Zimbabwe has new President

His Excellency, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

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H.E. Mnangagwa is new President of Zimbabwe

By Letso S. Mpho

His Excellency, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, was sworn in on the 24th of November 2017 at Harare National Sports Stadium as the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe. He is the country’s second President since Zimbabwe’s independence in 1980. President Mnangagwa takes over from former President Dr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe who led the country from 1980 to 2017, serving as Prime Minister from 1980 to 1987 and as President from 1987 to 2017.

Former President Mugabe resigned from the Presidency on 21st November 2017. In his resignation letter to the speaker of Parliament, Jacob Mudenda which was read out in Parliament, the former President said, “my decision to resign is voluntary on my part and arises from my concern for the welfare of the people of Zimbabwe and my desire for a smooth, non-violent transfer of power.”

In his inauguration speech, the new Zimbabwean President promised to serve the country as the leader of all the people of Zimbabwe, regardless of colour, creed, region, tribe, totem or political affiliation. He also paid homage to the former president whom he referred to as an icon and “the only surviving father of the Zimbabwean nation.”

President Mnangagwa promised that complex issues such as that of the land tenure will have to be addressed urgently and definitively, to ensure finality and closure to the ownership and management of the key resource, which was central to national stability and sustenance of economic recovery.

He also promised to lead the Zimbabwean people into a “new and unfolding democracy”, and underscored the need for unity among all Zimbabweans in growing the economy and ensuring peace and prosperity in their country.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax sent congratulatory message to the new Zimbabwean President and assured him that as he embarks on new responsibilities and faces the challenges that lie ahead, the SADC secretariat was committed to work with him, to page 3
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SADC Secretariat Monthly Newsletter  Issue 11, November 2017

People of Zimbabwe during President Mnangagwa’s inauguration ceremony

PHOTO COURTESY OF NAJANEWS.COM

H.E. Mnangagwa is new President

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Robert Mugabe founded the now ruling political party, the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), a resistance movement against British colonial rule. Mugabe later became the Prime Minister of the new Republic of Zimbabwe on 18 April 1980 after British rule ended, and he assumed the role of president seven years later.

Among the major achievements of the liberation icon during the 37 years of his reign, was the rolling out of a free education system resulting in Zimbabwe becoming one of the countries with high literacy rates in Sub-Saharan Africa, averaging above 90 percent of the population over the greater part of the past 30 years.

The former President is also credited with the programme of giving land to landless Zimbabweans that was pursued by the Government since 2000, with multitudes of the indigenous communities benefiting from the land reform programme.

Dr Mugabe also championed the economic indigenization programme, introduced in 2010, where he ensured that indigenous Zimbabweans benefited from the exploitation of the natural resources of the country.

Dr Mugabe will be remembered by SADC as an exemplary freedom fighter in the liberation struggle for Zimbabwe’s independence and as one of the Founding Fathers of SADC. He was Chairperson of SADC, between 2014 and 2015, wherein he steered the development and adoption of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063). Through the Strategy, President Mugabe envisaged the transformation of SADC economies from being raw resource-dependent to economies that benefit from value-addition and beneficiation, and economies that are technology driven.

During his last visit to the SADC Secretariat Headquarters in May 2015 Dr Mugabe urged Secretariat staff to always work towards fulfillment of the visions of the founding fathers of SADC. “As we forge ahead, let us all work towards the fulfillment of our vision by building a region in which there will be a high degree of integration and harmonisation,” Dr Mugabe said.

The Secretariat wished the veteran icon a joyous, happy retirement and good health.

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“Zimbabwe has been very instrumental in steering SADC’s regional cooperation, development and integration agenda, and in 2015, during its Chairpersonship tenure, the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) was developed and adopted.” She stated.

She indicated that SADC was looking forward to Zimbabwe, under the leadership of President Mnangagwa, to continuing driving forward technological and socio-economic transformation of SADC economies, through Industrialization, which remains a key priority to SADC. The SADC Secretariat also expressed its gratitude to the people of Zimbabwe for conducting themselves in a steady, mature and peaceful manner during the historic transition and transfer of power that the SADC Region, the African continent, and the world had witnessed unfolding.

Meanwhile, SADC has thanked the former President of Zimbabwe, Dr Mugabe for his lifetime commitment to serving Zimbabwe and the SADC region. In a statement issued by the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax following Dr Mugabe’s resignation, SADC said that the region values the contribution of Dr Mugabe, and has benefited from his championing of Pan-Africanism, and promotion of regional co-operation, development and integration.

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Preventive Mission being launched in the Kingdom of Lesotho

SADC Preventive Mission in Lesotho launched

By Jocelyne Lukundula

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Preventive Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho (SAPMIL) was officially launched by the Representative of the Chairperson of Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Admiral Gasper Rufino on 2nd December 2017, at the VODACOM Park Grounds in Maseru, Lesotho.

The launch was attended by Acting Prime Minister of Lesotho, Honourable Monyane Moleleki and the SADC Executive Secretary was represented by the SADC Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, Mr Jorge Cardoso.

In delivering his remarks, Director Cardoso expressed his gratitude to the acting Prime Minister and the Government of Lesotho for their commitment shown towards the implementation of SADC decisions that aim at assisting Lesotho to return to normalcy in its political and security situation. He further recalled the different preliminary actions taken by SADC leadership that led to the official launch of the mission on this day.

The Acting Prime Minister Hon. Moleleki conveyed his gratitude to countries of the region that deployed their personnel to Lesotho in order to secure a stable and peaceful environment to restore the stability of the country: “your presence here today bears witness to yet another historic and firm resolve by SADC to support the Kingdom of Lesotho in her quest to institute reforms aimed at achieving lasting political and security, necessary for economic development and the general well-being of Basotho,” he said.

In his official opening remarks, the Representative of the Chairperson of Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, State Secretary of Defence of the Republic of Angola, Admiral Gaspar dos Santos Rufino, thanked the Government and the people of Lesotho for warmly welcoming SAPMIL personnel. He assured them that SAPMIL was deployed to support the Kingdom of Lesotho in its quest to restore peace, security and stability to the country and not to takeover or replace the Lesotho Defence Force or other security institutions of Lesotho. Therefore, it should not be considered as an intruder or an invader but rather like brothers and sisters from the region willing to assist Basotho. He finally expressed optimism that at the end of the Mission both SADC and the Kingdom of Lesotho will win.

Prior to the re-hatting of the contingent and the inspection of the contingent by the Head of SAPMIL, Admiral Rufino officially opened the SAPMIL Headquarters by the hoisting the SADC Flag, accompanied by the Acting Prime Minister of Lesotho, Honourable Monyane Moleleki, and the Representative of the SADC Executive Secretary, Mr. Jorge Cardoso.

Admiral Rufino also handed over the SADC flag to the Head of mission, Ambassador Matias Matondo signifying the handing over of power to enable the Head of Mission direct and supervise the SAPMIL.

SAPMIL comprises of 269 personnel: 207 Military personnel, 15 Intelligence officers, 24 Police officers; and 12 Civilian experts in different fields. The team will be on the ground for an initial period of 6 months. It has been deployed for a period on initial six months subject to extension.

The mission was launched following the decision of the Double Troika Summit (DTS) of 15th September 2017 to deploy a Contingent Force to the Kingdom of Lesotho in order to facilitate a secure, stable and peaceful environment conducive for the Rule of Law necessary for the implementation of SADC decisions, including the Security Sector Reforms. The DTS decision also followed a request from the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

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SADC ES wants to see deepened regional economic integration

By Barbara Lopi

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax says her desire is to see that social regional economic integration is deepened, and a peaceful and stable political environment prevail in the region.

Dr Tax said this during an exclusive interview with Dr Amaleya Goneos-Malka on Channel Africa’s Womanity—Women in Unity radio program which was aired on 30th November 2017. The full interview can be listened to from this link: https://iono.fm/e/507263

Dr Tax explained, that since the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 was adopted in 2015, the region has attained several milestones which included identification of agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, energy and pharmaceuticals as priority areas to collaborate on, with the private sector for effective industrialisation. Dr Tax added that the level of industrialization and economic development in the SADC region depends on the development of infrastructure and interconnections between, and among Member States.

Dr Tax said that to promote industrialisation, trade among Member States, and development of infrastructure and interconnections between, and among Member States, SADC in collaboration with International Cooperating Partners is facilitating implementation of the following regional projects:

- Kazungula Bridge and One Stop Border Post project whose objective is to improve transport transit facilitation for effective trade and movements of good and services within the SADC region.
- The Chirundu One Stop Border Post (OSBP), serving, Zambia and Zimbabwe which has now given the impetus to develop more fully functional OSBP along the North-South Corridor in SADC, covering eight Members, as one of the major tools to tackle impediments to the growth of regional trade based on regional value chains and value addition.
- The Mozambique-Malawi Interconnector power transmission construction project of 200km, of which 124km is in the Mozambique territory and 76km in Malawi territory, of capacity 400 kV. The project will expand the regional power transmission network in accordance with the objectives of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).
- Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya (ZTK) Power Interconnection project whose objective is to improve power transmission and power trade in the region with the East African Power Pool, by linking the
SADC ES wants to see deepened regional economic integration

SADC Countries in SAPP with the EAPP. It will allow linking Kabwe to Isinya in Kenya, and has approximately 1000km of which 110km will be in Tanzania and 900km in Zambia.

- Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Project whose objective is to meet pressing water needs for domestic and industrial purposes in Botswana, as well as meet water supply needs in parts of Lesotho and South Africa. The Project will involve construction of a dam in Lesotho and a pipeline through South Africa and using some of the natural channels enroute to Botswana.

- Congo basin Water Transfer Project which is intended to transfer water from the Congo River to water deficient SADC countries.

- Angola-Zambia-Tanzania Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Intra-SADC connectivity Link project whose objective is to bring Bandwidth from Submarine cables from both Western and Eastern Coasts into the SADC region. Angola, Tanzania and Zambia are participating in the project which aims to increase resilience of Internet broadband within the SADC region thereby making the cost of doing business in the region cheaper.

- Shared SADC Satellite Network Development project whose objective is to ensure affordable satellite-based connectivity solutions are in place for remote areas outside the near term reach of fibre infrastructure.

The Satellite network will include connecting Research and Development Centres, Schools, Meteorology Stations, Border Posts, Clinics, Emergency Services, Postal Branches and remote Government offices in the region. It will benefit all the SADC Member States.

SADC, SNMCs agree to forge collaboration to enhance visibility

By Innocent Mlwundula

The Public Relations Unit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and the SADC National Media Coordinators (SNMCs) have committed to strengthen their collaboration in the promotion of SADC visibility to enhance regional cooperation, development and integration.

During the Capacity Building workshop for the SADC National Media Coordinators held on 28 – 30, November 2017 at the SADC Secretariat, the two sides shared the need to work closely in exchanging information, tapping into and maximizing the use of the existing communication channels in Member States and SADC Secretariat in order to expand reach of SADC messages.

SADC National Media Coordinators comprise on directors and/or senior officers responsible for public media management and development in the ministries responsible for public information and broadcasting in SADC Member states, whose mandate is to, among others, facilitate promotion of SADC programmes and events at the national level in the SADC Member States.

The purpose of the three-day workshop was to strengthen partnerships with SNMCs as information intermediaries that support the promotion of SADC’s vision, goals and achievements in a larger effort to enhance visibility and awareness of SADC’s regional integration agenda among its citizens.

The workshop was held as part of the activities to facilitate the implementation of the Revised SADC Communications and Promotional Strategy 2016-2020, which was approved by the SADC Summit in August 2016.
In her welcome remarks, Head of Communications and Public Relations Unit at the SADC Secretariat, Ms. Barbara Lopi said, “it is within our mandate as the Secretariat of the SADC, to coordinate and implement the revised SADC Communications and Promotional Strategy and afford the people of the SADC Region the opportunity to contribute to the rolling out of the Regional agendas through efficient and effective communication and information flow”.

She said the SADC Secretariat values the important role that the Media and SNMCS play in driving the SADC Agenda by enhancing awareness of SADC as espoused in the SADC Communications and Promotional Strategy.

Mr William Baloyi National Media Coordinator from the Republic of South Africa, commended the SADC Secretariat for organizing the workshop, saying it offered an opportunity for networking and sharing of information between the SNMCS from different Member States.

During the workshop participants discussed a wide range of topics that included the roles and responsibilities of both the SADC Secretariat and the SNMCS; the use and the power of the social media as evidenced by the reach of SADC Success Stories social media campaign. The SNMCS were also briefed on the contents of the revised SADC Corporate and Identity Manual which is currently in final production stage and the proposed SADC TV Bouquet.

To enhance the level of awareness of SADC programmes among the SNMCS, SADC directorates and units were invited to an interactive session where they made presentations on the SADC structures and mandates of their programmes.

The delegates noted that the workshop enabled them to understand and appreciate the mammoth worth that the secretariat was playing to facilitate implementation of the SADC Summit and Council decisions, as well as the SADC regional agenda and programmes.

The workshop was held with support from the “Strengthening the National-Regional Linkages in SADC” (SNRL), a programme between SADC and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.
Question & Answer with Ms. Anneline Morgan

In May 2011, the SADC Ministers responsible for science, technology and innovation in Windhoek, Namibia, endorsed the recommendations of the first SADC Women in Science Workshop which took place in Durban, South Africa in April 2010 to form national and regional platforms for women in science, engineering and technology and develop a Charter establishing SADC women in science, engineering and technology organisation (WISETO) as a Subsidiarity Organisation within SADC. In this Q & A column, Innocent Mbvundula (IM) asks Ms. Anneline Morgan (AM), Senior Technical Advisor: Science, Technology & Innovation at the SADC Secretariat about the Charter and WISETO.

IM: What necessitated the development of the Charter to establishing WISETO?

AM: The establishment of the proposed SADC WISETO was necessitated by the realisation that there is a need to promote women in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in line with Article 3(e) of the SADC Protocol on Education and Training. In addition, the decision to establish WISETO was based on the Resolution of the inaugural African Union (AU) Conference of African Women in Science and Technology that took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2007 whose purpose was to form continental and regional platforms to promote women in science and technology in line with the January 2007 AU Summit Decision of Heads of State and Government.

IM: What are the main objectives of WISETO?

AM: Among other things, WISETO will aim to promote gender mainstreaming in science, engineering, technology and innovation; promote, strengthen and empower women’s participation and development in science, engineering and technology sectors; commission research and studies including consultancies, in cooperation with individual or groups in National Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WISET), on key issues relevant to the improvement of women participation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the SADC Region and build capacity of Members of National Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Chapters (NWIST) in the Member States and organise conferences, seminars and workshops on research and research skills for women and girls in STI and SADC women entrepreneurs.

IM: At operational level, how is WISETO going to work?

AM: The SADC WISETO Secretariat will be hosted by SADC Member States. Membership to the SADC WISETO will be SADC Member States represented by their respective NWIST Chapters and will comprise women in all fields of STEM. The NWIST shall be responsible for coordinating activities in women in science, engineering and...
UNICEF and SADC partnership bears fruits

By Letso S. Mpho

The SADC Secretariat and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) country office in Botswana recently held bilateral discussions to cement their partnership and collaboration. SADC recognizes UNICEF as an integral developmental partner with keen interest in providing technical support in strengthening the social and economic integration of the region. On the other hand, UNICEF perceives SADC as a long term development partner in enhancing the lives of the children population of the region.

The areas of collaboration between SADC Secretariat and UNICEF have gained momentum since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014. UNICEF was among the United Nations agencies that contributed to SADC’s humanitarian need following the Regional Appeal that was launched in response to the devastating effects of the El-Niño-induced drought in 2016 in the Region.

The SADC region has extended its request for support from UN Agencies and other International Cooperating Partners and the private sector towards the regional body’s Industrialisation programme to accelerate socio-economic transformation agenda. Subsequently, SADC is facilitating several programmes and initiatives in its implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy, and the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan. UNICEF provides technical support and wider development contributions to the region towards the advancement of the SADC citizens and has deployed a nutrition expert to the SADC Secretariat to undertake critical assignments supporting the development of capacities in the Member States. SADC is also in the process of setting up an ICP thematic group on Resilience as part of strengthening SADC/International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) coordination and discussion are still ongoing with UNICEF to form part of the group. The thematic groups represent the technical, programmatic level of the partnership dialogue between SADC and ICPs and are intended to advocate for the mainstreaming of all programmes of assistance into the SADC priorities and in line with the SADC Resource Mobilisation Strategy, as well as supporting the development of mechanisms and strategies for reinforcing alignment to the SADC systems and programming cycle. With technical support from UNICEF, the SADC region is currently having a strong focus in addressing malnutrition and in this regard it is considering sustainable options on how to manage food fortification through development of a private sector engagement strategy which will be critical in the mapping of potential stakeholders.

SADC is spearheading the Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO) inception meeting to discuss the road map on resilience strategy development. UNICEF supports the resilience strategy development and has since commended SADC for the good work undertaken in the area of nutrition and health which should constitute the basis of continued technical support.

The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, is providing coordination, technical input and overall support for reviewing various drafts of the documents, and participates in technical meetings to assist SADC in programmes for child and adolescent HIV, tuberculosis (TB), malaria and orphans, vulnerable children and youth issues by providing policy documents and information. The need for SADC to initiate the establishment and operationalization of the HIV and AIDS ICP thematic coordination mechanism is in the offing, and UNICEF expressed interest to be part of the proposed mechanism.

The SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr. Thembinkosi Mthlongo (right) met with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Country Representative to Botswana and SADC, Ms. Julianna Lindsey in Gaborone Botswana on the 7th of November 2017 to review and strengthen support by UNICEF to the SADC Secretariat through effective and sustainable collaboration.
By Peter Mabaka

Japan and SADC cooperate in areas of mutual interest

Japan and SADC cooperation dates back to 2012 when the two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to guide cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), provided technical assistance to SADC under the project on Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa. The project aimed at developing the capacity of both SADC Secretariat and Member States for promoting forest conservation and sustainable forest management which would be implemented over a period of 5 years, from 2014-2019.

Though the MoU, the SADC Secretariat also benefited from JICA Technical Support through, among others, a JICA Technical Advisor was attached to the SADC Secretariat from 2011 to 2014, and this improved capacity building for staff. Through her cooperation with Japan, SADC hopes to achieve her key priority areas of Industrialization & Market Integration, Peace & Security and Special Programmes. SADC further stands to learn a lot on industrialization from Japan and has requested the Government of Japan to consider supporting SADC through One Stop Boarder Posts Projects, learning from similar Japanese support in this area to other Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

SADC and Japan are currently discussing the possibility of appointing a JICA Technical Advisor to the SADC Secretariat to facilitate access to Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) resources on infrastructure development. The secondment of a JICA Technical Advisor would support SADC in the priority areas as outlined in the Revised RISDP (2015-2020) and the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), in line with the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) which emphasizes the importance of regional infrastructure development for accelerating economic growth in Africa, and as outlined in the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 (YAP 2013-2017).

SADC Member States have abundant natural resources, which have the potential to foster the region’s development, and which also present investments opportunities for Japanese companies to invest in the region. SADC appreciates the continued efforts of the Japanese government in attracting these investors to the Region, particularly through the Annual SADC-Japan Investment Forum.

Question & Answer with Ms. Anneline Morgan

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IM: So, who will be responsible for the management of the WISETO Secretariat?

AM: The SADC WISETO Secretariat will be headed by the Executive Director, appointed through a competitive process involving candidates from State Parties.

There will also be a Governing Board which will comprise five (5) Chairpersons of the NWISET Chapters from States Parties, three of which shall be from Troika Member States, who shall be appointed by the Committee of Ministers on a rotational basis.

There will also be one (1) representative of the SADC Secretariat who shall have a permanent seat on the Governing Board. Others in the Governing Board will be a legal expert, financial expert, one representative from a regional (STEM) civil society organization, a representative of SADC Regional Forum for Private Sector and a representative from SADC Regional Forum for Non-Governmental Organisations

IM: Lastly, sustainability of such an organisation is very critical, how will the SADC WISETO be financed and sustained?

AM: The establishment of the SADC WISETO Secretariat will be financed by Member States through the Committee of Ministers responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and once established, the Secretariat will derive its finances from contributions of its Members, consulting or training fees, donations and grants, revenue from capital investment; and other sources as may be approved by the Governing Board.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC), jointly with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) of the Government of the Republic of South Africa joined the rest of the world in commemorating the World Fisheries Day on 21st November 2017 through a seminar.

The seminar, titled, “The need to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing to safeguard contributions of fisheries to the blue economy in the SADC region,” highlighted the importance of collaboration and the need to improve regional collaboration and cooperation in the fight against the scourge of IUU fishing.

The seminar was held in the margins of the joint Meeting of Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Tourism which was held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 20-24 November 2017. Delegates, discussed strategies to respond to the 2017 World Fisheries Day, which was commemorated under the theme- A call to end slavery at sea and reduce illegal fishing.

The World Fisheries Day is celebrated every year on 21st November throughout the world to highlight the importance of maintaining the world’s fisheries.

The seminar highlighted the challenges the region is facing with illegal fishing and fisheries crimes. Evidence shows that illegal fishing is often linked to a range of enabling crimes that have been systematically and deliberately undertaken by the fishing vessel owners to increase profit, while causing losses and destruction in the region and beyond.

A recent United Nations study reported that more than two-thirds of the world’s fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, global warming and IUU fishing.

Per Erik Bergh from SIF said in his presentation that, until five years ago, the region did not realize how serious illegal fishing and fisheries crimes were in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

“We thought we were dealing with illegal fishing violations only. We are not. We are dealing with an industry that systematically and in an organized manner engage in ruthless criminal activity to secure their profit,” Bergh said.

Dr. Manuel Castiano from WWF called for the need to develop a planned and coordinated system in a joint regional approach.

Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo, the Fisheries Advisor from the SADC Secretariat, emphasized the need for the region to validate, cross check and compare information to accelerate the fight against IUU fishing. “This scourge needs coordination and the SADC Regional Fisheries MCS Coordination Centre is well placed to perform such a function”, Dr. Hlatshwayo said. He added that coastal countries should check the vessels systematically and share information to strengthen efforts in fighting IUU fishing.

Fish forms an important part of the diets of people around the world, particularly those that live near rivers, coasts and other water bodies.
Ministers commit to fight against IUU fishing

By Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo & Mr. Phineas Matto

The SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in Pretoria South Africa in August 2017 approved the Charter establishing the SADC Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) in Mozambique. This was a turning point for the region in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

SADC Ministers responsible for Fisheries, at their Joint meeting of Environment and Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Tourism held in November 2017 in Pretoria, South Africa, started showing commitment to the establishment of the Centre by signing the Charter. So far, Ministers from the Kingdom of Lesotho, Kingdom of Swaziland, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of South Africa, Republic of Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania have signed the Charter, and other Ministers have pronounced their commitment to signing in due course. Ministers also tasked the SADC Secretariat to explore closer cooperation with Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Secretariat by exploring incorporation of the FISH-i Africa project into the MCSCC currently under development in Mozambique.

The Centre has been developed in response to the high economic losses experienced in the region where illegal fishing has been estimated to cost SADC members in excess of USD 200 million annually, as well as having a negative impact on livelihoods of the people who depend on fisheries in the region.

SIF has coordinated FISH-i Africa project since 2012, when the regional fisheries enforcement Task Force for countries bordering the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) became operational. By pooling information, coordinating actions and undertaking investigations, FISH-i has spearheaded a string of enforcement actions and increased compliance in the fisheries sector. The success of FISH-I Africa project has been commended regionally and internationally as the value of working together and with increased transparency is shown to be effective in challenging illegal operators. In kick-starting collaboration, the SADC Secretariat will assess the possibility of incorporating the FISH-i Africa project into the MCSCC, and in addition the SADC Task Force on IUU Fishing as well as the FISH-i Africa Task Force will from 2018 hold meetings together to align their work programmes. The Task Forces will assist in steering the work of the MCSCC and strengthen regional platforms for cooperation and collaboration in the fight against IUU fishing.

Chair of Stop Illegal Fishing, Ms. Elsa da Gloria Patria welcomed the opportunity for the potential integration of FISH-i into the Regional Centre. “The eight members of the FISH-i Task Force have shown real commitment to working together as a region. There would be clear benefits to the Task Force being part of the SADC MCSCC; bringing established methods of working to the Centre would increase the early operational impact of the Centre. The mandate to work more closely with major ports, such as Angola, Namibia and South Africa adds real strength to our network. We know that illegal operators target areas with the weakest systems; this move makes us stronger!”

Ms. Sandy Davies, Stop Illegal Fishing Coordinator, said, “Since the signing of the 2008 SADC Statement of Commitment to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing’, we have been looking forward to the launch of the regional centre to gather and coordinate our efforts to fight illegal fishing. This week’s signing of the Charter to establish the centre provides a new momentum that we must harness. We look forward to expanding FISH-i to cooperate with countries of the South East Atlantic Ocean. Sharing lessons, skills and tools with inland countries offers an exciting opportunity to tackle the illegal catching and trade of fish that is threatening the sustainability of so many important inland fisheries.”

The SADC Fisheries Advisor, Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo stated, “Stop Illegal Fishing has been a strong supporter of SADC Fisheries Programme and has helped to lay the foundation for the SADC MCSCC. We look forward to developing this cooperation further and hope to see the incorporation of FISH-I Africa project into the Centre. This will bring a real momentum to the Centre as we integrate an established and proven system for cooperation and information exchange to kick-start activities of the Centre.”
SADC RCC on Small Arms and Light Weapons meet to discuss Protocol on firearms

By Fernando Cumbe

The SADC Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), met, from 18-19 September 2017, in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia, to discuss among others the status of implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition, and Related Materials.

The meeting was attended by the following SADC Member States: Republics of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The following Member States sent their apologies: Kingdom of Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Zambia.

The RCC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other Related Material, was signed by SADC Heads of State and Government on 14th August 2001, as a mainstay document that guides the region to urgently prevent and eradicate the accumulation, trafficking, possession and use of illicit firearms and ammunition. The protocol addresses issues of operational capacity; marking of firearms; record keeping; transparency and information sharing; voluntary surrender of firearms; public education and awareness; the control over possession of firearms by civilians and disposal of firearms.

The Regional Coordinating Committee on SALW meets annually to monitor, evaluate and pass recommendations to the SADC Police Chiefs Sub-Committee, on the implementation of the Protocol regularly.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed and recommended to Member States to implement decisions from Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) which, among others, calls for Member States to create National Firearms Electronic Databases for accurate record keeping and traceability; expedite the process of amending their laws on firearms in conformity with Regional and International legal instruments; and use INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (IARMS), INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) and INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network (IBIN) in order to facilitate the investigation and tracing of illegal firearms in the Region.

The meeting considered the report of Small Arms Survey on Mapping Illicit Arms Flows in Africa. Participants also initiated the development of draft laws to regulate brokers and brokering and urged SADC Secretariat to continue mobilizing resources from International Cooperating Partners to assist Member States to participate in activities of regional importance.

Commemoration of World Fisheries Day

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A number of traditional societies and communities are rallied around the occupation of fishing. This is why a majority of human settlements, are situated in close proximity to water bodies. Besides the importance of water for survival and as a means of transportation, it is also an important source of fish and aquatic protein.

But this proximity has also led to severe ocean and coastal pollution from run-off and from domestic and industrial activities carried out near-by.

This has led to depletion of fish stocks in the immediate vicinity, requiring fishermen to fish farther and farther away from their traditional grounds. Besides, overfishing and mechanisation has also resulted in a crisis - fish stocks are being depleted through ‘factory’ vessels, bottom trawling, and other means of unsustainable fishing methods. IUU fishing is rampant, especially in the African continent.

Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo, Technical Advisor- Fisheries, SADC Secretariat
Dr. Manuel Castiano, Regional Coordinator- Sustainable Fisheries Program, WWF
The Legal Committee of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) met in Sandton, Republic of South Africa on 6th November 2017 to develop draft SADC Regional Guidelines for the prevention of Crime and Violence in the Region.

The objectives of the draft SADC Regional Guidelines for Crime and Violence prevention for SADC are to, among others,

- promote regional collaboration, cooperation and coordination on matters related to public safety and security, and to establish mechanisms to this end;
- address emerging and causal factors contributing to crime and violence across the SADC region;
- build capacity in crime and violence prevention principles and approaches to strengthen public safety and security throughout the region;
- encourage inclusive and participatory approaches to safety planning to ensure interventions are owned and driven by people living in the communities;
- facilitate cross-border conversations about crime and violence prevention, and foster partnerships between practitioners working across the region;
- facilitate monitoring and evaluation of progress made in integrating these Guidelines into public safety and security plans and
- encourage the implementation of national interests to regional priorities by promoting domestic implementation of SADC Protocols, including: Protocol on Combatting Trafficking in Illicit Drugs (1996); Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (2001); Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials (2001); Protocol against Corruption (2001); Protocol of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (2002); Protocol on Extradition (2002); Protocol on Gender and Development (2008); as well as the Strategic Plan of Action on Combatting Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (2009-2019).

The SARPCCO Legal Sub-Committee meeting was attended by the following SADC Member States; the Republic of Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Namibia, Republic of South Africa, Kingdom of Swaziland, Republic of Zambia and Republic of Zimbabwe. Representatives of the Africa Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) were also in attendance at the meeting.
The new Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana and Special Representative to the Southern African Development Community, His Excellency, Mr. Kozo Takeda presented a letter of credence to the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax at the SADC Secretariat, in Gaborone, Botswana, on 27th November, 2017.

The Special Representative of the Secretary General of UN, Mr. Maman Sambo Sidikou met with the Executive Secretary of the Southern Africa Development Community, Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax on 13th November 2017 in Gaborone, Botswana. The objective of the meeting was to share information on the political and security situation in the DRC following the announcement of the electoral calendar and the 23rd December 2018 elections date by the Independent National Electoral Commission with a view to ensure coordinated support to the country’s electoral process.

The new Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana and Special Representative to the Southern African Development Community (SADC), His Excellency, Mr. Kozo Takeda presented a letter of credence to the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax at the SADC Secretariat, in Gaborone, Botswana, on 27th November, 2017.
The Ambassador for the Republic of Zambia to Botswana, His Excellency, Brigadier General Patrick Romedyo Tembo (Rtd) paid a courtesy call on the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax to present his letters of credence, on the 4th December 2017 in Gaborone, Botswana.

The Republic of Mauritius has a female President, Her Excellency Mrs. Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim. H.E. Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim is a Mauritian biodiversity scientist and politician serving as President of Mauritius since 2015. President Dr (Mrs) Gurib-Fakim was sworn in as the 6th President and the First Female President of the Republic of Mauritius on 05 June 2015.

The Hashim Mbita project: SADC has a publication on the Hashim Mbita project which highlights the Southern Africa liberation Struggles and comradery amongst member states. With the liberation of South Africa from colonialism and apartheid in 1994, the 2004 SADC Summit held in Port Louis, Mauritius, approved a research project to document the liberation struggles in southern Africa and to publish such research in a series of books. The collection known as the SADC Hashim Mbita Project can be accessed in the SADC Secretariat library.

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By Liwakala Mudengi & Barbara Lopi
### MEMBER STATE  |  DATE           |  HOLIDAY                      
---                  |  ---            |  ---                          
Angola              |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
Botswana             |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
                  |  26 December    |  Boxing Day                   
                  |  27 December    |  Public Holiday               
DR Congo            |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
Lesotho             |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
                  |  26 December    |  Boxing Day                   
Madagascar          |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
Malawi              |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
Mauritius           |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
Mozambique          |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
Namibia             |  10 December    |  Human Rights Day             
                  |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
                  |  26 December    |  Family Day                   
Seychelles          |  8 December     |  Feast Immaculate Conception  
                  |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
South Africa        |  16 December    |  Day of Reconciliation        
                  |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
                  |  26 December    |  Day of Goodwill              
Swaziland           |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
                  |  26 December    |  Boxing Day                   
Tanzania            |  9 December     |  Independence Day             
                  |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
                  |  26 December    |  Boxing Day                   
Zambia              |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
Zimbabwe            |  22 December    |  National Unity Day           
                  |  25 December    |  Christmas Day                
                  |  26 December    |  Boxing Day                   

**MEMBER STATES INFORMATION**

**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted between January 1947 and December 1948. It aimed to form a basis for human rights all over the world and represented a significant change of direction from events during World War II and the continuing colonialism that was rife in the world at the time. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is considered as the most translated document in modern history. It is available in more than 360 languages and new translations are still being added. The UN General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France, on the December 10, 1948. All states and interested organizations were invited to mark December 10 as Human Rights Day at a UN meeting on December 4, 1950. It was first observed on December 10 that year and has been observed each year on the same date. Each year Human Rights Day has a theme. Some of these themes have focused on people knowing their human rights or the importance of human rights education.

**REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

The Immaculate Conception Cathedral (French: Cathédrale de l’Immaculée-Conception de Victoria) or simply Cathedral of Victoria, is the name given to a religious building of the Catholic church that is located in the town of Victoria, on the island of Mahé capital of the African archipelago nation of Seychelles. The temple is located near the Clock Tower (Tour de l’Horloge) and the Anglican Cathedral. The church was built in 1874 and recalls the French colonial style. Follow the Roman or Latin rite and serves as the seat of the diocese of Port Victoria (Dioecesis Portus Victoriae or seychellarum) which was created in 1892 by Pope Leo XIII. In the same year the reconstruction of the cathedral, which had been renewed previously started.

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Independence Day in Tanzania is annually celebrated on December 9. This holiday is also known as Republic Day. The celebration is dedicated to the declaration of independence of Tanganyika from Great Britain in 1961 and creation of republic in 1962. The colonial period of Tanzania (then Tanganyika) started in 1498, when the Portuguese visited the Tanzanian coast and eventually succeeded in controlling most of its territory. In 1699 the Portuguese were ousted from the territory of Tanganyika by Omani Arabs. Imperial Germany gained control of Tanganyika in the late 19th century, but after World War I its territory became the British mandate, designated by the League of Nations. The process of decolonization started after the end of World War II, when Tanganyika became a United Nations trust territory under British control. In 1954 Tanzanian politician Julius Nyerere formed the Tanganyika African National Union, the leading force in the struggle for sovereignty of the state. Tanganyika declared full independence from Great Britain on December 9, 1961. A year after, on December 9, 1962 the Republic of Tanganyika was created.

**Source:** [https://alchetron.com/Immaculate-Conception-Cathedral,-Seychelles](https://alchetron.com/Immaculate-Conception-Cathedral,-Seychelles)

**Source:** [https://anydayguide.com/calendar/1685](https://anydayguide.com/calendar/1685)