



2022 SADC aims for deeper integration

by Kizito Sikuka and Clarkson Mambo

THE YEAR 2022 promises to be an eventful period for southern Africa, with plans for the region to see a rapid recovery after the global community was hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. This article looks at some of the key issues expected to dominate the agenda for SADC in the coming year to achieve deeper integration and stability. As current SADC chair, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi said during a recent visit to the SADC Secretariat headquarters in Botswana,

"Our task in 2022 is simple, but not easy. Our task is to increase regional integration and development."

Intensified response to COVID-19 pandemic

Curbing the coronavirus remains a top priority for SADC as the region begins to reopen economies and relax some lockdown measures that have disrupted the implementation of various regional activities, programmes and projects since March 2020.

SADC Member States are expected to invest more this year in strengthening their national campaigns to mobilize citizens to get vaccinated as there has been a low uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines in some member states due to various factors including misinformation about the vaccine.

When more people are fully vaccinated, this will enable the SADC region to reach group immunity, enabling the removal of re-

strictions, since science has shown that the vaccination lowers the risk of getting and spreading the virus, and can help to prevent serious illness and death.

SADC is also expected to intensify plans to engage the private sector and the expertise needed to produce vaccines and other medical products locally and regionally. Such a development will strengthen self-reliance and ensure that the region is able to take charge of its own health.

Another priority for SADC in addressing COVID-19 is to invest more resources in strengthening public health systems and continuing to enforce strict anti-coronavirus regulations such as social distancing, regular health screenings, and wearing of masks at all times.

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Manufacturing and industrialization

On the economic front, SADC wants to continue to improve its manufacturing capacity as well as promoting industrialization to ensure that the abundant natural resources in the region benefit the people of the region through beneficiation instead of being shipped out as raw material.

The manufacturing sector's share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the region has increased from an average of 10.3 percent in 2013 to about 11.9 percent in 2018, and the region now targets to more than double that share to 30 percent by 2030 and 40 percent by 2050.

An increase in the manufacturing sector's share of GDP has ripple effects on the economy including an increase in production, employment and foreign currency generation from the export of value-added products.

Most Member States are estimated to be earning a lot of income through the export of raw and unprocessed products such as tobacco, cotton, gold, platinum and diamonds. However, these earnings could be doubled if the products are sold in their processed form.

In this regard, the region will this year pursue efforts to boost its manufacturing capacity by developing vibrant and innovative funding facilities that support the regional manufacturing sector to acquire machinery and equipment for production using modern technology.

Balancing the water-energy-food nexus

Balancing the competing needs of water, energy and food will be a priority for SADC as the economy and the population show growth. This growth puts more pressure on these resources, with additional challenges such as climate change.



For example, low rainfall received in recent years has seen large parts of the region record very low reservoir water-levels affecting energy generation, although that is expected to recover this year.

SADC is seeking innovative approaches to forge closer collaboration between the water and energy sectors as well as that of agriculture since these are inextricably linked, and any uncoordinated development in one area has the capacity to negatively impact on others.

Towards a regional parliament

On the governance and policy-making front, the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a regional parliament is expected to dominate the integration agenda this year.

This follows the approval of the much-awaited transformation by the 41st SADC Summit that met in August 2021 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

A SADC Regional Parliament will ensure broader citizen participation in regional affairs by facilitating more extensive debate on regional issues. This is expected to accelerate the implementation of SADC protocols that need to be ratified and domesticated into national legislation.

According to the decision of the 41st SADC Summit, the SADC Parliament will start as a "consultative and deliberative body" with no law-making or other binding authority.

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 channelled 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 SADC.

Strengthening peace and security

With regard to peace and stability, SADC will this year remain seized with the political and security situation prevailing in the region since stability is a key factor in sustainable development.

The SADC region has generally enjoyed stability despite some pockets of volatility, as seen currently in northern Mozambique.

Meeting for their Extraordinary Summit in January, the region has already shown its commitment to fully address the instability in Mozambique by extending the regional military mission in that country by another three months.

This is the second time that the mandate of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) has been extended since its deployment in July 2021, with notable progress having been recorded to curb the conflict.

SADC is also expected to encourage more Member States to implement an Action Plan for the Implementation of Security Threats Report which was adopted last year.

The action plan contributes towards forging a holistic approach for sustenance of security at both national and regional levels, which includes the operationalization of the Regional Counter Terrorism Centre as part of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy.

SADC will also remain seized with the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the political situation in the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Kingdom of Lesotho in line with the region's democratic agenda.

42nd SADC Summit

SADC will convene its 42nd Summit in the Democratic Republic of Congo in August to track and advance the implementation of the integration agenda.

At the summit, President Félix Tshisekedi of DRC will assume the rotating SADC chair from his Malawian counterpart, Lazarus Chakwera.

President Hage Geingob of Namibia will become the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, taking over from President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa.

The SADC Organ is responsible for promoting peace and security in the SADC region. It is mandated to steer and provide Member States with direction regarding matters that strengthen peace, security and stability in the region. sardc.net □

Legal frameworks key for deeper integration

THE SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi has called on Member States to pass national laws to support regional integration as all legal instruments are critical in deepening integration and promoting sustainable development in the region.

The slow pace by some SADC Member States to advance these regional laws from being stated intentions to actual application has affected integration, resulting in most people failing to achieve maximum benefits of belonging to a share community in southern Africa.

The Executive Secretary emphasised this point in addressing a virtual meeting of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General on 25 January, noting that the SADC Board of Auditors has already mentioned the slow pace at which Member States sign, ratify and accede to regional protocols and other legal instruments.

"All these instruments were developed and approved for a purpose, to move this region forward to achieve its goals under the SADC Common agenda, and I believe they still remain important and relevant," said Magosi, who started his work as the new SADC Executive Secretary in August 2021.

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 of 16) 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.

Magosi said any obstacles that may hinder countries to advance regional laws from being stated intentions to actual application should be tackled head-on to ensure that SADC achieves its long-standing goals of a united, prosperous and integrated region.

"We all need to work doubly hard to remove bottlenecks and deal with challenges, including those with sovereignty considerations."

Magosi said the Secretariat will not lose focus of the main goal of SADC, which is regional integration, adding that steadfast support from a legal standpoint will also strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and management of all SADC Programmes.

"One of the commitments I made in assuming

the role of the Executive Secretary, is to ensure delivery of the RISDP towards attainment of the SADC Vision 2050, and if in the process to achieve this, there are processes or areas that need review to realise efficiency and effectiveness of the Secretariat, and that of Member States, we ought to work jointly to enhance these.

"Your support to the Secretariat in this regard, especially from the legal standpoint, will be crucial."

In their efforts to strengthen and promote a conducive legal framework to advance regional integration, SADC Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General at their meeting considered a number of draft legal instruments and recommended them for approval by the SADC Council of Ministers and subsequently, the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government.

These instruments include the Draft Agreement Amending the SADC Treaty, which is intended to recognise the SADC Parliament as one of SADC Institutions under Article 9 (1) of the SADC Treaty.

The transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a regional parliament was approved by the 41st SADC Summit that met in August 2021 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Its transformation will ensure broader citizen participation in regional affairs

by facilitating more extensive debate on regional issues, and it is expected to accelerate the implementation of SADC protocols that need to be ratified and domesticated into national legislation.

Another important legal instrument that was recommended for adoption by the region is the Draft Memorandum of Agreement for the Establishment of SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC).

Based in the Nampula province of Mozambique, the SHOC will coordinate regional humanitarian efforts on natural disasters which are increasing and affecting all Member States.

The SADC Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General also considered and recommended that the Regional Customs Transit Guarantee Regulations made under Annex IV to the Protocol on Trade the Draft Agreement Amending the Protocol on the Development of Tourism in the SADC Region be approved.

The Regional Customs Transit Guarantee Regulations cater for a system that ensures that the guarantee issued in one country should be recognised across the region for purposes of securing the duties when the goods are in transit and thereby regarded as a trade facilitation tool meant to support the implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA). □



Towards stability in northern Mozambique

by Clarkson Mambo

SADC WILL continue to provide logistical and military support to Mozambique until stability is fully attained in the northern part of the country.

This regional commitment was made by the SADC Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government that met 12 January in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit agreed to extend the regional military mission Mozambique by yet another three months.

This is the second time that the mandate of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) has been extended.

The first mission was due to end in October 2021, but an Extraordinary Summit of the SADC Organ Troika plus Mozambique that met in September 2021 extended the mandate to January 2022.

"Summit noted the good progress made since the deployment of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and extended its mandate with associated budgetary implications, and that it will continue to monitor the situation going forwards," reads part of the communiqué released soon after the summit.

The SAMIM was first deployed on 9 July following a decision by a SADC Summit held in June in Maputo, Mozambique.

This was in response to an increase in violent acts of extremism, terrorism and insurgency in northern Mozambique that posed potential threats to peace and stability in the region.

According to the United Nations, more than 3,000 people have been killed while 800,000 have been displaced in Mozambique since the beginning of the insurgency in 2007.

However, since the deployment of the SAMIM in July 2021 some progress has been recorded to curb the instability.

In this regard, the SADC Extraordinary Summit commended Member States that have provided personnel, equipment and financial support to Mozambique given challenges being faced as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies.

The leaders said the unity of purpose among SADC Member States that set "a unique precedent on the African continent," in which regional countries fight against terrorism using own resources.

The Summit also lauded the SAMIM for successful operations and achievements recorded during the period it has been in operation that have seen insurgents being driven out of many places they had occupied in the province, and some people returning to the homes.

"Summit expressed deep condolences and sympathies to the countries and families of personnel who lost their lives while on deployment to the SADC Mission in Mozambique and

wished those wounded in action a speedy recovery," the leaders said in a statement.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit also applauded the government of Mozambique for coming up with the Cabo Delgado Reconstruction Plan that seeks to enable the delivery of social services and amenities and initiating a strategy to mobilize international support for the plan.

The Plan will be supported by the Framework for Support to the Republic of Mozambique in addressing terrorism which outlines, among others, actions for consolidating peace, security and socio-economic recovery of the Cabo Delgado Province which the Extraordinary Summit Heads of State and Government approved.

"Summit welcomed the initiative of convening an international conference to support the economic and social reconstruction of Cabo Delgado Province, and called upon the international cooperating partners to support the initiative," reads the communiqué.

Addressing the summit, the current chair of the SADC Organ Troika, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa said it is critical for the region to collectively address peace and security issues.

"Terrorism cannot be permitted to continue to thrive in any part of our region as its presence will reverse the stability and progress SADC has achieved in its four decades of existence," President Ramaphosa said.

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.

Prior to the SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit, there was a series of various meetings including the Organ Troika Summit Plus the Personnel Contributing Countries as well as a Council of Ministers meeting. sardc.net □

SADC moves to thwart terrorism

A REGIONAL centre has been established by SADC to counter potential acts of terrorism in southern Africa.

This addresses an increase in incidents of terrorism in the region and the fact that terrorism knows no boundaries, hence the need for SADC to remain alert to such threats.

The SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre (RCTC) was launched on 28 February in Dar es Salam, the United Republic of Tanzania, where it will be based.

The RCTC will be responsible for ensuring that the region remains peaceful and stable, allowing SADC to achieve its longstanding goals of a united, integrated and prosperous community.

Speaking at the launch of the centre, the SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi said stability is key to deeper integration and sustainable development, adding that institutions such as the RCTC are critical in promoting peace and stability in southern Africa.

"The Centre was created to ensure enhanced coordination, strengthened partnerships, as well as to foster timely response to terrorism and violent extremism within the region," he said.

The RCTC was established in line with the outcome of the 35th SADC Summit held in August 2015 in Gaborone, Botswana that adopted the Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action as a comprehensive, integrated and operational framework geared towards preventing and countering terrorism, as well as enhancing cooperation and coordination.

Its creation is also in line with the SADC Treaty, the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation of 2001 and the SADC Mutual Defence Pact of 2003 whose ultimate objective is the preservation of peace, security and stability in the region.

The main mandate for the RCTC will be to advise SADC on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism policies, programmes and deployments within the SADC Region; coordinate the implementation of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy, and lead the review process of the strategies.

Researching, assessing, analysing and timely dissemination of information to agencies tasked with national counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism agencies is also a key responsibility.

Magosi said overcoming terrorism and violent extremism will only be achieved if Member States work together to fight all forms and manifestations of "this real threat."

"As terrorist groups adapt, we must also adapt our tools and actions to ensure that we counter their efforts and stop them in their tracks. The fight against terrorism and violent extremism, therefore, calls for a united front and robust response from all SADC Member States," he said.



Speaking on behalf of the chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation currently headed by South Africa, the previous chair Botswana said the RCTC has come at an opportune time when the region was experiencing acts of terrorism in northern Mozambique.

The representative of Botswana, the Minister for Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development, Hon. Ronald Shamukuni thanked Tanzania for agreeing to host the RCTC.

He said this was testimony of "the country's longstanding commitment to regional cooperation on peace, security and development which was first championed by the father of this Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, and has been carried forward by successive leaders of this country."

Julius Nyerere, who is a symbol of freedom in Africa was instrumental together with other African leaders in the formation of SADC and the African Union, formerly the Organization of African Union (OAU).

Nyerere played a critical role in supporting the liberation of the continent from colonial rule as Tanzania hosted the OAU Liberation Committee that provided diplomatic support and materials to the liberation movements, who now govern several independent countries in Africa.

"With the reality of the threat of terrorism we have witnessed in our region, the establishment of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre could not have come at a better time than now, to ensure that there is a dedicated structure to coordinate regional counter-terrorism efforts," Shamukuni said.

"Strong and sustained multilateral cooperation, understanding, and analysis are required in order to support Member States in addressing the challenges posed by terrorism, violent extremism and its associated Transnational Organized Crime activities."

The Minister for Defence and National Service for Tanzania, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, who is a former SADC Executive Secretary, said fighting terrorism requires unhinged cooperation "as terrorism is not an ordinary war, where the enemy is clearly visible."

"Some supporters of terrorist groups are part of our society, terrorism is borderless, and perpetrators of terrorist acts can receive support from within and outside the country. The effects of terrorist acts have serious economic, social and security implications for innocent civilians." □

SADC appoints a panel of elders to tackle conflict

by Clarkson Mambo

"THOSE WHO do not listen to the voice of the elderly are like trees without roots."

This is just but one, in the long list of African proverbs that recognizes the critical role that elders play in every aspect in the growth and development of society.

One such role that elders play in society is in conflict prevention and mediation through providing wisdom and guidance from past experiences.

In line with this longstanding tradition, SADC has appointed an eight-member Panel of Elders (PoE) and Mediation Reference Group (MRG) to assist in maintaining political and security stability in the region through the prevention and resolution of significant inter-state and intra-state conflicts.

The members of the SADC PoE and MRG are from SADC Member States and are expected to provide their services for a period of four years.

This follows the approval to operationalise the panel by the 41st SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government that was held in Lilongwe, Malawi in August 2021.

On 28 February 2022, President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, who is a member of the SADC Organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, presented the members with their appointment letters soon after the induction meeting organised by the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone.

President Masisi urged the key policy and decision-making structures in the SADC region to make use of the expertise of the SADC PoE and MRG to advance integration and stability.



The SADC PoE and MRG comprises of eminent personalities including former Heads of State and Government and former Government Ministers, as well as diplomats from SADC Member States.

Their appointment is based on their reputation and demonstrable experience in political and technical skills of conflict resolution, preventative diplomacy and mediation.

Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr Jakaya Kikwete, is the chairperson of the SADC PoE.

Kikwete, who was elected as the fourth President of Tanzania in 2005 and served two terms until 2015, is a strong believer in SADC's capacity to address its own challenges without unnecessary outside interference.

One of his achievements as part of the SADC leadership was the finalization and launch of the Revised Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO) in 2012.

The SIPO which is now combined with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030, is a regional plan that establishes SADC's institutional framework for policy coordination and implementation in

politics, defence and security cooperation, and seeks to create a peaceful and stable political and security environment in the region.

Kikwete also played a critical role in the implementation of the SADC roadmap for Madagascar, as well as searching for a lasting solution to the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The former Vice President of Mauritius, Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory is deputy for the SADC PoE.

The other members are Patrick Chinamasa, Zimbabwe's former Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, who also served as Finance and Economic Planning Minister, and Attorney General; and Charles Tibone, the former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs in Botswana.

For the SADC MRG, a long-time Zambian diplomat, Lucy Mangomba is the chairperson, deputised by mediation and negotiation expert, Hellen Lwegasira from Tanzania.

The other members are veteran diplomats, Molosiwa Selapeng from Botswana and Dr Andrew Hama Mtetwa from Zimbabwe.

The SADC PoE and MRG are part of the SADC Mediation and Conflict Prevention and Preventative Diplomacy structure that was established by the region's leaders in August 2004.

Peace and security are key to sustainable development, and SADC places priority in consolidating and promoting stability in the region.

The SADC PoE and MRG report to the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which was established in 1996 to steer and provide Member States with a structure for consultation, joint planning and rapid response on matters pertaining to peace, security and stability in the region.

Managed on a Troika basis, the Organ is coordinated at the level of Summit, consisting of a Chairperson, Incoming Chairperson and Outgoing Chairperson, and reports to the SADC Summit Chairperson.

The current chairperson is President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, while the next (incoming) chairperson is President Hage Geingob of Namibia, while President Masisi of Botswana is the previous (outgoing) chairperson. sardc.net □

GENDER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Releasing the energies of women

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN THE SADC RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

INTRODUCTION

Mainstreaming gender in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Renewable Energy sector has the capacity to promote sustainable development and ensure that citizens who are not linked to the national electricity grids can have access to affordable power that is less polluting to the environment. Mainstreaming gender in the Renewable Energy (RE) sector is motivated by the growing global evidence which shows that the integration of gender in development projects brings more benefits for women and men.

An increase in RE projects can lead to economic opportunities which can potentially improve the socio-economic status of women and men, such as improved health, safety, and quality of life. While these projects have the potential for broad and far-reaching benefits, they are found to be more effective when gender equality is incorporated throughout the project cycle. Women and men need to participate and benefit from the projects and there is need for the identification and assessment of project potential for both. This requires identifying the roles that women and men can play and the activities they undertake in their households and communities in order to identify specific needs.

This policy brief is aimed at guiding project designers and implementers in government ministries and institutions responsible for energy in SADC Member States, and also outlines the processes which can be used in ensuring that gender is mainstreamed in the RE sector.

BUILDING A GENDER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY STAKEHOLDERS' NETWORK

The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) held a virtual Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Renewable Energy Sector which was attended by gender focal persons representing the Ministries of Energy and Gender / Women Affairs from nine Member States — Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Representatives from regional and national energy regulatory bodies also attended.

The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of gender focal persons from SADC Member States and regional energy regulatory bodies to mainstream gender in the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects in the SADC RE sector. The main objective was to build a critical mass of gender and energy stakeholders into a network with increased capacity to ensure meaningful gender mainstreaming to promote gender equality in the key programmes in the sector.

The gender focal persons were invited as they are strategically positioned to influence and guide gender mainstreaming in the RE programmes and projects under formulation and in implementation in their respective Ministries or institutions. The capacity-building initiative was held against the backdrop that the region is facing specific challenges in the area of energy development and that women are disproportionately affected by the challenges associated with the lack of access to modern sources of energy compared to men.

Women and girls are largely responsible for household and community activities including energy provision and without access to modern energy services they often spend most of their time performing basic tasks. This can be relieved through the use of modern forms of energy production. The necessity of doing such tasks limits the time for participation in decent wage employment, or accessing educational opportunities, and enhancing their standard of living.

EXPERIENCES FROM SELECTED SADC MEMBER STATES

Member States that were represented at the workshop shared their national experiences on efforts to mainstream gender in the RE sector. The Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs in Botswana, for example, has developed a programme to support institutions to establish sectoral gender committees to help to mainstream gender across all facets of development, including energy. The

Botswana Power Company (BPC) has also taken steps towards mainstreaming gender in the power utility. BPC launched a gender mainstreaming process with the aim of ensuring that gender issues were considered during planning and implementation of energy projects and programmes. This project was conceived after an audit of energy policies and programmes conducted by the Gender and Energy Network of Botswana (GENBO) revealed that the energy sector in Botswana was not gender-sensitive or gender-responsive. Since then, the Draft National Energy Policy has been developed, recognising gender as an integral factor and has included a specific gender objective, which calls for the inclusion and consideration of gender differences in energy planning.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining in Malawi has been working with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare to train women on the productive uses of RE especially in the rural areas. As a result of the training programmes, more women in the communities have been able to establish businesses using power from RE-powered mini-grids. They oversee most of the day-to-day operations, planning and management of the mini-grids. These initiatives have empowered women economically to engage in income-generating activities.

In Mozambique, the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy, in collaboration with technicians from the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy planning, planning and budgeting, and mining (artisanal mining) have developed activity plans which incorporate gender. This process was extended to the implementation of the National Rural Electrification Strategy.

There have been various initiatives in South Africa, including skills development in schools, where communities are being trained and sensitized on the benefits of RE and its technologies. The initiatives have reduced gender inequality, unemployment and poverty in the communities, with more women and girls participating in the renewable energy sector. The energy sector has a policy document that carries an implementation plan with specific targets for the government to meet in mainstreaming gender in the energy sector. The policy document and others were developed after a consultative process with the utilities and the end users of RE, including women and children.

The Biogas Digester Programme in Zimbabwe is being rolled out in the country to improve the uptake of clean energy. The programme is targeted at the rural populations and encourages active participation by women. The government is also working on legal instruments to reduce the

price of renewable energy technologies for ease of access to the majority of the population, especially by women in the rural areas.

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN RE

Gender equality is a critical pathway for a successful transition to sustainable energy for all by 2030 (UN DESA, 2015), as seen in the positive developments in the RE sector in most SADC Member States. These efforts need to be intensified to promote an inclusive programme of energy policy planning and implementation. Barriers such as a lack of capacity and education among key personnel responsible for policy formulation and implementation can limit the opportunities for women to engage in renewable energy activities.

In this regard, SARDC shared effective strategies that gender focal persons and other stakeholders can use to ensure the equal inclusion and benefit of women and men in the RE sector. Mainstreaming gender in the energy sector requires tools that can help to identify and address gender gaps. These tools can be used by energy gender experts who are responsible for mainstreaming gender in organisations where they provide guidance on how to integrate gender concerns in RE projects.

◆ Gender Sensitive Analysis

Gender-sensitive analysis is a systematic attempt to identify key issues contributing to gender inequalities so these can be addressed accurately. Gender analysis provides the basis for gender mainstreaming and is defined as the study of differences in the conditions, needs, participation rates, access to resources and development, control of assets, decision-making powers, etc., between women and men (TGNP, 2017). Gender analysis should be conducted at all levels, from the micro level through intermediate levels such as service delivery systems, to the highest political levels, and across all sectors and programmes of development cooperation. Gender analysis must be based on an examination of gender disaggregated data. A gender analysis provides information on the different roles of women and men at various levels; their respective access to and control over the material and non-material benefits of society; and their priorities, needs and responsibilities.

◆ Gender Sensitive Indicators

Gender sensitive indicators reveal the gender-related changes in society over time. They point to changes in the status and roles of women and men over time, and therefore measure whether gender equity is being achieved. The use of indicators and other rele-

vant evaluation techniques will lead to a better understanding of how results can be achieved, and the use of gender-sensitive indicators will feed into more effective future planning and programme delivery. The indicators are used in project formulation through to monitoring and evaluation. Gender responsive indicators assist in the collection of gender disaggregated data, which is the collection and separation of data and statistical information by gender to enable comparative analysis. Indicators can be closely linked to the project objectives.

❖ Gender Sensitive Planning

A planning approach that recognizes the different roles that women and men play in society and the fact that they often have different needs. This approach is informed by gender-sensitive analysis and informs the designing and implementation of policies, programmes, or projects from a gender perspective and the structural gender inequalities that need to be tackled in a given context. Gender planning stems from the recognition that different groups of women and men have different needs, different levels of access and control over resources, and different opportunities and constraints. Gender planning pays particular attention to unequal gender relations and aims to transform unequal gender relations by responding to the needs of women and men and through a more balanced distribution of resources, actions and responsibilities. Gender-sensitive planning should include consultations with different stakeholders and intended beneficiaries as this can contribute to increasing transparency and the accountability of those in charge of implementation, and avoid conflicts in the implementation phase.

❖ Gender Responsive Budgeting

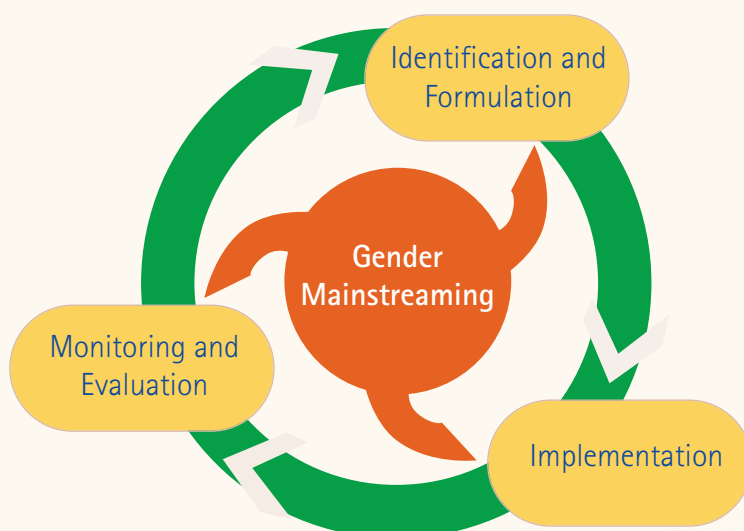
Gender responsive budgeting is a process of integrating gender perspectives into the overall context of the collection and allocation of public resources (SADC and SARDC, 2018). It entails the development of a budget from a gender perspective. Gender responsive budgeting is one of the most effective tools to mainstream gender in policies and plans, to redress inequalities and to promote the economic, social and political rights of

women and men. Gender responsive budgeting incorporates a gender perspective at all levels of budgetary processes to ensure that the needs and interests of women and men from different groups are addressed. Effective Gender responsive budgeting is an enabling factor towards improving the results of budgets in general, and gender equality and women empowerment in particular.

Mainstreaming Gender in the Project Cycle

As part of gender mainstreaming, project development should consider formulating and integrating specific gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes, outputs and indicators to the project in order to enhance gender equality related results, hence there is need for a project cycle. The Project Cycle involves identifying, developing and implementing a project and during these stages, there is need to implement appropriate gender mainstreaming strategies to understand the situation of women and men in any given context and ensure project design addresses the practical and strategic needs and priorities of women and men. These stages are:

- Project identification and formulation – This is the initial phase which identifies the problem and generates project ideas and identification of appropriate interventions designed and targeted for the concerned groups.
- Project implementation – The phase when the project is implemented signals the operational phase of the project where tasks and activities are carried out in sequence based on timeframes and project implementation plans.
- Project monitoring and evaluation – This is the continuous observation and documentation of the project based on the initial plan, and is often conducted from project inception through to closure. This process assesses if the project is going according to plan and whether interventions are required. At the end of the project the process assesses whether the objectives of the project were achieved based on the baselines, and recommends further interventions as necessary.



CONCLUSION

The engagement and participation of all relevant stakeholders contributes to the implementation of strategies and action plans on how to take gender mainstreaming forward in the RE sector. There is need to mainstream gender in energy programming and policy, not just to ensure that these are good social interventions but to promote efficiency.

Incorporating gender perspectives into energy projects, policy and planning is critical to ensuring the effectiveness of all development activities that involve renewable energy use. Addressing gender-related challenges in the sector is key to addressing the energy poverty that southern Africa is facing, thus the gender issues should be prioritised in the sectoral development discourse and programmes. Mainstreaming gender in energy should be supported by appropriate policies and structures that take into account gender realities in southern Africa. As Member States strive to work towards gender equality and access to energy for all, the following points should be considered.

- Governments need to prioritize the creation of gender portfolios in the structures responsible for energy development and strengthen focal point capacities to implement the national energy strategies with a gender lens.
- There is need for more capacity-building programmes on gender mainstreaming, especially in the ministries responsible for energy, targeting all levels including the leadership, as the input by staff such as gender focal persons is often not fully considered as they are generally low and mid-level staff.
- Member States should promote women-centric business models for expanding energy access to all through facilitating partnerships with local stakeholders, expanding women's access to finance and building a conducive and enabling environment for women entrepreneurs.
- Member States should collect systematic, gender-disaggregated data as part of programming to support policy implementation.

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SADC Protocol on Trade in Services enters into force

THE SADC Protocol on Trade in Services has entered into force.

This was announced by the SADC Executive Secretary, His Excellency Mr Elias Magosi in his notification to the 16 Member States in early January when he wrote, "I have the honour and pleasure to inform Member States that the Protocol on Trade in Services entered into force on 13th January, 2022."

Article 30 of the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services provides that the Protocol shall enter into force 30 days after the deposit of instruments of ratification by two thirds of the Member States.

A total of 11 out of the 16 SADC Member States have deposited instruments of ratification while five – Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, United Republic of Tanzania and the Union of Comoros -- are yet to ratify the Protocol.

The SADC Protocol provides the framework for a preferential trade agreement covering all commercial and tradable services in any services sector.

The Protocol aims to encourage increased intra-regional trade in services through the gradual removal of unnecessary or overburdensome regulation affecting the cross-border supply of services within the SADC region, a process known as progressive liberalization.

The Protocol offsets the general and specific obligations binding the ratifying or acceding Member States to grant each other preferential market access and non-discriminatory treatment for SADC service suppliers.

The State Parties guarantee to extend to all SADC

State Parties the best conditions for trade that they grant to one SADC State Party or a non-State Party, including non-SADC countries.

Magosi said the coming into force of the Protocol will go a long way in deepening integration and advancing regional integration.

"This Protocol, which has been long in its development,

is a major new building block in the legal structures of SADC, and a vital complement to SADC's regional trade agenda," he said, adding that services account for more than 50 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in most SADC Member States, and as well as being economically important in their own right account for an

increasing share of value addition in the production of goods.

"I welcome its entry into force, urge those Member States that have yet to ratify it to do so and complete the SADC family of those who have, and encourage an ambitious outcome to the second round of negotiations that are now under way." □

"Let's take advantage of the North South Corridor"

THERE IS need for southern Africa to take advantage of the North South Corridor to improve intra-regional trade. Chief executive officer of the NEPAD Business Foundation, Peter Varndell said this at a virtual dialogue on coordinated border management policy for enhanced trade facilitation, adding that a number of barriers are stifling trade flows on the North South Corridor (NSC).

In this regard, he said it may be critical for SADC to establish a dedicated Corridor Management Institution to deal with such impediments at border posts and ensure that the region takes advantage of the NSC to improve intra-regional trade.

The SADC Business Council (SBC), which is an umbrella body for the private sector comprising national top bodies of the private sectors of each of the 16 SADC Member States, has proposed the urgent establishment of a Corridor Management Institution (CMI) which will deal with impediments at border posts that are stifling trade flows on the Region's North South Corridor (NSC).

The NSC spans eight countries in eastern and



southern Africa -- Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Initiated in 2009 by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC, the NSC Aid-for-Trade programme aims to improve infrastructure and increase intra-regional trade by reducing the cost of cross-border trade.

The NSC project is the most extensive corridor in the region, linking the largest number of countries in eastern and southern Africa.

It interlinks to other corridors including the Trans-Kalahari, Beira, Lobito, Dar es Salaam and Nacala corridors. This corridor is critical to re-

gional trade and integration because South Africa is the largest African trading partner for most of the countries in the region and the port of Durban handles a significant portion of transit traffic for the landlocked states.

However, a number of factors including poor border management and service delivery at borders posts, vehicle congestion, poor process flows, as well as inadequate and outdated infrastructure are hindering movement and contributing to high cost of trade on the corridor.

As such, the proposed CMI will facilitate the improvement of infrastructure, align processes at the border posts, harmonise regulations, improve inefficiencies to speed up trade, and deepen regional integration along the NSC. □



International Women's Day #BreakTheBias

...time to mainstream gender in climate change resilience

by Nyarai Kampilipili

CLIMATE CHANGE is impacting southern Africa in many ways, with hazards such as flooding and droughts causing serious harm to people, including death.

However, the impacts of climate change affect men and women differently.

The impacts of climate change are gendered, and women in most countries in SADC are disproportionately affected and experience the effects more severely than their male counterparts.

Massive deforestation and lack of access to clean water has caused women to walk longer distances to collect firewood and water, which is heavy, compromising their physical health and wellbeing.

The SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Mr Elias Magosi said in his statement on International Women's Day, that there is need to mainstream gender in all climate change initiatives to cushion the burden that most women face in their daily lives, while removing the barriers that hinder acceleration of gender equality.

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March each year to raise awareness of the need to address inequalities, while honouring the important role that women play in society and in socio-economic development.

"In the face of climate change, which threatens to set back development efforts in the region, women continue to feel its disproportionate impacts, through increased difficulties in accessing water and

agriculture activity practices, areas that are dominated by women," he said, adding that climate change-related disasters often displace people, exposing women to sexual abuse.

"We must, therefore, incorporate a gender perspective into climate change policies, projects and funds to ensure that women contribute to and benefit from equitable climate solutions."

Magosi said it is critical for women to take leadership and stewardship in the areas of natural resources management and environmental conservation, as well as finding solutions to address the water-food-climate nexus.

Women must also take an active part in the response measures to climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology, capacity building and financing.

"I call on all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the different frameworks on climate change and disaster management which include, among others, the SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development, and the revised SADC Regional Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2021...to combat desertification," he said.

"In implementing these policy instruments, all efforts must be made to put women and girls at the centre, guided by the overarching SADC development frameworks of the RISDP2020-2030 and SADC Vision 2050."

Magosi said the region must continue to promote gender equality and equity to ensure deeper integration and development.

According to the SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2018 produced by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in partnership with the SADC Secretariat, the level of gender inequalities in the region remains high.

Women still face unequal access to decision-making, formal financial systems, land ownership, reproductive health care and education and information.

Available data also indicate that women in SADC are the most vulnerable among social groups, due to the general subordinate legal status, limited access to productive resources such as land, technology, credit, education and training, formal employment, as well as susceptibility to HIV and AIDS.

These inequalities have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is our collective duty to break gender biases and reduce stereotypes and discrimination to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the SADC region," Magosi said.

The theme for this year is "Breaking gender bias and reducing stereotypes and discrimination to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion", which is promoted under the hashtag #BreakTheBias.

This theme recognises the existence of gender inequalities and makes an unequivocal call to address societal norms, unjust laws, and missing human rights which pose a challenge to equality for women and girls around the world. sardc.net □



THE SADC Secretariat capacitated parliamentarians in Seychelles on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence laws. The main aim of the capacity-building workshop was to discuss the national legislative and policy framework which enables or creates barriers for fulfilment of the human rights of all persons experiencing SGBV, especially women and girls, as well as familiarise them with SADC SGBV legislative frameworks.

The SADC Secretariat has developed tools to curb SGBV and strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and other first responders to address SGBV in the region. The tools include the Sexual Gender-based Violence Training Guidelines and the Regional Guidelines to Develop GBV Standard Operational Procedures. The tools seek to demonstrate operationalisation and implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the SADC Regional Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing GBV (2018-2030). sadc.int □



"Let's share best practices on COVID-19"

THE BATTLE against COVID-19 may be won more easily if it is addressed collectively, with SADC Member States sharing best practices on how they have addressed the global pandemic.

Chairperson of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Health and those responsible for HIV and AIDS, Khumbize Chiponda said this in her address to fellow ministers on 10 February.

Chiponda, who is the Malawian Minister of Health, said the fact that SADC Member States Botswana and South Africa were the first to detect and report the Omicron variant indicated the potential of the region to make a meaningful contribution to the global solutions to COVID-19.

In this regard, she urged all SADC Member States to work together in combating the spread and impact of the novel coronavirus, which has affected the global socio-economic landscape.

Joint cooperation is critical since COVID-19 knows no boundaries.

Chiponda said since the first COVID-19 case was registered in SADC in March 2020, life has not been the same as due to social restrictions and economic losses caused by the lockdowns announced by most SADC Member States.

She said the damage caused by COVID-19 ranged from the loss of lives, extra burden on fragile health systems, economic losses, decline in Foreign Direct Investments, increased vulnerability due to reduction in social protection measures and an increase in mental health concerns.

She thanked development partners for their continued

support to towards the COVID-19 response.

However, she said since the region does not manufacture its own COVID-19 vaccines, it was critical that support from development partners goes towards procurement of the vaccines, as well as assisting the region to establish its own plants for manufacturing the vaccines.

The SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Mr Elias Magosi, who was introduced at the SADC Ministers for Health meeting by the deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs, Ambassador Joseph Nourrice, used the opportunity to commend the region for working together to address COVID-19.

He said the approval of the SADC Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for tracking, monitoring and facilitating cross-border movement of goods and people during the

COVID-19 pandemic contributed significantly in promoting the smooth movement of goods and services during the pandemic.

He also commended countries that have adapted to the situation and learnt how to do business differently by keeping economic activities going on with strict adherence to public health measures.

Magosi said it will be unrealistic and counter-productive to keep countries under indefinite lockdowns as this cripple normal business for longer periods since no one knows when the pandemic will end.

The Ministers noted that the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the region was on a decline with fewer cases causing severe infections that lead to hospitalisation.

A positive trend was also noted with regards to COVID-19 vaccination by most Member States.

However, the ministers said despite the encouraging epidemiological changes observed in the region in recent weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat to the regional integration agenda because of the disruptions it inflicts on businesses, trade, tourism, movement of people as well as the health and wellbeing of citizens.

There is need for Member States to continue enforcing anti-coronavirus regulations such as social distancing and regular health screening, as the region begins to relax some of the restrictive measures.

The SADC Health Ministers meeting, which was also attended by representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), provided an opportunity for the region to reflect on further action to mitigate the adverse socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. □

Raising awareness on non-communicable diseases

THERE IS a need for SADC to adopt healthy lifestyles to address health challenges such as non-communicable diseases, the SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi said.

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are those that are transmissible directly from one person to another such as the Parkinson's disease, strokes, heart diseases, most cancers, diabetes and chronic kidney diseases.

Magosi told the SADC Healthy Lifestyle Day Com-

memoration on 25 February that failure to deal with these NCD, the region will have an unhealthy citizen and an aging population, thus affecting the integration agenda of SADC.

In this regard, it is necessary for Member States to encourage and empower communities with knowledge about healthy lifestyles and nutritious foods through national policies and programmes which promote healthy eating habits, physical health, and well-being.

He said communities must also take it upon itself to lead a healthy lifestyle, especially now when the global community is reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, which takes advantage of one's weak immune system.

The SADC Healthy Lifestyle Day Commemoration was held in Gaborone, Botswana under the theme "Risk Factors of Today are Diseases of Tomorrow", and was aimed at raising awareness and threats posed by NCDs. □



Time for Africa to tell its own narrative

by Clarkson Mambo

WHEN THE late Kenyan journalist and author, Binyavanga Wainaina published his work of satire in 2005 titled "How to Write About Africa," his work set some tongues wagging.

This is what he said when he made fun of how the western media and even some of the African newspapers report about Africa:

"Never have a picture of a well-adjusted African on the cover of your book, or in it, unless that African has won the Nobel Prize. An AK-47, prominent ribs, naked breasts: use these. If you must include an African, make sure you get one in Masai or Zulu or Dogon dress. In your text, treat Africa as if it were one country."

He did not stop there, adding that, "whichever angle you take, be sure to leave the strong impression that without your intervention and your important book, Africa is doomed."

Blunt as he was, Wainaina's assertion is still evident today as Africa continues to be portrayed as backward, underdeveloped and strife-ridden, yet this is far from reality.

Various reasons have been used to explain this including claims that the western media is advancing this negative line to push an agenda that ensures that the continent continues to falter on its development path, while its rich sponsors continue exploiting the continent's abundant natural resources.

Others argue that non-governmental and civil society organizations are deliberately projecting a negative narrative for Africa to ensure that they continue to access donor funds.

However, one major reason for the continued one-sided narrative lies in the failure by Africa to tell its own story. For too long, the continent has waited for outsiders to tell its own narrative.

Speaking at the just ended 35th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in early February in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abey Ahmed echoed similar concerns as Wainaina, saying it is now time for Africa to take charge of its own narrative.

He urged African leaders to support the creation of an African Union (AU) Continental Media House, which will tell the African story and address misleading stereotypes.

Prime Minister Ahmed said despite some progress being made by Africa to be well represented in key global organizations such as the United Nations Security Council, it was also imperative that the continent's media representation be improved on the world stage.

"Africa is often portrayed in the international media negatively. The endless representation as a continent troubled by civil wars, hunger, corruption, greed, disease and poverty is demeaning and dehumanizing and likely driven by a calculated strategy and agenda," Prime Minister Abey said in his opening speech.

"The stereotypical and negative media representation of Africa not only disinform the rest of the world about our continent, but it also shapes the way we see ourselves as Africans. Telling our own stories and shaping our own narratives must be our top priority."



He proposed that the AU organizes the media house "to provide authoritative news and information on our continent, fight disinformation, promote our collective agenda and offer opportunities for Pan African voices to be heard."

The proposed AU Continental Media House will thus be the channel through which the world gets to hear of Africa's development progress through integration from Cape to Cairo, and will be the stream of things positive about Africa from innovations and inventions to change drivers that can influence the world.

The media house will help to place Africa as the strategic continent that it is, at the centre of global development.

It will also offer African experts, based in Africa, a chance to chat on the continent's progress and proffer solutions for its development, as opposed to western-based experts on Africa who have never stepped a foot on the continent.

Driving the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of an African renaissance will be its focus, as well as presenting content whose aim is to renew, restore African pride through sharing of crosscutting cultures, entertainment, religion,

unmatched tourist attractions, and other socio-economic activities.

Establishment of the media house will, however, need financial backing and commitment from AU Member States and the private sector on the continent.

Once operational, the AU Continental Media House will go a long way in helping the 1.4 billion citizens of the continent to be well informed about the benefits and opportunities of belonging to a united Africa, thus ensuring the goals and targets as set out in Agenda 2063 are achieved.

Subtitled "The Africa We Want", Agenda 2063 is a continental strategic framework adopted by the AU in 2013 to optimize the use of the continent's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

The plan seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development such as the Abuja Treaty and the Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa (PIDA).

Some key and flagship projects or initiatives under Agenda 2063 include the establishment of an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), creation of an African Passport, as well as silencing the guns. sardc.net □



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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February – April 2022

February 5 – 6, Ethiopia	Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly The 35th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of African Heads of State and Government will be held under the theme of “Building Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthen Agriculture, Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development”, as Africa aims for deeper integration and sustainable development.
17-19, Belgium	AU and EU Summit SADC leaders will join their counterparts from Africa to deliberate partnership with EU.
2, Global	World Wetlands Day Government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups have celebrated World Wetlands Day since 1997 with actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits, and to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
22 Feb – 15 March	SADC Capacity Building on Project Preparation The SADC Secretariat will conduct virtual training sessions on capacity-building for project preparation to ensure regional projects are well prepared. The training sessions are part of the implementation of the Project on Sustainable Financing of Regional Infrastructure and Industrial Projects in the SADC.
March 8, Global	International Women's Day International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March each year to raise awareness of the need to address inequalities, while honouring the important role that women play in society and in socio-economic development. The theme for this year is "Breaking gender bias and reducing stereotypes and discrimination to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion", which is promoted under the hashtag #BreakTheBias.
9, Angola	SADC post-election review mission to Angola The SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) will conduct a post-election goodwill mission to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations by the SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs) during the last general elections held in August 2017.
15, DRC	SADC post-election review mission to the DRC The SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) will conduct a post-election goodwill mission to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations by the SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs) during the last general elections held in December 2018.
18 – 19, Lilongwe, Malawi	SADC Council of Ministers The SADC Council of Ministers will meet to discuss progress towards regional integration and sustainable development. The Council, which consists of Ministers from each Member State, usually from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning, or Finance, is expected to consider the Annual Performance Report of the SADC Secretariat covering the period 2021/2022.
23, SADC Member States	Southern Africa Liberation Day SADC has selected 23 March each year as the date that the region commemorates the Southern Africa Liberation Day. The date marks the last major liberation battle against apartheid South Africa, at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola in 1988. The first commemoration was held on 23 March 2019 at Cuito Cuanavale, where a museum has been established and military hardware remains.
April 3, South Africa	SADC Extra-Ordinary Ministerial Committee of the Organ Troika The meeting will deliberate on the general security situation in the region and progress of SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) which was deployed to support Mozambique to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism.
4-5, Botswana	Youth Dialogue The dialogue organized by the SADC Secretariat in partnership with the Alliance for African Partnership and the University of Botswana will provide an opportunity for young leaders to discuss a wide range of key socio-economic issues specific to policy, education, life and entrepreneurial skills.
TBA, Virtual	SADC Energy Thematic Group Meeting The Energy Thematic Group meeting is a coordination forum attended by the SADC Secretariat, energy subsidiary organisations and cooperating partners. The meeting reviews the energy situation in the region and initiatives to improve access to energy in the SADC region.

Our liberation past binds us together

by Raymond Ndhlovu



Eduardo Mondlane "Ahead of us we see bitter hardships, but we also see our children running free."

THE PEOPLE of southern Africa join Mozambique in commemorating the life of the founding leader of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane who is respected as the father of Mozambique's independence.

This year marks the 53rd anniversary of his death, after he opened a parcel bomb sent to him in Dar es Salaam by the colonial Portuguese authorities in 1969 on 3 February, now Heroes Day in Mozambique.

The day was set to honour his life as well as the men and women who fought for the country's independence, for which many gave their lives, and those who have contributed to the development of post-independence Mozambique.

This year, the commemoration ceremony was held in Mueda town, in Cabo Delgado province at the place where, on 16 June 1960, colonial forces massacred Mozambican protesters who were demanding political independence.

The Mueda massacre was a turning point, similar to Sharpeville in South Africa just three months earlier.

Mueda town now hosts the Heroes Acre and the headquarters of the Northern Operational Command which is fighting against terrorist groups in the Cabo Delgado province.

Speaking at the Heroes Day event, President Filipe Nyusi said, "This year we mark this occasion during a challenging struggle against terrorism."

"Our finest sons are battling ... alongside the sons of SADC and Rwanda, who are giving their lives to ensure the integrity of our nation and bring peace," he added.

The South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation who also attended, noted the importance of the commemoration, saying it helps "to preserve the collective memory of our shared past and reaffirm our commitment to a common future."

He commended the place of the shared liberation history in promoting the values of unity and solidarity across the region saying, "The solidarity and comradeship between our liberation movements continues to inspire us to work harder for our people in pursuit of our shared vision for the SADC region and the African continent."

"We must draw inspiration from the life of Dr Mondlane to confront the challenges of underdevelopment, lack of diversity in our economies, slow industrialisation, widespread poverty, youth unemployment, insecurity, climate change and the current COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

Born on 20 June 1920 in Nwadjahane, a village in the Gaza Province of southern Mozambique, Eduardo Mondlane played a leading role in the struggle against Portuguese colonial rule.

The well-educated Mozambican nationalist is celebrated for his selfless dedication in the fight against settler rule. He believed that the education of young people is an important tool in the fight for political and economic independence.

Speaking during the liberation war in the late 1960s, he spoke of education saying, "We have always attached such great importance to education because, in the first place, it is essential for the development of our struggle since the involvement and support of the population increases as their understanding of the situation grows."

In the second place, a future independent Mozambique will be in very grave need of educated citizens to lead the way in development."

Following the independence of Tanganyika (later Tanzania) in December 1961, Mondlane took up base operations in Dar es Salaam where the unification of UDE-NAMO, MANU, and UNAMI was realised to form Frelimo in 1962.

The President of Tanzania, *Mwalimu* Julius Kambarage Nyerere and his people provided both technical and material support in the form of shelter for Mozambican refugees and a rear base for Frelimo guerrillas, including training and equipment as well as hosting the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity.

After the death of Mondlane, Samora Machel became president of Frelimo in 1970, directing the liberation struggle to its completion, negotiations, transition and independence on 25 June 1975.

As the first President of independent Mozambique, Samora Machel affirmed Mozambique's support for the liberation movements in Angola, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and his government provided a rear base and other facilities, especially for neighbouring Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Southern African Liberation History

THE CONTRIBUTION of their generation in the liberation from colonial rule across the region is captured in a series of modules on Southern African Liberation History, intended to provide resource material on the regional dimensions and linkages of national liberation movements in the SADC region.

The first module on *Youth in the Liberation Struggle and Beyond* is introductory as most of those involved in the national liberation movements were Youth. They often went to live in neighbouring countries and worked together across borders to remove colonial rule and apartheid from the region.

Module 1 is accessible online in three components - a small book, video and social media messaging - and seeks to share knowledge of the regional dimensions of the liberation period, the vision of regional integration, and the values of inclusion, diversity, peace and tolerance.

The second module in production is titled *Teaching and Learning Liberation History*.

These modules are being developed by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in partnership with the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). sardc.net

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

February – April 2022

1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
21 February	National Youth Day	Zimbabwe
28 February	Leilat al-Meiraj	Comoros
	Carnival Holiday	Angola
1 March	Carnival	Angola
	Maha Shivaratre	Mauritius
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
7 March	International Women's Day Holiday	Angola
8 March	International Women's Day	Angola, Zambia
11 March	Moshoeshoe's Day	Lesotho
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
	Youth Day	Zambia
18 March	Cheik Al Maarouf Day	Comoros
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
	Human Rights Day	South Africa
23 March	Southern Africa Liberation Day	Angola
29 March	Martyrs Day	Madagascar
2 April	Ugaadi	Mauritius
4 April	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Angola
5 April	Easter Monday	All SADC
	countries except Comoros, DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique	
7 April	Sheik Abeid Karume Day	Tanzania
	Women's Day	Mozambique
15 April	Good Friday	All SADC except ...
		Comoros, DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Botswana, Seychelles, Zambia
16 April	Easter Saturday	
17 April	Easter Sunday	Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
18 April	Easter Monday	All SADC except ...
		Angola, Comoros, DRC, Mauritius, Mozambique
19 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
25 April	King's Birthday	Eswatini
26 April	National Flag Day	Eswatini
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa