SADC Secretariat highlights successes

Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, the Executive Secretary of SADC (right) during an interview with the Editor for Southern Times, Mr Tileni Mongudhi  (Story on page 3)

SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING
Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development
11 - 17 MARCH 2019 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

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HISTORY
The Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (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
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.

ABOUT SADC VISION. MISSION. VALUES

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.

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ABOUT THE INSIDE SADC NEWSLETTER
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SADC Secretariat highlights successes towards regional integration

By Barbara Lopi

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Editor of the Southern Times Newspaper, Mr Tileni Mongudhi, the Executive Secretary for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Tax shared some of the region’s successes in implementing programmes in priority areas of industrial development and market Integration; infrastructure in support of regional integration; peace and security cooperation; and special programmes of regional dimension.

The Executive Secretary was supported during the interview by the SADC Director of Finance, Investments and Customs, Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha; Director of Social and Human Development, Ms Duduzile Simelane; and the Director of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr Domingos Gove.

While emphasizing that regional economic integration remains central to the economic ideals of the SADC, Dr Tax, explained that the Secretariat was assisting Member States to improve their industrial competitiveness through the identification of capacity gaps in implementing the industrialization policy, and developing regional programmes to improve competitiveness of Member States. She also explained that the region has identified six priority value chain clusters namely; agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, pharmaceuticals, capital goods, consumer goods and services, and that, so far, the profiling of the minerals and pharmaceutical sectors were completed while the profiling of the agro-processing value chains are nearing completion.

The profiling of value chains has allowed the region to start identifying the potential value chain projects where feasibility studies can be undertaken to assess if the projects could be formulated into attractive investment projects for the private sector to invest in. It was further explained that to facilitate market and financial integration, the SADC Secretariat has continued to support the modernization and harmonization of payments and clearing systems through the SADC Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS). The SADC-RTGS supports the modernization and harmonization of payments and clearing systems both domestically and regionally with the objective of increasing safety of payments and efficient settlement and payment processes in the region. On the region’s food security situation, the Secretariat said that although the delayed start of the 2018/19 rainfall season and the overall reduced total rainfall is expected to reduce the 2019/20 cereal availability, the region’s opening cereal surplus for 2018/19 is expected to mitigate the impact. The opening cereal balance sheet for the region in 2018/19 indicated a cereal surplus of 6,294,000 tons compared to 7,513,000 tons the year before, and this was attributed to many countries registering significant carry-over stocks.

Commenting on the region’s efforts to combat the impacts of climate change and climate variability, Dr Tax said that the SADC Secretariat through its Climate Services Centre successfully continued to develop and disseminate meteorological, environmental and hydro-meteorological products thereby contributing to improved disaster risk management and adaptation in the region, and helping to ensure that Member States are better prepared for weather and climate related disasters.

In the area of peace and security cooperation, Dr Tax told the Southern Times that the region remains stable and peaceful that the SADC Secretariat successfully coordinated a number of facilitation and mediation, and preventive interventions in the region, which contributed to improved political stability. The Secretariat has continued to coordinate SADC Electoral Observation Missions, which have contributed to the consolidation of democracy in the region.
A capacity building workshop on e-commerce was recently convened from the 27th February to 1st March 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana.

The SADC Multi-stakeholder e-Commerce capacity building workshop was the first of its kind, and was a result of a collaborative effort of the SADC Secretariat and two of its Implementing Agencies, namely: Communication Regulators’ Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) and Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA). The theme of the workshop was “Promoting E-commerce in the SADC, Everyone has a Role”.

For the past few years, the Postal Sector has been facing many challenges associated with the advent of new technologies. Presently, the SADC Postal Sector is at the cross-road of transformation. The Postal Sector is being reformed, restricted and modernized so as to play a vital role in the lives of SADC Citizens. In particular, e-commerce is seen as a major opportunity, although the Postal Sector has always played an important role in the delivery of ordered goods and receipt of payment, like in the old days using Cash on Delivery (COD).

Delivering a keynote address, Ms. Alicia Mokone, the Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) in Botswana, indicated the number of online shoppers is rising faster in Africa than in other regions or the world.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Business to Consumer (B2C) Index 2018 Focus on Africa estimates that the e-commerce market in Africa was worth US$5.7 billion in 2017, which is 0.5% of the continent’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and far below the world GDP average of 4%. It is also estimated that there were at least 21 million African online shoppers.

Ms. Mokone raised concern about the security in e-commerce adding that there was need to protect online consumers. She added that Postal Operators must collaborate with other stakeholders to maintain high delivery standards and improved postal infrastructure.

Dr. George Ah-Thew, the SADC Senior Programme Officer for ICT advised participants that e-commerce is a two-way channel and as consumers on of online goods and services, the postal networks in the region are working on postal code addressing system in order to deliver goods to their destination efficiently. He said that SADC citizens should be empowered to be able to sell goods and services on-line and participate in the e-economic development on the SADC Region.

The Japanese Embassy shared with the participants of the workshop the various new technological advancements made by the Japanese post while Botswana Post provided details on the current service being offered as well as services under development. Several e-commerce solution providers sensitised the participants on their services and initiatives they are pursuing in the SADC Region. The SADC Secretariat presented findings and recommendations of the SADC e-Commerce Payment Gateway Survey, which painted a good picture of the status-quo of the entire eco-system of e-commerce payment gateway initiatives in SADC Member States.

The workshop resulted in the development of a draft Concept Note on Intra-Regional e-Commerce and Trade Facilitation for SMEs and a draft SADC Regional E-Commerce Hub Framework which would be submitted to the SADC process for approval and implementation.

The workshop recommended that more engagement with all relevant stakeholders on e-commerce is required to build capacity, develop a harmonized, sustainable and conducive regulatory framework to promote e-commerce for the export of SADC goods and services.
By Peter Mabaka

His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of Southern African Development Community (SADC) has paid tribute to International Labour Organization (ILO) for remaining resolute in advancing the notion that people should be at the centre of real progress in the modern-day global society.

Speaking when he delivered remarks during the regional launch of the ILO Global Commission Report on the Future of Work on 1st March 2019, in Durban, South Africa, President Geingob, said that the SADC region identifies with ILO’s ideal and fully support the present report, which is anchored on the proposition of “a human-centred agenda for the future of work.

The ILO report contains recommendations that are founded on three pillars of; increasing investment in people’s capabilities; increasing investments in the institutions of work; and increasing investment in decent and sustainable work.

Commenting on the first pillar, President Dr Geingob, said the education curricula in the SADC region needs considerable reorientation to better respond to emerging and future labour market needs, to ensure that the labour market is stable as a source of income and livelihoods for majority of the people. He appealed for considerable investments to be made available to support education and skills development.

As for the second pillar of increasing investments in the institution of work, the SADC Chairperson observed that the report recognised that the workplace is mainly made up of workers and, therefore, bold measures are needed, including the establishment of a universal labour guarantee that includes the right to an adequate living wage and a safe working environment.

On the third pillar of increasing investment in decent and sustainable work, the SADC Chairperson said that investments are urgently required, given that despite the positive economic growth rates registered by SADC Member States over a long period of time, the effect on employment growth has been very minimal. Therefore, unemployment and underemployment in the region present formidable challenge for the Member States, especially youth unemployment.

For his part, His Excellency President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledged that many of the advances of the past two centuries in the world of work ranging from raised wage levels, improved working hours, unemployment insurance and other worker benefits have been possible because of the international labour standards and social protection set by the ILO.

President Ramaphosa also said in many societies, working people still labour in antiquated working conditions that have little regard to their rights, with forced indenture and even forms of servitude and bondage common. He said elsewhere, rapid technological advance has had its own consequences for workers and communities, with digitisation and mechanisation of work processes giving rise to increased insecurity and job losses.

Consequently, he said, the impacts of globalisation, demographic shifts, trade and other forms of protectionism, and climate change are bound to have dire consequences for future work processes. Therefore, it is how to manage and harness these forces currently transforming our world that has given impetus to the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work.

The regional launch of the report was attended by some Ministers from the South African government, the ILO Director General, Mr. Guy Ryder, and the Chairperson of the African Regional Labour Administration Centre Governing Council, Dr Sekai Nzenza.
The Executive Secretary (ES) of SADC, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, attended the 32nd African Union Summit that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10-11 February 2019. The Summit was held under the theme, “2019: The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.”

During the Summit, the AU Assembly, among others, received reports on:
- Institutional Reform of the African Union;
- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
- Implementation of the Assembly Decision on Post-Cotonou Negotiations;
- State of Peace and Security in Africa;
- Implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by Year 2020;
- State of Governance in Africa; and
- Implementation of the Agenda 2063.

The AU Assembly also elected the Republic of South Africa as the First Vice-Chair of the Union, meaning that South Africa will be the Chair of the Union in 2020. SADC also scored another achievement when the Democratic Republic of Congo was elected the Second Vice-Chair and Chair for 2021.

The current Chairperson is President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt, who took over from President Paul Kagame of Rwanda during the February Summit. Additionally, the Kingdom of Lesotho became a member of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for a three-year term. The other members of the PSC will be Algeria, Burundi, Kenya, and Nigeria.

The Permanent Representatives Committee meeting, held on 15 and 16 January 2019 preceded the Executive Council that held its meeting from 7 to 8 February at the same venue in Addis Ababa. Both these committees cleared documents for the AU Assembly meeting of 10-11 February.

In preparation for the Executive Council and AU Summit meetings, SADC convened the Extraordinary Meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers on 6 February and a briefing meeting for SADC Summit on 9 February. Both these meetings considered issues on the agenda of the AU Summit, in addition to exchanging views on the consolidation of SADC political efforts in the region. The SADC Summit also welcomed H.E. Felix Tshisekedi and H.E. Andry Rajoelina who were elected presidents of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Madagascar respectively. H.E. Tshisekedi was inaugurated early this year on 24 January, five days after his counterpart, H.E. Rajoelina had been inaugurated in Antananarivo on 19 January. The Chairperson of SADC, Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, also held a consultative meeting with President Azali Assoumani of the Union of Comoros on 10 February. The meeting, also attended by the SADC Executive Secretary, discussed the progress made by the Union of Comoros in acceding to SADC legal instruments as well as in honouring other obligations.

The Union of Comoros agreed to accede to the necessary protocols for the country to attain full membership to SADC. On 7th February, the End Malaria Council hosted Regional Economic Communities, including SADC, for a working dinner that explored ways of ending malaria on the continent. H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and member of the End Malaria Council, chaired the working dinner.

H.E. Dr Tax also held a side meeting with the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Ms Bintou Keita, to deliberate on peace and security and other areas of cooperation between SADC, AU and the UN.

The next Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly will be held from 30-31 January 2020 in Addis Ababa, preceded by the PRC (13-14 January) and Executive Council (27-28 January). Prior to the January 2020 Summit, the inaugural AU-REC Coordination Meeting will be held in July 2019 in Niamey, Niger, which will receive reports from regional economic communities, including SADC, on the status of integration in their respective regions.

H.E. Dr Tax was accompanied to the AU Assembly Summit by Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, Mr. Jorge Cardoso, and other Secretariat officials.
The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on 15th February, 2019 hosted a dinner to welcome the new SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs (DES-CA), Ambassador Joseph Andre Nourrice who was appointed to the position during the 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Windhoek, Namibia in August, 2018 and took up his position in October 2018.

Speaking at the event, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to Botswana, His Excellency Mr Asser Kuveri Kapere, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Committee of SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners, expressed the commitment and desire of the Committee of Ambassadors to work with the new Deputy Executive Secretary. H.E. Mr Kuveri Kapere said his committee looked forward to cultivating and maintaining a good working relationship with Ambassador Nourrice in facilitating effective line of communication between the SADC Secretariat and Member States, adding that SADC Ambassadors played a pivotal role as an interface between SADC Member States and the Secretariat in the implementation of the SADC regional integration and development agenda.

On her part, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the SADC family was pleased to welcome Ambassador Nourrice into the SADC family and expressed optimism that, with his background and wealth of experience as a former civil servant and diplomat, he will play an important role in advancing the SADC regional integration and development agenda during his tenure.

H.E. Dr Tax said that, since Ambassador Nourrice joined the SADC Secretariat in October, 2018, he has demonstrated utmost commitment and passion to the work of SADC. Taking his turn, Ambassador Nourrice expressed gratitude to the SADC Executive Secretary, the SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners and the Management of the SADC Secretariat for organising the Welcome Dinner and said the gesture was an expression of honour and love accorded to him by his new family. Ambassador Nourrice said, from the time he joined the Secretariat, he has received constant support from Management and Staff, including guidance from the Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr Tax. He added that, during the short time at the Secretariat, he has come to appreciate the enormity of responsibility that the SADC Secretariat bears for the region. The DES-CA said he was pleased with the progress made towards ensuring meaningful socio-economic development, prosperity, peace and stability in the SADC region, and pledged to uphold the SADC values and work towards the advancement of regional programmes aimed at improving the lives of the citizens of the region and beyond.

Ambassador Nourrice pledged to carryout his duties with integrity, professionalism and the passion for excellence; and learning from the vast experience of colleagues from the region and afar to positively contribute in upholding of the values and principles of SADC Secretariat. He urged the SADC family to cultivate the culture of team spirit and cooperation. He added that he would be happy to be remembered as one of those who represented the interests of the people of this region their everyday responsibilities.

The welcome dinner was attended by SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Management and staff of the SADC Secretariat. Within the structure of the SADC Secretariat, Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs has the overall responsibility of overseeing the administrative aspects of the SADC Secretariat which include Procurement, Finance, Human Resource, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Conference Services, Records Management and Administration.
SADC Council of Ministers to meet in Windhoek, Namibia

By Barbara Lopi

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers meeting will be held on 15 and 16 March, 2019 at the Safari Court Hotel and Conference in Windhoek, Namibia.

Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, will in her capacity as the current Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers host the meeting. The Council of Ministers oversees the functioning and development of SADC, and ensures that policies and decisions are implemented. The Council consists of Ministers from each of the 16 Member States; usually from the Ministries responsible for Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Economic Planning or Finance, and meets twice a year in March, and August.

During the two days, the Ministers will discuss issues of regional importance; consider a number of strategic documents and receive reports on the implementation of the priority areas of the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020 (RISDP). Council will also review implementation of the 38th SADC Summit whose focus is on “Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”, the decisions from the last council, and approve the SADC Secretariat’s budget for the year 2019/2020.

The SADC Council of Ministers, will be preceded by the meeting of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials on 11th March 2019, and the meeting of the Finance Committee on 12th March 2019.

Message of condolence following the death of Seychelles Former President

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has said SADC is saddened by the passing of the Former President of the Republic of Seychelles, His Excellency France Albert-Rene who died in hospital on 27th February, 2019 at the age of 83.

In a letter addressed to the President of Seychelles, His Excellency Danny Faure, HE. Dr Tax conveyed her condolences to the Rene family, Government and people of Seychelles for the great loss. H.E. Dr Tax described the late Former President Albert-Rene as a political stalwart who fought for independence and social justice and added that, the passing of Former President Rene is not only a loss to the Republic of Seychelles, but also to the entire SADC region.

The SADC Executive Secretary said Former President Rene will be remembered for leading Seychelles to be amongst developed countries in the SADC region. The late Former President Albert-Rene was the second President of the Republic of Seychelles. He served as Prime Minister before becoming President from 1997 to 2004.

H.E Albert-Rene
By Innocent Mbvundula

The Director of Finance, Investment and Customs (FIC) at the SADC Secretariat Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha has said the macro-economic performance of the SADC Region has been good in terms of price stability and debt sustainability with most countries achieving the inflation within the 3 to 7% band and public debt of below 60% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

However, the region has not performed well as evidenced by low economic growth, increasing non-performing loans and widening fiscal deficits. “For the past six years, economic growth has slowed down and remains sluggish in the region and world over. This has affected the financial and fiscal sectors as indicated by high non-performing loans and widening fiscal deficit which in part is a result of low revenues driven by low economic growth,” said Mtonakutha, adding that the regional economic performance was weighed down by poor agriculture productivity largely due to climate-related factors such as droughts, erratic rainfall patterns and cyclones; as well as low commodity prices, which affected mainly the mining sector.

In light of these challenges, Mr Mtonakutha underscored the need to speed up economic diversification in the region to create new sectors for growth. “There is need to continue carrying out reforms to improve the business and investment environment of the region and to build confidence in the economies of the region in terms of policy formulation and implementation in order to unlock the much needed investment,” he added. The FIC Director noted that the level of non-performing loans (NPLs) in the SADC region has been on a downward trend due to measures being implemented by authorities in the region. He, however, indicated that the level of NPLs is still high and the risk of default is increasing due to the sluggish economic growth across countries in SADC which may slowdown credit advance to the private sector as banks become cautious.

On public debt, Mr Mtonakutha said debt levels in most SADC countries are within the Macroeconomic Convergence (MEC) target of 60%. He, however, indicated that the increasing trend is worrisome, noting that, given the fiscal performance in the region, debt levels in the region are likely to surpass the threshold if Member States do not implement fiscal reforms such as expenditure control and expansion of tax base by improving the economic performance and tax administration reforms.

The Directorate of Finance, Investment and Customs at the SADC Secretariat was created to facilitate trade and financial liberalization, and to create an enabling environment for investment, with an ultimate aim of contributing to deeper regional economic integration, growth and poverty eradication.

SADC Secretariat Monthly Newsletter Issue 2, February 2019

An overview of the SADC’s regional macro-economic performance

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) will convene a Solidarity Conference on the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) on 25 – 26 March 2019 which will be hosted by the Republic of South Africa.

The 38th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of SADC approved the convening of a conference on solidarity with the Saharawi people. During the Solidarity Conference, the SADC Heads of State and Government will express the region’s support for decolonisation and self-determination for Western Sahara on the basis of the values and principles that have guided the quest for independence throughout Africa. SADC’s collaboration on and with Western Sahara has been informed by the region’s own decolonisation experiences and the quest for liberation and self-determination. The Solidarity Conference is expected to conclude with a SADC regional strategy and approach which will among others, establish:

SADC to convene a Solidarity Conference on the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic

By Barbara Lopi

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7th SADC Committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners convened

By Barbara Lopi

The 7th meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners was held on 28th February 2019 at Hilton Garden Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana.

The SADC Committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners (CAHC) consists of SADC Member States’ Ambassadors accredited to Botswana and SADC. The role of the committee is to undertake a liaison role between the Secretariat and Member States as well as facilitate information dissemination, interaction and consultation between the two institutions.

His Excellency Mr Kapere reaffirmed the importance of the CAHC as a platform which provided an opportunity for the Ambassadors accredited to Botswana and SADC to be kept up to date on the programmes being facilitated, and implemented by the SADC Secretariat.

The CAHC received progress on the Secretariat’s implementation of the decisions from the last SADC Council and Summit, and a briefing on the issues on the agenda for the upcoming SADC Council of Ministers Meeting which will be held on 15 and 16 March, 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia, and will be preceded by the meeting of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials on 11th March 2019, and the meeting of the Finance Committee on 12th March 2019.

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- mechanisms to engage relevant stakeholders and partners including Morocco, to observe the letter and spirit of African Union (AU) decisions and United Nations resolutions in order to expedite the resolution of the Western Sahara matter.
- Support to Western Sahara’s right to self-determination and independence based on the principle of self-determination and decolonisation, through the holding of a referendum.
- Support for the self-determination of Western Sahara based on the following principles:
  - Multilateralism and international legality in seeking a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination and independence of the people of Western Sahara.
  - Sanctity of inherited colonial borders in Africa and the right of peoples of former colonial territories to self-determination and independence as contained in the Constitutive Act of the AU.
  - Respect of international human rights law in the occupied territories, notably the right to freedom of association, assembly, movement and expression and respect of international humanitarian law.
  - An end to illegal exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara in the illegally occupied territory and the discouragement of the involvement of foreign companies in such activities.
11th Industrial Development Forum meeting held in Namibia

By Peter Mabaka

The 11th Industrial Development Forum (IDF) was held in Windhoek, Namibia on the 26th to 27th February 2019. Southern African Development Community (SADC), Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo welcomed the delegates and international organizations and thanked them to have found time to attend the meeting. Dr Mhlongo appreciated the high level representation from each Member State and commended efforts being made in steadfastly championing and supporting industrialization activities at various levels, from national, regional to continental. He said as a result of these efforts, a new resurgence and interest in industrialization matters across the globe is beginning to be seen.

The IDF meeting was convened to review and consider progress on the implementations of SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) and the summit and council decisions on industrialisation. A number of keys issues including the draft Protocol on Industry, draft regional Mining Vision, three years rolling-out plan and establishment of SADC Business Council were presented. In a bid to enhance the level of industrial development, both nationally and regionally, and in pursuit of ensuring the attainment of unified goals and cohesion among Member States’ industrialization policies and strategies, the development of a Protocol on Industry has been developed and is set to be completed by August 2019. The Protocol will be a binding instrument that will entrench and give legal effect to the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) and will ensure adequate coordination, monitoring and evaluation implementation thereof.

The IDF meeting also discussed and adopted the Three Years Rolling out Plan. The Rolling out plan is a key document for implementing the SADC Industrial Strategy Roadmap (SISR) Action Plan. The plan is for three years with clear breakdown of activities for each project and detailed budget. It is going to be presented to the Committee of Senior Officials of the Ministerial Task Force for consideration by Council of Ministers during their meeting in March 2019. The meeting further reviewed the draft SADC Regional Mining Vision. In operationalization of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap Action Plan, the SADC Secretariat developed the SADC Regional Mining Vision to support regional mineral beneficiation projects with the objective to maximize the developmental impact of mineral resources extraction. The meeting received the progress report on the establishment of SADC Business Council. The Business Council is expected to be launched in August 2019. Once in operation, the SADC Business Council will be the main body mandated to ensure that there is closer cooperation and interface between the public and private sector in the region and that the private sector is adequately represented at the highest level possible.

The Industrial Development Forum was established by Council of Ministers on Trade in their meeting held in October 2004 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The main objective was to create a clearing house of industrial issues for the Industry and Trade Committee of Senior Officials. Therefore, IDF provide technical inputs on strategic industrialization intervention areas, ensure inclusiveness of actors and equity of their economic impact, facilitate the harmonization of the rules and regulations affecting industrialization, create space for leveraging the direct and indirect contribution of the private sector and the Centres of Excellence to speed up the industrialization and regional integration processes.

The meeting was attended by delegates from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the World Bank, SADC Business Council, SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), New Partnership for Africa’s Development Business Forum, Private Sector, Academia and Civil Society.

In his Keynote Address at the Workshop Eng. Mr. Samuel Kundishora, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Postal and Courier Services of the Republic of Zimbabwe commended Member States that have taken first steps in deploying satellite networks.

Eng. Mr. Samuel Kundishora said the shared Satellite System will go a long way in avoiding duplication of effort and infrastructure related to satellite and space activities within the SADC Region. He stressed the need for Satellite Experts fast track the process of formulating the necessary frameworks and designs for the shared satellite system, saying investment in a regional satellite the right thing for the current and future generations.

The workshop received presentations on satellite initiatives from Angola, Mauritius and South Africa, some of the SADC Member States that have made significant strides in deploying satellite networks and could be instrumental in supporting the region as it seeks to establish its first shared Satellite System.

Having incorporated inputs from participants, including the input from the SADC Secretariat in line with the African Union Space Programme Policy and Strategy, the meeting validated Final Draft Framework for the SADC Shared Satellite Programme which was prepared and presented by the Republic of South Africa as the Chair of the SADC Satellite Expert Committee.

The Draft Framework for the SADC Shared Satellite Programme will be submitted to a SADC Meeting of Senior Officials Responsible for ICT for consideration.

The meeting noted that the Regional African Satellite Communication Organization (RASCOM) provides the SADC region with valuable lessons on shared space infrastructure, based on its experience in providing telecommunication services, direct TV broadcast services and Internet access in rural areas of Africa. The International Telecommunication Union is expected to hold a Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for Africa from the 13th to 17th May 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
SADC and FAO launch project to manage pests and pesticides in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe

By Esaiah Tjelele

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have launched a project aimed at building capacity to manage crop pests and pesticides in three SADC Member States namely Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, following the challenges faced by Member States, including unprescriptive use of pesticides during outbreaks.

The project which is being supported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is called: Strengthening Pests and Pesticides Management in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and is meant to build capacity of the three Member States in addressing specifically the Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and the Severely Hazardous Pesticide formulations (SHPFs).

Speaking at the launch which was attended by various experts drawn from plant, health, livestock, health, environment, parks and wildlife from the three participating Member States at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe from 19-22 February, 2019, the Director General of Agriculture of the Government of Zimbabwe, Dr Cames Mguni called for the harmonisation of efforts in the management of the pesticides.

On her part, a representative of FAO, Mrs Ivy Sounyama, highlighted the importance of building the capacity in managing pests and pesticides, saying it contributes to sustainable plant health solutions. She underscored the need for the SADC region to pay attention to global efforts and trends in the management of pesticides to promote human and animal safety, environmental integrity and trade requirements.

Each of the three participating Member States developed their harmonised national plans for the implementation of the project. It is anticipated that lessons drawn from the implementation of the project in the three Member States will be used as catalyst and a building block to address the gaps identified from previous projects in the management of pesticides. The project was developed to address the challenges faced by Member States in the management of pests and pesticides during outbreaks. For instance, during the Fall Army Worm (FAW) outbreak in February 2017 which brought devastating damages to maize, as the most preferred crop for FAW, the majority of farmers used Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) at high application rates and this was necessitated by the absence of readily available registered pesticides for the FAW in the region.

In recent times, the use of pesticides has received significant attention and recognition in the sustainable development agenda as a result of their impact on both human and animal health, environment and trade. The SADC region has noted high use of pesticides in recent years due to frequent pest and disease outbreaks.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany held consultations on Development Cooperation on 19th and 20th February 2019, at the SADC Head Office in Gaborone, Botswana. The purpose of the Consultations was, amongst others, to agree on areas of cooperation in preparation for the next Bilateral Negotiations between the SADC Secretariat and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to be held in November 2019.

The consultations were co-officiated by the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Botswana, His Excellency Mr. Ralf Breth. In her Opening Remarks, Her Excellency Dr. Tax expressed gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the continued support towards SADC regional integration and development agenda.

To enable the achievement of the SADC objectives, the SADC Executive Secretary called upon the Government of Federal Republic of Germany to continue supporting SADC priority programmes including the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063; the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP), and other priority strategies and programmes such as the Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy. She further called upon both parties as they prepare for the next SADC-Germany Bilateral Negotiations, to take into account the emerging developmental challenges, while agreeing on areas of mutual interest for their cooperation. She further appealed for increased financial support, which is easily managed and monitored, and the need for continued joint planning and monitoring of the technical support, specifically in agreeing on expected results, and in monitoring impacts.

His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Ralf Breth and the Germany delegation expressed willingness to continue supporting SADC in both technical and financial cooperation. Among others, Regional Economic Integration and peace and security, Transboundary Water Management, Transboundary use and Protection of Natural Resources and Resilience to Climate Change, Strengthening National-Regional Linkages and Study and Expert Fund, were identified as priority areas of continued cooperation among the two parties, details of which, are to be finalized during the November 2019 negotiations, to place in Gaborone, Botswana. The identified areas of cooperation are in line with SADC priorities outlined in the Revised RISDP 2015-2020 and the Revised SIPO 2015/2020; and the Germany’s Marshall Plan with Africa.

The SADC delegation was led by Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, while the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was led by Mr. Steffen Weber, Policy Officer for SADC at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The meeting was also attended by the European Union Delegation in Gaborone and the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Botswana, who were invited and participated as observers.
SADC facilitates validation for the Regional Comprehensive GBV Study

Kealeboga K. Dambuza

Gender based violence (GBV) is a worldwide challenge that continues to afflict communities, and the SADC Region is no exception. While GBV affects all, women and girls in particular are more vulnerable than men and boys, with 1 in 3 (35%) women globally having experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime. The efforts to mitigate and prevent GBV have been challenged by among others the limited research to inform policies and programmes. In this regard, the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO), in 2014 noted the high prevalence of GBV in the SADC Region and expressed the urgent need to conduct a situation analysis on the prevalence of GBV in the Region.

Following the presentation of the preliminary data in August 2016 in Maputo, Mozambique, the Joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women’s Affairs and the MCO further directed the SADC Secretariat to conduct a more comprehensive GBV study for better understanding of this challenge which has the potential to reverse development gains so far realized. The comprehensive study is also underscored in the SADC Regional Gender Based Violence Strategy and Framework for Action (2018-2030), in particular the thematic priority on “Information and Knowledge Management, including Good Practices and Innovation”.

The SADC Comprehensive Gender Based Violence Study was conducted in 2018 and the Gender Unit, with support from GIZ, convened a workshop to validate the findings of this study in Johannesburg on 18-19 February 2019. The workshop brought together all Member States and representatives of international and regional cooperating partners that work on gender based violence (GBV). Each Member State was represented by senior officials from the Ministries of Gender/Women’s Affairs and from the Police Sector.

The workshop successfully validated the findings of the draft SADC Comprehensive GBV Study. The Member States actively reviewed the draft with more input and resource materials provided to enhance the study with the latest information on GBV from their countries. Among others, the workshop successfully:
• Identified key recommendations for the study;
• Identified challenges and recommendations in data & information collection and sharing;
• Mapped key issues of regional concern and related messages to inform regional advocacy campaigns against GBV; and
• Served as a platform for sharing good practices and key lessons by Member States and providing of regional and international updates on GBV and related matters through the engagement of the regional and international partners including UNODC, UNFPA, UNAIDS and GIZ.

The chairperson of the meeting, the Head of Namibia Police Gender Based Violence Promotion Division, Ms. Johannna Fredericka Sitube, in her opening remarks emphasized the need for all Member States to work together to ensure successful completion of the Comprehensive GBV Study and in mapping way forward for the Regional response to GBV.

The Head of the SADC Gender Unit, Dr Joseph Pitso, in his Statement emphasized that the Regional GBV Study will serve as a baseline data for the SADC GBV Strategy and, therefore, encouraged Member States to ascertain that they move together in tandem with the envisaged common future of a SADC free of gender based violence. In recognizing that SADC Member States seek to establish a common future, he also buttressed that every Member State should demonstrate strong commitment to the Revised Protocol on Gender and Development, which has clear provisions on addressing GBV.

He further noted that SADC recognizes gender as a cross cutting issue and an enabler of regional integration as espoused in the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO). Both strategic documents affirm principles of women empowerment and gender equality which are underpinned by a serene peace and security conducive environment devoid of GBV.

In closing the workshop, the Chairperson of the meeting encouraged Member State to come up with effective Action Plans in response to the identified gaps pertaining to addressing GBV. In particular, she highlighted the need to put aggressive measures and strategies in place to ensure accessibility of comprehensive services with the aim to respond promptly to GBV cases.
**SADC gears up for 7 elections in 2019**

*By Innocent Mbvundula*

The year 2019 is yet another busy year for the SADC region as seven (7) of the sixteen (16) Member States will hold elections. These Member States include; Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Mauritius and South Africa.

Of the seven Member States, the elections in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa will include election of the Head of State, while two namely; Madagascar and Mauritius will hold elections for the national Assembly only. In line with the Revised SADC Guidelines and Principles Governing Democratic Elections (2015), SADC will, at the invitation of the Member State holding the election, deploy its Election Observation Mission, preceded by the pre assessment mission by the SADC Election Advisory Council (SEAC). The SADC Election Observation Mission is constituted by the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation at the time of holding the elections. As a standard practice and in line with the aforementioned principles and guidelines, the SEOM facilitates training and deployment of observers.

After the elections SEOM releases its Preliminary Statement in which it presents its findings on the conduct of the elections and makes recommendations for consideration by the Member State.

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<tr>
<th>ELECTIONS IN THE REGION (2019)</th>
<th>SCHEDULED DATES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar (National Assembly)</td>
<td>March 2019</td>
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<td>Malawi (General Elections)</td>
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<td>Botswana (General Elections)</td>
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<td>Mozambique (Presidential, Legislative and Provincial Elections)</td>
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<td>Namibia (Presidential and National Assembly Elections)</td>
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<td>Mauritius (National Assembly Elections)</td>
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**SADC facilitates Media tour to SPGRC**

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temperatures, reduced precipitation (drought), increased precipitation, and new forms of pests and diseases, among others. Mr Shava informed the journalists that the SPGRC is mandated to mobilize, conserve and make available plant genetic resources (PGR) using appropriate technologies and standards, thereby contributing to sustainable development, environment and food security for the people of the SADC region. He then urged the journalists to support initiatives aimed at communicating the important role of the Centre.

Established in 1989, the SPGRC’s vision is to be the leading institution of excellence and reliability in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources (PGR) and to be a key player in contributing to the enhancement of food security and poverty eradication in the SADC region.

Though SPGRC is a regional institution, the Centre makes safety deposits of germplasm materials to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway, and with the Crop Trust, undertakes development of a regional quality management system for PGR Conservation.

It also participates in the Global Information System coordinated by the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), as well as participates in Crop Wild Relatives conservation programmes through the Biodiversity International.
Interview with the SADC Director of Finance, Investment and Customs, Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha

The Finance, Investment and Customs (FIC) is one of the ten (10) Directorates at the SADC Secretariat whose mandate is to facilitate trade and financial liberalization; and create an enabling environment for investment in the SADC region. Innocent Mbwundula (IM) interviewed the Director of FIC, Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha (SM) to find out how SADC is working to ensure effective integration of goods and services markets and widening export markets for SADC goods and services.

IM: What does trade facilitation and financial liberalisation entail, and how does the FIC directorate facilitate trade and financial liberation?

SM: When the Free Trade Area (FTA) was launched in 2008, Member States embarked on a process of consolidating the FTA. One of the initiatives for consolidating the FTA is trade facilitation. In 2016 SADC approved a Trade Facilitation Programme to address impediments to the movement of goods across the region, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of the region. The Programme aims at improving and simplifying border procedures; standardizing documentation; and ensuring that rules are consistently applied and clearly explained. This will reduce clearance times, increase trader compliance, lower costs, lessen the burden on trade, boost export competitiveness, increase intra-regional trade and promote economic growth. On the financial side, SADC is implementing a number of programmes, notably a cross-border payment system to support the FTA. The system is called SADC Real Time Gross Settlement System (SADC-RTGS). The system was first developed as a proof of concept in July 2013 in the 4 countries (Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa) that form the Common Monetary Area (CMA) and eventually to the rest of the other SADC countries except for Madagascar.

Currently, SADC-RTGS settles in South African Rand, and a total of 83 banks (central banks and commercial banks) are participating in the system. The SADC-RTGS has performed impressively since July 2013 when the system went live, with a total of 1,275,591 transactions settled as at end 2018, representing ZAR5.21 Trillion.

The SADC-RTGS multi-currency platform which will initially start with the on-boarding of the US dollar went live in October 2018. Discussions are however still going with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York regarding the opening of a US Dollar account to facilitate US dollar settlement in the SADC-RTGS. On-boarding of all the currencies of the region onto the system is expected to be completed by December 2019.

To ensure inclusivity in economic activities, especially in the financial sector, SADC is implementing a Strategy on Financial Inclusion and Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Access to Finance. The Implementation Plan for the Strategy was approved by Ministers in July 2018, thus paving way for the implementation of activities and assisting Member States to develop their own Strategies and programmes aimed at empowering the SMEs, youth and women to participate and contribute to economic activity. A total of 10 Member States, Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe have either developed their own Financial Inclusion Strategies or a national roadmap on financial inclusion. To further deepen financial inclusion in the region, the SADC Committee of Central Bank Governors (CCBG) developed mobile money guidelines which are being piloted in Lesotho, Eswatini, Malawi and South Africa, with the expectation to role this out to other Member States.

In the area of remittances, the cost of cross-border remittances has been reduced by 7% points from an average of 20% per transaction to about 13% in the corridor between South Africa and DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique. The challenge is to further reduce these costs to meet the G20 target of 5% per transaction. As part of this work, a pilot product has been introduced between South Africa and Lesotho using Shoprite stores. This product has reduced the cost of remittance in this corridor by 65% and ZAR 35 million is currently transferred into Lesotho monthly. This product will be replicated in the other corridors.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Mr. Mtonakutha

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Interview with the SADC Director of Finance, Investment and Customs, Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha

IM: SADC seeks to enhance the investment and business environment, including harmonization of the tax regimes in the region. How far is the SADC region in this regard?

SM: According to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Investment Trend Report, global foreign direct investment fell by 19% in 2018, to an estimated US$1.2 trillion. The third consecutive drop that brings Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows back to the low point reached after the global financial crisis. Africa registered a 6% increase in FDI flows in 2018 (US$40 billion, up from a revised US$38 billion in 2017), but the growth was concentrated in few economies. The aim of shifting from the natural resources dominated FDI profile of the continent towards a more balanced sectoral distribution was only partially visible, in that the relatively diversified economy, such as South Africa, saw more stable and increasing FDI inflows.

Intra-SADC investment represents a small share of the overall SADC FDI inflows. However, this is likely to change as opportunities for cross-border investment (CBI) expand and regional integration deepens and remaining barriers to trade and investment are removed. The expansion in cross-border investments will also require a deepening of policy and strategies and incentives for attracting CBI that are transformative, develops regional value chains, and create jobs, such as manufacturing.

To improve the investment and business environment in the region, SADC is implementing a programme, the Regional Action Programme on Investment (RAPI). The Programme has largely three components: the first component relates to developing and harmonizing the relevant policies and frameworks for attracting and promotion of both domestic and FDI. The second one relates to investment promotion initiatives in the region. The third part relates to developing relevant platforms for sharing information which is relevant to investors. The last area relates to developing a platform for peer learning and best practices as they relate to investment.

Notable progress has been made in the area of investment including the development of an Investment Policy Framework to guide Member States in developing their National Investment Action Plans. Three (3) Member States (Botswana, Malawi and Zambia) have developed National Action Plans for Investment (NAPI) to facilitate implementation of the SADC Investment Policy Framework (IPF). In addition, SADC has developed a Bilateral Investment Treaty Template to assist Member States in the negotiation of investment treaties. To support investors in accessing information SADC has developed an investment portal which is linked to Member States investment portals. Further, SADC has developed an FDI Strategy to support the mobilization of FDI into the region.

One of the factors investors consider in making their investment decisions is the tax regime of a country. As such Member States are cooperating in harmonizing the Tax regime in the region, mainly in three areas: tax agreements; indirect taxes; and tax incentives. SADC developed the SADC Model Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement to assist Member States in the negotiation of tax avoidance agreements which are critical for investment and businesses. The network of double taxation avoidance agreements in the region has increased from 52 in August 2015 to 59 by December 2018. To enhance sharing of information among authorities on tax issues, SADC has developed an Agreement on Assistance in Tax Matters (AATM). To date a total of 11 Member States have signed the Agreement (Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia) and five Member States have ratified the Agreement (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius and South Africa). Three guidelines to enhance cooperation is taxation and related matters have been developed and are under implementation. These are guidelines on Value Added Tax; Excise Tax; Tax Incentives.

IM: Any message that you would like to share?

SM: Consolidation of the goods market in the context of the FTA; and strengthening and harmonization of the financial sector is critical for shaping the foundation for deeper regional integration. The recent focus of the region on industrial development is part of the consolidation. However, for industrialization to be successful trade facilitation and strengthening of the financial sector are critical, especially when it relates to development of value chains.
By Rachel Nandelema

Communication and advocacy professionals from the SADC region have committed to promoting Vulnerability Assessments and Analysis (VAA) work. They made the commitment at the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessments and Analysis (RVAA) Programme communication and advocacy workshop that was held from 19 – 21 November 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

A total of 24 communications and knowledge management professionals from National Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NVACs) of Member States, development partners, and the media attended the workshop.

The SADC Secretariat established the Vulnerability VAA system in 1999 with the objective of monitoring the Member States’ households’ and individuals’ capacity to deal with external hazards. The system provides an in-depth understanding of different dimensions of food and nutrition security and vulnerability in the SADC region. The national and regional VAA reports inform key national, regional and global decision-making processes on investment in food and nutrition security in the SADC region.

The communication and advocacy workshop aimed at equipping participants with basic capacities in communication and advocacy and enhancing coordination and collaboration, and experience sharing.

The workshop also reviewed and validated the RVAA Programme Communication and Advocacy Plan (2018 – 2021). The Plan aims to mobilize support and resources, advocate for a conducive policy environment for the implementation of the VAA activities and improve the production, packaging, dissemination, and utilization of VAA products. It is aligned to the RVAA 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan and is in line with the SADC Secretariat’s Corporate Communication and Promotion Strategy (2016 – 2020). The Plan will be a guiding framework for NVACs in planning and budgeting for communication and advocacy.

The RVAA Programme recent evidence suggests that vulnerability, food insecurity, and malnutrition where on the rise in the SADC region despite efforts by government and development partners, therefore decision makers need timely, credible information to inform decision making processes, hence there is need for relevant information to support the efforts to improve the production, management, packaging and dissemination of VAA information to decision makers.

Ms Rebbeka Ndiipulale Ananias, the representative of the Government of Namibia – as SADC Chair - highlighted that information and communication were at the heart of integration and poverty eradication in the SADC region. She added that information was a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive development and is central to achieving the objectives that all Member States have committed to in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Information enables us to know where to focus and target our resources, to measure whether the support from governments and development partners reaches the targeted communities and to find out if their livelihoods have improved, as planned”, she said. The workshop participants called for stronger collaboration between the RVAA Programme with stakeholders including the media and SADC National Media Coordinators.

They committed to forming a network to build awareness of issues of food security, nutrition, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), climate change as well as the VAA.
Today, 3rd March 2019, is the World Wildlife Day and we join the rest of the world in commemorating this important day. This year, World Wildlife Day will be celebrated under the theme “Life below water: for people and planet”, which aligns with goal 14 of UN Sustainable Development Goals[i] as well as Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The SADC region is endowed with a diverse range of freshwater and marine biodiversity. While significant strides have been made to safeguard these resources that contribute significantly to the socio-economic well-being of the Member States and local communities, challenges abound to human induced factors such as pollution, unregulated harvesting and illegal trade. Unregulated harvesting of marine resources leads to over-exploitation to a point where some marine species fail to self-replenish and are often driven to the brink of extinction. The South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) sub-region of SADC loses between US$200million and US$500 million annually to illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.

Unsustainable and destructive fishing methods, as well as by-catch can also result in negative ecosystem impacts that affects the ecosystem's balanced aquatic life, habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass beds and sea bottom substrate and its biodiversity. By-catch includes important non-targeted commercial fish stocks, juveniles and endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species such as marine turtles, marine mammals, sea birds, sharks etc. All of these have socio-economic implications on food security and livelihoods of the local fishing communities in the SADC region.

The degradation of coastal habitats and realities of marine pollution are becoming more apparent. Marine pollution comes in many forms, which include oil, plastic, industrial and agricultural wastes and chemicals, but the largest factor affecting the aquatic and marine environment is plastic. Over the last decade, we have produced more plastic than we have in the last 100 years. This sharp increase in plastic entering our waters harms not only marine life but also humanity.

The impacts from climate change on regional habitats, species and community needs are still not fully understood, but it is clear that significant changes in local weather patterns, run off and sea level rise will threaten critical marine ecosystems including key breeding, nursery and feeding grounds for marine wildlife, affecting recruitment, abundance and occurrence.

It is a fact that marine wildlife plays a crucial role on life on the planet such as being a source of food. The oceans themselves have profound effect on global climate trends and other ecosystems functions such as carbon sink and repository of waste materials on the globe. The quality of marine environment needs to be managed and that applies as well to the sustainable utilisation of the marine resources.

SADC Member States are, therefore, called upon to take a leading role in implementing actions both at national and regional level that safeguard water bodies and the life below it. It is a call for action to ensure that these water bodies are not overly polluted, reduced to open access but are instead sustainably utilized to enable them to self-regulate and replenish for the benefit of the present and future generations. Through effective and collaborate implementation of national laws and international conventions including the various SADC Protocols and Strategies such as the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, Protocol on Fisheries and Protocol on Shared Watercourses, Regional Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan, Regional and the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the region will ensure that the ecosystem functions are not disturbed beyond limits of self-replenishment and that the quality of marine and fresh water life in the region is also sustained.

In celebrating the United Nations World Wildlife Day, let us indeed celebrate the successful initiatives undertaken to conserve and sustainably manage the marine and freshwater species as we scale up actions that safeguard the marine environment and freshwater ecosystems. It begins with all of us.

[i] SDG Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
SADC Secretariat library catalyst for Development

By Liwakala Mudengi

“The rules of engagement in economic development are changing. Strategies for building a strong base are being realigned in the context of the knowledge economy,” says Urban Libraries Council (ULC) President Martín Gómez. The SADC we want drives the aspiration of realizing a sound economy in the Region where its citizenry will have access to the basic needs in terms of good health, food security and political stability. Attaining that status will certify economic emancipation in the Regional bloc. This can only come to life if public research, reports, and many other material produced for the advancement of the grassroots populace of SADC Region are shared.

Recent studies show that libraries are able to build a community’s capacity for economic activity and resilience, says a new study from the Urban Institute. ‘Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development adds to the body of research pointing to a shift in the role of public libraries -- from a passive, recreational reading and research institution to an active economic development agent, addressing such pressing urban issues as literacy, workforce training, small business vitality and community quality of life.’

As the SADC Secretariat library rebrands itself to be the information hub of the institution. The core vision is to set itself to be a link or information conveyer belt between SADC Secretariat and Member States where SADC development programs will be shared and appreciated at the targeted grassroots level through National Libraries, Community libraries and public libraries who at many times becomes the only source of information in the most remote areas in the respective Member States.

As we strive to attain our long time vision of becoming an information hub and information conveyer belt between SADC Secretariat and Member States, we inform our clientele that we are collecting material on SADC for the safe of sharing information on thus we encourage researchers to contact us when they have such material.

Our online catalogue called Amlib is available on the website and fully functional, click the following link http://amlibsrv.sadc.int:81/Main.aspx .The library users will have an opportunity to browse our collection from the comfort of their offices.

Current collection and collection development.

The library consists of the following collections;

**SADC collection:** This is a collection which reflects on anything written by SADC or written on SADC, here we find research and work on various SADC programs. All directories are encouraged to deposit their works (publications, research) to the library towards this collection.

**General Collection:** This is a collection on various classes of knowledge as classified by the Dewey decimal Classification, e.g. economics, politics, investments etc. The collections are determined by the SADC Secretariat library user community. This collection will be in books and e-resources.

**Portuguese & French collection:** While the library is dominantly English literature, our aim is to balance the collection and grow the small Portuguese and French collection which we have as part of our collection. We will depend on Secretariat Portuguese and French speaking community to assist us in that regard.

**Historical pictures & Audio Visual Collection:** The Library has a collection of photos going way back to the establishment of SADCC to SADC. We intend to create a central picture management where all photos captured on SADC events will be managed centrally. This initiative will depend on the cooperation of the entire Secretariat staff to donate picture captured from their missions.

**Council and Summit Records:** The library has a collection of council and summit records as old as 1980. All council and summit records which took place more than 5 years ago should be available and accessed by public.

**E-resources:** We currently subscribe to Emerald e-journals which can be accessed through the following link https://www.emeraldinsight.com/ SADC Secretariat Library only subscribe the following modules 1. Accounting and Finance, 2. Business Management and Strategy, 3. Information and Knowledge Management.

SADC Library operating hours

Opening time: 08: 30 to 16:30 during working days.
The Hashim Mbita publication which has 9 volumes and constitutes a comprehensive record of liberation struggles in Southern Africa, was named after the late Brigadier-General Hashim Mbita of the United Republic of Tanzania who was the Patron of the project.

The liberation struggles sought to end colonial and apartheid rule in Southern Africa. The publication is designed to assist the present and future generations to remember the sacrifices made by millions of their forefathers and mothers in the liberation struggles. The publication presents events and stories of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In addition to these countries, the research covers the contributions of countries and organisations outside of the SADC Region that played a key role in aiding the liberation movements in Southern Africa. The Publication was officially launched in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in August, 2014 during the 34th Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of States and Government. The Hashim Mbita publication forms part of the SADC Secretariat Library collection.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT?**

**HASHIM MBITA PUBLICATION**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Infringement of the SADC Trademarks**

It has come our attention that there are organisations that are using the name “Southern African Development Community” or the acronym “SADC” to identify their organisation, products, services or their causes.

The SADC Secretariat wishes to inform the general public that the name “Southern African Development Community”; the acronym “SADC”; and the SADC logo are registered and protected trademarks for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, hence the use of these trademarks without prior authorization from the SADC Secretariat infringes Intellectual Property Rights that we are enjoying.

We, therefore, urge the general public to desist from using these registered and protected trademarks, as they can only be exclusively used by the Southern African Development Community, a regional body comprising 16 Member States, namely; Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For more information or advice, please contact the Communication and Public Relations Unit at the SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana on prinfo@sadc.int or telephone +267 364 1863
To our partners, you can access the Corporate Identity Manual on the SADC website. The Manual provides the SADC Vision, mission as well as guidance on how to present, describe and brand the SADC organization accurately. It contains approved colour palettes, typefaces, page layouts, fonts, and branding tools that define how SADC’s brand, image and messaging is to be delivered to the public, and particularly to SADC’s key audiences. It also lays out the logo, typography, colour use, logo placement, the protocol order of SADC and Member State’s flags, including protocols related to the SADC Table of Precedence, and SADC story-telling that will facilitate correct corporate branding and visual communication of SADC to ensure SADC visibility. The Manual is available on the following link: https://www.sadc.int/documents-publications/media-releases/
Mozambique celebrates Heroe’s Day yearly every 3rd day of February. It was instituted to commemorate the lives of fallen soldiers who fought bravely for the country’s independence in 1975, specifically to the assassinated leader of Mozambican independence movement political party, Eduardo Mondlane.

When Mozambique was still under Portuguese rule, a guerrilla group called Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), a political party formed in 1962 under the leadership of Eduardo Mondlane, initiated a campaign to fight for the country’s independence. This war, later called Portuguese Colonial War, lasted from 1961–1974. Initially, Portuguese concentrated their control on urban centers while the FRELIMO guerrillas took control of rural and tribal areas in the northern and western part of Mozambique.

To receive local support for the liberation of Mozambique, FRELIMO began conducting social and economic improvement on the lives of the people on the controlled territory in the northern portion of the country. In one unfortunate event, Mondlane was assassinated in his office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania by Portuguese secret police. Through the resistance and persistence to achieve independence of the ensuing FRELIMO leadership, the country achieved its independence from Portugal on June 25, 1975.

Source: http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/heroes-day-mozambique/
SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

The 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held on 17-18 August 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia approved 23rd March as date for the commemoration of the Southern Africa Liberation Day date to remember freedom fighters who played a pivotal role in the struggle for liberation of Southern African states. The date is dedicated to the Cuito Cuanavale battle, fought in the Angolan province of Cuando Cubango in 1988, between the Angolan Army, aided by Cuban forces, and the invading troops of the former apartheid regime in South Africa.

SADC Secretariat Monthly Newsletter Issue 2, February 2019

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION DAYS

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- **International Women's Day**
- **World Water Day**
- **World Meteorological Day**

MEMBER STATES

[Map of Southern African region with member states labeled]