group and Member States in this regard.

The Ministerial Meeting was attended by SADC Ministers or their representatives from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SADC Deputy Executive Secretary Regional Integration, Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo, in his welcome remarks, underscored that both the SADC Vision 2050 and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 position Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation as critical components of regional integration as outlined under Pillar 3 on Social and Human Capital Development and under Pillar 1 on Industrial Development and Market Integration.

He commended the Ministers for coming together to consider and approve key sectoral policy measures towards the realisation of the SADC Vi-

sion of "a peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle to high income industrialised Region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice and freedom".

The SADC Council of Ministers had approved the inclusion of SALH in the school syllabus in August 2017 and requested Ministers of Education to operationalize the decision to enable the younger generation to learn about the liberation heritage and advance social cohesion in the region.

A curriculum review was conducted by the SADC Secretariat and UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa with SADC Member States. The initiative seeks to support the Member States in their efforts to provide learners with an appreciation and understanding of the shared regional heritage, solidarity and linkages.

The curriculum review of the teaching of liberation history in SADC Member States, undertaken by the University of Namibia, revealed the need for capacity building in this regard, and production of relevant materials.

SADC has already begun to produce resource materials for this purpose in partnership with UNESCO and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) following a meeting of regional history experts in 2018.

The meeting of history experts discussed ideas and methods for this purpose, including the use of Modules with components of written, visual and short messaging.



The production of Modules started under a programme on the Regional Dimensions and Linkages of the National Liberation Movements in the SADC Region.

Each module comprises a short video, a well-illustrated handbook for print and online, and social media messaging.

Module 1 has been completed with all three components under the title, *Youth in the Liberation Struggle and Beyond*, and has been running on social media for more than a year as a pilot initiative, with a significant following, indicating the keen interest among the current generation of youth.

This is accessible on the Unesco website www.unesco.org and the SARDC website www.sardc.net and has also been posted on the website in some Member States by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Module 1 video was shown to SADC Council of Ministers in August 2019 and was well-received.

Module 2 on *Teaching and Learning Liberation History* is in production with most components complete and will soon be posted. A launch of these publications is planned soon.

A related publication on mapping heritage archives in SADC Member States is expected to be launched at the same time under the title, Pre-



serving Memory of African Liberation through access to Heritage Archives.

This is the initial report on this subject, covering nine SADC Member States, and the remaining seven countries are covered in the second report expected this year. sardc.net □

Taking SADC to the youth through essay competition

THE YOUTH make up the majority of the population in SADC, and are essential in advancing regional integration into the future.

The SADC Secretariat is engaging young people on how the region can promote deeper integration as well as uphold the ideals of the SADC Founders for the benefit of future generations.

That generation of visionary leaders formed the Frontline States who established the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which was later transformed into a regional community, the Southern African Development Community (SADC). (See page 8-9)

In this regard, the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in August 2020 approved the initiative to recognise and honour the Founders of SADC.

On 11 October 2021, the SADC Secretariat launched the new essay competition, the SADC Tertiary Institution

Essay Competition for youth at tertiary institutions in the 16 SADC Member States.

The initiative provides recognition and knowledge of the Founders for establishing SADC, and to generate awareness about the pivotal role played by SADC Founders in pursuance of a regional integration agenda.

The Secretariat is calling upon youth at tertiary institutions to write an essay on the history of the liberation of Southern Africa, regional co-operation and regional integration.

The topic of the essay competition for youth in tertiary institutions is, *"How best can the legacies of the founding fathers be preserved for future generations?"*

"SADC Secretariat is calling for submissions of essay entries from active tertiary institution-going learners. The wordings of the think piece and content should aim at promoting the role played by the



Founders of SADC taking into account the prevailing peace and security which contributes to the SADC's Objectives and Common Agenda," reads part of the statement released by the Secretariat.

Students are expected to submit their entries to their respective Ministries of Education by 10 January 2022, and the winners will be announced at the 42nd SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for August 2022 in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Other annual competitions are ongoing for Secondary School students and the media (see text boxes). □

SADC Media Awards

THE MEDIA is a crucial sector in the SADC regional integration matrix as journalists can collect and analyse the benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa.

To recognize the role of the media in disseminating information about regional development and to support the process of regional integration, the SADC Media Awards were established in 1996. Held annually, the awards honour those journalists who would have excelled during the past year in highlighting the successes, challenges and developments in the region.

The SADC Media Awards are open to journalists from all SADC Member States and are conducted in four categories -- Photo Journalism, Print Journalism, Radio Journalism and Television Journalism.

The first prize winners receive some monetary reward and certificates signed by the SADC Chairperson, presented during the annual SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in August each year. □



SADC Secondary School Essay Competition 2021-2022

"How can SADC boost productive capacities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic?"

THE SADC Secondary School Essay Competition is held annually and is open to Secondary School learners from the 16 SADC Member States.

Each year, Secondary School learners are given a topic on which to write an essay. The topic for the 2020-2021 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition was *"How has SADC contributed to peace and security of the region in the last 40 years and how can SADC consolidate peace going forward?"*

The topic is mainly derived from the SADC theme of that particular year. In 2020/21 the SADC theme was *"SADC: 40 Years Building Peace and Security, Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges"*.

The winners are recognised and officially announced at the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government usually held in August each year.

The topic for 2022 was announced by the SADC Secretariat in mid-October 2021, as shown at the top of this article. □





SADC Standby Force Logistics

by Clarkson Mambo

THE SADC Standby Force Regional Logistics Depot is on course to attain full operational capacity by 2026. This follows the signing of an Agreement for hosting the Regional Logistics Depot (RLD) by Botswana.

The depot is located in Rasasa village, near Mochudi, Botswana and will house general purpose equipment for the police, military and civilian components of the SADC Standby Force.

Botswana offered to host the depot and has since made available 19-hectares of land for its construction.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security of Botswana, Hon. Kagiso Thomas Mmusi, who was accompanied by his counterpart from the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Lemogang Kwape, said Botswana is committed to ensuring that the depot is successful in achieving its mission.

The Minister said that on completion, the depot will guarantee a rapid deployment capability of the SADC Standby Force which will facilitate SADC to act promptly to save lives and prevent crises from escalating.

"Botswana is committed to ensure that SADC has the capability to maintain peace and security within the region," he said, adding that the country will meet all the

obligations outlined in the Agreement to ensure that the facility is fully operationalised.

Mmusi said the recent deployment of SADC forces in northern Mozambique has demonstrated that the depot is a critical need for SADC to mitigate and address any instability or security challenges in the region.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi commended Botswana as a SADC Member State, for signing the Agreement and for hosting the Regional Logistics Depot, saying this shows the country's commitment to

deepen integration in the region.

He said the depot is being built in phases at an estimated total cost of US\$45 million and is expected to be fully operational by 2026.

The first phase entailed bush clearing and fencing, and was concluded in October 2018.

Phase Two involves major construction works, including the designs and construction of the buildings and supporting infrastructure.

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

Union Standby Force Policy Framework.

The establishment of a Regional Logistics Depot was proposed by SADC defence ministers in 2006, and the SADC Standby Force was officially launched at the 27th SADC Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia in August 2007.

SADC Member States have demonstrated their commitment to ensure the completion of the depot with the contribution of a total of US\$ 10 million as seed capital, while the African Union has agreed to assist SADC to source the remaining funds for the construction of the depot. □

Special envoy deployed to Eswatini

SADC HAS deployed a special envoy to the Kingdom of Eswatini to find lasting solutions to the unstable political situation in that country.

Eswatini slid into a political turmoil in June when protestors were engaged in violent clashes with police and security details.

The disturbances resulted in widespread destruction of property and injuries to people. Despite the situation temporarily returning to normalcy, it escalated again in late July and early October prompting the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, President Cyril Ramaphosa South Africa to intervene.

"Following the escalation of civil unrest in the Kingdom

of Eswatini, as the Chairperson of the Organ, I deployed Jeff Radebe, former Minister in the President's Office, as my Special Envoy supported by representatives from Namibia, and Botswana as the incoming and outgoing Chair of the Organ respectively, assisted by the SADC Secretariat, to Eswatini on 21-22 October," Ramaphosa said in a statement.

President Ramaphosa said the Special Envoy has met with the relevant stakeholders in Eswatini, who have agreed that a national dialogue should be convened to address the current challenges facing the country.

"In view of the fact that His Majesty King Mswati III has accepted the need for national dialogue, as announced by the

Indvuna Yeluludzidzini, on His Majesty's behalf, it is in this context and development that I appeal for calm, restraint, the respect for the rule of law and human rights on all sides to enable the process to commence," Ramaphosa said.

He said SADC remains committed "support to the people and Government of Eswatini towards the achievement of practical and sustainable solutions to enable peace to prevail in the country."

Protestors in Eswatini are calling for constitutional reforms and lifting of the ban on opposition parties, with some pushing for an end to the monarchy.

The Kingdom of Eswatini is Africa's last remaining absolute monarchy. □



Term extended for SADC mission to Mozambique

SADC IS fully committed to support Mozambique in addressing instability in the northern part of the country.

The Extraordinary Summit of the SADC Organ Troika plus Mozambique met on 5 September in South Africa and agreed to extend the regional military mission in Mozambique beyond the initial three months.

The SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) was deployed 9 July following a decision by a SADC Summit held in June in Maputo, and its mandate was due to end 15 October.

The Organ Troika extended the mission by another three months.

"Summit approved the extension of the SAMIM to continue with offensive operations against terrorists and violent extremists to consolidate stability of security and create a conducive environment for resettlement of the population and facilitate humanitarian assistance operations and sustainable development," reads part of the communiqué released soon after the Extraordinary Summit of the Organ Troika plus Mozambique.

The Organ Troika "commended the SAMIM leadership and their troops for the remarkable achievements made since the deployment of the Mission in July," as well as "commended Member States that have contributed personnel, equipment and financial resources for the deployment of the SAMIM in support of Mozambique to combat acts of terrorism and violent extremism."

Northern Mozambique has experienced increased acts of extremism, terrorism and insurgency, prompting a regional response from SADC due to potential threats to peace in the region.

According to the United Nations, more than 3,000 people have been killed while 800,000 have been displaced since the beginning of the insurgency in 2017.

Speaking at the Extraordinary Summit, the current chair of the Organ Troika, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa said it is critical for the region to collectively address peace and security issues.

"While the political and the security situation in the SADC region is relatively peaceful and stable, the region has and continues to experience its share of peace and security challenges," President Ramaphosa said.

"Therefore, the work of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security whose key objective is to promote peace and security within the region is vital."

He said security challenges in northern Mozambique if not collectively addressed "have the potential to threaten the stability of the region."

The new SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi agreed, saying peace and security are the foundational cornerstones for the achievement of the region's socio-economic development, poverty eradication and regional integration, in pursuit of the Vision 2050, as enabled by the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2020-2030).

"I am glad to report that, since its deployment, the Mission has registered considerable progress, with life returning to normal in some parts of the region," Magosi said.

"This is commendable, thanks to the work of the SADC forces on the ground."

In its September update, the SAMIM said it had cleared several key towns which had been captured by the insurgents.



The SAMIM also raided and destroyed an Ahlu Sunna Wa-Jama (AWSJ) base and recovered vehicles, weapons and documents.

The AWSJ has claimed responsibility for some of the attacks in Cabo Delgado.

Speaking after the Extraordinary Summit, President Felipe Nyusi of Mozambique said the extension of the military intervention would "ensure full clearance of the areas freed from the terrorists and establish security, as some of the territories had been occupied for over a year."

The continued presence of the regional military would also allow for reconstruction of

infrastructure and safe return of displaced people.

The Extraordinary Summit was attended by the deputy chair of the Organ Troika, President Hage Geingob of Namibia and the previous chair, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, as well as President Nyusi.

The SADC Organ Troika is responsible for promoting peace and security in the SADC region, and is coordinated at the level of Summit, reporting to the SADC Summit.

The Organ structure, operations and functions are established by the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. sardc.net □

Regional humanitarian centre to be operationalized soon

STEADY PROGRESS is being made to operationalize the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Centre (SHOC) that will be hosted by Mozambique.

The SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr. Theminkosi Mhlongo said on 10 September that the region remains committed to operationalize the decision of the 40th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government to establish the SHOC.

He said SADC is grateful to the Government of Mozambique for donating land to host the centre.

Mozambican President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi inaugurated the site of the SHOC in June, and once operationalized, the centre will coordinate regional humanitarian efforts on natural disasters which are increasing and affecting all Member States. □



South Africa prepares for municipal elections

by Clarkson Mambo

SOUTH AFRICA will hold its local government elections on 1 November to choose council representatives in each of the country's nine provinces.

The municipal election, which will be the sixth since the end of the apartheid system in 1994, will once again provide a strong indication of how contesting parties will perform at the general polls scheduled for 2024.

While the timeframe between now and 2024 is still substantial, the results will have an impact on how political parties eventually prepare and fare in the next general election.

According to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), a record 325 parties have registered to contest for the 10,478 seats in the 257 municipalities, but only two will field candidates in all the areas to be contested.

The two are the African National Congress (ANC) and the main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA).

The IEC said a total of 26.2 million people registered to vote in the local government elections.

Local government in South Africa consists of municipalities of various types – eight metropolitan municipalities, 44 district municipalities, each of which consists of 205 local municipalities.

In this regard, the councils of metropolitan and local municipalities are elected through a system of mixed-member proportional representation, in which half of the seats in each municipality are elected on the first-past-the-post system in single-member wards.

The other half of the seats are allocated according to the



proportional representation (PR) system.

In the last municipal elections held in 2016, the governing ANC won 54 percent of the total votes against 26.9 percent by the Democratic Alliance (DA) and 10 percent by the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

The 2016 elections saw the ANC record the worst electoral setback in its history, losing its dominance in five out of the six largest cities, including Johannesburg and Pretoria.

This setback was clearly evident in the general elections held in 2019 when the ANC got 58 percent of the national vote compared to 62.1 percent in 2014, prompting the ANC leader, President Cyril Ramaphosa to say “we have learnt our lesson,” in reference to a reduced margin, the lowest winning margin recorded by the ruling party since the end of the apartheid system in 1994.

The local government elections in South Africa are going as planned in November following a Court ruling that dismissed a petition by the IEC to postpone the polls to 2022.

The IEC had in August sought a delay of the polls to next year, arguing that the elections would not be free and fair due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which

has resulted in various restrictions.

South Africa has been the hardest hit country in Africa by COVID-19, hence the IEC sought a delay to allow more time for voters to be vaccinated.

However, on 3 September, the Constitutional Court dismissed the petition by the IEC and directed the Commission to ensure an electoral process that is free and fair, striving for safety within the constraints occasioned by the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic to take place.

“The Commission calls on all role-players, especially political parties, to co-operate to ensure that the election proceeds within a calm environment where voters can exercise their right to vote and make their choices without undue impediments,” said the IEC to stakeholders in its compliance with the Constitutional Court ruling.

Most parties held door-to-door campaigns as large gatherings are restricted due to COVID-19. The campaigns have been generally peaceful in the local municipalities. □

Parties confident of a good show

ELECTION CAMPAIGN for the municipal polls in South Africa set for 1 November has seen the main political parties aiming to outdo one another in the race for votes.

At the core of the campaigns are promises on how they intend to tackle the challenges of corruption, service delivery and inequality.

“We pledge to you, the people of South Africa, that we will do better, much better than we have done in the past,” said President Ramaphosa, who is the leader of the ANC.

“This is a pledge, and this is what we dedicate ourselves to you all. We have not always

done the best that we were meant to do.”

Leader of the main opposition, the DA, John Steenhuisen echoed the same sentiments, saying “in every community, a DA government will focus first on getting the basics right, as the foundation to bringing in investment and jobs for all.”

Julius Malema of the EFF also said his party would deliver on its election promises if elected to govern.

“We are here to remind the people of the pains that they have been through and that they can stop it come the first of November,” he said. □



SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY
is produced as a reference source of activities and opportunities in the Southern African Development Community, and a guide for decision-makers at all levels of national and regional development.

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SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY is supported by the Austrian Development Agency, produced in support of the SADC Energy Thematic Group of International Cooperating Partners.

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SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY welcomes contributions from individuals and organizations within the SADC region in form of articles, photographs, news items and comments, and also relevant articles from outside the region. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items, and to edit to fit the space available. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions or opinions of SADC or SARDC.

SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY is published in English, Portuguese and French, and is available electronically at www.sardc.net Knowledge for Development, linked to www.sadc.int

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Tonely Ngwenya

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This document was produced in the context of a project funded by the Austrian Development Agency/the Austrian Development Cooperation. The responsibility for the content of this publication lies entirely with the publisher; the information and views expressed do not reflect the official opinion of the Austrian Development Agency/the Austrian Development Cooperation.



October - December 2021

October
13 – 15, Virtual

SADC Energy Thematic Group

The SADC Energy Thematic Group is a coordination meeting of SADC and its subsidiary organisations with international cooperating partners and experts to review the energy situation in the region.

25, SADC

SADC Solidarity Day against Sanctions on Zimbabwe

A day of solidarity against sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the US Congress. SADC Member States will collectively voice their disapproval of the sanctions through various activities and functions.

November
31 Oct –
12 Nov, UK

UNFCCC COP 26

The 26th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will bring together global leaders to continue negotiations towards a global consensus on addressing the impacts of climate change.

15, SADC

SADC Malaria Day

The annual commemoration aims to expand awareness about malaria and mobilise the community to participate in malaria-control programmes. The theme for this year is "Community involvement is key to achieving zero Malaria", with a slogan "together we can defeat malaria."

1 – 4, Rwanda

Conference on Land Policy in Africa

This is an event for policy discussions and learning with the objective of deepening the capacity for land policy in Africa through improved access to knowledge and information on land policy development and implementation.

25 Nov –
10 Dec, Global

16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

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

December
1, Global

World AIDS Day

The commemoration of World AIDS Day in 2021 is an opportunity to recognize the essential role that communities have played and continue to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels. The theme for the 2021 observance is "Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice".

2 – 4,
Cape Verde

African Economic Conference

The theme of the 2021 African Economic Conference, "Financing Africa's post-COVID-19 development", aims to bring together various stakeholders, including policymakers, the private sector, and researchers, to examine ways and means to expand Africa's development finance sources sustainably.

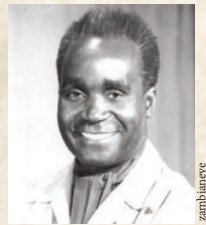
ZAMBIA INDEPENDENCE DAY



24 October 1964

Tiende Pamodzi

Music has been a life-long passion for Kenneth Kaunda from the time he was a teenager in Chinsali when he discovered the guitar and he occasionally picks up his guitar to sing. On his lonely assignments to mobilize support for independence, the lanky young man sporting a Zonk-haircut would ride long distances with a guitar slung across his shoulder. He would hold meetings and sing to his audience his own compositions.



When he ascended to power, it was a common feature to see him strum his guitar, singing a patriotic song or a love to song dedicated to his wife, late Betty Kaunda.

Tiyende Pamodzi ndim'tima umo means,
"Let us have one heart, one spirit, we work
together so that we can develop.
If you have different opinions you can't
achieve the right goals."



The late Zambian leader described his philosophy as 'humanism', a people-centred approach rooted in *ubuntu*. The leadership and people of independent Zambia welcomed refugees and exiles from neighbouring countries, and young people seeking education or military training to liberate their countries, notably from Angola, Namibia and apartheid South Africa, and also from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The leadership and cadres of all the liberation movements in southern Africa passed through Zambia or lived there, and some went for military training, although that normally took place across Zambia's borders in Tanzania or Mozambique due to the vulnerability of the country's common border with Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) until 1980.

The founding President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda died on 17 June 2021 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 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 on 1 April 1980 that launched the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), now the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with the declaration *Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation*.

The Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA), a weapon of freedom ...

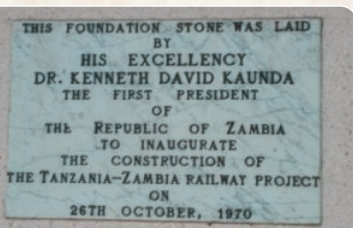
This railway has three major contributions to make to Africans, and the Third World development.

First, it provides a vital route to the sea for Zambia, through its North-Eastern areas; and it links important and underdeveloped parts of Tanzania, including the whole Rufiji Basin Valley, with Dar es Salaam port and the rest of the country.

Secondly, this railway will make a vital contribution to African unity. It will greatly facilitate trade between our two countries, and eventually, between Eastern and Southern Africa as a whole. It will, therefore, strengthen the policy of promoting inter-Third World trade, and increase our freedom from neo-colonial exploitation.

Thirdly, the railway will be simultaneously, and automatically, helping the peoples of this part of Africa to play their part in the struggle for African liberation. For, it will strengthen our two countries; and both Tanzania and Zambia are committed to using their strength in support of total liberation of our continent. The struggle for freedom in Southern Africa has been going for a long time.

Five countries used to be involved; two of them are now free, three are still to be freed. This railway, whose completion we are celebrating today, is not unconnected with the liberation struggle in Southern Africa; it is a weapon of freedom, for Zambia and for Tanzania, and therefore, for Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa."



The railway was completed and handed over on 14 July 1976. Mwalimu Julius Nyerere spoke at the official handover at Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia. The railway runs between Zambia's mineral belt and the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

October – December 2021

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