SADC attends 74th UN General Assembly

SADC Member States were among delegates attending the UN General Assembly in New York - Story on page 3 & 8

PHOTO COURTESY OF AFP
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.
SADC urges commitment to multilateralism, climate action and sustainable development, and calls for lifting of sanctions on Zimbabwe

The Southern African Development Community recently urged all countries of the world to recommit to multilateralism, climate action and sustainable development, and repeated calls for lifting of sanctions on Zimbabwe.

“We are witnessing an increasing trend within the international system moving towards unilateralism”, said Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, Tanzania’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation and Chair of SADC Council of Ministers, during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly held from 17-30 September 2019 in New York.

“We must walk hand-in-hand to breathe new life into this multilateralism that we believe in”, said Malagasy Prime Minister Christian Ntsay, adding his country’s voice to the call for the community of nations to be united in pursuit of common goals.

Among the common goals that UN Members have committed to, that multilateralism can help in addressing, is intensifying the fight against the ever-increasing threat of climate change.

This treks back to 1992 when the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted during the Earth Summit in Brazil. Slightly two decades later, UN members adopted the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in December 2015. Despite the enthusiasm that followed the adoption of the Paris Agreement, there is unity in acknowledging that implementation of the commitments espoused in the pact has been rather disappointing.

SADC Member States took turns to highlight how climate change has impacted on their people, particularly singling out the tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth that descended on the region in early 2019 with devastating impacts experienced in Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Floods and droughts have also become frequent, as highlighted in the statements virtually by all SADC Member States.

“Small Island Developing States are particularly threatened by the dangerously intensifying impacts of climate change,” said Mauritian President Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoor.

This was echoed by his counterparts, President Danny Faure of Seychelles and President Azali Assoumani of Comoros. President Assoumani said that while climate change “spares no country and no region … the situation of small island states is more worrisome and worthy of greater attention.”

Recognising the importance of climate change, the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, convened the UN Climate Action Summit, and a high-Level meeting to review progress in the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action, commonly known as the SAMOA Pathway as part of UNGA 74 programme of activities.

In the spirit of multilateralism, SADC Member States also called for the lifting of sanctions, targeted or otherwise, imposed on Zimbabwe, saying that the prolonged existence of the sanctions was no longer justified. “These unilateral sanctions against Zimbabwe should unconditionally be removed now”, Prof. Kabudi led the
SADC urges commitment to multilateralism, climate action and sustainable development, and calls for lifting of sanctions on Zimbabwe

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clarion call in his statement communicating the SADC position.

Namibian President, and immediate past-Chairperson of SADC, Dr. Hage Geingob, said the sanctions should be lifted “in support of [Zimbabwe’s] pursuit for economic development, unity and prosperity”.

DRC President, Felix Tshisekedi, who made his maiden speech at the annual congregation, weighed in saying that the “sanctions are no longer justifiable given that the country has opened a new chapter in its history”.

The sanctions have also impacted on Zimbabwe’s neighbours, said Dr. Unity Dow, Botswana’s Minister for International Affairs and Cooperation. As a neighbour of Zimbabwe, Botswana is host to a significant number of Zimbabweans fleeing from the economic challenges in their homeland, resulting in brain drain depriving Zimbabwe of the brains to resuscitate the economy.

Mozambique and South Africa were also among the SADC countries that expressed their displeasure at the continued existence of the embargo.

On his part, Zimbabwe’s President Emmerson Mnangagwa applauded the support that his country has received from his compatriots in the SADC region and on the African continent “in demanding the immediate and unconditional removal of these illegal sanctions”.

The reform of the UN Security Council was, once again, a matter close to the hearts of SADC Member States that they unanimously raised during UNGA’s general debate. In 2005, the African Union adopted a common position on the proposed reform of the UN, known as the Ezulwini Consensus, which, among others highlighted that the continent looks forward to being “fully represented in all the decision-making organs of the UN, particularly in the Security Council, which is the principal decision-making organ of the UN in matters relating to international peace and security.”

For the past 14 years, Africa has been clamouring for the consideration of its common position, in particular that Africa should have “not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto; [and] five non-permanent seats.”

Fairness, equity and representation dominated SADC Member States’ statements in this regard, with South African International relations minister, Dr. Naledi Pandor, indicating that “key decisions on peace and security are de-facto the domain of only five countries” 74 years after the UN was founded in 1945. President Edgar Lungu of Zambia emphasised that “time has come for meaningful reform … of the Security Council to be representative, democratic and accountable to all Member States, irrespective of status.”

At present, only China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States of America, are the only permanent members of the 15-member UN Security Council.

The embargo on Cuba, the denial of the Sahrawi people’s quest for self-determination, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the conflict in the DRC also received much attention during UNGA 74. “We cannot talk of leaving no one behind when we live in a world in which the people of Western Sahara and Palestine have been left behind;” President Geingob said. ‘Leaving no one behind’ is the motto of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2019 edition of UNGA saw active participation by 192 of the 193 UN Member States, reports UN Affairs.
Hon. Unity Dow, Minister for International Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana

Human-wildlife conflict is a serious challenge for Botswana and the sub-region. Our elephant population has grown to unmanageable proportions and is now exceeding the carrying capacity of its designated area of habitat. Elephants are now aggressively encroaching on many human settlements around the country. Elephants, outside national parks, invade homes and farms, and kill people and destroy property... in an effort to bolster our elephant conservation and management efforts, Botswana and countries in the sub-region recently tabled a proposal to allow a once-off sale of ivory from countries whose populations are currently at CITES Appendix II. This prudent approach was regrettably rebuffed...

We strive for a world that is for peace and prosperity, and... Botswana aligns herself with the statement delivered by the United Republic of Tanzania, in her capacity as the Chair of SADC, regarding the lifting of sanctions [imposed on] Zimbabwe. There is no doubt that these prolonged sanctions gravely undermine the economy of Zimbabwe and inflict severe hardships on the ordinary people of that country... Sanctions, [imposed] on any country, do not only negatively affect the targeted country, but also [its] neighbours and trading partners, and in the case of Zimbabwe, it is no different.

H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola

The world is helplessly watching the phenomenon of climate change, which has been worsening as the latest scientific studies confirm, and a rampant rise in phenomena and their devastating consequences.

It is important to highlight the role of youth, the only driving force capable of overcoming all these challenges. It is imperative to deepen the quality of their education, both technically and culturally. I remain optimistic and continue to believe that we can be able to bequeath a a better world to our descendants.

H.E. Azail Assoumani, President of the Union of the Comoros

The realities of climate change must be taken seriously, because whole regions will simply disappear due to the negative effects of the deterioration of our environment. Whilst such phenomena spare no country and no region... the situation of small island states is still more worrisome and worthy of greater attention. My country, the Union of Comoros, is part of these small States which are exposed to the whims of the climate and is, therefore, always [affected by] these phenomena...

Small Island Developing States, just like many other States, are also faced by other dangerous phenomena such as maritime piracy, human trafficking at sea, drug trafficking, illegal fishing, and the pillage of other resources at sea. My government welcomes and aligns itself with all national, regional and international initiatives to tirelessly tackle such barbarous acts, which [endanger] the security of our people...

H.E. Félix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo

It is indeed unfair that Africa remains the only region in the world that does not have permanent representation on the Security Council,... We want a configuration of the Security Council that is fair, equitable and that is more representative of the world’s peoples in their diversity.

The history of my country is so painfully connected to the United Nations. For 24 of our 59 years of independence, there has been a peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) deployed in my country. Despite this long presence, why have most of our hopes for peace and development been dashed? ... The DRC still needs MONUSCO, but we need a MONUSCO that is focussed, that is well-equipped, that is strong, and that has a properly adapted mandate such as the case with the Force Intervention Brigade that has already been able to derail the M23 movement. I would like to take this opportunity... to demand the complete removal of the sanctions that are still affecting Zimbabwe, and have done [so] since 2002. These sanctions are no longer justifiable given that the country has opened a new chapter in its history, and has shown itself ready to cooperate with the world.
**His Majesty, King Mswati III, Head of State of the Kingdom of Eswatini**

The recent launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area will assist greatly in the fight against poverty on the continent… The African continent continues to face challenges beyond conflict and these are health issues including diseases such as Ebola, HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and many others that require significant funding to overcome... In my capacity as Chairperson of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), I am delighted to announce that [the Kingdom of Eswatini] launched the End Malaria Fund early this year, a public-private partnership to close the funding gap and end the disease by 2022...

Climate change has serious implications for development prospects everywhere, and more so on the African continent where the intensity of climate extremes has become frequent. As we have witnessed in the SADC region, natural disasters know no boundaries and the most affected countries do not have the sufficient resources and capacity to ensure preparedness and respond to the devastation and impact suffered including [destruction of] infrastructure and loss of lives.

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**H.E. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho**

[The Kingdom of] Lesotho was among the 47 countries that underwent the voluntary national review during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development... We recognised that effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda [for Sustainable Development] requires implementation of priority programmes under different SDGs that have combined impact on unemployment and poverty reduction in all its facets.

Our journey towards national reforms in Lesotho is nearing fruition. We will be concluding the process of national dialogue on ‘The Lesotho We Want’ next month. Parliament will also soon conclude the process of enacting legislation creating a body that will craft the reforms—The National Reforms Authority... Without the invaluable support of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the UN Peacebuilding Department, as well as the European Union, the strides that we have made thus far would not have been possible. To them, we are eternally grateful...

threats to international peace and security continue to persist... Lesotho underscores the imperative that coordinated, sustained and inclusive conflict prevention measures should be given priority. It is in this connection that we reiterate our call for the reform of the [UN] Security Council with a view to making the Council representative, transparent, and indeed accountable. True reform of the Security Council will be the one that is modelled on the lines of the Common African Position as enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

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**H. E. Christian Ntsay, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Madagascar**

Beyond our words and our statements, we have the obligation to go as far as possible in our initiatives and in our actions. We must walk hand-in-hand to breathe new life into this multilateralism that we believe in so that we, the peoples of the United Nations, may still see ourselves reflected in our organisation, its values and particularly in its acts.

The Paris Climate Agreement has allowed for specific commitments from all signatory to fight against increasing temperatures through nationally determined contributions. However, we must state that all of these contributions that signatory countries have signed up to so far is not sufficient to achieve the goals set for in the agreement. Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, I invite signatory countries to shoulder their responsibilities so that … efforts can be mobilised to counter the current trends because it is the most vulnerable countries that often suffer the effects of climate change more intensely.

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**H.E. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi**

As we speak now, there are many losing their precious lives, because we cannot protect them. Many are escaping from countries, because we cannot protect them. There are many helpless children and women being trafficked and sold like cargo without vile. There are many vulnerable children heading families or failing to go to school. As an organisation, we have urgent work to do...

Let us remember, time has a way of passing history. If we don’t take the right decisions today, our decisions and actions today may return in time to haunt us...

Africa is not poor by the will of its people. This is a continent that has suffered the worst history of exploitation, from slavery, through colonialism to the aid regime of the last 60 years. History knows us; we have built empires and cities of the West with our blood, sweat and minerals. Africa has given more resources to the developed world for much more than we are ever receiving aid or philanthropy. Today, we move to strive to build our economies...
Quotations from the speeches of SADC Member States during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York

H.E. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoorry, President of the Republic of Mauritius

Climate change continues to disrupt national economies and affect lives... To compound an already troubling situation, emerging issues such as new conflicts, rising tensions between major global powers, rise of extremism, migration and refugee crisis, and the flipside of technology, are further upsetting our capability to live up to our pledge and make significant progress in implementing the SDGs... While the poor and vulnerable are the hardest hit, no single country is immune from the devastation and the havoc that rising temperatures and global warming are creating in the lives and livelihoods of communities... We need to renew and strengthen our commitment to limit global warming at 1.5°C...

Small Island Developing States are particularly threatened by the dangerously intensifying impacts of climate change... More responsive and targeted partnerships are essential to address specific problems that SIDS face... The health of our oceans continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Progress towards the conservation of the world's oceans has been too slow. Ocean acidification, and unsustainable fishing pose major threats to our oceans and marine resources. Mauritius is committed to make its contribution through the enforcement of the ban on plastics, sustainable fisheries polices, and other measures. Maritime security in the western Indian Ocean is not only a regional challenge, but has far wider ramifications requiring national and regional commitment...

H.E. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles

Seychelles will remain at the forefront of the discourse on climate change. We will fight, with a passionate sense of urgency, against inequalities [that] directly impact us... It is unacceptable that 50% of greenhouse gas emissions are produced by 10% of the planet's wealthiest inhabitants living in the richest nations. We will continue to voice our concerns, as our people demand it. The Seychellois people do not have the luxury of a 'what if'; they require action NOW!

Islanders can no longer afford to see ourselves as dots lost in a sea of blue. We are guardians of two thirds of our common blue planet. The deep ocean is the beating heart of the planet, yet we have better maps of Mars than we do of the ocean floor. This needs to change..

H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia

The year 2019 has brought the reality of climate change to the shores of every continent. We have witnessed numerous weather phenomena globally [that have] caused immense destruction and human suffering. We extend our solidarity to all the people whose lives have been upended by this adverse phenomena.

We cannot talk of leaving no one behind when we live in a world in which the people of Western Sahara and Palestine have been left behind.

We further call [for the] lifting of sanctions on Zimbabwe in support of their pursuit for economic development, unity and prosperity.

Hon. José Condungra António Pacheco, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique

Mozambique, once more, joins other States, in calling for adherence to the roadmap adopted by the UN for the peaceful resolution of the dispute in Western Sahara through a referendum on the self-determination of the Saharawi people...

We join [the United Republic of] Tanzania [as Chair of SADC] in the statement on the need to lift sanctions against Zimbabwe so that the [people of Zimbabwe] may co-exist effectively and harmoniously with the global village.

On August 6 of this year, we signed the Maputo Peace and National Reconciliation Agreement, which reflects the success of our internal dialogue and creates the proper conditions to galvanise the Mozambican development agenda.
Hon. Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs & East African Cooperation, United Republic of Tanzania

Over the past four years, the Government of Tanzania has been implementing various reforms, including the proper management of natural wealth and resources. Ironically, Africa produces what it does not consume, and consumes what it does not produce. This MUST change. In this regard, Africa must pursue vigorously the path of industrialisation. Unfortunately, we are witnessing an increasing trend within the international system moving towards unilateralism. Tanzania once again reiterates its commitment to multilateralism and calls upon all UN members to embrace multilateralism.

The Government of Tanzania, as the Chair of SADC, urges the international community to call for lifting sanctions unilaterally imposed on Zimbabwe… These unilateral sanctions against Zimbabwe should unconditionally be removed NOW!

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been in conflict situation for so long. Despite various efforts, this conflict situation continues to persist. The support to the DRC needs to be GENUINE aimed at addressing the challenges facing the country comprehensively and holistically...

H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia

Climate change is frustrating efforts to raise the standards of living for the world's poor. Scientists have spoken, and we have seen with our own eyes, the devastating impact that climate change has had on our environment. As a designated African Union champion on ending child marriage, I am encouraged that the campaign is growing from strength to strength. However, much more needs to be done. We call on all partners to join efforts and, together, let us raise our voices to protect our children and the youth...

To protect human life, the international community should continue to seriously address international terrorism. This Assembly must expedite its conclusion of the long-overdue comprehensive International Convention on Combating Terrorism. Zambia believes that within the United Nations evolution, time has come for meaningful reform, including of the Security Council (for it) to be representative, democratic and accountable to all Member States, irrespective of status. Given that Africa constitutes the second largest bloc of the UN membership, proposals to reform the Security Council should heed Africa's call as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus.

H.E. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

The sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe constitute a denial of the human rights of the people of Zimbabwe to develop and improve their quality of life. Furthermore, the sanctions are slowing down our progress, inhibiting our economic recovery and punishing the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. My country applauds the Southern African Development Community, the African Union and all who stand with us in demanding the immediate and unconditional removal of these illegal sanctions. Those that imposed the illegal sanctions must heed this call and lift them, NOW. Cooperation is a win-win game. Sanctions are a lose-lose game. Zimbabwe deserves a restart...

For us in Southern Africa, the recent Cyclone Idai serves as a reminder that the impact of climate change, and its damage to humankind and life on earth, is dire and irreparable. The reform of the United Nations system making it more representative, empowered and responsive to fulfill its mandate is long overdue. Zimbabwe remains firm on the African position as enunciated by the Ezulwini Consensus.

H.E. Naledi Pandor, Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa

Far too many of the world's population remain poor, jobless and hopeless. It is imperative that we intensify the efforts directed at fundamentally changing their lives. We know, from our experience and history, that it will only be through the determined efforts of the UN family that freedom for the people of Palestine can be achieved and only through the UN that the people of Saharawi can enjoy freedom. The United Nations must remain seized with this issue of Western Sahara, for the benefit of her people and African aspirations of an integrated continent living in peaceful co-existence. We also reiterate our steadfast solidarity with the Government and People of Cuba and Zimbabwe while condemning the continuation of unilateral sanctions against these countries...

We remain gravely concerned that 74 years after the founding of the UN, key decisions on peace and security are de facto the domain of only five countries. Twenty years of discussions on reform of the Security Council have yielded no movement towards a more representative and inclusive Security Council. We believe that the time has come for the broader membership to heed the overwhelming call for Africa to obtain at least two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats, as embodied in the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus on the comprehensive reform of the Council.
SADC ES underscores importance of integrating Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in industrialization

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax underscores the importance of integrating Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMSEs) in the SADC industrialisation process.

Speaking at the opening of the 25th Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini on 10th September 2019, H.E. Dr Tax indicated that the integration of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises into SADC industrialisation process can be a powerful driver for structural transformation, industrial development and inclusive growth for the region. The meeting was held under the theme “Strategies and policies for the integration of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMSEs) in the industrialization process in Southern Africa”.

H.E. Dr Tax said the SADC growth target of minimum 7% a year, will only be realised by a strong industrial diversification drive, supported by policy measures geared towards enhancing production capacity and boosting productivity and efficiency of our regional industries. The SADC Executive Secretary called for a review of existing Trade and Investment policies and the performance of Regional and National Industrialization Strategies, with a view to deepen and broadened them, while also ensuring maximising the participation of key sectors, such as MSMSEs in the industrialisation process.

She said in recognition of the importance of MSMSEs the SADC Protocol of Industry which was approved by the 39th Summit of Heads of State and Government, particularly Article 7 of the Protocol, Member States commit, specifically, to the promotion, development and participation of MSMSEs in industrialization, by formulating relevant policies and strategies, and putting in place measures for implementing the required interventions.

The meeting was supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and graced by Right Honourable Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Senator Manqoba Khumalo, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Ministers and Representatives of Member States, Chairperson of the 24th ICE Bureau (Mauritius) Mrs. Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman Ahmed, Ms. Nathalie Ndongo – She, UN Resident Coordinator of Eswatini, Prof. Said Adejumobi, ECA Director for the Southern African Office, Representatives of the African Union Commission, African Development Bank, Regional Communities and representatives of the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations, International Cooperating Partners and the Media.

Africa and World mourn late H.E. Robert Mugabe

By Innocent Mbvundula

A large number of current and former Heads of State and Government across the African continent and other international dignitaries on 14 September, 2019 travelled to Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe to pay their last respects to His Excellency Former President Robert Gabriel Mugabe who died at a hospital in Singapore on 6th September, 2019.

In his tribute before thousands of mourners who came from all walks of life, H.E. President Emmerson Mnangagwa of the Republic of Zimbabwe described the late H.E. Former President Mugabe as a revolutionary icon, statesman and all time commander who fought to free, liberate and empower his people.

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By Barbara Lopi & George Ah-Thew

Member States in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) must accelerate development of infrastructure projects to make SADC an eminent body that plays an important role in enhancing Social-Economic Development of the citizens of the region. Improved infrastructure will promote regional economic integration and poverty alleviation.

This is what the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, highlighted during his keynote address at the official opening of the meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Public Information, Transport and Meteorology, held on the 19-20 September 2019 in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication in the United Republic of Tanzania, Eng. Isack Kamwele, said ‘as Ministers, we have to play a critical role in ensuring that goals set by our regional body in developing infrastructure programmes are reached, and challenges faced by our four sectors are addressed’. In her remarks, SADC Director of Infrastructure Ms Mapolao Mokoena presented an overview of the Secretariat’s implementation of infrastructure programmes and urged Member States to continuously embrace innovative and emerging technologies and explore new ways to work more effectively and establish smart partnerships with the industries and the private sector to accelerate infrastructure development and regional integration.

The SADC region is currently implementing a 15-year Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) 2012-2027, which was adopted by the SADC Heads of State and Government at their 32nd SADC Ordinary Summit held in August 2012 in Maputo, Mozambique to develop infrastructure in key sectors, namely Energy, Transport, Telecommunications, Water and Tourism to facilitate regional integration. The Ministers received reports on the implementation of decisions taken during the last sectoral ministerial meetings, provided guidance and approved several decisions, frameworks to facilitate Infrastructure in support of regional integration and...
enhanced awareness and promotion of SADC Programmes.

In the ICT and Information Sectors, the Ministers approved the Multi-Stakeholder Intra-regional and Trade Facilitation Project which is aimed at promoting and facilitating the participation of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in the regional e-commerce ecosystem.

The Ministers urged Member States to provide access to their national public Television Channel via the Internet and mobile apps to enhance information dissemination, and to consider ratifying the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection which has set out obligations for businesses and organisations that collect, process and store individuals’ data.

In the Transport Sector, the Ministers reviewed progress on the implementation of SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan and noted the completion of critical infrastructure such as the opening of the new Walvis Bay Container Terminal in Namibia, and associated Dry Ports, rehabilitation and upgrading of critical sections of the Regional Trunk Road Networks in most regional corridors and the One Stop Border Posts at Kazungula which links Botswana and Zambia, the Nakonde/Tunduma which links the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia and the Mwami/Mchinji which links Zambia and Malawi.

In the Meteorology Sector, the Ministers urged Member States and Stakeholders to uptake the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) advisories, season early warning and advisories in decision-making and planning for multi-sectoral socio-economic development. The Ministers directed the Secretariat to accelerate the process towards the designation of SADC Climate Services Centre as World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Climate Centre, and urged Member States that are not International Organization of Standardization (ISO) 9001-2015 compliant to take necessary actions to comply to avoid being flagged as high safety risk zones.


The meeting was attended by Ministers or their representatives from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on 16th September, 2019 announced the official launch of the 2020 SADC Media Awards, with a call for SADC Member States to promote the competition among Media practitioners. The SADC Media Awards are conducted every year in four categories namely; Photo, Print, Television and Radio Journalism and are open to journalists from the SADC Member States.

The first prize winners of the 2020 Media Awards will receive their prizes and certificates signed by the SADC Chairperson during the opening ceremony of the 40th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in the Republic of Mozambique. The SADC Media Awards were established in 1996 to recognise best media work in disseminating information on SADC to support the process of regional co-operation and integration in the Region.

The following are the first prize winners of the 2019 SADC Media Awards; Ms. Doreen Nawa from the Republic of Zambia - Print Journalism category; Mr Royd Sibajene also from the Republic of Zambia - Photo Journalism category; Ms. Maria de Fatima Cossa from the Republic of Mozambique - Radio Journalism category and Mr Mallick Mnela from the Republic of Malawi - Television Journalism category.

The runners-up were; Print- Mr Pako Tswelelo Lebanna from the Republic of Botswana; Radio- Mr Butler Mhepure from the Republic of Zimbabwe; Television-Ms. Sasha Maria Schwendenwein from the Republic of South Africa and Photo-Mr Joao Gomes from the Republic of Angola.

More information and entry forms can be obtained from the SADC National Media Coordinators (SNMCs) in the Member States or SADC Website on this link (www.sadc.int). Completed entry forms, with all required information typed-in must be submitted to the SNMCs within Member States by 28th February 2020.

At the same, the SADC Secretariat also launched the 2020 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition under the theme; “How can a conducive environment for Industrial development and intra-regional trade, create jobs for SADC citizens?”

The topic was derived from the theme of the 39th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania held on 17th August 2019, which is; “A Conducive Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, Increased Intra-Regional Trade and Job Creation”

The competition is facilitated in collaboration with the Ministries of Education in Member States and the SADC National Contact Points (SNCP) for respective Member States.

The essay competition is open to all SADC Member States, and all essays entering the competition should be in one of the SADC working languages, i.e. English, Portuguese and French with write up of not longer than 1200 and not shorter than 1000 words. Entries for this competition are submitted through Ministries of Education from the SADC Member States.

Member States taking part in the competition receives cash payment of USD 1000 to be shared amongst the winning three (3) entries at national level as follows;

- Position 1; USD500
- Position 2; USD300
- Position 3; USD200

The regional prizes for the 2019 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition Regional winners were awarded as follows;

- Position 1; USD1500 - Abigail Larona Olerile of the Republic of Botswana
- Position 2; USD1000 - Svova Vongai Faith of the Republic of Zimbabwe
- Position 3; USD750 - Ruvina Daudi Warimba of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The deadline for submission of entries to the Secretariat is 30th April 2020.
Peace, security and economic development critical for the Democratic Republic of Congo to prosper

By Mukundi Mutasa

Peace and Security, political stability and economic development are critical elements for the prosperity of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This was said by the Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, during her meeting with the United Nations Secretary General’s Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Huang Xia, held on 26 September 2019 in New York.

“We need a holistic approach to address these issues - Peace and Security, Political stability and economic prosperity - because they are not isolated”, said Dr. Tax. The UN Special Envoy appreciated the meeting, which had been on the cards for a long time, and underscored that SADC remains a very important guarantor of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Great Lakes and the DRC.

The meeting observed that SADC continues to support and work very closely with the DRC government, and the combating the negative forces that are operating in eastern DRC remains a priority for the DRC and SADC.

Of note, SADC played a critical role in supporting the DRC during the December 2018 elections by, among others, ensuring that her territorial integrity was respected. As a virtue, SADC upholds the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the country. Dr. Tax also emphasised that the interests in the DRC are diverse with multiple players. As such, it is important to learn and understand the diverse interests and manage them for the interest of the Congolese.

On his part, Mr. Xia acknowledged that the countries of the Great Lakes Region have adopted stronger cooperation to address the challenges in their region. He indicated that his mandate will be guided by the work of his predecessors, and engaging with the stakeholders in the region, while noting that there is need to accompany and support the countries in the region in their quest for prosperity. Mr. Xia appreciated the work that SADC has done in the DRC that has resulted in the stabilisation of the country, as well as the overall regional stabilisation. To this effect, he assured SADC that his office will support the countries of the Great Lakes Region in addressing their challenges and ensure peace and tranquility prevails in the region.

Mr. Xia extended an invitation to Dr. Tax to the forthcoming Summit of the Regional Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, to be held at a date to be confirmed in consultation with the Government of the DRC; and to the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference to be held in November 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Dr. Tax appreciated the invitations, and emphasised that there was a great need to conduct an assessment of the previous Investment Forums so that the forthcoming forum will be results-oriented and that it attains the intended objectives, specifically for the benefit of the ordinary Congolese.

Both Dr. Tax and Mr. Xia agreed that their organisations will continue cooperating in order to ensure sustained stability, peace and security in the DRC, and by extension, in the region.

Dr. Tax was accompanied by the Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, Mr. Jorge Cardoso, and the African Union Institutional Reforms Expert, Mr. Mukundi Mutasa.
4th Industrial Revolution calls for Investment in Research and Innovation to support Industrial Development

By Peter Mabaka

One of the key messages which emanated from the discussions at the 4th annual SADC Industrialisation Week held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in August 2019, was that, Science and Technology is an enabler for sustainable social and economic development and poverty alleviation.

During the discussion focused on Science, Technology and Innovation, different experts noted that most of the challenges facing Regional Integration as identified in the Regional Indicative Development Plan (2003) such as Food Security, Energy, Water, Transport, Communications, Infrastructure and Human Resources development require scientific and technological approach and solutions.

South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Strategic Partnerships Manager, Dr Ndumiso Cingo made a presentation on Research and Innovation to support Industrial Development and leveraging opportunities of Fourth Industrial Revolution and noted that the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be driven more by the needs of the consumer, which are; convenience; customization and the user experience.

Taking his turn in the discussion, Dr Happy Marumo Sithole, Centre Manager for the National Integrated Cyber Infrastructure Initiative (NICIS) at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa, highlighted that development in Cyber-Infrastructure and skills is visible for research institutions and need to be harnessed for industrial development. He noted that cyber-infrastructure has the potential to play a critical role in enhancing industrial development within the SADC region.

SADC Member States participate in IPPC regional workshop for Africa

By Esaiah Tjelele

In recognition of the importance of managing pests and crop diseases, SADC Member States, on 02-07 September, 2019 participated to a regional International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) regional workshop for Africa in Nairobi, Kenya organised by the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of African Union (IAPSC-AU). The workshop was aimed at building the capacity of African Union Member States to effectively contribute in the development of newly proposed standards and to strengthen their capacity to improve their effective participation in the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to avoid pests and disease spread through trade.

It has been recognised that, for many years, most African Countries found it difficult to penetrate lucrative markets due to phytosanitary incapacities that lead to non-compliance in trade. The failure to fully implement ISPMs deprives member states access to international markets. As part of the workshop, participants undertook visits to two commercial farms producing cut flowers and vegetables to witness practical implementation of some standards. During the visits, participants appreciated the importance of engaging stakeholders that are involved in the value chains to realise proper implementation of standards under the regulatory authority of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO). Participants also took note of the need to celebrate the year 2020 as International Year of Plant Health which Ministers of Agriculture endorsed at their meeting held in June 2019 as a way of raising aware-
SADC pilots seed production using Harmonised Seed Regulatory System (HSRS)

By Esaiah Tjelele

On 9 September 2019, the SADC region marked a historic milestone in the implementation of the Harmonised Seed Regulatory System (HSRS) in Lusaka, Zambia following the commissioning of a 200 Metric tonnes of hybrid maize seed produced under HSRS, marking the piloting of seed production to facilitate Trade of registered crop varieties.

The event was a collaborative effort of the SADC Secretariat, Seed Trade Project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Government of Zambia and Seed CO. as a private owned seed company that has branches in most SADC Member States making it easy for the seed of high and known quality accessible.

On this day, people witnessed trucks loaded with seeds for export to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The piloting of seed production in Zambia is meant to provide lessons prior to upscaling and complete rollout of the HSRS to other Member States.

The seed Commission was graced by officials from the Government of Zambia led by the Deputy Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Morgan Malambo, the USAID Mission Director Mrs Sheryl Stumbas and SADC Director of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr Domingos Gove- Both the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) identify the provision of key agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizer and agrochemicals as critical towards increasing agricultural production and productivity to enhance Food Security in the region.

Harmonised Seed Regulatory System was developed by the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with Member States to facilitate availability and access of high and known quality seeds to farmers in a less costly manner, and to make it easier for new and existing crop varieties to gain access to SADC markets. Under the system, all seed regulating laws are harmonised to allow ease of seed production and trade, allowing seed to move quickly at a less cost to communities.

To date, there are 48 crop varieties registered through the system that will be eligible for trading in all SADC Member States.

SADC MS participate in IPPC regional workshop for Africa

Delegates posing for a group photo

The International Plant Protection Convention is a multilateral treaty signed by over 180 countries to develop harmonized standards to help protect terrestrial and aquatic plant resources from pests and diseases outbreaks. Currently 15 SADC Member States are contracting parties to the convention. It works through both regional and global platforms to ensure participation of stakeholders to define trade and ensure transparency.
By Abigail Larona Olerile

A fundamental way for SADC member states to move towards a sustainable development and reduce socio-economic vulnerability is through the implementation of an Agricultural Policy which will actualize resilient productivity through ensuring sufficient food supply and monitor function of commodity markets. Significantly, the member states could conceive youth-initiated led programmes where by the youth will be allowed to provide inputs on socio-economic and infrastructural priority issues and also invest in large infrastructural projects, reduce water scarcity by increasing recycling and reuse of water and provision of advanced sanitation methods to expose the population access to clean water. Moreover, expand the number of scholarships available in the SADC region and ensure higher education enrolment by making funding schools priority.

The member states could also harness the entrepreneurial drive of people with relevant skills for employment and upgrade labour sectors to encourage a lifetime of productivity. Substantially, allow the private-public sector engagement in rural infrastructural projects as well as promote development-oriented policies that will enhance productive activities through access to financial services. Improve equality by promoting access to fair and equitable sharing of resources. The member states could encourage diversification of higher levels of economic productivity notably in tourism to approach poverty crisis. Lastly, worthy of mention is extend technology development in modern energy services.

Youth-focused programmes are activities which target improving the lives of young people while Youth-led programmes are activities where young people are put in a driver’s seat in terms of decisions making, voicing their perspectives and providing high input on tasks. The SADC member states are eligible for bettering the lives of the region’s population through developmental projects. There is the Infrastructure Development Project which has been beneficiary to the population through making sure that solar energy is available in free supply, has reduced water scarcity through the facilitation of integrated water resources and protection of green spaces.

These have encouraged healthy lifestyles and enjoyment of outdoor entertainment which has kept young people from engaging in drug abuse. Agri-business projects which provide access to a scope in deriving livelihood from agriculture has alleviated food security within the region, and created job opportunities for the youth. The World Bank Great Lakes Region Trade Facilitation Project has advanced political stability and gave the SADC population the benefit of free trade. The existence of the Young Women and Youth Employment Project aimed at improving the ability of women and youth entrepreneurs has enhanced gender equality and has resulted in many young people becoming self-reliant from their governments.

Young people hold potential to become leaders of transformation, which is why it is important to expose them to good social and developmental programmes. Worthy of note is the rooting of empowering programmes where the youth will be advised on issues affecting them and provided with basic skills they can use to better their lives. Provision of advanced institutions where youth will be provided entrepreneurial skills so that they will be able to find jobs in better markets or create their own. Provision of free health facilities where young people can be addressed on how to live healthy lifestyles to prolong their lives. Development of poverty eradication programmes where the youth will be taught how they can unleash their potential for survival. Another key program which can sustain the lives of the youthful population is the youth rights protection which will anchor the youth and address issues concerning their rights.

Establishment of youth training centers where young people will be prepared for jobs they will take part in before settling. Implementing entertaining programmes which young people will enjoy and will keep them away from drug abuse. Improving their welfare by subsidizing and financing viable projects. Youth care assistance programs where youth are showered with decision making skills and counseling services and also providing equal access to resources for the youth. Rehabilitation centers where young people are helped to deal with drug addiction and lastly inclusive of all stakeholders in playing a part in harnessing the behaviour of the youth to raise their living standard.

The capacity of self-reliance is enhanced by particular skills one needs to deal effectively with daily challenges especially as a youth in considerate of the limited resources available. Growth in self-reliance begins with having entrepreneurial skills; youth can use this as a strategy to venture their ideas into a success with the benefit of private sector services. Effective communication skills; youth looking forward to being sole proprietors can use this to create a good image of themselves as they can find investors and attract customers. Creative thinking skill is a novel way for young people to endevour our accomplish able ideas, explore opportunities and how to come up with finances provided that one does not get funds from the government.

Another key skill is decision making; youth can constructively apply this by exploring their full potential, identifying which one is reasonably accomplishable and try it out yet focusing on the specific of how to do it if there was no institution to help out. Team work skills; young people can come together with chasm of how to do it if there was no institution to help out. Team work skills; young people can come together with chasm ideas and form viable business plans and fundraise in case their business plans need capital to commence. Problem solving; with this skill, the youth will be able to recognize and find solutions to the daunting challenges faced by them instead of letting the governments to find them out. Another essential skill is self-support; youth who have attained this will emphasize the need to consider what they can do before seeking

Abigail Larona Olerile from St Joseph’s College in Gaborone, Botswana won the first position in the 2019 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition.
SARPCCO reviews SADC Protocol on Control of Firearms

By Fernando Cumbe

The SADC Secretariat convened the 16th meeting of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) on Small Arms and Light Weapons from 07 to 08 August 2019, in Maputo, Mozambique. The meeting was preceded by the Task Team meeting to review and amend the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials on 05-06 August 2019.

In his remarks, the Guest of Honour, Mozambique Assistant Commissioner of Police, Dr Abilio Ambrosio reiterated the need for SADC to strengthen the fight against Transnational Organized Crime, in particular, Illicit Proliferation, Circulation, and Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, which he said, is a threat in the region. He said Organized Criminal Groups are armed to terrorize communities and therefore, urged Member States to strengthen coopera-

tion in fighting transnational organized crime. On her part, the Head of SADC Police/SARPCCO at the SADC Secretariat, Ms Thanyani Gumede, emphasized that the objectives of the Task Team and the RCC meetings is to review the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition, and Other Related Materials in line with SADC Police Chiefs decision adopted at their meeting held in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia on 06 June 2019.

She also highlighted that the process of reviewing the Protocol would culminate into a “highly comprehensive and holistic Protocol”. It will thereby respond comprehensively and effectively to the contemporary legal, operational and strategic challenges as well as emerging trends and best practices against proliferation of illicit firearms and conventional arms consistent with International Instruments, continental initiatives and regional strategies.

Besides reviewing and amending the draft revised SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials produced by the Task Team, the meeting also reviewed the status of implementation of the existing Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the Member States. The Task Team comprised of SARPCCO Legal Sub-Committee Members from ten Member States; namely: Republic of Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kingdom of Eswatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mozambique (host country), Republic of Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Zambia and Republic of Zimbabwe and Firearm Experts from Republic of Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Mozambique (host country). These were assisted by Technical Experts from the Institute of Security Studies (ISS), African Union (AU) and Small Arms Survey.

The SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, is a Legal instrument, signed by SADC Heads of State and Government in 2001. The objective of the protocol is to, among others, prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit proliferation, circulation, manufacturing of firearms and related materials. The protocol has not been revised since its inception in 2001.

The Task Team and the RCC meetings were constituted in line with the decision of the SADC/SARPCCO Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee at its meeting held in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia, on 6th June 2019. The meeting endorsed and directed the establishment of the Task Team to review the Protocol in order to:

- Broaden the scope of the application to include conventional weapons;
- Align it with the international conventions and incorporate contemporary best practices and standards for the prevention and combating of illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunitions and Other Related Materials.
- To effectively address contemporary legal, operational and strategic changes on proliferation of illicit firearms ranging from international instruments, continental initiatives and regional strategies that have emerged since its inception.
- To Address brokering and regulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and conventional arms in the region and strengthen information sharing mechanism;

Closing the meeting, the Guest of Honour, Commissioner, Timoteo Bernado reiterated the need to have ownership of the document and urged Member States to implement the revised Protocol once signed as it will address the gaps, limitations and challenges currently posed by the current protocol.
SADC convenes workshop on mainstreaming gender in targeted sectors

By Kefilwe Sebokolodi

A SADC Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Targeted Sectors, with 45 participants from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia took place from 8th to 10th October 2019 in Livingstone, Republic of Zambia.

The event was held to, among other things, raise awareness among targeted sector representatives on gender mainstreaming and conduct sector specific discussions as well as review of the 2008 SADC Gender Mainstreaming Resource Kit. The workshop was organized by the Republic of Zambia, through the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the SADC-Strengthening the National-Regional Linkages Programme (SNRL) - a partnership programme between SADC, the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. During the workshop SADC Member States were able to share experiences and successful initiatives on gender mainstreaming in the region. Furthermore, feedback was documented on the SADC Gender Mainstreaming Resource Kit in order to inform the review and update of the resource kit.

The event was officially opened by Mrs. Pumulo Mundale Moyo, the Director – Gender Rights Protection of the Republic of Zambia.

Remarks were also delivered by Dr. Joseph Pitso – Head of the Gender Unit at the SADC Secretariat and Ms. Sharon Simwanza – SNRL Programme Officer responsible for Gender, Outreach and Communication.

SADC National Committee holds symposium in Mozambique

By Kefilwe Sebokolodi

A SADC National Committee (SNC) Symposium with 200 participants from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia took place from 01. – 02. October 2019 in Beira City, Mozambique with the motto “Accelerating Regional Integration In The Context Of Climate Change”. The event was held in the Sofala Province, where one of the region’s key drivers for economic and social development being Beira Corridor Project is located, to illustrate the potentials that SADC can achieve through the construction, modernization and expansion of infrastructure.

The symposium which was organized by the Republic of Mozambique through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, SADC National Commission (CONSADC) in collaboration with the SADC-Strengthening the National-Regional Linkages Programme (SNRL) - a partnership programme between SADC, the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, created a platform for SNC Secretariats and other SADC structures to share best practices and lessons learnt and subsequently to develop and design standards for the effective and efficient operations of the SADC National Committee as prescribed in the SADC Treaty.

During the meeting SADC Member States shared their current structure, key challenges hindering operational efficiency of their functioning as prescribed in the treaty for the benefits of SADC Regional Integration (RI). Furthermore, Non-State Actors, who represent crucial partners in the shaping and implementing the regional agenda shared new possible avenues to explore and the challenges faced in achieving successful implementation of RI for their sector. The event was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique Hon. Maria Manuela Dos Santos Lucas, Permanent Secretary of the of Sofala Province Mr Rui Nanlipa, Institutional Councilor of the Beira Municipal Council Mr. José Moisés Manuel, Former SADC Executive Secretary Dr. Tomaz Salomão and SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs Ambassador Joseph Andre Nourrice.

GIZ Botswana
Meet the SADC Mascot

By Letso S. Mpho

The SADC Secretariat has launched a Mascot to enhance awareness and visibility of the SADC Brand.

The SADC Mascot which was launched in May 2019, is a visual representation of the SADC brand which will be used to engage audiences in an entertaining and memorable way, thereby creating awareness on SADC’s objective which is to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration.

Composition of the SADC Mascot:
The overall design of the mascot is a male lion which is depicted as the “King of the Jungle” in Africa, primarily in the southern part of the Sahara (Southern Africa). The basis of using the lion is that in the SADC region, it is the biggest attraction; hence, its attractiveness and beauty in the wilderness grow to be incredible. The lion as a dominant specie defines the natural habitat for most of the SADC Member States.

The characteristic of the citizen of SADC is derived from that of the lion, which forever represents strength, power and stateliness. The lion as the king of the jungle, has an important role in the food chain as well as in helping regulate numbers of dominant herbivore species, therefore its character can also be associated to the leading role of SADC as a governing body with a robust voice, stout leadership, authority and protective instinct. Embodied in a togetherness spirit, the lions hunt together, live in groups/prides which has a connotation on loyalty and unity envisaged within the SADC family through promotion of regional integration agenda.

The overall use of colour conforms to the SADC corporate branding scheme through usage of; navy blue, green and gold. The design also comprises a great corporate appeal with elements which embodies regional elements such as; maps, flags, logos and website.

The costume is appealing and durable and is designed from lightweight materials to help it lasts longer and the body is made from fur-like elements to symbolize the skin of the lion.

The mascot’s head is built from a steel-wire frame with chinstrap inside comprising a removable neck piece for easy washing. The hands and tail are attached with velcro and can easily snap making them easy to wash and replace. The feet are made from built-in strap system so that the performer can secure the shoes easily.
By Liwakala Mudengi

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat participated at the 2019 Botswana Consumer Fair from 26th August to 1st September 2019 in Gaborone and scooped a second price in the category of Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations. This year’s theme was ‘It’s more than just shopping’.

The Botswana Consumer Fair is an all-inclusive fair with the objective of creating an interactive forum for local and international exhibitors and visitors and the event attracts over 60000 show revelers. For the SADC Secretariat, the fair provided a platform to promote the SADC brand, and the programmes of SADC. The SADC Secretariat’s exhibition booth showcased information on the history of SADC, its vision, mission and objectives as well as promotional and information materials such as the SADC Consolidated text of the treaty, SADC Success stories, the Protocol on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation; the Protocol on Trade booklet on Member States Information among others.

Show revelers had an opportunity to interact with SADC staff who explained about the SADC Region and the SADC Secretariat’s mandate.

The SADC mascot, was a point of attraction to both kids and adults.
Mr. Jevin Ponisamy has been appointed as Senior AUC Liaison Officer at the SADC Liaison Office at the African Union under the Office of the ES. Prior to joining SADC, Mr. Pillay Ponisamy was a career diplomat for the Republic of Mauritius and has served in India and in South Africa.

Dr. Raja Sannassee has been appointed under the directorate of Social and Human Development as Senior Programme Officer — Education, Skills and Development. Prior to joining SADC, Dr. Sannassee worked as Professor, International Finance and Economics at University of Mauritius in Reduit, Mauritius.

Mr. Wazha Omphile has been appointed under the directorate of Policy Planning and Resource Mobilisation as Project Management Officer. Prior to joining SADC, Mr. Omphile worked as Project Management Office Manager at Debswana in Gaborone, Botswana.

Dr. Admiral Ncube has been appointed under the directorate of Policy Planning and Resource Mobilisation as IICB Coordinator. Prior to joining SADC, Dr. Ncube worked as Head, Field Planning, Projects and Partnerships at United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Gaza, Palestine.

Mr. Goitsemidimo Rakaru has been appointed under the directorate of Policy Planning and Resource Mobilisation as Project Management Officer. Mr. Rakaru worked as Technical Advisor — Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for OVC and Youth in Gaborone, Botswana.

Ms. Stella Mlombe has been appointed under the directorate of Policy Planning and Resource Mobilisation as Project Management Officer. Prior to joining SADC, Ms. Mlombe worked as Managing Consultant at Betty Educational Resources Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Ms. Ncobile Maseko has been appointed under the directorate of Policy Planning and Resource Mobilisation as Project Management Officer. Prior to joining SADC, Ms. Maseko worked as Country Director at Mothers to Mothers in Manzini, Eswatini.

Ms. Katlego Seotlo has been appointed under the directorate of Internal Audit and Risk Management as Internal Auditor. Prior to joining SADC, Ms. Seotlo worked as Manager Fraud Investigations at MTN Group in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr. Faizul Rahman Hassanally has been appointed under the ICT Unit based at Regional Peace Keeping Training Centre (RPTC) in Harare, Zimbabwe. Prior to joining SADC, Mr. Hassanally worked as Systems Analyst at Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation in Mauritius.

Compiled By Keletso Ramahobo
The Table below indicates the SADC Chairpersons from 1980 to 2019

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>1980-1981</td>
<td>H.E President, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda</td>
<td>Republic of Zambia</td>
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<td>H.E President, Dr Robert Gabriel Mugabe</td>
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<td>H.E President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela</td>
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<td>H.E President Prof Arthur Peter Mutharika</td>
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<td>2017-2018</td>
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<td>H.E President Dr Gottfried Hage Geingob</td>
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<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>H.E President Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli</td>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania</td>
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Compiled By Kitso Gosekwang
Source: SADC Summit Communiques
Messages of appreciation from the 2019 Media Awards and Secondary School Essay Competitions winners

**SADC MEDIA AWARDS**

"It is a great pride to receive a prize of quality and excellence for the contribution that journalism makes to the Society. A journalist is a Voice of the People and the award symbolizes the appreciation of a hard work of constantly seeking answers to the aspirations of SADC citizens. It’s time to do something to build a developed SADC region. Participate in the journalism awards 2020."

**MR. MAFUA DE PATRAI COSSA**
Republic of Mozambique 2019 SADC Media Award Winner - Radio Category

To view 2019 Media Awards competition visit the SADC website: www.sadc.org

**SADC MEDIA AWARDS**

"Winning the SADC award is encouraging and inspiring not only to you as a journalist but also to your country, as well. This prestigious award brings out the voice and vision of SADC and how working together can make you accomplished sustainability."

**MR. ROYD SELAINE**
Republic of Comoros 2019 SADC Media Award Winner - Photo Category

To view 2019 Media Awards competition visit the SADC website: www.sadc.org

**SADC MEDIA AWARDS**

"Looking back at my award winning story, one thing I have learned is that the awards focus not only on regional integration but on research-based articles too. I encourage my fellow journalists to put more effort on research. I can attest that the awards have elevated me to another level of recognition and respect and I now work hard on my massive."

**MS. DORENCHILUMBI NUNA**
Republic of Zambia 2019 SADC Media Award Winner - Print Category

To view 2019 Media Awards competition visit the SADC website: www.sadc.org

**SADC Secondary School Essay Competition**

"It was not easy. The amount of research I had to do on my research was a lot as well as consulting the information I had derived from my research. I remember sacrificing hours of my sleep. My special thanks goes to Mr. Mabula, my English teacher. Standing before SADC to receive this award was fulfilling, it was a moment filled with great anticipation."

**MISS AMILA LARONA OLOKWE**

**SADC Secondary School Essay Competition**

"My biggest inspiration came from the idea that by winning the SADC Essay, I was actually participating in the quest to achieve our region to reach a sustainable socio-economic development. My idea in the essay might not have been enough, but if we embrace the same spirit that we could gather the little that each of us have and come together, like a giant, let’s stand and work together."

**MISS RONIA FATHI VONGA**
Republic of Zambia 2019 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition - 1st Runner up

**SADC Secondary School Essay Competition**

"I am humbled to being among the winners of the 2019 SADC Secondary School Essay writing competition. All credit goes to my fellow students as a mark of a good gender representation in the primary sector of SADC who will enhance unity and cooperation of the community for sustainable development."

**MISS DEYNA SALI ADEWA**
United Republic of Tanzania 2019 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition - 2nd Runner up
The island with graphite, chromite, bauxite
God blessed us with some minerals we
can't even pronounce (huh, huh)
Malawi, I wanna visit the warm heart of
Africa,
Landlocked, beautiful people, with good
tasty fish called Chambo
I wanna escape there, they always make
me feel home (home, home)
Chorus
You know we are a growing economy, and
a united community
Everybody here hold hands do you feel
me? Huh
Southern African Development Communi-
ty (SADC)
In case you wonder when you see the
name on your TV
Everybody in the house put your hands up!
Throw your hands up! Put your Hands up.
SADC throw your hands up
Put your hands up, SADC
A for Angola, Ola, eu amo Angola
The home of diamond and oil (oil, oil, oil)
B for Botswana, blessed be this noble land
of diamond and beef
They have the best national parks, wildlife,
swamps, sand dunes, try their tourism
Pula, let there be rain (aah, aah)
C for Comoros, you know they stay busy
with great agriculture and fishing
Found across the Indian ocean, if you need
to get away, you should get it in motion
Democratic Republic of Congo, limitless
water,
Abundant deposits of diamond, copper
and gold (gold, gold, gold)
If I am looking down from the top of the
mountain, there is more minerals than we
can count men, like cobalt, tin, tantalum,
etc, etc,
The Kingdom of Eswatini, is the new
promise of Africa, let's go
Majestic in all its ways, rich traditions,
customs, royal friendly makes you feel
welcome
They will make you feel home
Lesotho, the Kingdom in the sky. What
else?
High hills, high-lands water reservoirs, and
another diamond hub, ah
And what about M,
Madagascar, spreading vanilla scents to the
whole world
The United Republic of Tanzania, Diamond
and tanzanite mining and
touring taking them higher and higher
Zanzibar is just another place I admire, I will
go there to fulfil my desire
Kilimanjaro give it a shot, let's climb up
Zambia, the real Africa, with people are
warm and friendly
They show love and do it immensely, One
Zambia, one nation, Chipolopolo
The home of the copper belt, platinum and
cotton are bread and butter
Animal reserves, game in abundance, the
tourist came are they loved it
Zimbabwe, coming up with diamond and
coal rocks
Beautiful natural wonders of the Victoria
Falls – “Mosi-oa-Tunya - the smoke that
thunders”, a shared heritage with Zambia, a
great symbol of oneness,
Spectacular waterfalls the world has ever
seen,
A stunning destination with amazing
attractions
Stunning destinations with amazing
attractions
Bridge
The Southern African Development
Coordinating Conference was established
on 1st April 1980 in Lusaka, Zambia and
was transformed into the Southern African
Development Community on 17 August
1992 in Windhoek, Namibia, to promote
development, integration, peace and
security, and socio-economic growth. 1
Region, 16 Nations working towards a
common future.
Chorus
You know we are a growing economy, and
a united community
Everybody here hold hands do you feel
me? Huh
Southern African Development Communi-
ty (SADC)
In case you wonder when you see the
name on your TV
Everybody in the house put your hands up!
Throw your hands up! Put your Hands up.
SADC throw your hands up
Put your hands up, SADC
Infringement of the SADC Trademarks

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Visit: www.sadc.int

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The Independence Day of Botswana, commonly called Boipuso, is a national holiday observed in Botswana on September 30 of every year. The date celebrates Botswana’s Declaration of Independence from the United Kingdom on September 30, 1966. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, fairs, picnics, concerts, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of Botswana. Independence Day is the National Day of Botswana. Previously known as Bechuanaland, Botswana gained independence from Britain on 30 September 1966 under the leadership of Seretse Khama. Khama was elected president by the National Assembly in 1966 and then reelected for two additional terms, until he passed away in 1980.

Botswana is rich of natural resources like diamond and today the country has achieved one of the highest per capita income rates in Africa. The earliest inhabitants of the region were the San, who were followed by the Tswana. The term for the country’s people, Batswana, refers to national rather than ethnic origin. Encroachment by the Zulu in the 1820s and by Boers from Transvaal in the 1870s and 1880s threatened the peace of the region.

Source: http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/botswana-independence-day/

Ganesh Chaturthi festival has been kept up in Mauritius since 1896, and with about half the population being Hindu today, it is the most celebrated holiday of the year. People immerse the idol of Ganesha in the sea, on the beaches, after a procession to the immersion spot of a particular municipality.

Or, the immersion can take place at a river instead. And sometimes, families have their own private immersion ceremonies as well.

Source: https://publicholidays.mu/ganesh-chaturthi/

Agostinho Neto was born in September 17, 1922 in the village of Icolo in Bengo province, Angola. Neto worked for the Portuguese Colonial Health Service until 1947. He traveled to Portugal to study medicine. While studying in Portugal, Neto made friends with other students from Africa and formed an Africa cultural society. Years later members of this group became leaders of anti-colonial movements in Africa.

Agostinho published his first volume of poetry in 1948 and this was followed by authorities arresting him for the first time. A series of arrests followed which interrupted his studies. In 1956, he joined the Movimento Popular da Libertação de Angola (MPLA, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). He was allowed to complete his studies in 1958. Then he returned to Angola with his new wife, Maria Eugénia da Silva. In Angola he set up a medical practice in gynecology. Agostinho Neto was arrested again in June 6, 1960 because of his campaigns against the Portuguese colonial administration of Angola. He late became president of the MPLA in 1962.

Source: http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/angola-national-hero-day/
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation entrenches the principles of Democracy and Rule of Law. The Protocol is operationalized through the SADC Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) which, among other things, guides key areas of political governance such as the standardised conduct of elections. The Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections 2015, is a comprehensive approach to assessing the electoral cycle, which is anticipated to enhance electoral integrity and contribute to conflict prevention.