Namibia hosts 38th SADC Summit

The 38th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of SADC and preceding meetings will take place in Windhoek, Namibia from the 9 -18 August, 2018. Story on page 3

38th SADC Summit
9 - 18 AUGUST 2018 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

THEME: Promoting Infrastructure Development And Youth Empowerment For Sustainable Development

THÈME: Promouvoir le développement des infrastructures et l’autonomisation des jeunes en vue du développement durable

LEMA: Promovendo o desenvolvimento de infra-estruturas e o potenciamento da juventude em prol do desenvolvimento sustentável

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SADC SECRETARIAT VISION
A reputable, efficient and responsive enabler of regional integration and sustainable development.

MISSION
To provide strategic expertise and coordinate the harmonization of policies and strategies to accelerate regional integration and sustainable investment.

VALUES
• Quality
• Professionalism
• Integrity
• Commitment and passion
• Team spirit
• Mutual respect and trust
• Courtesy
• Equality of opportunity
• Transparency and frankness

SADC OBJECTIVES
The main objectives of SADC are to achieve development, peace and security, and economic growth, to alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration, built on democratic principles and equitable and sustainable development.

HISTORY
SADCC was formed to advance the cause of national political liberation in Southern Africa, and to reduce dependence particularly on the then apartheid era South Africa; through effective coordination of utilisation of the specific characteristics and strengths of each country and its resources. SADCC objectives went beyond just dependence reduction to embrace basic development and regional integration. SADC Member States are; Angola, Botswana, Union of Comoros, DR Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

TREATY
The Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC), established on 1 April 1980 was the precursor of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The SADCC was transformed into the SADC on 17 August 1992 in Windhoek, Namibia where the SADC Treaty was adopted, redefining the basis of cooperation among Member States from a loose association into a legally binding arrangement.

STRATEGIC PLANS
The Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) remain the guiding frameworks for SADC Regional Integration, providing SADC Member States, SADC Secretariat and other SADC Institutions with consistent and comprehensive programmes of long-term economic and social policies.

SADC COMMON AGENDA
The SADC Common Agenda refers to a set of key principles and values that guide the Regional Integration agenda. The SADC Common Agenda is spelled out in Article 5 of the Treaty (as amended, 2009), as well as in the Review of Operations of SADC Institutions and consists of the policies and strategies of the organisation.

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Namibia to host 38th Ordinary SADC Summit in August

By Barbara Lopi

The 38th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and preceding meetings will take place in Windhoek, in the Republic of Namibia from the 9th to the 18th of August, 2018.

The SADC Summit is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the community, ultimately making it the policy-making institution of SADC. It is made up of all SADC Heads of States or Government and is managed on a Troika system that comprises the current SADC Chairperson, the incoming Chairperson and the immediate previous Chairperson. The ordinary SADC summit usually meets once a year around August or September in a member state of the incoming SADC Chairperson.

The current SADC troika comprises H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa, of South Africa as the Chairperson of SADC; H.E President Dr Hage G. Geingob, of Namibia and incoming Chairperson; and H.M. King Mswati III, of the Kingdom of Eswatini as the outgoing Chairperson.

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The troika for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation comprises H.E. President João Lourenço, of Angola as Chairperson of the Organ; H.E President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, of Zambia as the incoming Chairperson of the Organ, and H.E President Dr John Joseph Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania as outgoing Chairperson of the Organ. Namibia last hosted such a SADC event in 1992 during the historic Summit held in Windhoek, Namibia, where leaders from the region signed the SADC Treaty and Declaration that effectively transformed the then Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) into Southern African Development Community (SADC). The signing of the Treaty and Declaration ushered in changes in the way the regional organisation operates, as prior to 1992, the organisational and institutional arrangements were decentralised, with each of the Member States being responsible for coordinating one economic sector.

With the signing of the Treaty, the coordination of regional programmes and activities became centralised at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana.

The ordinary SADC Summit will be proceeded by a series of meeting and events, namely, the meeting of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials; the SADC Finance subcommittee; SADC Council of Ministers Meeting; as well as the Double Troika Senior Officials, and Ministerial Council of the Organ and Double Troika Summit.
The table below summarises the series of meetings & events in Namibia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| TUESDAY: 07 AUGUST | MEETING OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
|               | MEETING OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE                                                     |
| THURSDAY: 09 AUGUST | STANDING COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS                                             |
| FRIDAY: 10 AUGUST    | MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE                                                   |
|               | ADOPTION OF ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR COUNCIL BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS |
| SATURDAY 11 AUGUST  | SADC SECRETARIAT DEPARTEMENTAL MEDIA BRIEFINGS                                    |
| 11:00 – 11:30: | Briefing by SADC Director of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources               |
| 11:30 – 12:00: | Briefing by SADC Director of Social and Human Development                           |
| SUNDAY: 12 AUGUST  | ARRIVAL OF, AND BRIEFING TO MINISTERS                                              |
|               | PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARIAT                             |
|               | SADC SECRETARIAT DEPARTEMENTAL MEDIA BRIEFINGS IN THE MEDIA CENTRE                  |
| 11:00 – 11:30: | Briefing by SADC Director of Infrastructure and Services                           |
| 12.00 – 12:30  | Briefing by, SADC Directors of Finance, Investment & Customs and Industrial Development & Trade |
| 14:30 – 15:00  | Briefing by Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation       |
| MONDAY: 13 AUGUST | COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING                                                        |
| TUESDAY: 14 AUGUST | COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING                                                        |
| 1630 – 1700    | Pre- Summit Media Briefing                                                         |
| THURSDAY: 16 AUGUST | ARRIVAL OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT                                          |
|               | ORGAN TROIKA SENIOR OFFICIALS, MCO AND SUMMIT MEETINGS                             |
| FRIDAY: 17 AUGUST | SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT                                             |
| 09.12.30       | OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 38TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  |
| 14.30 – 1700   | SUMMIT IN SESSION                                                                  |
| SATURDAY: 18 AUGUST | SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT                                          |
| 0900 – 1230    | Summit in Session                                                                 |
| 14.00 – 17.00  | OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 38TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT |
| 18.00          | Post-Summit Media Briefing by SADC Chairperson, H.E. Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia |
By Barbara Lopi &
Innocent Mbwundula

As part of the preparations for the 38th SADC Summit, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax paid courtesy calls on the Incoming Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency President Dr Hage G. Geingob of Namibia and the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu of Zambia.

H.E. President Dr Hage G Geingob and H.E. President Edgar Chagwa Lungu will assume the Chairpersonship of SADC and Chairpersonship of the SADC Organ respectively during the 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held on 17-18 August, 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia.

During the courtesy call by H.E. Dr Tax at the State House in Windhoek on 23rd July 2018, H.E. President Dr Hage Geingob said that SADC must continue to consolidate the region’s shared economic interest and common political values so that SADC citizens can enjoy improved livelihoods.

President Geingob emphasized the importance of peace in the region, and added that, without peace and stability in the SADC region, economic growth and development will remain elusive. On his part, H.E. President Edgar Lungu reiterated the call by H.E. Hage Geingob for regional peace and security. Speaking on 3rd August 2018 at State House in Lusaka, H.E. President Lungu, said, as the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, he will provide consultative leadership to ensure sustained peace in the SADC region, adding that he will consult widely and tap into the experience and knowledge of the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ and other SADC Heads of State and Government to ensure durable peace and stability in the region.

In the meetings with the two Incoming SADC political leaders, H.E. Dr Tax updated their Excellencies on the social, economic, political and security situation in the SADC region. H.E. Dr Tax said, while the SADC region is generally stable and peaceful, the region needs to remain vigilant, adding that peace is essential for the attainment of sustainable social and economic development.

The Chairperson of SADC is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the SADC. The Chairperson leads the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government which is the highest policy-making institution of SADC. On the other hand, the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is responsible for the overall policy direction and achievement of the objectives of the Organ, of promoting peace and security in the SADC Region. Both Chairpersons are appointed for a period of one year.
SADC, COMESA first women executive officers meet

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax and the Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe on 3rd August 2018 held a brief meeting in Lusaka, Zambia.

The two met soon after H.E. Dr Tax paid a courtesy call on the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His Excellency President Edgar Chagwa Lungu of the Republic of Zambia to brief the President on the regional political and security developments, ahead of the 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government.

In her remarks, H.E. Dr Tax once again congratulated Ms. Kapwepwe for being elected the first woman Secretary General of COMESA, saying the appointment demonstrated the confidence that COMESA Member States have in her competence and abilities.

H.E. Dr Tax pledged to work together with the new COMESA Secretary General in identifying areas in which COMESA and SADC have comparative advantage in order to ensure complementarity of efforts by the two regional bodies.

On her part, Ms. Kapwepwe said she looks forward to further interaction with H.E. Dr Tax to find synergies and common areas of interest between SADC and COMESA, citing the Tripartite Cooperation of COMESA-East African Community (EAC)-SADC which seeks to strengthen and deepen economic integration of the southern and eastern African regions.

Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe was sworn in as first Secretary General of COMESA on July 18, 2018 during the 20th COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit in Lusaka, Zambia. Coincidentally, H.E. Dr Tax is the first woman Executive Secretary of SADC.
Mozambique SADC Success Stories publications launched

By Barbara Lopi & Sharon Simwanza

Mozambique Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hon Jose Pacheco who is also Chairperson of the SADC National Commission of Mozambique on 01 August 2018 launched the Mozambique SADC Success Stories publication at a ceremony in Maputo, which was attended by several cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society and media representatives.

SADC Secretariat Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs Mrs Emilie Mushobekwa and Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mozambique Dr Detlev Wolter participated in the launch and commended Mozambique for producing the publication which highlights stories of regional integration. The publication was produced with financial support from the GIZ Strengthening National Regional Linkages (SNRL) programme in partnership with the SADC National Committee (Comissão Nacional da SADC, CONSADC) to raise awareness of SADC and its successes in Mozambique.

Mrs Mushobekwa commended Mozambique for the publication which will equip relevant stakeholders in the media, academic and civil administration with information on SADC protocols, policies and programmes from multiple sectors whose national implementation has improved the socio-economic situation of Mozambicans.

The publication includes stories focusing on Mozambique’s regional integration initiatives in the sectors of transport; energy; HIV and AIDS; mining; disaster prevention, mitigation and management; tourism; and Small and Medium Enterprises.

On Transport, the publication presents the Beira Corridor which is crucial to Mozambique and the region, particularly as it services the needs of landlocked neighboring states such as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Beira Corridor’s social economic success has come from an integrated plan, which includes a port, a railway and a highway that unite countries. This corridor has prompted foreign direct investments and generated employment while contributing to the region’s economic transformation guided by the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology of 1996.

Following the discovery of significant natural gas resources in northern Mozambique, the publication presents Gas, electricity and alternative energy in Mozambique which has enhanced the provision of electricity in the country as the private and public sector collaborate to facilitate the sustainable exploitation of this resource.

This is one of the most exciting developments for SADC as it contributes to the regional energy goal of achieving adequate, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy services for economic growth and poverty eradication as stipulated in the SADC Protocol on Energy.

Signs of success in the battle against HIV/AIDS is another story in the publication that demonstrates what the SADC Heads of State and governments have long committed themselves to fight the HIV and AIDS epidemic through global commitments such as the Abuja Declaration, Maputo Declaration 2005, Brazzaville Commitment 2006 and Sustainable Development Goals. Mozambique’s National Strategic Plan approach has been able to reduce the number of new infections as well as improving the quality of life for people living with HIV. It also is implementing its treatment and care projects, which reduced AIDS mortality to 20% of the infected population in 2014.

Aluminum beneficiation leads to new jobs and exports through companies such as Midal, an aluminium post-production factory, now one of the largest foreign direct investors listed in Mozambique.
With headquarters in the Gulf state of Bahrain, it operates around the world, and has selected Mozambique as a gateway to Africa and began production of aluminum rods, wire and conductors in December 2014. The final products are traded in the SADC region on a duty-free basis. This factory has generated approximately 1000 jobs in Mozambique and the region and has contributed to the employees’ skills development, as some technicians were sent to Bahrein for training. Moreover, the factory contributes to the delivery of improved power networks in the SADC region and contributes to the region’s improved access to energy goal.

In the area of disaster prevention, Mozambique early warning systems are paying off in the Coastal areas of the country which are often in danger from flooding and increasing sea levels. SADC has taken steps to minimize the effects of climate change through an early warning system. The SADC Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was inaugurated in 2011, and led to numerous on the ground responses attempting to deal with flooding and rising sea levels.

The use of ICT solutions has facilitated the mapping of at-risk coastal communities, and social media platforms are used as the fastest medium to inform these communities on potential risks. Moreover, local disaster risk management units have been trained in the framework of decentralizing the coordination mechanism put in place by the National Institute for Disaster Management.

In the area of tourism, the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) was established in 2002, linking Kruger National Park in South Africa, Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe and Limpopo National Park (PNL) in Mozambique in line with the Protocol on Tourism which was signed in 1998. The SADC Protocol on Tourism envisaged the establishment of tourism as a priority and outlined SADC’s intention to use tourism as a vehicle for sustainable development. The concept of the GLTP is to optimize the use of the region’s resources and to foster the industry.

It also conforms to the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, which was signed in 1999 to establish a common framework for conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in the region. This has helped harmonize the management of wildlife and the establishment of management programmes as well as the creation of a regional database of wildlife in the area. Another plan is the removal of the physical border between the Kruger Park and the Limpopo National Park and more than fifty kilometers of fence has been taken down. As the anti-poaching drive increases and action is taken by countries where rhino horn, elephant tusks and illicit pelts are sold, the future of the Transfrontier Park system continues to be positive with both the citizens and officials of SADC working together to improve eco-tourism and the economy of wildlife in the region.

In the area of trade, the Small Enterprise marketplace in Mozambique is thriving and has always held an important place in the economy of the region. SADC has been instrumental in facilitating the movement of goods and services across borders. Mozambique depends heavily upon SADC countries for its imports of various products, sourcing more than 50% of their imports from SADC and selling more than 20% of their exports to the region.

The “SADC Success Stories Mozambique” have been published in English and Portuguese and is available on the SADC Website. The publication was supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through SNRL, a Germany-SADC technical cooperation programme implemented by GIZ.
Speakers and delegates at the third SADC Industrialisation Week held in Windhoek, Namibia from 31st July – 1st August 2018 made a strong case for the need to economically empower women and youth, calling for programmes and policies that promote inclusive economic growth of the SADC Region. Speaking on the session focusing on “Women’s Economic Empowerment: Towards A new Trade Policy and Governance”, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, the Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, said trade is an important tool for inclusive growth and poverty eradication for women, who are estimated to account for around 70 per cent of informal cross-border traders in the SADC region.

The Prime Minister called on the development partners, private sector, government officials and all stakeholders to come up with policies that will ensure that majority of women graduate from informal trading to formal trading, “We are required to come up with interventions to eliminate barriers for women’s participation in the economic sector”, the Prime Minister said, adding that policies must take into account the gender differences and the structural and institutional barriers to female participation in order to ensure that economies make the most of the women contribution. The Prime Minister underscored the need for structural changes to societal practices that impede women’s full participation to economic life. She said, for example, girls must be encouraged to attain higher education and in particular, to pursue and excel in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths.

In his presentation titled; Women in the African Continental Free Trade Area – AICFTA and Agenda 2063, Mr Rongai Chizema, Chief Technical Advisor and Head of Implementation and Coordination Unit (ICU) in the Department of Trade and Industry at Africa Union Commission (AUC) in Ethiopia, said while women constitute 52 per cent of the Africa’s population, they have unequal access to economic, political, social and cultural opportunities. He said the achievement of the Agenda 2063 would see fully empowered women with equal access and opportunity in all spheres of life. On the youth, delegates agreed that the SADC Industrialisation drive should hold promise for the youth, noting that as far back as 1996 the African continent has consistently shown ‘demographic dividend’ in the form of ‘youth bulge’. The Forum noted a number of challenges that impede youth innovation, participation and leadership, and entrepreneurship such as limited policy implementation, high levels of youth unemployment, limited funding, inadequate youth participation in economic activities and entrepreneurship development, lack of access to resources, lack of skills, and mismatch between the skills being developed by the educational and training system and what is needed in the labour market.

One of the youthful exhibitors, 23-year old Martin Abed of Mahangu Paper Making Cooperative based in Nyati Village, Oshikoto region in the Northern part of Namibia, said many young people have good business ideas, however, they face a number of obstacles to turn their ideas into profitable businesses. Abed said in the business of making paper, they use hands thereby taking 2 to 3 days to produce the final product when the same product would have taken them a few hours to produce if they had a machine. In her presentation, Senior Program Officer-Science, Technology and Innovation, Directorate of Industrial Development and Trade (IDT) at the SADC Secretariat, Ms. Anneline Morgan informed delegates that SADC has put in place policies, strategies and action plans to enhance youth innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership and participation.

By Innocent Mbvundula

Speakers at 3rd SADC Industrialisation Week make a case for economic empowerment of women and youth

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Establishment of a regional financing facility for SADC TFCAs under way

The SADC Secretariat convened a meeting with partners represented by the KfW and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to discuss implementation of the Regional Financing Facility for SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs).

The main objective of the TFCA Facility is to provide financial resources to support the implementation of conservation and development actions in SADC TFCAs as stipulated in the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) for individual TFCAs and the SADC TFCA programme. The meeting which was held from 26 to 28 June 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa was convened by the SADC Directorate for Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), and agreed on a road map towards operationalization of the TFCA Facility. The idea of establishing the TFCA Facility was agreed during the German-SADC inter-governmental negotiations of 2014 and the German Ministry of Development Cooperation (BMZ) made a commitment to provide initial funding amounting to €20 million, through KfW, to set up Facility.

Once established, the fund will be open to receive contributions from other interested donors. Since then, a number of preparatory studies and appraisals have been undertaken in order to design the structure of SADC TFCA Facility and proposed a framework for its implementation. In addition, BMZ has already earmarked a total of €12 million for this purpose.

A Concept Note summarizing the proposed structure and implementation modalities of the proposed TFCA Facility has been developed, in collaboration with Member States, and presented to relevant SADC statutory structures for consideration, validation and approval.

In March 2018, SADC Council of Ministers at its meeting in Pretoria, South Africa approved the establishment of the Regional Financing Facility for SADC TFCAs to be supported by ICP partners’ resources and directed the Secretariat to:

- convene technical meeting to prepare a mechanism to ensure that the regional conservation priorities and SADC interests are safeguarded;
- finalize implementation modalities for operationalization of the Regional Financing Facility for SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas; and
- identify the Executing Agency and negotiate terms and conditions for the Agency, learning from experience of existing facilities such as the Project Preparation and Development Facility.
FISH-i Africa continues to strengthen efforts to combat illegal fishing

By Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo (SADC Secretariat) and Mr. Per Erick Berg
(Stop Illegal Fishing)

SADC Ministers responsible for Fisheries at their meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa in November 2017, discussed a working relationship between SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) and FISH-i Africa project, and recently approved this partnership during their meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. FISH-i Africa is a regional project in the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) helping several SADC Member States and other partner countries to share information to combat large-scale illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) in the region.

The regional project recently delivered one of the milestone efforts to deter illegal practices and helped in the arrest of an IUU vessel, STS-50. This vessel in 2016 was listed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) as an IUU vessel responsible for illegal catching of the Antarctic tooth-fish. The vessel had also, in the past, used forged Greek documentation to obtain registration documents in Togo. In February 2018, inspectors from Madagascar alerted the FISH-i Africa Task Force to the presence of the vessel in the SADC region along with details of its new identity. Previously known as ANDREY DOLGOV, AYDA and SEA BREEZ 1, the STS-50 had presented false information to officials as it called at Port d’Ehola in southern Madagascar. The STS-50 was tracked as it headed into Mozambican waters where it was intercepted and inspected by a Mozambican multi-agency team. Having failed to seek permission to enter the Mozambican EEZ, the STS-50 was detained.

The STS-50 then absconded from its detention outside Maputo on 17 March 2018, leaving the passports of the 20 Indonesian crew-members and 15 Russian officers behind. With all FISH-i Africa members on high alert, the STS-50 attempted to evade tracking by periodically switching off its Automatic Identification System (AIS). Trygg Mat Tracking, which provides specialist vessel tracking analysis as part of the FISH-i Africa project, was able to supply regular updates that ensured that the STS-50 could be intercepted when the opportunity arose.

The Sea Shepherd’s patrol vessel OCEAN WARRIOR, currently docking in Maputo port, was patrolling in the Tanzania exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under Operation Jodari, a cooperation with the Deep Sea Fishing Authority, Tanzanian Navy and the Multi-Agency Task Team (MATT) supported by FISH-i Africa, when it intercepted and followed the STS-50 into high seas, until the vessel got arrested by Indonesian authorities. This success was due to a united regional response with weeks of satellite tracking and monitoring by the FISH-i Africa project and cooperation between Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzanian authorities and other partners, like Indonesia, Sea Shepherd and INTERPOL.

This arrest demonstrates the real value of cooperation at a regional level and how effective the FISH-i Africa project can be for MCSCC in pooling resources and coordinating collaboration against rogue vessels. Also, to have this backed up by enforcement action from Indonesia on the other side of the Indian Ocean is a significant development. This demonstrates that illegal operators anywhere can no longer get away with switching identities and switching regions.

STS-50, an IUU vessel which was listed by CCAMLR was detered from operating in the SADC region for its illegal practices.
SADC Secretariat briefs the Committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Botswana and SADC

By Letso S. Mpho

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) convened a briefing meeting for the Committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Botswana and SADC at the SADC Secretariat on 25th July 2018, in Gaborone, Botswana.

The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Ambassadors and High Commissioners on the agenda and programme of the upcoming 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, and SADC Council of Ministers meetings, which will take place from 9th to 18th August 2018, in Windhoek, the Republic of Namibia.

The Summit will be held under the theme “Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”. The meeting was attended by Ambassadors/High Commissioners from the following Member States; Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr. Tax welcomed the Ambassadors and High Commissioners to the SADC Secretariat and informed them that the Secretariat was working with the Government of the Republic of Namibia to host the Council of Ministers Meeting and Summit of Heads of State in Windhoek, Namibia. She emphasized that Ambassadors and High Commissioners play a very important advisory role to their respective Member States, as well as, linking the Secretariat with Member States on key issues that contribute to the advancement of the regional integration agenda, and urged them to continue doing so.

During the meeting, SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners received a progress report on the implementation of SADC priority programmes, including the implementation of the revised RISDP, SIPO II, the Industrialization Strategy, and the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan. Ambassadors also received progress on the preparations for the upcoming Council of Ministers and the Summit of Heads of State and Government, as well as, on the agenda and programme of the SADC Council and Summit.

SADC signs MOU with Russia to strengthen military technical cooperation

By Barbara Lopi

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Russia for support in the field of Military Technical Cooperation.

The MOU was signed on 27th July 2018, on the sidelines of the tenth BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence
SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture meet

SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture met in Johannesburg, South Africa on 08 June 2017, to review the overall regional food security situation as well as progress made in the implementation of the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP). The meeting was chaired by Honourable Senzeni Zokwana, MP, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa, and officially opened by Honourable Lebogang Maile, Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Agriculture, Economic Development, Environment and Rural Development of the Gauteng Provincial Government, of the Republic of South Africa.

10 SADC Member States attended, namely: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also in attendance were invited partner organizations, including OIE and WorldFish. MEC Maile noted that in the midst of current challenges that the Region is facing, such as droughts, animal and plant disease outbreaks and food shortages, which further exacerbate poverty and inequality in the region, the meeting came at the right time to provide policy decisions for the future of agriculture in addressing these challenges.

“Industrial development is a key to addressing the challenges that the region is facing and that South Africa, especially the Gauteng Province, with its available manufacturing and processing infrastructure, stands ready to contribute towards advancing the SADC’s Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap to 2063” he added. He further recognised that there was potential for the region to promote and develop value chains for agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and manufacturing, as the region aspired to improve and establish manufacturing capacity, productivity and competitiveness in these sectors. Ministers noted, among others that although food availability in the region is likely to remain adequate in general, food insecurity is still a challenge amongst vulnerable groups in the region. There was need to continue monitoring the food security situation in the Region, and they resolved to make data available that reflected both availability and levels of accessibility of food with an opportunity of promoting trading of surplus with those Member States in dire need.

They also noted the relevance and importance of the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA) and implored Member States to continue supporting the institution. They also resolved to strengthen and intensify strategic interventions to promote food security, including sharing of research findings, experiences, best practices, and technologies for addressing challenges of food insecurity in the region.

The revised MOU establishing the SADC Plant Genetic Resource Centre (SPGRC) to facilitate alignment with new developments at both regionally and internationally level was considered and recommended for legal clearance and subsequent approval by the SADC Council of Ministers. The meeting also considered reports on regional plant and animal transboundary pests and diseases; the multi-sectoral approach to attain food security in the region through adoption of the Water, Energy and Food (WEF) Nexus concept; progress towards operationalisation of the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) which will accelerate implementation of the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP); the first biennial report on Malabo Declaration to the African Union (AU) facilitated by the SADC Secretariat; a progress towards implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2063; and a report on the status on the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries.
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Ten SADC Member States: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in the meeting. Also in attendance were invited partner organizations, including OIE and WorldFish.

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“Industrial development is a key to addressing the challenges that the region is facing and that South Africa, especially the Gauteng Province, with its available manufacturing and processing infrastructure, stands ready to contribute towards advancing the SADC’s Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap to 2063” he added. He further recognised that there was potential for the region to promote and establish manufacturing capacity, productivity and competitiveness in these sectors.

The Ministers noted, among others that although food availability in the region is likely to remain adequate in general, food insecurity is still a challenge amongst vulnerable groups in the region. There was need to continue monitoring the food security situation in the Region.

SADC signs MOU with Russia to strengthen military technical cooperation

Tax signed on behalf of SADC, while the Director of Russia’s Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation Mr Dmitry Shugaev signed on behalf of the Government on Russia.

As highlighted by the SADC Executive Secretary, the objective of the cooperation under the MOU is to promote cooperation between the Parties and enhance their capacity to participate in, and contribute to the maintenance of regional and international peace and security.

“The Parties will cooperate in the military technological and technical areas particularly in the fields of, but not limited to, joint production, research, development, and technology transfer; as well as in military training”, Dr Tax added. Mr Shugaev said that the signing of the Memorandum “creates the basis for developing multilateral interaction in the military and technical sphere between the Russian Federation and African countries,” and added that the implementation of joint projects will help maintain stability and security in the SADC region.

The cooperation under this MOU will be anchored on the common values and principles and the historical and cultural affinities that exist between the peoples of SADC Member States and the people of the Russian Federation.

Industrialisation Week

According to Ms. Anneline Morgan, these policies and action plans include Revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020; the Industrialisation Strategy and Road Map 2015-2063; the Strategy and Business Plan on Youth Empowerment and Participation for Sustainable Development 2015-2020; the Declaration on Youth Development and Empowerment 2015; the Youth Employment Promotion Policy Framework 2016; SADC Strategic Plan on Science, Technology, and Innovation 2015-2020; and the 2017 legal and institutional framework for the establishment of SADC Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Organisation.

The Declaration at the 2018 SADC Industrialization Week called on Member States to provide conditions and incentives for private sector and training institutions to build capacity of youth and women entrepreneurs through incubation, mentorship, internship and skills training programmes in key areas of industrialisation, and develop regional initiatives to enhance youth and women access to capital and credit to start ups.
EU, RECs and RM}s to Extend Cooperation on Peace and Security under the African Peace and Security Architecture

By Mojakisane Mathaha
APSA Programme Coordinator

The African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs) on Peace and Security and the European Union have agreed on concerted efforts to extend their cooperation under the continental programme known as the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), a move that will make greater progress in contributing to the African Union’s call for a conflict-free Africa.

The agreement was made during the fourteenth meeting of the Steering Committee on “EU Support to APSA”, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 2-3 August 2018. The meeting was held to fulfil the provisions of the Grant Agreement on EU Support to APSA, where stakeholders meet to discuss progress in implementing the programme, and make recommendations for policy level issues on peace and security. The parties deliberated on the review of the implementation of the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security signed by the AU and the RECs/RMs. They exchanged views on the future of EU Support to APSA Programme III following its expiry in December 2018. Equally importantly, the parties reflected on the outcomes of the mid-term review of the APSA programme, as well as possible strategic considerations in preparation for the extension of APSA III to June 2019, and formulation of APSA IV thereafter.

The parties agreed on a roadmap towards preparing for the extension of APSA III and formulation of APSA IV. In his opening remarks, the Acting Director for Peace and Security at the African Union, Dr. Admore Kambudzi, reiterated the importance of strong synergies between APSA and the AGA in attaining a continent free of conflict. Speaking on behalf of the EU, the Team Leader – Peace and Security at the EU Delegation to the African Union, Mr. Ruben Alba-Aguilera, noted that while the EU has been supporting the APSA programme for more than a decade, more needs to be done in achieving the goal of silencing the guns by 2020. He emphasised that the EU is desirous of continuing support to the programme in full alignment with the AU priorities and reflecting the on-going AU reforms. On behalf of the RECs, the Director of the EASF, Dr. Abdullahi Omar Bouh, welcomed the idea of extending EU support beyond 2018.

The discussions and recommendations centred around the need to achieve results, and this entails ensuring that the interventions implemented by the RECs and RMs contribute towards conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution; true to the spirit enshrined in the APSA Implementation Framework 2016 – 2020 and the African Union’s Roadmap on Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns 2016 – 2020. The parties noted the immense amount of effort and resources put into the programme, and the achievements made to date, which include: Establishment of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the Panel of the Wise; Operationalisation of the African Standby-Force; and Support to AMISOM and other Peace Support Operations. They noted that, notwithstanding the launch of the Make Peace Happen campaign in 2010, however, conflicts have continued to occur in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The parties, therefore, called for a multi-pronged approach which includes full implementation of the 2008 MoU on Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security, and inclusion of Community of Sahel–Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in the MoU. he parties agreed to recommend revival of the Africa Solidarity Initiative and engage civil society, women and youth, as well as the private sector in APSA implementation, resource mobilisation, conflict prevention and vulnerability assessments. Regarding Coordination and Leadership, the parties recommended revitalisation of a high-level joint AU-REC/RM and EU coordination meetings to provide strategic direction on the implementation and sustainability of APSA. Going forward, own African resources are required with the help of the private sector and other avenues to support implementation of the APSA Roadmap 2016 – 2020.

The new APSA will prioritise: Operationalisation of the African Standby Force, Peace Support Operations and AU-REC Coordination on Peace and Security. Early Warning, Mediation, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) and Strategic Security Issues will be considered on a need basis and to benefit entities which are not part of the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs).

SADC noted that EU Support to APSA (APSA III) programme remains an important contribution to the SADC Peace and Security programme. This is considering APSA’s predominant focus on Crisis Prevention, Management and Resolution, a role which complements the focal areas of the SADC 11th EDF Peace and Security programme. Both programmes are fully integrated into the SADC Peace and Security programme and into the SADC Planning and Budgeting System.
2018 SADC Industrialisation Week draws up key recommendations for regional economic growth

By Innocent Mbvundula

The 3rd Annual SADC Industrialisation Week concluded in Windhoek, Namibia with delegates drawing up key recommendations to spur regional industrial development, trade and shared economic prosperity. Held under the theme; Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development, the three-day forum was officially opened by Hon. Tjekero Tweya, MP, Minister for Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development of the Republic of Namibia.

The forum noted that intra-regional trade remains low at about 24 per cent, highlighting the inefficiencies at border posts, including the slow pace of clearance of goods, the inadequate requisite technology, lack of uniformity of rules between and among countries, low compliance with standards, and lack of unified regional insurance arrangements. In line with the focus of the theme, the forum noted that the SADC Industrialisation Strategy identifies Energy as a major infrastructure barrier as well as a key enabler for industrial competitiveness of the region. On this point, the Forum welcomed the decisions of the SADC Ministers responsible for Energy to issue a Statement of Intent on Cooperation on Development of Regional Gas Market and Infrastructure and establish the Regional Gas Committee, with the inclusion of private sector in this committee; and develop a Regional Gas Master Plan.

On innovation and research, delegates called for increased investment in research, development and innovation by both public and private sectors to advance knowledge generation and productivity to stimulate industrial development in the Region. It urged the private and public sectors to put in place instruments to finance innovation and commercialisation of products and services. The forum agreed to proceed with the SADC Business Council as the overarching structure to engage with SADC public sector and that, at country level, business organisations should nominate their apex business body that will represent them on the SADC Business Council. In the area of mineral beneficiation, the Forum expressed the need for the finalisation of SADC mining vision that will provide policy guidance in positioning the region as a global player in the mining value chains. It also recommended that mining companies should support new small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and upstream market development.

While noting the slow progress in the implementation of SADC Pharmaceutical business plan specifically with regards to pooled procurement and support to local and regionally manufactured medicines and health commodities, the participants at the forum urged Member States to consider shortening the lead times in medicine registration.

The 2018 SADC Industrialisation Week was attended by Senior Government officials from SADC Member States, Chief Executive Officers and captains of industry sector in the region and beyond, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Regional Economic Communities-EAC and Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the African Union, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), World Bank, European Union (EU), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other regional and International Cooperating Partners and other key stakeholders. The Forum was sponsored by the Namibia’s Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, the African Development Bank (AFDB), Afrixem Bank, AgriBank Namibia, Development Bank of Namibia, EU, NAMPORT, GIZ, Johnson and Johnson, South African Airways and MSD.
The following SADCC/SADC milestones 1980 – 1989 were achieved at the following SADCC/SADC Summits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Place</th>
<th>Milestones Achieved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26th August 1990</td>
<td>Summit embraces Namibia as the 10th member of SADCC after gaining independence from more than seventy years of South African occupation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th August 1991</td>
<td>Summit hails the initial steps toward the abolition of apartheid in South Africa as evidenced by the unbarring of the Liberation Movements and repeal of racists laws.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arusha, Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th August 1991</td>
<td>Summit welcomes end of war in Angola and the evolving Peace process in Mozambique and appeals to all countries to support the peace process in Angola and Mozambique.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arusha, Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th August 1992</td>
<td>Summit approves and signs a new Declaration, a Treaty and a Protocol committing member States to deeper cooperation and integration under the framework of a new organisation “The Southern African Development Community (SADC).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windhoek, Namibia</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th September 1993</td>
<td>Summit declares that the Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community and the Protocol on Immunities and Privileges be entered into force on 5th October 1993 after noting that all member States had ratified the Treaty and the Protocol and that the instruments of ratification had been deposited with the SADC Secretariat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mbabane, Swaziland</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th September 1993</td>
<td>Summit re-elects Sr Ketumile Masire Chairman of SADC and His Majesty King Mswati III as Vice-Chairman for one year and appoints Dr Kaire Mbuende of Namibia, Executive Secretary and Mr Lengolo Monyake of Lesotho, Deputy Executive Secretary for terms of four years each.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mbabane, Swaziland</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th August 1994</td>
<td>A statement marking the accession of the Republic of South Africa to the Treaty of SADC is delivered by His Honour Thabo Mbeki, Executive Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th August 1994</td>
<td>Summit welcomes the Republic of South Africa as the eleventh Member State of SADC and congratulates the Government and the people of that country for a peaceful and successful transition from minority rule to democracy through all-race multiparty elections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>Continued to the next page...</td>
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The following SADCC/SADC milestones 1990 – 1995 were achieved at the following SADCC/SADC Summits:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29th August 1994 Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>- Summit also welcomes H.E President Muluzi of the Republic of Malawi and commends the people of that country for conducting the country’s first multiparty elections since independence in a peaceful and orderly manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th August 1994 Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>- Summit approves the establishment of a Sector on Politics, Diplomacy, International Relations, Defence and Security and declares 17 August “SADC Day” to be commemorated every year with popular activities and cultural/sporting events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th August 1994 Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>- Summit re-elects Sr Ketumile Masire Chairman of SADC and His Majesty King Mswati III as Vice-Chairman for a two year term of office</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th August 1995 Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
<td>- Rt. Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius signs an instrument of accession to SADC and makes a statement marking the occasion of Mauritius becoming the 12th member State of the SADC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th August 1995 Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
<td>- Summit signs Protocol on “Shared Watercourse Systems in the SADC Region. Angola, Tanzania and Zambia opts to sign at later date after internal consultations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th August 1995 Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
<td>- Summit notes the approval of Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), Inter-Government Memorandum of Understanding (IGMOU) by Council of Ministers at its meeting of 25 – 26 August 1995 and directs the SADC Energy Ministers to sign the IGMOU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th August 1995 Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
<td>- Summit awards posthumously the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal, to the late President of Angola, Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto for his outstanding contribution to the liberation struggle in Southern Africa and to the process leading to the establishment of SADC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996 - 2000</td>
<td>- To be covered in the next issue</td>
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SADC DAY
17 AUGUST

SADC has an anthem that highlights the vision and mission of the regional community and its lyrics are as follows:

**SADC ANTHEM - ENGLISH**

SADC, SADC DAWN OF OUR CERTAINTY
SADC, SADC DAWN OF A BETTER FUTURE
AND HOPE FOR REGIONAL AND UNIVERSAL INTEGRATION
TOWARDS OUR PEOPLES UNITY AND HARMONY
CRADLE OF HUMANITY
CRADLE OF OUR ANCESTORS
LET US PRAISE WITH JOY, THE REALIZATION OF OUR HOPES AND RAISE THE BANNER OF SOLIDARITY
SADC, SADC, SADC, SADC DAWN OF OUR CERTAINTY

**HYMNE DE LA SADC – FRENCH**

SADC SADC AUBE DE NOS CERTITUDES
SADC SADC AUBE D’UN AVENIR MEILLEUR
ESPOIR D’INTEGRATION REGIONALE ET UNIVERSELLE
POUR L’UNITE ET L’HARMONIE ENTRE NOS PEUPLES
BERCEAU DE L’HUMANITE
BERCEAU DE NOS ANCETRES
CELEBRONS AVEC JOIE LA REALISATION DE NOS ESPOIRS
LEVONS HAUT LE DRAPEAU DE LA SOLIDARITE
SADC SADC SADC SADC AUBE DE NOS CERTITUDES

**HINO DA SADC - PORTUGUESE**

SADC, SADC AURORA DA NOSSA CERTEZA
SADC, SADC DE UM FUTURO MELHOR
E DE ESPERANÇA DE INTEGRAÇÃO REGIONAL E UNIVERSAL
RUMO À HARMONIA E UNIDADE DOS POVOS
BERÇO DA HUMANIDADE
BERÇO DOS NOSSOS ANTEPASSADOS
JUNTOS CANTEMOS ALEGRES, A CONCRETIZAÇÃO DA NOSSA ESPERANÇA
ERGUENDO A BANDEIRA DA SOLIDARIEDADE
SADC, SADC, SADC, SADC AURORA DA NOSSA CERTEZA

All citizens of the region are encouraged to learn the lyrics and sing them proudly at all SADC functions.
The SADC Anthem mp3 format can be downloaded at: http://www.sadc.int/files/2913/7883/0055/SADC_Anthem_Lyrics_in_three_official_languages.pdf
Every 1 July is Sir Seretse Khama Day in Botswana. To celebrate the life and achievements of Botswana's first president. The date of the public holiday is Seretse Khama's birth date. Seretse Khama was born on 1 July, 1921, to the royal household of the Bamangwatos.

He officially became king at the meager age of four, upon his father's death; but his uncle ruled as regent at first. Later, Seretse studied abroad, married a British lady, and returned home to start up and lead an independence movement in Botswana.

After independence, he became the new nation's first president and ruled from 1966 to 1980. Under his policies, Botswana's economy was greatly improved. In fact, when he first became president, Botswana was among the poorest countries on the planet, but he helped it become one of the fastest-growing of all the world's economies.

Low and predictable tax rates were one key component of President Khama's policies, but he also heavily invested tax revenue in improving healthcare, education, and transportation in Botswana. And he also freed up trade, while clamping down on corruption. Sir Seretse Khama Day is a time when the people of Botswana remember their first and greatest president and seek to recapture his vision for a stronger, more prosperous Botswana.

Source: https://publicholidays.africa/botswana/sir-seretse-khama-day/

There are sombre, patriotic ceremonies on this day, and there is some patriotic fervour. But many Zambians today forget the reason for the day and see Heroes' Day as simply a day off from work.

Source: https://publicholidays.africa/zambia/heroes-day/

Every first Monday of July, Zambia celebrates Heroes’ Day to remember those who fought, and sometimes died, in the struggle for Zambian independence. However, in more recent years, the list of national heroes and heroines has been expanded to include people from all walks of life who have contributed heroically to the nation's advancement. A bronze statue in Lusaka, Zambia’s capital city, visualises the meaning of Heroes’ Day.

A man with no shirt and no shoes holds up the two broken ends of a chain of slavery he has ripped apart with his hands. This “chain” was broken in 1964, when Zambia won its independence from the British Empire.

Saba Saba Day's true significance and historic importance, is based solely on the fact that it represents the day on which the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) (the political party which brought independence to this country), was born in 1954.

And it is indeed for that reason alone, that right from the year of independence in 1961, Saba Saba Day of every year has consistently been celebrated as a public holiday; and that being done solely in memory and commemoration of that historic event, namely TANU’s birthday, and officially recognized as the 'commencement date' of the struggle for the country’s independence.

On 17 August, 1992, Heads of Government of the region signed a Treaty transforming what was known as the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) into Southern African Development Community (SADC). The SADC Treaty sets out the main objectives of SADC - to achieve development and economic growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration.