In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly resolved to observe 15 September as the International Day of Democracy - with the purpose of promoting and upholding the principles of democracy - and invited all member states to bring strong democratic institutions based on shared political values, human rights and common agenda.
ABOUT SADC, VISION, MISSION, VALUES

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 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.

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.
By Barbara Lopi

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax on 8th October, 2018 paid a courtesy call on His Excellency President Dr John Pombe Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Incoming Chairperson of SADC.

H.E President Magufuli was elected as the Incoming Chairperson of SADC during the 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government which was held in Windhoek, Namibia. His Excellency President Dr Hage G. Geingob of the Republic of Namibia is the current Chairperson, while South Africa’s President H.E Cyril Ramaphosa is the current Outgoing Chairperson.

During the meeting which took place at the State House in Dar es Salaam, the SADC Executive Secretary, briefed the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC on the overall status of regional integration and the social, economic and political situation in the region, among others. As the United Republic of Tanzania will be the host for the next SADC Summit in August 2019, Dr Tax also briefed President Magufuli on the requirements and Minimum Standards for hosting the SADC Summit.

President Magufuli, thanked Dr. Tax for the briefing and assured her of Tanzania’s commitment to SADC and regional integration in general. Tanzania is one of the SADC founding Member States and remains committed to the objectives enshrined in the SADC Treaty; in particular, the promotion of sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development that ensures poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective of its eradication.

President Magufuli was Deputy Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation (Organ) from August 2016 to August 2017.
SADC Ministers for ICT, Information, Transport and Meteorology meet in Namibia

By Barbara Lopi

The Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Public Information, Transport and Meteorology from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met on the 27th September 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia, and deliberated on several issues of importance to the region in the four sectors in relation to Infrastructure in support of regional integration.

This multi-sectoral event was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, and was attended by Ministers or their representatives from Angola, Botswana, Comoros, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The meeting was also attended by a representative from COMESA Secretariat and representatives from SADC partners and implementing agencies from the four sectors, and was preceded by a three-day meeting of Senior Officials from the ICT, Public Information, Transport and Meteorology sectors.

In his Keynote address, the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, said in a speech read on his behalf by the Minister of Mines and Energy in Namibia, Hon. Tom Alweendo, that the ICT, Information, Meteorology and Transport sectors were critical in the interconnection for sustainable development in the region.

He said that while some considerable progress was made in the four sectors, much more needs to be done to provide the seamless, efficient and cost-effective services to the citizens of the SADC region.

The Vice President emphasized that it was important for the SADC sectors to constantly communicate what they were doing and their successes to the citizens of region so that they appreciate the role and relevance of SADC, and added that without effective communication, SADC will be misunderstood, and its achievements will remain invisible.

The SADC Secretariat Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr. Mhlongo presented an overview of the Secretariat’s implementation of programmes outlined in the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 to bridge the identified gaps, thereby unlocking the regional potentials in the areas of ICT, Information, Transport and Meteorology.

Dr Mhlongo noted that while SADC Member States either have transposed the SADC Harmonised Cyber Security Model Laws or have a cyber-security legal framework in place, the region needs to establish the supporting institutional structures and collaborative networks, such as the Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT) that will use the law to ensure the Citizens of SADC are protected whilst online and also ensure there was recourse should they fall victim to cybercrime.

The Ministers received reports on the implementation of decisions taken during the last sectoral ministerial meetings, provided guidance and approved several decisions to facilitate Infrastructure in support of regional integration and enhanced awareness and promotion of SADC Programmes.

In the ICT Sector, the Ministers approved the:

• SADC Broadband Targets for the region which include broadband goals to ensure that the region reach 50% household penetration of broadband, 60% of youth and adults with a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills, and that entry level broadband costing less than 2% of

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from page 4

the monthly Gross National Income per capita; and urged Member States to ensure that their National Broadband Plan or Strategy are aligned to the targets.

- SADC Rural Broadband Guidelines and Recommendations to ensure that all SADC Citizens in the rural areas have affordable access and benefit from broadband services.

- Recommendations on Cyber Security and SADC Regional Cyber Drill and the SADC Cyber Security Action Plan, which compliments the SADC harmonised Cyber Security Model laws, and includes capacity building, cyber drill, International cooperation and cyber security institutional mechanism such as the Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs)

- Harmonisation of Emergency Services Numbering in SADC for Police, Fire and Ambulance in line with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and international best practices to ensure that there is a rank in terms of priority and that a single Emergency Number ‘112’ is used for the Police, Fire and Ambulance services in SADC.

- SADC Resolution to operationalise the Implementation of the SADC Declaration on Fourth Industrial Revolution using ICTs for submission to the Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for ICT for implementation.

In the Information Sector, the Ministers

- Noted the progress made in implementing the Action Plan for the Revised SADC Communication and Promotion Strategy 2016-2020 (SCPS), and urged Member States to facilitate the entry of Journalists assigned to cover SADC programmes, events and meetings, including the SADC Council and Summits into their countries.

- recommended to Council to approve the singing of the SADC Anthem and hoisting the SADC flag alongside national flags in SADC Member States, during all SADC Meetings and national events and ceremonies to enhance popularization of the SADC identity, brand, and community building symbols, the Ministers

- urged Member States to promote singing of the SADC anthems in schools, and support implementation of the August 2018 Council Decision on the commemoration of the Southern Africa Liberation day, and the inclusion of the teaching of the Southern African Liberation History in the school syllabi of SADC Member States.

In the Transport Sector, the Ministers:

- Noted the performance of the Interim SADC Aviation Safety Organisation (SASO) and reiterated their decision urging the remaining Member States to sign the Charter establishing the SASO. SASO’s objective is promote the safe and efficient use and development of civil aviation with the SADC region.

- Congratulated the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia for receiving the award for attaining higher effective implementation levels in safety oversight, and encouraged Member States to continue improving the implementation of International Civil Aviation Organisation Standards and Recommended Practices.

- Urged Member States who have not yet signed the Solemn Commitment on Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) to do so.

- Noted progress on the implementation of the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP) which is assisting Member States to harmonise road transport laws, policies, regulations, systems and standards, and approved their programmes.

The TTTFP is assisting with preparations to enable legislation to give effect to the provisions of the Vehicle Load Management Agreement and the Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement.

to page 7
Malawi hosts SADC Command Post Exercise (CPX), Exercise UMODZI

By Jocelyne Lukundula

The Republic of Malawi hosted the SADC Command Post Exercise (CPX), Exercise UMODZI at the Malawi Armed Forces College (MAFCO), Salima Malawi which was officially opened on 8 October 2018.

The Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Malawi and guest of Honour, Hon. Everton Chimulirenji presided over the Opening Ceremony. The Exercise started with the parade of all the exercise participants (Military, Police and Civilians). The parade incorporated all troops and personnel from the SADC Member States as a sign of their commitment to peace and security in the region.

Delivering his opening remarks, Hon Chimulirenji stated how delighted and honoured Malawi was to be given the opportunity to host Exercise UMODZI and welcomed about 600 participants coming from the 12 SADC Member States (Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kingdom of Eswatini and Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe).

At the opening ceremony, the SADC Secretariat was represented by the Chief of Staff of the SADC Standby Force Planning Element (SADC SF PLANEML) and CPX Exercise Coordinator, Brig. Gen. Michael Mukokomani.

Delivering his remarks, on behalf of the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence-Tax, Brig. Gen. Mukokomani thanked the Government and people of Malawi for hosting the exercise and acknowledged the positive response of the Member States in their participation across the different components being the Military, Police and Civilian components. In this regard, the Chief of Staff observed that the level of...
participation was in fact, “indicative of the commitment Member States ascribe to conflict resolution initiatives and the strong desire to see the successful attainment of the envisioned Exercise UMODZI objectives.

Held under the theme “Africa for Peace and Prosperity”, the overall objective of the exercise was to practice and exercise SADC Standby Force’s Multidimensional Headquarters on the planning and conduct of Peace Support Operations in preparation for assuming the African Standby Force Roster from January to June 2019. The roster duties are undertaken within the framework of the African Standby Force (ASF) under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

The Exercise Director, Maj. Gen. Mhone explained that, the exercise started with the conduct of the Communication and Map Exercise on the 4th Oct 2018, and will then proceed with the actual Command Post Exercise which is scheduled to commence on 10 October 2018. The exercise is an assimilation of an African Union Peace Mission called African Union Mission in Kunta (AMIK). The exercise scenario conduct will start with the execution of a Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) under Scenario 6 which is a Peace enforcement mission and then transit to Scenario 5 which is a multidimensional Peace Support Operation in Kunta.

As stipulated by Defence Force Commander, General Griffin Spoon Phiri in his remarks, Exercise UMODZI was conducted to create a robust and credible SADC Standby Force that can stand the test of time, available and ready to respond to any compelling situation anywhere in Africa.

On 17th September 2018, the SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr Tax issued the Mission Mandate and Directives to Mrs Eunice Luambia, the Head of Mission for this exercise, in accordance with Article 11 of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation, relating to “Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution”.

In the Meteorology Sector, the Ministers:

• Adopted the resolution of the African Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) of the African Union Commission (AUC) to celebrate annually, the Africa Meteorology Day on 29 June, to promote awareness on the importance of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to sustainable development.

• Noted the important role played by the SADC Climate Services Centre (CSC) in generating climate and weather products through the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) and urged Member States to allocate resources to support the sustainability of the SARCOF process.

• Urged Member States who have not yet been certified as ISO 9001 2015 to take appropriate action to be certified to avoid their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services being flagged as high safety risk zones.
South Africa to host SADC Solidarity Conference with the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic

By Barbara Lopi & Innocent Mbvundula

Preparations are underway for the SADC solidarity conference with Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR)/Western Sahara to be hosted by the Republic of South Africa in December 2018.

The convening of the high level conference follows a decision of the 37th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in August 2017 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The conference will provide a platform for SADC Member States to discuss and adopt a collective sub-regional strategy and approach to the Western Sahara matter, and in particular, to dialogue with the leadership of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) regarding the current and emerging issues affecting the right to self-determination of the Saharawi people.

The conference will be at the level of the SADC Heads of State and Government supported by the Member States Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and with participation of the SADR leadership at the highest level, as well as representatives from other continental sub-regional organisations. At the their 38th Summit in Windhoek, Namibia, SADC Heads of State and Government noted that the Republic of South Africa offered to host the conference in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat.

The Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency Dr Hage G. Geingob underscored the need for SADC to convene the solidarity conference with the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic/Western Sahara, noting that that any form of colonialism represents a serious violation of national sovereignty and is in breach of international law.

The SADC Summit considered supporting Western Sahara’s right to self-determination based on the principles of decolonisation and self-determination which have guided the struggle for independence throughout Africa. “While colonialism has ended in the large majority of Africa, there is still one area that is outstanding. It is only fitting for the people of SADC to reaffirm their unwavering support and solidarity with the people of Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in their struggle to achieve their inalienable rights to self-determination,” said H.E. Dr Geingob in his acceptance speech at the 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government.

The High level conference is expected to conclude with a declaration which will highlight the SADC position on the independence of Western Sahara and a call to action.
**SADC Secretariat Monthly Newsletter Issue 9, September 2018**

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**SADC, Tanzania sign MoU on Pooled Procurement Services of Pharmaceuticals**

*By Innocent Mbvundula*

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Medical Services Department (MSD) of the United Republic of Tanzania on 9th October 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Provision of the SADC Pooled Procurement Services (SPPS) for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.

The Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax signed the MoU on behalf of SADC and the Director General of the Medical Stores Department (MSD) of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr Laurean R. Bwanakunu signed the MoU on behalf of MSD at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. H.E. Dr Tax described the signing of the MoU as a significant step in the implementation of the SPPS, which is anticipated to reduce the prices of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies by 40% by allowing SADC Member States to share pricing and supplier information to enable them negotiate for better prices for high quality medicines from suppliers.

The SADC Executive Secretary called on the MSD to fast-track all the necessary procedures to facilitate the operationalisation of the SPPS, as agreed by the SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV and AIDS at their meeting in November 2017.

On his part, the Director General of MSD, Mr. Bwanakunu expressed readiness to undertake the SPPS and noted that, procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies in large quantities from manufacturers and suppliers, will significantly reduce the prices for SADC Member States.

Prior to the signing of the MoU, the two parties agreed to make deliberate efforts to address the regulatory and registration constraints at Member State level and to finalise the Operationalisation Plan and Budget to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the SPPS. As of 19th September 2018, MSD had signed contracts with a total of 122 Manufacturers of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies and had purchased a total of health commodities worth USD500 million during the 2017/18 Financial Year.

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**SADC to hold Investment Forum in Moscow, Russia**

*By Innocent Mbvundula*

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax will on 23rd October, 2018 lead the SADC delegation and deliver a key note address at the SADC Investment Forum scheduled to take place in the City of Moscow, Russia. The SADC Investment Forum in Moscow has been organized by the SADC Ambassadors accredited to the Russian Federation with the aim of sharing with Russian Partners information on investment opportunities and investment climate in the SADC region.

The forum will be attended by representatives from the Government of the Russian Federation; the chamber of commerce and industry in Russia; the private sector from SADC Member States; and SADC ambassadors accredited to the Russian Federation to discuss regional Industrial Value Chains in Mining, Healthcare, Energy and Infrastructure Development and Finance and Logistics. The Directorates of Infrastructure, and Industrial Development and Trade at the SADC Secretariat will participate in the panel discussions and showcase investment opportunities available in the SADC region.

On the margins of the Forum, H.E. Dr Tax and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Hon Sergey Lavrov will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Basic Principles of Relations and Cooperation which will provide a framework for cooperation between SADC and Russian Federation for a five-year period.

The MoU between SADC and the Russian Federation is intended to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between the two parties in political, industrial development, trade, economic, humanitarian, scientific, technical, social, cultural and other fields with the aim of contributing to the vision of a common future that will ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the peoples of SADC Member States and Russia.

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*Dr. Tax (left) and Mr R. Bwanakunu*
SADC fisheries urged to create gender sensitive opportunities to improve livelihood in fishing communities

By Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo

Fisheries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have been urged to create equitable opportunities that takes into consideration the different socio and economic status of men, women and the youths in the fishing communities to improve livelihood security.

Delegates at a regional workshop convened by SADC Secretariat to validate the report on “Contribution of fisheries to food and nutrition security in the SADC region” said Member States needed to do more to create equal and equitable opportunities for women and youth through tailor-made support programmes that will also help in building resilience for their operations.

The workshop which was held on the sidelines of the 6th International Conference of the Pan African Fish and Fisheries Association (PAFFA) that took place in Mangochi, Malawi, from 24-28 September 2018 was supported by the European Union (EU) under the EDF-11 programme on the operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP).

Delegates from 13 Member States; Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and representatives from partner organisations like, the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), NEPAD Southern African Network for Biosciences (SANBio), Southern African Platform for Non-State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture (SANSAFA), South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and WorldFish, attended the workshop.

The workshop discussed how the SADC region can improve livelihood security and gender relations in rural and coastal fishing communities, through post-harvest fish value chain innovations and social change interventions.

The meeting further discussed the importance of recognizing the different gender issues in the fishing sectors, especially in the rural areas and coastal fishing communities add noted that generally, women played a role as workers in fishing, marketing and processing as well as caregivers to fishing community families. There is evidence that the women’s work, paid and unpaid, is often the single most important poverty-reducing factor in many countries.

Men tended to dominate commercial channels of high value species such as tilapia, perch, tuna and swordfish, while women mainly accessed lower economic value species such as small pelagics, for local markets and direct consumption. Women are heavily involved in the fish sector in the SADC region, accounting for about 27.3% of the total workforce in fisheries and aquaculture, and they are directly involved in fishing (3.6%), processing (58%), and aquaculture (4%).

In some SADC Member States, women play an important role in, not only in processing, where they are more dominant, but also in production, fishing and farming, as well as trading. For example women account for 79% of the workforce in DRC and 66% in Namibia.

The workshop noted that while there was evidence from the WorldFish Fish Trade Program that in the SADC region, a lot of jobs have been generated for women due to regional-oriented fish value chains, thereby helping to reduce poverty and raise incomes for women, in some of the SADC countries these new employment opportunities can tend to be precarious, especially for women and youth, as men tend to dominate the most profitable parts of the value chains.

The delegates noted that fisheries and aquaculture are critical to the economic development and food security of the SADC region.
A book on the shared resources of Lake Chilwa was launched at the meeting of riparian States of the Zambezi River Basin held in lakeshore district of Mangochi in Malawi on 27 September 2018. Titled ‘Socio-Ecological Resilience to Climate Change in a Fragile Ecosystem- the Case of the Lake Chilwa Basin’, the book is a seven-year research and development programme called The Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme, designed to protect the livelihoods of the population in the Lake Chilwa Basin and enhance resilience of the natural resource base upon which it depends, mainly fisheries resources.

The Lake Chilwa Basin in Malawi is an important wetland ecosystem of the Zambezi Basin, and shared between Malawi and Mozambique. It is a designated Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention and a Man and Biosphere Reserve designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This study provides a baseline and best practice guidelines for building resilience across the Zambezi River Basin, and will guide further implementation of the SADC Zambezi Fisheries Program.

Gender sensitive opportunities to improve livelihood

By Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo

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SADC facilitates co-management and value chains of shared fisheries in the Zambezi River Basin

By Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo & Dr Friday Njaya

SADC Secretariat convened a meeting of riparian States of the Zambezi River Basin in Mangochi, Malawi on 27 September 2018 to discuss the SADC Zambezi Fisheries Programme and develop a proposal for a project to strengthen co-management and value chains of shared fisheries resources of the Basin.

The Zambezi Watercourse is the largest in Southern Africa and one of the most important on the African continent. The watercourse embraces eight SADC Member States; Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

There are three major ichthyologic regions in the Zambezi Watercourse which have been created by waterfalls. Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River, Avumbu Menda Falls on the Kafue River, and Kalomo Falls separate the Upper Zambezi and Kafue Rivers from the lower parts of the system.

There are about 85 species of fish in the upper Zambezi River and 80 in the Kafue River. The middle and lower Zambezi River Basins have fewer fish, about 60 freshwater species, plus 15 marine species in the lower river. These provide economic, food security, social and environmental benefits to 40 million people living in the Basin and to many more beyond. The Basin covers an area of 1.39m km2 with over 100,000 km2 being at least seasonally under water. Total fish production of the Zambezi system is estimated at over 500,000 metric tons annually, with an estimated value of USD50 million, though much of this is unrecorded, and more than 500,000 people are directly dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods.

The entire fishery system – from production to trade – therefore needs to be resilient and able to adapt to such change in order to have a sustainable future.

Almost all fisheries in the Zambezi River system have experienced severe declines in catch rates, loss of larger, most valuable fish species, and increased use of environmentally damaging active fishing gears. The fisheries of the Barotse, Caprivi and Kafue floodplains, and lakes Kariba, Malawi and Malombe are all fished down. The concept of balanced harvesting with moderate effort has no relevance to these regional shared inland fisheries, where rapid human population growth and lack of alternative livelihoods for small-scale fishers means they have no choice but to continue fishing despite dwindling returns. In some areas, such as Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia and conservancies in Namibia, co-management with local communities has potential for success, but other fisheries, like Lake Malombe in Malawi, are so severely fished down that there is no prospect of recovery without radical restructuring of exploitation patterns coupled with habitat restoration.

In response to increased threats, the eight riparian States of the Zambezi River Basin have increased their efforts to safeguard the future of fisheries through policy development, reform of fisheries management frameworks, including promotion of ‘co-management’ approaches, better information management, and greater support to private sector investments and civil society activities.

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SADC urged to accelerate implementation of a single air transport market

By Kumbirai Nhongo

The civil aviation industry in southern Africa and the rest of the continent is projected to grow exponentially once the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) is fully implemented.

A joint meeting of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers responsible for Information Communication Technology (ICT), Transport and Meteorology, held in Windhoek, Namibia on 24-27 September noted that it is possible to attain double-digit growth rates in the aviation sector if the SAATM is operational.

Developing a single air transport market is an African Union (AU) initiative, whose goal is to accelerate the implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision, a treaty signed by 44 African countries to provide an open skies policy among Member States.

The full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the SAATM is expected to reduce aviation costs and make air transport services accessible to a wider population of business and leisure-related travellers.

The anticipated growth in air passenger volumes will also have the knock-on effect of accelerating the growth of the civil aviation industry at the regional and continental level. However, a report from the SADC Safety Aviation Organisation (SASO) shows that to date, only four SADC countries -- Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe -- have signed the solemn declaration on SAATM, a condition that has limited the expansion of the air transport industry in southern Africa and the continent as a whole.

As such the SADC Ministers Responsible for ICT, Transport and Meteorology has urged the remaining Member States to assent to the SAATM and enable the region to improve its aviation industry. In order to create a guiding framework for the implementation of SAATM at the continental level, the NEPAD Agency, AU Commission and the African Development Bank convened the Aviation Stakeholders Laboratory, which was held in the Ivory Coast in March 2018. During this meeting, stakeholders explored strategies to reduce fares and costs of travel by 50 percent so as to achieve double-digit growth in Africa’s air traffic by 2023.

In addition, the Aviation Stakeholders Laboratory came up with a draft SAATM Priority Action Plan covering the period 2018 to 2019, which SAATM signatory states have to consider for adoption and implementation. The action plan comprises six pillars, the first of which involves implementing advocacy programmes to encourage the full adoption of SAATM across the African continent. This would include executing a comprehensive communication strategy designed to raise awareness of the benefits of SAATM in advancing the continent’s air transport industry.

An additional pillar of the action plan focuses on setting up adequate SAATM infrastructure that creates the necessary architecture of the single African sky, while also ensuring that the entire industry has the capacity to handle the anticipated growth of air traffic in the future.
Value chains of shared fisheries in the Zambezi River Basin

In response to increased threats, the eight riparian States of the Zambezi River Basin have increased their efforts to safeguard the future of fisheries through policy development, reform of fisheries management frameworks, including promotion of ‘co-management’ approaches, better information management, and greater support to private sector investments and civil society activities.

The SADC Zambezi Fisheries Programme seeks to accelerate Member States efforts to address the above challenges. Its aim is to enhance regional food security and rural economic growth through sustainable, productive and resilient fisheries in the Zambezi Basin.

The programme emphasises the need for a resilience approach that results in demonstrable reduction of poverty, improved food security and rural economic growth through sustainable, productive and resilient fisheries in the Zambezi Basin.

The SADC Zambezi Fisheries Programme recognises existing initiatives in the Zambezi River Basin and seek to coordinate these efforts towards a common approach and align them towards achieving the common goals. Its objectives are to:

- Improve the knowledge and information base for adaptive co-management of shared fisheries resources;
- Identify and implement effective tools and approaches for addressing key management challenges for these resources;
- Enhance the market and value chains of the Zambezi fisheries through business-based innovations; and
- Strengthen human, institutional and technical capacity for adaptive co-management of shared fisheries resources and their market and value chains.

Implementation of a single air transport market

The fifth pillar of the SAATM action plan places emphasis on enhancing aviation safety and security with all signatory states being required to meet the Abuja safety targets as well as the Windhoek targets for security and facilitation in Africa.

The Abuja targets are aviation safety requirements that were initially adopted in 2012 and subsequently reviewed in 2017 by the African Ministers responsible for civil aviation to ensure effectiveness and relevance. The Windhoek targets were set up following a Ministerial Conference held in Namibia in April 2017 with the objective of reinforcing commitment by African states to enhanced aviation security on the continent.

Recognising that SAATM must operate within the context of a safe and secure aviation environment, SADC Ministers responsible for ICT, Transport and Meteorology also agreed that all SAATM countries must meet the Abuja safety and the Windhoek security and facilitation targets as required. The last pillar of the SAATM action plan looks into establishing an appropriate financing framework for the aviation industry. This includes mobilising resources to conduct a countrywide study on the benefits of aviation to Africa’s socio-economic landscape as well organizing a conference for resource mobilisation for the elaboration of regional and continental aviation infrastructure master plans.

In order to demonstrate the region’s commitment to SAATM, the SADC Ministers responsible for ICT, Transport and Meteorology, also agreed to the principle that all countries joining SAATM must comply with the seven concrete measures required to fully comply with the solemn declaration.

These steps include a requirement by signatory states to abolish any provisions in their respective Bilateral Air Service Agreements (BASAs) for intra-African air services that are contrary to the Yamoussoukro Decision and to SAATM.

(sardc.net)
By Panduleni Elago

SADC Secretariat participated in the 8th African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) which was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 5 - 8 September, 2018 under the theme Lead, Measure, Grow – enabling pathways to turn smallholders into sustainable agribusiness.

His Excellency President Paul Kagame, of the Republic of Rwanda, who is also the current Chairperson of the African Union hosted the AGRF which is considered to be the world’s most important and impactful forum for African agriculture, pulling together stakeholders in the agricultural landscape to take practical action and share lessons to move African agriculture. H. E Kagame reminded the Forum on the need to continue using the African Agricultural Transformation Scorecard as a valuable tool for measuring progress and results to keep the pressure to deliver to the citizens on continent.

The Forum aims to energize political will, discuss and commit to programmes, investments, and policies that can address the major challenges affecting the agriculture sector on the African continent.

The Forum’s discussion focused on three pivotal issues, namely, Leadership and Accountability; Measuring Progress; and Achieving Sustainable Growth, that are critical in transforming the continents agriculture and food systems. Delegates discussed the need to increase incomes, food security, improve nutrition and widen economic opportunities by strengthening ‘food systems’ and being innovative by considering state capability in achieving desired outcomes from agriculture, in terms of driving evidence-based leadership across the agricultural sector for sustainable growth and transformation.

The Forum agreed to have biennial reviews to monitor progress on implementing the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, in addition to the Inaugural Biennial Review (BR) Report launched in January 2018 at the African Union Summit. The SADC Region was instrumental in supporting its Member States to effectively and timely report to the first BR Report. The Forum highlighted the need for countries to invest in Data collection and packaging of basic data information by evidence to facilitate monitoring of progress to be reported on the African Agriculture Transformation Scorecard. The use of information and communication technology (ICT) for resilience building, private sector climate smart agriculture, youth programmes, investments in the under-five-years and spoil mapping all require investment to improve agricultural transformation.

Among others, the forum also discussed ways on Strengthening Local Capacities to Support the Design of Evidence-based Malabo Compliant National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs), taking into account that such will easily support reporting of the next Biennial Review which is due at the end of 2019. A key Outcome of the forum, that the SADC community need to tap on, is the African Youth Entrepreneurship. The Youth has been considered as a key driver to Africa’s agriculture transformation in the coming decades, hence the need to invest in Youth and their involvement in the agriculture sector, and ensuring that agriculture is more attractive and profitable for the young people.

There is also a need to equip farmers with what they need to succeed and connect them to stable food systems that can translate their abundant harvests into a wider assortment of affordable, nutritious food for African consumers. Close to 3000 delegates attended the forum which included 46 sessions and 350 speakers from governments, businesses, technical institutions, civil society, and farmer organisations.
SADC Executive Secretary Meets with the German Ambassador

By Peter Mabaka

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax on 26th September 2018 met with German Ambassador to Botswana and Special Representative to SADC, His Excellency Ralf Breth in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting was intended to introduce the new Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Botswana, Mr Fabian Kyrieleis, to the management of the SADC Secretariat.

H.E. Dr Tax welcomed Mr Kyrieleis and informed him that SADC Secretariat had a cordial working relationship with his predecessor. She also thanked German Government for the continued support to SADC, citing the recent financial support for the review of the SADC Industrialization Strategy to the tune of 310 000 Euros. H.E. Dr Tax outlined some of the key decisions taken at the 38th SADC Summit in Windhoek Namibia in August 2018 under the theme Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development.

The Executive Secretary said the SADC Industrialization remains a key priority for the development of the region and she added that SADC is coming up with the appropriate strategy to leverage implementation of Industrialization strategy with the Fourth Industrial revolution. On his part, Ambassador Ralf Breth underlined that strengthening SADC and other regional organizations in Africa is a priority for the German Government. He observed that the German priorities are closely aligned with the SADC priorities, which aim to improve infrastructure development, industrialization and market integration in southern Africa.

The two leaders agreed to continue exploring other areas for future cooperation. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Mubita Luwabelwa, Director of Policy, Planning and Resource Mobilisation and Col Wilbert A. Ibuge, from the Directorate of Organ in Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, both from the SADC Secretariat.

SADC saddened by Tanzanian Ferry Accident and death of South Africa’s Minister

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has said it is saddened by the tragic loss of lives in the Tanzania’s water ferry accident and the passing of Hon. Edna Molewa, South Africa’s Minister of Environmental Affairs.

The Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax sent her condolences to His Excellency President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, the bereaved families and the People of the United Republic of Tanzania for over 200 lives lost when MV Nyerere ferry capsized on Lake Victoria in 20th September 2018.

On the passing of Hon. Molewa, H.E. Dr Tax said the SADC region has lost one of the ardent champions of environmental issues. In a message to His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, members of the bereaved family, the African National Congress and the People of South Africa, H.E. Dr Tax said the SADC region will forever be grateful and remember Hon. Molewa for her contribution to the region.

The late Hon. Molewa passed away 22 September 2018.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) convened a regional consultative workshop on the development of a platform to facilitate exchange of information and cooperation between Wildlife Law Enforcement Agencies in Southern Africa towards fighting Illegal Wildlife Trade (SADC-TWIX). The workshop was held on 4-5 September 2018, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The mandate for the establishment of SADC-TWIX emanates from the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) Strategy that was approved by Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, in 2015, and endorsed by the Joint Committee of Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources and of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, in 2017. The LEAP strategy explicitly identifies the establishment of the SADC-TWIX system, an Internet tool for information exchange, amongst the law enforcement agencies in the region, as one of its key deliverables.

The SADC-TWIX system will be developed based on the European Union-TWIX system that is currently being used by law enforcement personnel from 36 countries across Europe and the AFRICA-TWIX involving 5 countries in Central Africa. Once established and operational, SADC-TWIX is expected to facilitate information exchange, as well as inter-agency and cross-border cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies in the region in fighting wildlife crime and enhancing the success of law enforcement efforts.

It is against this background that the workshop was convened to discuss and consider the idea of developing the SADC-TWIX. Among others, the workshop covered issues of administrative arrangements and hosting of the SADC-TWIX. The workshop discussed the type of information that SADC Member States would share on the SADC-TWIX system; resources required to facilitate the development and implementation of the system; as well as identification of partners that could support the development and management of a SADC-TWIX.

Eighty participants attended the workshop, representing SADC Member States, International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), Conservation and Law Enforcement Organizations and SADC Secretariat. The fourteen (14) Member States present were Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe from four sectors namely Wildlife, Police, State Security and Customs.

Organizations present were GIZ, US Department of State, TRAFFIC, Conservation International, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), UN Environment (UNEP), USAID Southern Africa, Chemonics-VukaNow and the EU-TWIX represented by Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI), an end user of the EU-TWIX system. SADC Secretariat was represented by officials from three Directorates namely the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs (Organ), Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) and Finance, Investment and Customs (FIC).

The workshop discussed and agreed on the road map for establishment and implementation of the SADC-TWIX. It also identified partners that could support the development and management of a SADC-TWIX including their potential roles and responsibilities. Recommendations of the workshop will be presented to the SADC Statutory Structures including, the Technical Committees on Forestry and Wildlife and the Joint Ministerial Committee of Ministers for Environment and Natural Resources, and of the ORGAN, for consideration.
By Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo

SADC Secretariat in partnership with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), NEPAD Southern African Network for Biosciences (SANBio) and WorldFish, hosted the “SADC Youth in Fisheries and Aquaculture Event” in Mangochi, Malawi, from 25-27 September 2018.

This event took place on the sidelines of the 6th International Conference of the Pan African Fish and Fisheries Association (PAFFA). The aim of the Event was to operationalize the 2018 SADC Summit theme of “Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” in the regional fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Twenty five young entrepreneurs from the SADC region attended the 2018 event, and they represented seven Member States namely; Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The event took place in the form of a training program, titled “Transformation of Aquaculture, Fish Processing and Value Addition in the SADC region”, in short AquaTrans, with the aim of equipping participants with skills to establish and grow businesses along the aquaculture value chain. The event focused critical success factors for establishing businesses along the aquaculture value chain; development of bankable business plans for aquaculture operations; identification of growth and expansion paths, and marketing and branding of aquaculture businesses.

Furthermore, the Youth for Fish Program focused on youth’s action in transforming the aquaculture and fisheries sector through research and agribusiness and:

• enhanced youth integration in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and their participation in the decision-making at policy level;

• provided a platform for youth to present their fish based agribusinesses for scaling-up, and for presenting their potential fish based agribusiness ideas to stakeholders for financing possibilities; and

• provided an opportunity for the youth to present research/scientific breakthroughs and innovations in the fisheries and aquaculture for increased fish production and supply.

The youth recommended that such events should be held annually in different countries of the region to provide a platform for more youth to be exposed to fisheries and aquaculture sector. The youth also recommended that SADC Secretariat should form a Youth Fisheries and Aquaculture Entrepreneur of the Year Award to further encourage youth excellence in the regional sector.

Some of the youth with aqua-businesses or related businesses

• Mr. Morena Khashane, a 31-year old South African founder of MK Enterprise, a Tilapia (Oreochromis niloticus) fish farm and aquaponics system. With a passion and interest in fish farming, with more than a decade solid hands on experience, acquired training at Stellenbosch University in Aquaculture Production Management and attend a training in Added Value and Marketing on aquaculture products at Fijo University in China.

• Ms. Tendai Gukuta, a 21-year old Zimbabwean student at the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT). She started OSPAS is a student business idea of producing tilapia and orange sweet potato vines using aquaponics at the HIT. The enterprise supply tilapia to Harare residents, supermarkets and to wholesalers. The system allows for use of 90% less water in a soil-less environment without use of chemicals and promote the concept of green production.

In support of the 2018 SADC theme, use the hashtag: #SADCYouthtalks and or #EngageSADCYouths
Bringing the SADC Secretariat recruitment processes into the 21st century with Sage SkillsMap

**SADCPilots e-recruitment platform**

*By Blessing Mapeture*

The SADC Secretariat has been managing its recruitment process using basic office tools such as emails, spreadsheets and shared folders. Although details of vacant positions are posted on the SADC Secretariat website, candidates are given postal address and email address to send their applications. This has served the SADC Secretariat to some point, but to enable growth the secretariat is moving to a better system that will allow the organisation to manage the recruitment process efficiently.

The recently adopted e-recruitment platform contains many modern tools that allow automated Curriculum Vitae (CV) parsing. The Secretariat and the candidate can track the application process and this functionality has removed the unnecessary administration burden on the resourcing team. The quick wins brought by the system will further enable the team to focus on improving the overall candidate experience and making consistent, quality hires for the Secretariat. Through the e-recruitment system, the Secretariat is now providing the prospective candidates with a modern, mobile-friendly careers site. The vacant positions within the SADC Secretariat can be accessed from the SADC Secretariat website under the employment section. The application process is an easy to follow process.

- Go to SADC Secretariat website, employment section (https://www.sadc.int/opportunities/employment/) or for internal applications only
- Follow the link to apply for the position and this will lead to SkillsMap
- Register and create a profile in SkillsMap
- Upload Curriculum Vitae (CV) or enter the required filled

For future positions, there is no need for the candidate to create a new profile or upload the CV, the candidates simply applies using the same CV or update as appropriate. The system has a lot of interesting features for the candidates including:

- Notifications to candidates for new positions;
- It is available on the mobile App;
- Interactive blogs and articles to build the candidate’s career including career guidance and skills assessment.

The SADC Secretariat resourcing team has piloted two (2) local positions and one (1) internal position for projects. The local positions were published in line with the SADC Recruitment, Selection and Appointment Policy and all applicants send their CVs using the e-recruitment portal. The recruitment team was able to see a short summary of the applicants: How many applicants qualified for the job, how many applicants did not qualify for the job, a total of how many applicants applied.

Candidates are also able to track their application process and receive feedback from the resourcing team using the email and sms functionality. Candidates can upload applications at any time even if there is no position meeting, their requirements and should the desired position arise applying to the position will be effortless just click the button and the application process is done. Furthermore, the system will notify when opportunities arise. There are free assessments on career guidance and various interactive platforms, linking candidates to their dream jobs within the SADC Secretariat and beyond. To find out more log on to: http://www.skillsmapafrica.com Based on the assessment results of the piloted positions, candidate’s experience and the gains attained by the resourcing team, it is anticipated that the use of e-recruitment will be extended to recruitment process of other Regional positions.

SADC Secretariat hosts a side event for Youths

*from page 18*

- Mr. Precious Sanjama, a 25 years old Malawian. He graduated in 2017 from Mzuzu University with a first class degree in fisheries sciences. Before devoting his full time to entrepreneurship, Precious was an intern at Ripple Africa where he worked as a field extension officer for the Fish for Tomorrow project. He is a fish trader, selling fresh Chambo (Oreochromis shiranus) and smoked Ndunduma. He is now starting up an aquaculture venture, through chambo pond culture system in Nkhata bay as well as M’chinji in Malawi.
- Ms. Mbumba Chalira, a 20-year old Malawian. She graduated in 2017 from Mzuzu University with a degree in fisheries sciences. Before starting up an aquaculture venture, Mbumba worked as a field extension officer for the Fish for Tomorrow project. She is now starting up an aquaculture venture, through chambo pond culture system in Nkhata bay as well as M’chinji in Malawi.
- Mr. Christy W Songola, a 23-year-old Malawian, with training in irrigation engineering. He is a co-founder and the current operations director for Agrinnovation Engineering Solutions. Agrinnovation Engineering Solutions is a start-up that provides services in irrigation and aquaculture engineering. The company is dedicated to promote technological advancements in aquaculture and irrigated agriculture, by providing technical and advisory support in the construction and maintenance of structures, and performing installations of various equipment that improve productivity in food production systems by both small and large scale producers.
- Ms. Mbumba Chalira, a 20-year old BSc aquaculture and fisheries student and a social entrepreneur from Malawi. She has started an aquaculture business in Ntchenachena Rumphi, where she is reviving fish ponds which were abandoned by fish farmers. She intends to run this venture in partnership with those farmers by turning the ponds into business units and providing technical and business skills to the community fish farming groups to meaningfully participate in the aquaculture value chain.
SADC Cultural Week ‘in Kuwait’

By Chidi Emmanuel

The embassies of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Kuwait held a cultural week in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) from 30th September to 4th October 2018. The SADC Cultural Week – the first of its kind in Kuwait was organized to enhance relations between the SADC region and Kuwait through cultural exchanges and to promote people to people cooperation, trade, investment and tourism.

There cultural week included an art exhibition, a food festival and community service and musical performances by musicians from the region among others. The art exhibition featured some designers, sculptors, painters and crafters from the region who had the opportunity to share with the members of the public the inspiration behind their artworks.

“SADC Cultural Week is aimed at bringing Southern Africa to Kuwait. We hope to enhance the brand of Southern Africa thus promoting tourism and cultural exchanges,” said South African Ambassador to Kuwait H.E Mzolisa Bona.

Botswana Ambassador to Kuwait Manyepedza P Lesetedi said during the launch of the event that, “Southern Africa is rich in culture, which is a source of pride for our people. Culture plays a critical role in the facilitation of the people to people exchanges and the growth of creative industries and cultural tourism as well as trade and investments in art which has proven beneficial especially to rural communities. The region provides a huge market which investors from Kuwait could benefit from. SADC region continues to experience steady inflows of foreign direct investments throughout its member states, owing to its relative stability and attractive investment climate.”

Information is power, goes an old adage

By Liwakala Mudengi

This old adage; information is power, has been around for many years. It means that information is more powerful than physical strength and no great work can be done without information. Information is a powerful aspect that empowers people and produces significant outcomes. The more information a person gains, the more powerful the person becomes. Over the years, there have been a serious debate in the information sector as to when information is powerful. Is it when it is with the creator/ preserver or is it when it is shared?

Power is the perception that one possesses superior skills or knowledge. Informational power is where a person possesses needed or wanted information which has capacity to advance entities into greater heights. But it is a short-term power when it doesn’t necessarily influence or build credibility. In other words, information is powerful when it is shared. When information is shared the likelihood of reinventing the wheel is eliminated and with that, comes saving time and resources.

When power is shared, ideas and dreams come to life; to a small enterprise farmer, a fisher etc, shared information means a lot and will assist in various ways as, support, help, advice, assistance and guidance. The SADC Secretariat as an administrative arm of the SADC strives to influence policies, produces technical papers in order to support decision makers from different sectors and also assist grass level participants in various projects to advance their socio-economic activities. In doing this there is accumulation of a huge technical reports and the institution becomes the reliable hub of information in the Region.

The Library at the SADC Secretariat collects information, organises this information so that its power should be rightly appreciated. The library hosts information from different sectors of the Region, e.g mining, agriculture, fisheries etc. The Library is inviting users to access information from the SADC Library and also encouraging those that have published work related to SADC to share it so that the SADC Secretariat can grow its collection of relevant publication and materials.
The 38th SADC Summit theme (August 2018 - August 2019) “Promoting Infrastructural Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”. The theme was proposed by the Republic of Namibia, in its capacity as incoming Chairperson of SADC, and endorsed by the 38th SADC Summit. The theme takes forward the SADC industrialization agenda, while focusing on three main elements which are infrastructure development, youth empowerment and sustainable development.

Outgoing SADC Deputy Executive Secretary-Corporate Affairs (DES-CA) Ms. Emilie Ayaza Mushobekwa formally handed over her office to the new DES-CA, Ambassador Joseph Andre Nourrice of the Republic of Seychelles who was sworn-in at the 38th SADC summit held in August 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia. Ms. Mushobekwa, a national of the Democratic Republic of Congo has served in the capacity of SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs for eight years, having been appointed by the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in August 2010, in Windhoek, Namibia.

A delegation from Kenya’s Parliamentary Select Committee on Regional Integration visited SADC Secretariat to learn how SADC is addressing SADC Free Trade Area, intra-regional trade, reduction of Non-Tariff Barriers; and implementation of the Customs Union. In the photo are officials from Kenya and the SADC Secretariat (from left to right): Mr. Sadwick L. Mtonakutta, Director of Finance, Investment and Customs; Ms. Kirrinkol Ann Siaito, Kenyan Parliamentary Official; Hon. Teyiia Janet Marania (Member of Parliament), Member of Select Technical Committee; Hon. Obo Ruweida (Member of Parliament), Member of Select Technical Committee and Head of Delegation; Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Regional Integration; Mr. Moise Kefa Misaka Omoti, Kenyan Parliamentary Official; and Ms. Barbara Lopi, SADC Head of Communication and Public Relations.
The following SADCC/SADC milestones 2000–2004 were achieved at the following SADCC/SADC Summits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Place</th>
<th>Milestones Achieved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 – 7 August 2005 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Former President of South Africa, Mr Nelson Mandela is presented with the Sir Seretse Khama Medal for excellent service as the first black President of South Africa and for contributions made to the SADC region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 – 7 August 2005 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>A Memorandum of Understanding is signed between SADC and the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th March 2001 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Summit agrees on a Common Agenda with three priority areas: – Promotion of sustainable and equitable growth and socio-economic development, Promotion of common political values and the consolidation and maintenance of democracy, peace and security</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th March 2001 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Summit directs the preparation of a Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan to address the strategic priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th March 2001 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Summit formalises the Troika system and directs that it operates at level of Summit, Organ on Politics Defence and Security, Council and Standing Committee of Officials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th March 2001 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Integrated Committee of Ministers is established to oversee core areas of integration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th March 2001 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Summit creates the Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Development and Policy Harmonization to strengthen Secretariat’s planning, gender mainstreaming, management and harmonization of policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th March 2001 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Summit creates following Directorates at the Secretariat: Trade &amp; Industry, Finance and Investment; Infrastructure and Services; Food Agriculture and Natural Resources; Social and Human Development and Special Programmes and directs that existing Commissions and Sectors in member States be phased out within 2 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th March 2001 Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Summit appoints Dr Prega Ramsamy, a citizen of Mauritius as the Executive Secretary of SADC for a period of four years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 – 3 October 2002 Luanda, Angola</td>
<td>Winners of the 1st SADC Media Awards Competition are awarded with prizes and certificates for submitting best printed articles on SADC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th July 2003 Summit on HIV/AIDS Maseru, Lesotho</td>
<td>Summit also adopts and signs the Maseru Declaration on the Fight against HIV/AIDS in the SADC Region</td>
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<td>25th to 26th August 2003 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</td>
<td>Summit approves the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO).</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th May 2004 Summit on Agriculture and Food Security Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</td>
<td>Summit adopts and signs the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC region which reaffirms commitment to accelerated agriculture development and sustainable food security.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 – 17 August 2004 Grand Baie, Mauritius</td>
<td>Summit considers the application for membership from Madagascar and decides to accord it “candidate membership status” for a period of one year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 – 17 August 2004 Grand Baie, Mauritius</td>
<td>Summit approves the SADC Anthem.</td>
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Source – SADC Summit Communiques

To be continued in the next issue
Compiled by Anne Kulemeka
FOOD SECURITY

In March 2017, the Council of Ministers approved the SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (2017-2022) which operationalizes the objectives of the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP). The RAP is aimed at increasing agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness; increasing access to markets and trade for agricultural products; increasing investments in and access to finance for agriculture; reducing social and economic vulnerability in the region; and improving food and nutrition security in the SADC Region.

MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018

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<tr>
<th>HOLIDAY</th>
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<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Botswana</td>
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<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
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<td>Independence Day</td>
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<td>Lesotho</td>
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<td>Peace and Reconciliation Day</td>
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<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Nyerere Day</td>
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<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>Mothers’ Day</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
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<td>National Day of Prayer</td>
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<td>Zambia</td>
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<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
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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 March 31, 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. About half the country today is ethnic 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: https://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/