



THE PEACETRAINER

SADC REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRE



January 2014, Issue 3

PEACE AND SECURITY
Cornerstone of SADC
integration agenda



SPORT
SADC enjoys
peace
dividend

PLUS!

One-on-one with
SADC RPTC Commandant



It gives me great pleasure to welcome our readers again to the third issue of *The Peace Trainer* magazine after a two-year break in production, caused by the redirection of most resources towards a comprehensive refurbishment of the Centre after our takeover of new premises in 2011. This edition will, therefore, include content not only from 2012/13 but also from preceding years.

The period between the last edition and this issue was very eventful and saw the Centre score many successes, ranging from minor infrastructural works that included a new library, refurbishment of lecture rooms, guestrooms, cafeteria and kitchen; as well as implementation of most recommendations of the 2010 Curriculum Development Workshop and successful conduct of most of the courses newly developed. Of note was the development of a Peace Support Operations Course for Correctional Services/Prisons Officers and successful conduct of two courses, which is a first on the continent.

We are grateful to SADC Member States for their financial support through the SADC budget and for continuing to send participants for all our courses. We are particularly grateful for their support of the SADC policy on gender balancing through the significant increase in the number of women participants on all courses. Some courses have even registered a 50/50 attendance.

We also wish to applaud the Zimbabwean Government which did not only donate the new premises to SADC RPTC but also, through its Ministry of Defence, gave material support towards refurbishing of the Centre. As we celebrate our successes, we also wish to appreciate the assistance we have received from our International Cooperating Partners, notably the German, British and Canadian governments and the European Union, who contributed in various ways towards infrastructural works, refurbishments, purchase of equipment, and cost of running courses.

As a carryover from the 2010 Curriculum Development Workshop, the Centre has continued to get buy-in from SADC Member States to improve delivery and content of the courses and maintain relevance to their capacity development requirements through yearly coordinating seminars held in the first month of the calendar year. The products of this interaction partly inform the training activities of the succeeding calendar year. The Centre is also in the process of strengthening linkages with the SADC Standby Force Planning Element to capture training requirements needed for enhancing the operationalisation of the SADC Standby Force.

In our continuous quest to improve on quality, relevance of course content, best practices and cross-pollination of ideas, SADC RPTC staff undertook visits during this period to other centres of excellence outside our region for benchmarking. There was one field mission where a SADC Member State deployed peacekeepers to validate conformity of our training to requirements in the field. As a result of these visits and our own evaluation of course development processes and pedagogical methods, we have embarked on a comprehensive review, together with our cooperating partners, of all courses to keep in step with international standards. The Centre has also introduced e-learning – pre-course and post-course – to complement the training we provide due to the short duration of our courses. All these are some of the activities being undertaken by the Centre as we strive to fully establish ourselves as a centre of excellence in the region.

Our future outlook is to increase our capacity to take on more participants from member states and also draw others from outside the region. This will, of course, require further development and expansion of infrastructure. The good news is that the new premises provide scope for such expansion. The Centre also currently requires urgent beefing up of staff and, therefore, further expansion will pose quite a challenge. We remain positive, however, that this is achievable with the continued goodwill and support of SADC Member States and our cooperating partners. I wish you happy reading!

Brigadier General Christopher Chellah
Commandant SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre

The Peace Trainer

The Peace Trainer magazine is produced twice per year by the SADC RPTC. The aim of the magazine is to provide information on various activities conducted at the Centre and keep readers informed on topical issues of regional and international interest in peacekeeping.

Views expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily the official opinions or policies of the SADC RPTC or that of the SADC.

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Peace for a Common Future

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Peace and security centrepiece of SADC regional integration

Pace is a prerequisite for development and there can be no peace without development. For southern Africa, political stability has become a rallying point for closer cooperation and means towards attaining the overall regional objective of poverty eradication.

The lynchpin for the economic, political and social goals articulated in the various SADC protocols and treaties is the ability to ensure a peaceful and stable region. As a result, security remains high on the regional agenda, as demonstrated in the proliferation of declarations, treaties and protocols aimed at preventing and containing conflict.

The generally stable political environment in SADC has created conditions for sustained economic growth and improved food security for the region during the past few years.

Peace and security in the region, coupled with the adoption of appropriate agricultural policies, have transformed SADC from a food deficit region to a net food producer during the past decade.

SADC has undergone complex and challenging institutional restructuring efforts during the past two decades to ensure that peace and security is achieved and maintained in the region.

A key element of the restructuring that has taken place within SADC since 1992 was the formulation and adoption of the socio-economic and political frameworks such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO).

The objective of SIPO is to create a stable political and security environment through which the region can endeavour to realize its socio-economic objectives.

SIPO provides the institutional framework for the implementation of activities of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which was established in June 1996.

The Organ plays a vanguard role as an institutional mechanism for promoting and maintaining peace and stability in the region, and facilitates regular consultations among member states on matters of mutual interest.

Security-related agreements adopted by SADC include a Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, and a Protocol on Combating of Illicit Drugs, as well as the agreement on establishing a regional standby force, and a Mutual Defence Pact among some member states.

The SADC Standby Force was officially launched at the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka on 17 August 2007.

The motivation behind its formation is the need to build the capacity of African armed forces to intervene and resolve conflicts throughout the continent without undue interference from external parties who may not understand the complexities of the conflict.

It is in line with the self-sufficiency goal underlined in all the major SADC agreements and declarations and brings the idea of the African Standby Force a step closer.

Consisting of military, police and civilian components, the force will rely on resources pledged by member states on a standby arrangement.

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The thinking is that by creating a regional force that draws troops and resources from all member states, the burden of conflict resolution does not fall heavily on any one state. It also gives credibility to interventions, and increases the likelihood of success as troop rotation can occur more regularly with the larger standby force in place.



Peace and stability are essential for regional development, creating conditions for sustained economic growth and food security.

The mandate of the SADC Standby Force is fairly wide and covers:

- Observation and monitoring missions;
- Peace Support Operations (PSOs);
- Interventions at the request of a member state to restore peace and security;
- Preventative deployment (in order to stop the escalation of a conflict, or to prevent a conflict from spilling over into neighbouring states);
- Peace-building in a post-conflict situation (including disarmament and demobilisation);
- Humanitarian missions in aid of civilians (conflict or natural disaster related); and
- Any other functions as may be authorised by the SADC Summit.

The SADC Standby Force comprises three distinct components – military, police and civilian.

The regional military, police and civilian staff on secondment to SADC from contributing Member States are on rotation in Gaborone, while the troops and personnel for the SADC Standby Force.

The Planning Element (PLANELM) is an autonomous organisation that is not intended to be incorporated into the SADC Force structure during actual missions.

It operates on a daily basis as a tool of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and receives its guidance from the SADC Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff and the Committee of SADC Police Chiefs. Its authority is drawn from the Organ and the SIPO.

The SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC) based in Harare, Zimbabwe is a regional training centre within the framework of the SADC peacekeeping capacity-building.

It provides ongoing military, police and civilian training for citizens of member states to facilitate their active participation in United Nations and African Union peace support operations, with contributions ranging from military observers, civilian police and logistics, and peacekeepers.

In addition, a significant number of civilians are serving in AU and UN operations on an individually recruited basis.

The main aim of the SADC RPTC is to offer studies in the theory and practice of Peace Support Operations, and to coordinate peace support training in the SADC region as mandated by the Organ.

The SADC RPTC has achieved a high standard of delivery of training courses for peacekeeping practitioners from the SADC region and other parts of Africa.

The SADC RPTC has set a target to align its objectives and activities to the SADC Vision 2050 agenda.

The blueprint aims to provide a framework for a long-term vision for SADC as the region seeks to position itself in light of emerging global and continental issues such as climate change, democratisation of the United Nations and increasing financial instability.

The intention is to set in motion a development agenda that takes into account the dynamics of events and issues affecting not only the southern African region but also the rest of the world.

This would mitigate potential threats emanating from emerging global issues, and ensure that the strategic objectives of SADC are not endangered.

Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos made this point when he tabled a concept paper on Vision 2050 during an Extra Ordinary SADC Summit in Luanda in 2012. He stressed that, without a common position on emerging global issues, the region runs "the risk of suffering from their undesirable effects both in all our countries and in the region as a whole." □

Civilian component framework gets SADC nod

POLICY

The concept of peacekeeping missions or peacekeeping duties usually often evokes images of men and women in uniform carrying guns and patrolling the streets of a country emerging from war or civil strife.

Until recently, peace support operations have been viewed as a monopoly of the military and the police.

However, civilians have a crucial role in peacekeeping missions, and therefore southern Africa is building a standby force that relies on active participation by civilians.

An expanded notion of security, incorporating human security and addressing the "responsibility to protect", means that peacekeeping is no longer viewed as an exclusive military engagement. It now incorporates policing/public security and civilian needs such as human rights, legal aid, HIV and AIDS awareness, gender mainstreaming and information dissemination.

The civilian component of peacekeeping is well suited to address such needs and should be an integral component of peacekeeping.

The SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation approved the policy framework for the Civilian Component of the SADC Standby Force in July 2012 and a roster for the secondment of civilian officers to the force's Planning Element in Botswana.

The committee also approved a roster model for placement of civilians from member states at the



Participants at the Protection of Civilians in Peace Operations Course which took place at SADC RPTC on 15-26 October 2012

Planning Element as well as the secondment of civilian personnel to the Planning Element with effect from 2013.

Civilians have an important role to play in peace support missions, where they can help facilitate the smooth transition from a situation of war to peace.

They provide the necessary support services to military personnel and lay the groundwork for the establishment of crucial infrastructure to ensure a smooth return to normalcy.

Civilians are important in peace support missions because they manage the political and humanitarian offices and advise other players on how to handle the whole process.

A number of civilians have been trained by the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare since its inception in 1995.

The civilians are usually drawn from government departments and humanitarian organisations and comprise both women and men.

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Participants at the SADC Civilian Foundation Course which took place at SADC RPTC on 4-15 March 2013



Training is critical to peacekeeping



Senior Police Officers at the SADC PSO Course which took place at SADC RPTC on 22 April - 3 May 2013

Peacekeeping operations are a significant part of the training by SADC RPTC in relation to conflict situations and the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

For the operations to be successful, training in various aspects of peacekeeping is critical for the forces.

It is imperative for peacekeeping personnel at all levels to undertake training in a number of programmes including disaster management, gender, and coordination.

In this regard, SADC RPTC conducts various training programmes to equip its personnel with new skills.

The following courses are conducted at the centre during the past year.

Disaster Management Workshop

As southern Africa has experienced another devastating bout of floods, questions are being asked as to whether the disaster management strategies being used by the regional governments are effective regarding response management, coherence and cooperation.

The current seasons have left hundreds homeless and thousands in need of food aid and shelter. This means for the coming few years many people in southern Africa will require assistance to restock their food and livestock while rebuilding their homesteads.

Complaints have been raised that people ignore early warnings by civil protection authorities. In light of this, the SADC RPTC has seen the need to train its officers in disaster management.

The course was held in March and attracted a number of officers drawn from the military, police and various relevant government ministries.

The training focused on the role of new communication, collaboration and device technologies and approaches in the domain of disaster response and emergency services.

Emphasis was put on the importance of effective disaster management and the need for disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness in today's times.

Relevant authorities were urged to work together since any disaster can be better addressed through collaboration.

SADC RPTC PSO Training Coordination Seminar

The SADC region has taken an initiative in the area of peacekeeping by directing efforts towards Curriculum Development for training in peace support operations.

The workshop which included peacekeeping experts from different countries was held at the SADC RPTC offices in Harare, Zimbabwe on 15-16 April 2013.

The aim of the important workshop was to review the SADC training curriculum for peace support operations that covers all role players - civilians, police and military. The curriculum covers modern multidimensional peace support operations and harmonised training courses conducted in member states and SADC RPTC in order to avoid duplication.

Participants were drawn from peacekeeping training institutions in the region and training policy implementers in SADC Member States.

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TRAINING

Courses on Offer

Below are some of the courses offered by the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre, outlining the aims of the various training programmes, duration and target groups

Senior Mission Leaders Course

This course will provide a forum in which participants are exposed to the aspects of leadership and management at the most senior levels that are critical to both the planning and conduct of peace support operations.

Aim The aim of the course is to provide standardized peacekeeping leadership training for senior civilian, police and military leaders, earmarked for deployment in future UN Peace Support Operations (PSO).

Target Group Participants chosen from senior appointments of rank/grade equivalent to Assistant Police Commissioner and Colonel. These are people expected to take up senior positions in PSO such as Force Commander, Police Commissioner etc.

Duration Two weeks

Peace Operations Planning Course

This course focuses on the AU level of strategic planning. Notwithstanding this focus, an effort has been made to recognise that the planning processes occur at the sub-regional level such as SADC.

Aim The aim of the course is to enhance participants' understanding of strategic/operational level planning processes and to equip them with analytical tools and planning skills to produce an integrated mission plan for an African Union Peace Support Operations while relating it to the SADC mandating process.

Target Group Planning practitioners who are working with peace and security related organisations in general and "Planning Elements" more specifically.

Duration Two weeks

Protection of Civilians Course

This course advances a better understanding of the theoretical and practical framework for the protection of civilians among the personnel in peace support operations.

Aim The course aims to provide the participants with knowledge skills, as well as an understanding and explanation of various legal and institutional frameworks for protecting civilians from adverse effect of armed conflict.

Target Group Integrated course that targets all the four components of PSO (civilians, military police, prisons).

Duration Two weeks

Human Security Course

This course introduces the concept of human security to participants.

Aim The course aims to introduce the principles which inform the planning, implementation and evaluation of human security-oriented interventions in Peace Support Operations (PSO).

Target Group Integrated course that targets civilians, military, police and prisons officers.

Duration Two weeks

Elections Observation Course

Aim The aim of this course is to prepare the participants to undertake elections observation duties within the SADC region and beyond.

Target Group Officers (civilians, military, police and prisons) identified by SADC Member States for deployment as election observers in countries conducting elections.

Duration One week



Civilian Middle Management and Leadership Course

This course provides professionals with an overview of leadership and management appropriate to middle management positions in a PSO.

Aim The aim of this course is to enhance participants' understanding of the principles of leadership and the application of management tools in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of middle management in the civilian component of a PSO.

Target Group Civilian personnel earmarked for or already deployed in a PSO, by the UN, AU, or SADC. These individuals should occupy, or be identified to occupy a position of leadership and management at a middle level within their organisations.

Duration Two weeks

Civilian Foundation Course

This course provides basic and introductory level training to civilians who are already part of or identified to become members of either the permanent staff or the standby roster for the SADC Standby Force.

Aim The aim of this course is to prepare civilian personnel of the SADC region to participate in Peace Support Operations.

Target Group Comprised of civilian personnel who are working in or identified to work in a PSO environment.

Duration Two weeks

PSO Course for Senior Police Officers

This course prepares senior police officers drawn from the SADC region to participate in peace support operations.

Aim The aim of this course is to enable participants help in building national police capacity in post-conflict environments in accordance with international norms and standards, and with due respect for human rights and humanitarian law.

Target Group Middle to senior police officers preferably the ranks of Inspector to Senior Superintendent who are earmarked to be deployed and take up positions of responsibility in the PSO.

Duration Two weeks

PSO Course for Battalion Commanders

This is a stand-alone course for military officers earmarked for deployment as battalion/contingent commanders.

Aim The main aim of this course is to equip and develop selected participants with the requisite skills to enable them work effectively as Peace Mission Battalion, Contingent or Sector Commanders.

Target Group Military personnel from the rank of Lt. Colonel to Colonel who are earmarked for deployment as Battalion Commanders or Contingent/Sector Commanders in PSOs.

Duration Two weeks

PSO Course for Staff Officers

This course enhances and equips selected military staff officers with the relevant knowledge to enable them to serve in UN or AU integrated mission headquarters in a Peace Support Operations.

Aim The aim of this course is to equip and develop selected officers with an understanding of SADC, AU and UN policies, procedures and the context within which a PSO staff officer operates in support of, or in the military contingent of a SADC, AU or UN organisation.

Target Group The course is targeted at officers of the ranks of Major/Lieutenant Colonel or equivalent in Navy/Air Force (having already completed national junior staff training or have done military observer course) and working as staff officers or may be deployed to serve in Peace Missions as staff officers.

Duration Two weeks

PSO Course for Corrections/Prisons Officers

This course prepares officers from corrections/prisons officers for deployment in PSO.

Aim The aim of this course is to provide SADC corrections/prisons officers with fundamental knowledge, and operational skills and attributes, required to enable them to perform corrections/prisons component functions in UN/AU/SADC mandated peace missions.

Target Group Corrections/Prisons officers earmarked for deployment in PSO.

Duration Two weeks

Training of Trainers Course

The course is designed to prepare individuals to perform as training focal points within their organisation/institution of origin and to provide selected participants with an insight into the world of a trainer.

Aim The aim of this course is to enhance the skills and competencies of the participants in the following areas:

- Plan and design a curriculum for a training initiative;
- Plan and manage basic administration and logistics related to training;
- Facilitate an entire training event according to sound principles of adult learning;
- Conduct specific training sessions;
- Design monitoring and evaluation tools for training.

Target Group Selected trainers/ trainees selected from SADC Member States.

Duration Two weeks



Question and Answer

Interview with the Commandant of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre

Question May you briefly tell us about the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC), when it was formed, its mandate, mission and vision.

The history of the training Centre dates back to the early 90s when the SADC region started getting active in peace support operations. Peace support training was initially conducted individually by SADC Member States, basically involving only the military. Later when SADC decided to coordinate and harmonise this training, it assigned Zimbabwe the responsibility to spearhead peace support training in the region. RPTC, therefore, traces its formative years to the Zimbabwe Staff College where it began and later operated as an independent entity offering courses to SADC Member States, before eventually becoming a SADC institution in 2005.

The centre's basic mandate is to help develop peacekeeping capacity of SADC Member States and enhance their participation in international and regional peace support operations. Our centre's mission is to study the theory and practice of peace support operations and to coordinate peace support training in the region, as mandated by the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Our vision is to be a reputable and responsive centre of excellence in training, research and development of capacities and expertise in peace support operations.

Question What do you see as the role of SADC RPTC in the SADC Regional integration agenda? In other ways, in what ways is the centre contributing to the attainment of the overall SADC vision of a united community?

The bottom line of all the activities we undertake here at the Centre is the creation of an environment of peace and security in which SADC can develop and integrate. This we achieve by the nature of training we provide on conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution. Also, by drawing participants from all SADC Member States' defence and security sectors, including the civil services, for each course, from middle management and senior management ranks, we strengthen close cooperation among the SADC Member States and promote a common based approach to Defence and security in the region. Our integrated courses, that mix participants from all these sectors, engender post-course cooperation and networking, thereby enhancing the integration processes.

Question Who do you target in your programmes? In other words, does the centre only cater for the armed forces?

In line with contemporary peace support operations, which are now multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary in nature, we also train the police and civilians, apart from the military. Correctional services/prisons officers are a recent inclusion as they are also now deployed on peace missions. Due to limited capacity of the centre, all our participants are from SADC Member States for now. The civilian participants are usually drawn from the civil services and their nominations come through government channels.

Question What is the role of women in all this? Are there many women who have participated in your programmes and what impact have they had on the success of SADC peacekeeping missions?

Women have always participated in peace missions in the sense that a lot of civilian agencies found in peace missions such as those under the UN do have females. Therefore, women have a role to play in peace support operations alongside their male counterparts. Their role is now more pronounced because they get trained and deployed together with their male counterparts in the military and police and also as their numbers increase in the armed forces as now required and encouraged by SADC gender policy. All our courses now have female participants and the ratios are improving all the time. Some courses have even achieved parity.

The impact of the presence of women in the armed forces in peace missions is very positive, despite the small numbers. Their presence among the peacekeepers seems to give a human face to armed forces and is much more assuring to vulnerable groups like the women and children, especially those that may have experienced human rights abuses. Those who have suffered abuse are more likely to openly share their ordeals with women than men. Their participation also has a restraining effect on their male counterparts as they are less likely to commit abuses such as rape when women are present.

Question Are there any specific challenges the Centre faces when it comes to participation of civilians in your training programmes and their subsequent deployment on peacekeeping missions?

The major challenge we have is the nominations of unsuitable participants



Brigadier General Christopher Chellah, Commandant of the SADC RPTC

INTERVIEW

sometimes, from the member states. Unlike their uniformed counterparts, civilians are first employed by the missions and then deployed. They, therefore, must have certain professional or vocational qualifications in line with the jobs available in peace missions. This means that even if we train them, if they do not have the requisite qualifications, they will not be deployed, which then becomes a waste of resources. We shall soon be holding a workshop with member state training focal points to make them appreciate this challenge and encourage them to nominate suitable course participants to enhance their chances of deployment after we train them.

Question What would you say have been the main achievements of the SADC RPTC since its formation?

The Centre has scored many achievements since its inception in the late 90s, the major, of course, being its contribution towards enabling SADC Member States to send well-trained personnel to peace missions through the many hundreds of peacekeepers we have trained through the years, thereby successfully carrying out our mandate. In a few years, the centre has also transformed itself into a multi-disciplinary, multi-dimensional peacekeeping training centre with courses for all current components of peace missions which now even include correctional services/prisons. Our centre is the first peacekeeping training centre on the continent to develop curriculum and conduct peace support operations training for correctional services/prisons officers. We are trailblazers on this and are proud of the achievement.

Being part of the planning processes and the conduct of all major SADC exercises held to date, another area of achievement we are proud of as it underscores the trust and confidence the region has in us as trainers. You may wish to know that we are currently involved in the planning processes of *Exercise AMANI II*, which is an African exercise to be hosted by our region sometime next year. We are also proud of the recognition we are receiving in the region as well as on the African continent as a centre of excellence because of the high standards of training we have established.

Question How closely do you work with other partners such as development partners and civil society groups?

First of all, this is a SADC institution and our major stakeholders are the SADC Member States. Therefore, we largely operate under a SADC Member States budget. However, this does not cover all our expenses, especially the capacity building programmes. This is where our international development partners usually come in and sponsor some of our courses in line with their national policies. For instance, others only sponsor civilian courses; others only police courses and so on. We have also received from the partners some assistance in form of refurbishments, purchase of equipment and minor infrastructure developments. At the moment, we are only dealing with foreign nations and not civil society.

Question We understand you have been working closely with GIZ. Could you elaborate on the relationship with GIZ?

The German government is involved in many developmental programmes in Africa. So through GIZ, our centre has received German government assistance in the areas of capacity building, capacity development of our centre's staff, refurbishments and minor infrastructure developments. We have also benefited from purchases of equipment. Through a Finance Assistance Agreement signed between SADC Secretariat and the Germany Government in 2011, GIZ has been our major cooperating partner in the past two years and has sponsored most of the courses.

Question What are the future plans of the SADC RPTC?

Our priority right now is to improve on impact, which should begin with increasing our capacity, including our staffing levels. At the moment, we only train a maximum of 30 participants per course, which translates to two per member state. In terms of real impact at national level, this is obviously insignificant. In these new premises, we are only utilising less than a quarter of the total area. These premises, therefore, give us a lot of scope for future expansion to build new infrastructure that will allow us take in substantial numbers of participants from each member state. In terms of staffing, we are very thin on the ground and this puts great strain on the staff and may affect quality of output. So we are working hard with the SADC Secretariat and the member states to improve on the teaching staff levels.

We are also in the process of establishing a research department that will enable us continuously improve the quality of content of all our courses and also research on subjects that may inform policy formulation on matters of peace and security. Expansion of the scope of our training will continue to be informed by the security concerns of our region and the world at large. □





SADC RPTC

Regional centre of excellence for peacekeeping training

The history of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC) can be traced back to the early 90's when countries in the region began to be actively involved in international peace missions conducted by the United Nations.

Realizing that peace and security are critical to socio-economic development, countries in southern Africa formally established a peacekeeping centre to coordinate and provide peace support training in the region.

The SADC RPTC was set up in 1996, even though the initiative to establish the centre was first mooted in 1995.

This was after Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom organised the first peacekeeping training seminar in southern Africa in 1995.

In June 1999, the SADC RPTC was built in Harare, Zimbabwe. Funding for the construction was provided by the Danish government. The hosting agreement with Zimbabwe was signed in May 2005.

The establishment and operations of the SADC RPTC falls directly under the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, whose main objective is to promote peace and security within the region, was launched in June 1996 as a formal institution of SADC with the mandate to support the achievement and maintenance of security and the rule of law in the region.

Hence, the SADC RPTC forms part of the core objectives of the SADC Organ, as its role is to provide training for peace support missions in the region.

Overall, the SADC RPTC and the SADC Organ are both in line with the core objective of the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), which aims to create a peaceful, politically stable and secure environment.



SADC peacekeepers on a visit to the Ivory Coast

Excellence in



The main objectives of the SADC RPTC are to:

- promote regional cooperation in peace and security amongst SADC Member States;
- build capacity in conflict prevention and conflict management including Peace Support Operations;
- train peacekeeping practitioners and provide training, enabling all SADC Member States to take part in Peace Support Operations;
- assist planning for SADC peacekeeping exercises and operations;
- develop and deliver peacekeeping training in line with the Southern African Development Community, African Union and United Nations standards; and
- implement the objectives of the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) and the SADC development agenda related to Peace and Security.

The vision of the SADC RPTC is to be a reputable and responsive Centre of Excellence in training, research and development of capacities and expertise in peace support operations. Its mission is, therefore, to study the theory and practice of peace support operations, and to coordinate peace support training in the SADC region as mandated by the Organ.

Since its establishment, the SADC RPTC has managed to recorded significant achievements in its operations and quest for peace and security in the southern African region.

The centre has continued to deliver training courses for peacekeeping officers from the SADC region and other parts of Africa despite various challenges. Such training has enabled the participants to effectively take part and coordinate peacekeeping missions in the region and elsewhere.

Furthermore, the centre plays a key role in the implementation of the roadmap towards the operationalization of the SADC Standby Force by

providing training and participation in SADC exercises.

The standby force was established in 2007 after SADC recognised a need for a collective self-defence system in line with AU and UN provisions.

The force is one of the pillars of the proposed African Standby Force. It comprises of military, police, and civilian personnel who provide peace and security assistance to the region.

Member states contribute personnel and equipment to a regional peacekeeping brigade, in turn receiving reimbursement from SADC where applicable.

The SADC RPTC has also participated in the preparation and running of all major peacekeeping exercises conducted in the region.

These include the Blue Hungwe in Zimbabwe (1997), Blue Crane in South Africa (1999), Tanzanite in the United Republic of Tanzania (2002), Exercise Thokgamo (2005) in Botswana and Exercise Golfinho in South Africa in 2009.

The SADC RPTC falls directly under the Directorate for Politics Defence and State Security Cooperation at the SADC Secretariat. □

Civilian component framework gets SADC nod

Continued from page 3...

A huge number of peacekeepers have been trained at the centre since its establishment. The target is to have a 4,000–5,000 strong standby force that will respond to requests for peacekeeping duties in the 15-member SADC region or in other parts of the world.

Since 1991, SADC troops have contributed to more than 20 peacekeeping missions within and outside Africa.

The SADC RPTC has been offering training to the region on peacekeeping duties since 1995. Previously, the centre was a facility for the Zimbabwean Defence Force operated by government and was transformed into a SADC regional training centre in 2005.

The formation of the SADC Standby Force is in line with the African Union Commission's Article 13 on standby armies, which requires that each of the five African regions should have a minimum of 4,000 peacekeepers.

The SADC Standby Force was officially launched by the SADC Summit in August 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Upon the launch, there were only two components on the ground – the military and the planning components.

The need to have a Civilian component was launched during a regional multi-dimensional exercise codenamed



Participants at the Civilian Middle Management and Leadership Course which took place at SADC RPTC on 5–16 November 2012

Exercise Golfinho (Portuguese for Dolphin) and covered all the planning phases.

The need to have the Civilian Component at the Planning Element was identified during the planning process for the exercise.

Since its establishment, the Civilian Component at the Planning Element has made significant contributions. These include:

- participation in several training courses offered by the SADC RPTC;
- development of both civilian-specific and multi-dimensional courses for the centre;
- participation in *Exercise Amani Africa I* (Addis Ababa);
- mobilisation of funds for the initial engagement of three civilian personnel for the Planning Element in 2013.

The three civilian officers are seconded by the personnel-contributing countries in terms of an agreed roster. The officers are from Angola, which has seconded a Mission Support Officer; Mozambique (Planning and Coordination Officer); and Swaziland (Training and Rostering Officer). □

Training is critical to peacekeeping

Continued from page 4...

The curriculum development workshop was important to the centre in that it tried to bring out clearly programmes that should be conducted at regional level and national level in order to avoid a duplication of effort.

The workshop was organised in collaboration with Germany (GIZ) who supported the programme financially.

The workshop identified the PSO training needs of SADC, mapped the existing training programmes and courses offered, identified gaps by analysing the existing courses against the needs assessment.

It also identified which course should be offered at the SADC RPTC, as well as those that exist in the UN and AU training guideline and developed new course outlines for those proposed courses that do not have existing curricula.

The workshop agreed in short term that SADC RPTC will in cooperation with its regional and international partners, develop a detailed curriculum for each of the courses on its course schedule in the medium term.

SADC RPTC Staff Retreat

The SADC RPTC Corporate Strategy Development Workshop took place at Troutbeck Resort in Nyanga, Zimbabwe on 21–25 January 2013.

During this workshop it was realised that SADC RPTC needed to re-strategize and streamline its operations to remain relevant to its mandate.

It was decided that benchmarking would be carried out with other institutions that have a similar mandate on similar activities.

The retreat also allowed staff members to network and share various ideas on how the centre could improve operations and address its challenges for the betterment of the region. □



Principles and Guidelines for SADC Election Observer Missions

Each year, at least one country in the southern Africa region goes to the polls to choose a new government or leadership.

By their very nature, elections usually create some interesting debates, which, if not properly handled, could affect socio-economic development.

For example, some political parties and candidates may take advantage of the situation to incite violence that may escalate into civil wars.

To address such a situation, and ensure that all SADC Member States holding elections adhere to the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, SADC Elections Observers are deployed.

Clad in their SADC uniforms, the personnel carry out patrols to observe that voters can exercise their democratic right without fear of violence, and that SADC elections guidelines are followed.

To ensure the observers are well equipped, the SADC RPTC conducts training sessions for personnel from SADC Member States.

The training started in 2007, and is in line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

The SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections outline the responsibilities and code of conduct for election observers as well as expectations from countries holding elections.

They set out the basic principles that SADC Member States should follow, although not mandatory. These include:

- Full participation of the citizens in the political process;
- Regular intervals for elections as provided for by the respective national constitution;
- Equal opportunities for all political parties to access the state media;
- Equal opportunities to exercise the right to vote and be voted for;
- Independence of the judiciary and impartiality of the electoral institutions;
- Freedom of expression;
- Political tolerance; and
- Voter Education.

The training emphasises the need to maintain impartiality by observers in the conduct of their duties.

Some of the training topics include international and regional election instruments and benchmarks.

Knowledge of electoral and human rights instruments by the United Nations, African Union and SADC is crucial as it improves the understanding and importance of these instruments in the context of election observation.

Other topics the election observers are taught include the role and functions of the SADC Election Observer Mission, the electoral cycle, and Observation Work in Practice to prepare observers to work more comfortably on their missions and ensure a unified approach of experienced observers.

Based on the evaluation received from the trainees and the trainers, plans are underway to increase the duration of the training from five days to a period that will accommodate more training modules. □



SADC Election Observer Missions are deployed to ensure that member states adhere to the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic elections.

Gender dimensions of peacekeeping



Although women remain underrepresented in security forces, peacekeeping operations and conflict resolution across the world, there has been commendable progress within SADC and other regions to increase the number of women in these areas.

This has seen efforts to increase the role of women in all sectors of society extending to peace and security, where they are charged with the mitigation and prevention of war and conflict.

Women in SADC are participating in peacekeeping missions as police, military and civilians, and are being trained for the SADC standby force, a component of the African Union standby force.

As peacekeeping has evolved over the years to encompass a broader humanitarian approach, the role of women has become increasingly part of the agenda, with women also ready to take on combat roles as necessary.

Women are deployed in all areas, and have made a positive impact on peacekeeping environments, according to UN Peacekeeping.

The gendered dimension of conflict and the necessity for gender-sensitive approaches to peace-building, is accentuated when formal security institutions and even the peacekeepers, to which women often turn for redress and security, are also among the perpetrators of violence.

This is one of the reasons that have necessitated the need to have female peacekeepers.

In addition, not only do SADC women have experience in rebuilding countries which were once at war but the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development commits State Parties to put in place measures to ensure that women have equal representation and participation in key decision-making positions in conflict resolution and peace-building processes by 2015.

The Protocol came into force at the beginning of 2013. □

Summary of Troop Contribution to UN Operations at February 2012

Country	Individual Force					Experts on Mission					Contingent Troops					Country
DRC Lesotho Madagascar Malawi Mozambique Namibia South Africa Tanzania Zambia Zimbabwe	Women	%	Men	%	Total	Women	%	Men	%	Total	Women	%	Men	%	Total	Total
	2	7.4	25	92.6	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	2	100	2	0	-	1	100	1	3
	6	12.5	42	87.5	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
	20	32.3	42	67.8	62	0	-	21	100	21	17	2	844	98	861	944
	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	1	100	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	41	70.7	17	29.3	58	2	13.3	13	86.7	15	0	-	3	100	3	76
	12	20.7	46	79.3	58	7	23.3	23	76.7	30	351	17.4	1 666	82.6	2 017	2 105
	45	34.4	86	65.6	131	3	11.5	23	88.5	26	52	5	998	95	1 050	1 207
	22	9.1	220	90.9	242	8	22.2	28	77.8	36	0	100	7	100	7	285
32	36.4	56	63.6	88	5	55.6	4	44.4	9	1	50	1	50	2	99	

Source: United Nations Peacekeeping

SADC RPTC refurbishes library to meet regional standards

Researchers and students in peacekeeping courses are set to benefit from the refurbishment of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre library.

The library automation, made possible through the support of member states, GIZ and the British government, is designed to improve access to information, customer service and reduce the challenges experienced by the manual library system.

The extensive renovation of the library, inspired by the need to meet international library service standards, has improved study facilities to researchers.

The project was also inspired by the desire to create a welcoming atmosphere, a beneficial quiet study and research environment while at the same time providing social spaces for collaborative work.

As RPTC strives towards a technology-based society that is strengthened through information circulation, the automated system provides the users with an up-to-date collection of information resources which is central to a technology-based society.

Apart from an improved service, the upgrading of the library is expected to increase the number of people who access the library as a source of information.

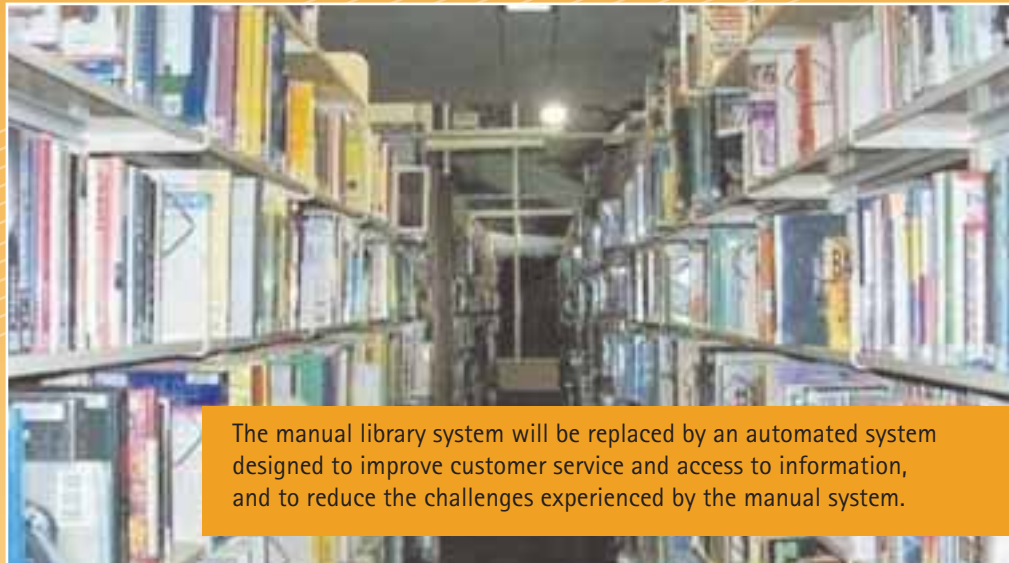
The benefits of the new system are expected to deal with challenges of the predecessor system which is time consuming, labour intensive and expensive.

Since the automated systems improve and increase circulation and acquisitions of books, the upgrading of the service from a manual system will see an improved environment for researchers and librarians as well.

Furthermore, the upgrade of the service means researchers now have easy access to recently published journals, books and other online information from a home computer.

The Automated Library System is a cost-effective and space-saving alternative to document shelving technologies commonly referred to as manual systems.

Library automation refers to the use of computers and other IT gadgets to program the typical procedures



The manual library system will be replaced by an automated system designed to improve customer service and access to information, and to reduce the challenges experienced by the manual system.

of libraries such as cataloguing and circulation. This offers an ideal workable system than the manual system.

Since the computer can be used effectively in performing the various activities of the library with less time and labour, library automation can serve as a remedy to the major ills of manual libraries.

The new system can also help in weeding out old, out-dated and irrelevant books and materials from the collection, which will help in keeping the library's collection more streamlined.

The automation system comes with several other benefits for the user and the librarians, for example, it allows for an improvement in the variety, amount and quality of materials available in the library's collection.

Also the automation is likely to improve cost-effective performance by increasing accuracy, by reducing the rate of increase in costs in labour-intensive activities, and by increased effectiveness.

As the new system reduces the workload of librarians and other staff members in the areas of acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation of materials, it is expected to create extra time for the one-on-one interaction between the user and the librarians.

For the benefit of the librarians, the new system is expected to ease the burden of organising and managing library information and also reduce the loss of books. □

Germany provides capacity-building support to SADC RPTC

The funding of activities of the SADC RPTC has evolved through the years since its establishment. At its inception, the governments of Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom supported the centre.

When Denmark joined the two countries in supporting the centre, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding that resulted in Denmark funding most of the activities of the centre until 2001.

After the handover of the centre to the SADC Secretariat in 2005, most of the operational costs are serviced through the SADC-approved budget from member states.

Training programmes are now being conducted in collaboration with International Cooperating Partners (ICPs). The lead ICP for peace and security in SADC is Germany.

Under its Support of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre Project, the Germany government, through GIZ, has been providing capacity-building and material support to the SADC RPTC since 2011.

The main objective of this project is to enable the SADC RPTC to become a Centre of Excellence for peacekeeping training in the southern African region.

The support is in three areas:

- Institutional and personal capacity development;
- Curriculum development and actual running of training courses for different aspects of peace operations; and
- Infrastructure support, such as purchasing of equipment and maintenance work.

The project also promotes peer learning from other peacekeeping training centres with regard to course design as well as monitoring and evaluation, leading to exchange visits and co-development of certain training courses or modules.

Germany also supports the establishment of civilian capacities for the SADC Standby Force in line with the mandate of the revised Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), which was launched in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania in November 2012 with German support.

Germany has also extended its support to seminars with peace support training centres in SADC Member States, thereby improving coordination, identifying gaps in training and division of labour.

This support has helped to raise the quality of the courses provided at the centre to meet international standards. □

SADC RPTC visit to UNOCI in Ivory Coast

The visit by the SADC RPTC to UNOCI in Ivory Coast was dedicated to paying courtesy calls on the leadership of the Mission.

The team received briefings on the general situation of the mission by both the SRSG and the Force Commander.

The briefing highlighted both the challenges the mission was facing and the achievements of the mission.

Some of the challenges were the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of the former warring parties that had not been completed, integration of the forces which had not been done, and the implementation of the protection of civilians mandate, given the scope and the resources available.

It was pointed out that most personnel arrive in the mission area with little or no training in the protection of civilians.

As a result the Training Cell included protection of civilians in its induction programme for every new member who joins the mission.

The team had a discussion on the security situation in the mission and the operational challenges that the mission was facing of limited logistical resources.

The team also visited the Malawian Battalion. The Battalion Commander took them round to see the "Quick



SADC RPTC on a field visit at UNOCI in Ivory Coast to learn about the mission and the challenges faced by peacekeepers in the field

Impact Projects" the Battalion was involved in as part of their Peacebuilding Tasks.

The main objectives of the field visit to UNOCI were to learn more about the mission, have an appreciation of the challenges faced by peacekeepers in the field and share experiences with the training cell of the mission.

Lessons learnt from the field mission have been factored into course content at the centre. □

APSTA targets greater cooperation

African Peace support trainers met in Ethiopia in September to discuss ways of improving collaboration among themselves and with the African Union Commission.

The African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA) held its 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, from 25-27 September 2013.

The AGM was attended by more than 70 members, partners, stakeholders and observers.

The introduction of new features to the programme was of interest to the 11th AGM. First, in addition to the usual internal matters of the association that had become a common feature of previous AGMs, the 2013 meeting witnessed lively discussions on the importance of training, education and research.

APSTA invited eminent personalities to share their experiences and lead the discussions focusing on training, education and research. These included special guest of honour, Ambassador Augustine Philip Mahiga of the United Republic of Tanzania; and Ambassador Solomon Abebeye who is director general for African affairs at the Ethiopian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Other presentations were from the keynote speaker, Norwegian ambassador to Ethiopia, Odd-Inge Kvalheim who is co-chair of the AU Partners Group; and the new honorary APSTA patron, Ambassador Soad Shalaby.

The other new feature was the Ideas Bazaar. This is simply a forum where informal exchange and sharing of information takes place.

Various organisations were provided with stands to display or showcase their information products such as books or any other items that they wanted to share with the other member institutions.

SADC RPTC is pleased to be associated with the new changes because they were effected at a time SADC RPTC was holding the presidency of APSTA, which is rotational on annual basis.

The decision to change the format of the meeting was reached during the 10th AGM held in Harare, Zimbabwe in September 2012. At that meeting, members of APSTA agreed to focus on education, learning and dialogue in future AGMs.

The 2013 AGM mandated the APSTA executive director, Col. Festus Bohen Aboagye (retired) to develop appropriate concept notes for implementation of the outcomes of the learning, educational and dialogue issues that needed to be further developed and implemented.

Delegates welcomed an initiative by the executive director to explore collaboration with the Peace and Security Council of the AU.

The meeting reiterated the need for APSTA to deepen its relationship with the AU Commission "to reflect new dynamics

and seize opportunities in the realm of peace support capacity building."

"In this regard, (the AGM) mandates the executive director of the APSTA Secretariat to continue consultations with the AUC in reviewing the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2008, and calls on members to be ready to meet the obligations inherent in these collaborations," read part of the communiqué from the AGM.

The AGM was held under the theme "Working Together to Improve the Capacity for Peace Support Operations in Africa: the Role, Contributions and Opportunities for APSTA in Supporting the African Union (AU) in its Responsibilities in Maintaining Peace and Security."

APSTA was established in 2002 by leading African training and research institutions as the continental chapter of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC). It serves as a framework for improving the capacity of peacekeeping training institutions through facilitating the exchange of best practices and capacity development support, and for enhancing the impact of peacekeeping initiatives by the AU and regional economic communities/regional mechanisms.

Through dialogue and joint research, APSTA seeks to deepen the debate on peacekeeping capacity development as well as on issues pertaining to peacekeeping in Africa, including protection of civilians and the implementation of the responsibility to protect.

The objectives of APSTA are spelt out in its constitution as follows:

- to facilitate the ability of peace support training centres to dialogue with each other as a matter of routine;
- to facilitate meetings and the exchange of information and best practices;
- to facilitate efforts to harmonise the doctrine and training of the various members;
- to serve as a depository that offers advisory services to the AU Commission and Peace and Security Council on peace support operations issues; and
- to act as a sounding board for the AU Commission on peace support operations concerning donor relations.

There are 18 APSTA member institutions from all over Africa and the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) is one of five represented in southern Africa. Other institutions are the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) based in South Africa; the African Civilian Capacity Response for Peace Support Operations (AFDEM) located in Zimbabwe; the South African National War College; and the Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) in Malawi. □

South Africa to host CHAN 2014



His Zimbabwean counterpart, Ian Gorowa has also promised to fare well and make the region proud.

Southern Africa will host another major football championship when the 3rd Orange Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) comes to South Africa from 11 January – 1 February 2014.

The 3rd Orange Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) is scheduled from 11 January to 1 February 2014.

The staging of CHAN follows the successful hosting of global and regional events in the region including the United Nations World Tourism Organisation summit in August 2013 by Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as the 2010 Soccer World Cup in South Africa.

The successful hosting of such events has allowed the SADC region to gain a reputation as a safe and peaceful destination for staging international events.

A total of 16 teams will take part in the biennial event for locally based players, who ply their trade in the local leagues of their respective countries.

Expatriate players, regardless of where they play, even in Africa, do not qualify to take part in the Africa Cup of Nations.

Four SADC teams will raise the regional flag higher. These are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

DRC has been paired with Gabon, Burundi and Mauritania. Mozambique is in the same group as South Africa, Mali and Nigeria.

Zimbabwe has been pitted against Uganda, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. The other group comprises Ghana, Libya, Morocco and Congo.

South African coach Gordon Igesund said as host nation, South Africa will try to make sure that the trophy remains in the country.

"I am looking forward to winning the tournament and we will do our best in the regard," he said, adding that the team would use home advantage to their own good.

One SADC country – the DRC – has previously won the CHAN tournament, beating Ghana in 2011. Tunisia won the inaugural tournament in 2009 against Angola.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) board for the CHAN South Africa 2014 has pledged to host a successful tournament.

"I promise to do my best, with the support of the team to make this tournament a success" LOC chairperson, Molefi Oliphant said.

He said the tournament will be played in three host cities, namely Cape Town, Mangaung and Polokwane.

CAF second vice-president and chairman of the CHAN Organising Committee, Almamy Kabele Camara, also said all is well for the CHAN tournament.

"The CHAN is a good tribute to local footballers. It has given local players a platform to showcase their talents to a global audience," he said.

CHAN is the second biggest tournament after the flagship of the Africa Cup of Nations. The number of teams has increased from eight to 16, and it has generated so much interest and attention not only in Africa but globally.

The tournament is held every two years, alternating with the Africa Cup of Nations. The qualifying phase has taken place every even year and the final every odd year.

The creation of CHAN was a response to the desire to revive or strengthen national competitions regularly weakened by a mass exodus of top players who leave their home countries to play for foreign teams which will pay more and get them more media coverage.

CAF hopes that the players in the national competitions can experience the joy of the selection and to one day integrate the selection with that of the Africa Cup of Nations. □



Events

January 2014

ACPST Course on Governance and Human Security in Africa 20–31 January, Ethiopia

The decline of warfare in Africa has coincided with the emergence of threats like electoral violence, terrorism, drug trafficking, cybercrime, maritime insecurity and climate change. Organized by the African Centre for Peace and Security Training (ACPST), the course will explore the nature of these threats, analysing why they have emerged, how they threaten human security as well as specific ways of tackling them and how they relate to each other and to traditional threats?

22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union 21–31 January, Ethiopia

Heads of State and Government will gather for the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by the usual technical meetings and the Council of Ministers. The Assembly will, among other issues, consider the report of the Peace and Security Council on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa, as well as the report on the assessment of the African Standby Force and the operationalization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises.

February

SADC Council of Ministers TBA February, Mozambique

Ministers from each member state sit in Council, usually from the ministries of foreign affairs, economic development, planning or finance. The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations to Summit.

February

African Solidarity Conference for Mobilization of Support for Countries Emerging from Conflict 1 February, Ethiopia

The expected outcome of the conference is the mobilization of support for pilot countries (Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and South Sudan) where African Union multidisciplinary assessment missions have been undertaken, with recommendations made on how best the AU Commission and Member states can assist in their post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

April

General elections in South Africa TBA April, South Africa

South Africa will host its fifth general election since the first democratic elections in 1994, coinciding with the country's 20 years of freedom celebrations. According to the Independent Electoral Commission, more than 24 million people are registered to vote, representing more than 75 percent of eligible voters.





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