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President of Germany visits SADC



His Excellency Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany (second from right) being ushered into the SADC head office by the Executive Secretary of SADC, H.E. Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax (right) (Story on page 3)

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SADC SECRETARIAT VISION

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

MISSION

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

VALUES

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

SADC OBJECTIVES

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

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 FLAG



SADC COMMON AGENDA

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

ABOUT THE INSIDE SADC NEWSLETTER

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DESIGN & LAYOUT

Letso S. Mpho



H.E Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier (center) and H.E Dr ax (far right) during the meeting

President of the Federal Republic of Germany H.E Frank-Walter Steinmeier visits SADC Secretariat

By Barbara Lopi

His Excellency Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany visited the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), on 21 November 2018, on the margins of his two-day State visit to the Republic of Botswana.

President Steinmeier was welcomed to the Secretariat by the Executive Secretary of SADC Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax who was accompanied by the SADC Secretariat Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs, Ambassador Joseph Nourrice.

In welcoming the President to the SADC Secretariat, Dr Tax expressed gratitude to the President for sparing time in his busy schedule to visit the SADC Headquarters, and extended SADC's gratitude for the continued cooperation between SADC and the Federal Republic of Germany. President Steinmeier among others, indicated his interest in understanding SADC's progress on regional integration, and the political situation in the region, in particular, how Zimbabwe was doing, and asked SADC's position on the situation in Zimbabwe.

In response SADC Executive Secretary highlighted that the region has made progress in the consolidation of SADC Free Trade Area, where the focus has been placed on SADC Industrialization,

with a view to enhance capacity to produce competitively, and trade equitably.

Dr Tax, further indicated that, while SADC integration is premised on the conventional stages of integration, the region is cognizant of multiple membership challenges faced by some of its member states. To this effect, the Regional has taken a Developmental Approach by focusing on what is feasible, especially cross border programmes and across sectors; a tripartite arrangement with the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, (COMESA), which is based on three pillars, namely Market Integration (Tripartite Free Trade Area), Industrialization, and Infrastructure Development; and the implementation of certain elements of Common Market.

On the political situation, Dr Tax explained that the region is peaceful and stable, and has several mechanisms in place for conflicts prevention, to provide for early warning, and address challenging situations.

On Zimbabwe, Dr Tax outlined that Zimbabwe is on the right path, as the country has developed a programme for economic-transformation, and SADC supports Zimbabwe, and calls for the urgent lifting of economic sanctions. "As SADC we have been calling for the lifting of economic sanctions hence we appeal

to you, your Excellency, to help us in this noble course, to engage with other partners to lift the sanctions on Zimbabwe", Dr Tax said.

In his response to Dr. Tax's question on his views about SADC, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who had been a Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2009 and again from 2013 to 2017, said he has always appreciated SADC integration and cooperation, adding that regional integration was the only authentic way to deal with socio-economic issues in the 21st century.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was accompanied to the SADC Secretariat by a delegation of six officials who included, the Director-General, and the Deputy Head of Division in the Federal Presidential Office Dr. Thomas Bagger; and Mr. Alexander Skiba, respectively; and H.E. Mr. Ralf Breth, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Botswana, and SADC.

Recently, on 12th November 2018, the SADC Executive Secretary, and the German Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, signed an Agreement on Technical Cooperation on support programmes on Regional Economic Integration in the areas of Transboundary Water Management, Transboundary Natural Resource Management and Resilience to Climate Change, and Strengthening National-Regional Linkages.

SADC committed to curb gender based violence



Poster of the 2018 Gender Based Violence theme

By Nyarai Kampilipili

Violence against women and girls is a pandemic in southern Africa and an obstacle to equality, development, peace and human rights. This is the message from the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, in her contribution to the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The 16 Days of Activism against GBV is an annual global campaign dedicated to raising awareness and advocacy to end violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, which marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 10 December, which is dedicated as Human Rights Day. "We cannot be silent and inactive on GBV as a region," Dr Tax said, adding "silence and stigma have allowed violence against women to escalate to pandemic proportions." She said "in realizing that violence against women and girls continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfilment of women and girls' human rights," the region has come up with various measures to address the challenge.

For example, a number of regional strategic

documents and frameworks including the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security considers GBV as a critical area of concern. In fact, these regional documents clearly affirm the principles of women empowerment and gender equality, and recognize the prevention and reduction of GBV as a catalyst for attaining an environment conducive for peace and security.

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development identifies GBV as an area of concern and proposes several approaches to addressing this pandemic. The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and attainment of gender equality and equity through enactment of gender-responsive legislation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects. The protocol was revised in 2016 to align with the provisions of other instruments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

Dr Tax said to intensify the fight against GBV, the region has put in place other legal frameworks such as the Regional GBV Strategy 2018-2030 and its Framework of

Action and the SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security 2018 – 2022. The SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security gives due attention to the need to include women in national security sector institutions and processes and the need to combat any human rights violations of women and children with emphasis on combatting sexual GBV.

The SADC Regional Gender Based Violence Strategy was developed to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development with a specific focus on Articles addressing GBV. SADC also developed the 10 Year Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2009 – 2019). GBV is used to manipulate and control women, men, boys and girls who fall victim of trafficking in persons and forced labour.

According to the Secretariat, these measures coupled with other efforts continue to yield positive results in addressing GVB. "In the last decade, we have seen the issue of GBV moving from the shadows to the foreground of commitments and actions to attain sustainable development," Dr Tax said. "Global actions like the 16 Days Campaign are some of the initiatives that continue to provide an opportunity to mobilize global, regional and national actions against GBV."

She urged Member States to intensify action aimed at prevention of GBV and to strengthen related services, as well as "create platforms for giving voice to the voiceless, including to allow for safe reporting, provision of shelters and places of safety for victims and survivors of GBV."

The United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka added her voice, saying that it is still unclear as to the extent of violence against women, as most fear reprisal. Mlambo-Ngcuka said there is stigma associated with GBV and this has silenced victims from reporting such cases, hence it is critical for the global community to unmask the true extent of these continued horrific experiences. This year's 16 Days of Activism against GBV aims to encourage people to speak out and act against GBV. **sardc.net**

Dr Tax discusses SADC-Russia economic cooperation, strategies, and future perspectives

Russia and SADC Member States have had long-standing and time-tested bilateral partnerships for nearly 30 years after the Soviet collapse. The Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax (Dr. Tax), discusses various aspects of SADC-Russia's economic cooperation, some strategies, challenges and future perspectives in a Question and Answer (Q & A) with Kester Kenn Klomegah (KKK) from Moscow.

QUESTION & ANSWER

KKK: Russia and Africa mark nearly 30 years of bilateral relations after the Soviet collapse. What does this mean from the African perspectives?

Dr Tax: Russia has a long history of bilateral engagements with the Southern African countries, which constitute the Southern African Development Community, a Regional Economic Community (REC). Russia, as part of the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), supported the concerted efforts of the Frontline States and the Liberation Movements to fight against apartheid and the existential threats posed by it.

The USSR, in this regard, provided technical and military support to most of the countries that were a part of the Frontline States in order to achieve total liberation in the region. Even after the break-up of the USSR, Russia has continued to play an important role in technical assistance, economics and military support to African countries, including SADC Member States – our relationship with Russia is therefore not new, it is very valuable, and need to be sustained.

The most recent visit (2018) of the Russian Foreign Minister H.E. Sergey Lavrov, to the Republics of Angola, Ethiopia, Namibia and Zimbabwe, (as we understand it) was largely focused on signing of economic cooperation agreements to attract Russian investments in key areas such as mining, aviation and energy sectors, as well as fostering military technical cooperation.

KKK: Southern African leaders are looking for investment in



H.E. Dr. Tax

infrastructure, industry and trade. How would you characterize Russia's role in Southern Africa, comparing it among BRICS?

Dr. Tax: Investment in infrastructure, industry and trade is seen as a catalyst for regional integration, economic growth, and sustainable development. In this regard, SADC welcomes investors from all over the world. It is worth noting that one of the BRICS countries, South Africa, is a SADC Member State. Any comparison will therefore be limited to the other BRICS countries – namely Brazil, India and China.

While Russia as part of the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) supported SADC Frontline States and the Liberation Movements, a few years ago, it has not been that visible in the region as

compared to China, India or Brazil. It is encouraging that, of recent, Russia has positioned herself to be a major partner with Southern Africa and being part of the BRICS promotes her engagement with the region, particularly in investment in minerals, aviation, defense and energy sectors.

Russia has also launched an Africa business forum, aimed at improving direct trade with the continent/region beyond the traditional sectors like mining, seeking to invest in areas like agriculture, industrial production, high technology and transport. The upcoming Russia and SADC Investment Forum that is to take place on 23 October 2018 in Russia, also seeks to provide an opportunity for businesses and partnerships.

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Dr Tax discusses SADC-Russia economic cooperation, strategies, and future perspectives

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KKK: Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has reiterated during his last African tour that Russia's preferred focus is on Russia-SADC in its diplomacy in Africa. Why is SADC region considered a strategic region for Russia?

Dr. Tax: We cannot obviously speak for Russia, but we could give you a general overview of why international partners and investors would consider SADC an attractive or strategic investment partner.

There are a number of inter-related factors for this, the first being peace and stability: The SADC region is peaceful and stable. A peaceful and stable environment is attractive to investors as it fosters confidence by assurance of longevity, property rights and fundamental freedoms, which underpin economic rights. Peace in SADC is sustained through cooperation between the 16 Member States of SADC as espoused in the SADC Treaty, and in particular, the Protocol on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation whose general objective is to promote peace and security in the Region.

The Founding Fathers of SADC had long recognized that the region could remain stable by fostering common political values, building legitimate democratic institutions and mechanisms to sustain peace as a pre-requisite for regional integration and prosperity. Secondly, is the integrated market result-



SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr Tax (right) presenting SADC trade and investment related publications to Vice-President of MCC, Mr Suren Vardanyan during her visit to Russia

ing from a combined population of approximately 370 million people, and a collective GDP of US\$ 607 billion, which is supported by generally favorable weather conditions in most parts of the region.

Thirdly, the region has abundant natural resources ranging from vast energy resources, arable land and forestry; to precious minerals such as diamonds, gold, platinum, copper, cobalt, oil, and natural gas to mention but a few. These are vital for the global economy and strategic partnership. Notwithstanding, the above mentioned comparative advantages, the region has relatively under-developed human capabilities and infrastructure, which are

essential for bolstering the region's efforts to exploit and maximize benefits from these natural resources. Hence, the need for the region to cooperate with external partners, such as Russia, which has advanced technologies and capacities that could be transferred to the region. A peaceful and stable environment surely presents a 'strategic' imperative as well.

Russian Federation's priorities are also in line with SADC priorities as evidenced by the priorities of the Foreign Economic Strategy in the region as indicated below:

- Prospecting, mining, oil, construction and mining, purchasing gas, oil, uranium, and bauxite assets (Angola, Namibia and South Africa);
- Construction of power

facilities—hydroelectric power plants on the River Congo (Angola, Namibia and Zambia,) and nuclear power plants (South Africa);

- Creating a floating nuclear power plant, and South African participation in the international project to build a nuclear enrichment centre in Russia;
- Railway Construction (Angola);
- Creation of Russian trade houses for the promotion and maintenance of Russian engineering products (South Africa).
- Participation of Russian companies in the privatization of industrial assets, including those created with technical assistance from the former Soviet Union (Angola)

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SADC-Russia economic cooperation

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KKK: In your estimation, what is the level of Russia's engagement with SADC region?

Dr. Tax: Russia and SADC Member States have had long-standing bilateral partnership for development for decades, providing substantial results in the priority areas of cooperation. Through such significant historical ties, the peoples of SADC and of Russia have strengthened friendship and mutual understanding for developing comprehensive, equitable and fruitful cooperation.

The ten (10) SADC Member States represented in the Russian Federation, namely: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe provide an extensive representation for engagement.

At the regional level, SADC and Russia are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Basic Principles of Relations and Cooperation on 23rd October 2018, in the following areas, among others, Technical Cooperation and Assistance; Capacity Building; Peace, Security, Conflict Prevention and Resolution; Preventive Diplomacy; Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment; Infrastructure Development, and Energy; Information Communication Technology (ICT); Transport, Communications and Meteorology; Water, Agriculture, Ocean Economy, Food Security; Minerals, Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment; Education and Science; Healthcare; Technology and Innovation; and Culture, Tourism and Information Exchange. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the area of Military – Technical Cooperation, with the aim of promoting cooperation between the Parties in regional and international peace and security was signed in July, 2018.

KKK: What challenges and setbacks, in your view, still remain to get both parties (Russia and Southern Africa) towards result-oriented and effectively closer in their post-Soviet economic cooperation?

Dr. Tax: SADC works closely with the International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) in achieving its developmental results. As such, SADC's cooperation with the ICPs is guided by the principles of partnership and commitments. Both SADC and Russia value their adherence to the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter, seeking to contribute to the establishment of a democratic and just world order and to strengthen regional and inter-regional ties to ensure peace, stability,

socio-economic development, and mutual confidence.

In view of the above, the thrust for SADC-Russia Cooperation shall be aligned with global, continental, regional, and national policies. By so doing, both sides will be able to contribute and create favourable conditions for socio-economic development, cooperation, and mutual confidence.

Interpret issues, SADC urges Media

By Martin Nyirenda

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has urged the media to interpret issues to the common person for them to be aware of mandate of the organisation to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth in the region.

Speaking on behalf of SADC Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Hobby Simuchile said SADC was charged to ensure that socio-economic development in its 16 member States are attained through efficient productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance, durable peace and security. He said programmes of the regional body were based on four priority areas, which include industrialisation and market integration, infrastructure development in support of regional integration. Mr Simuchile, who is SADC Macroeconomic Surveillance Program Officer, said although much progress has been recorded in these areas, not much was known especially by the common person on the street.

He said the SADC Secretariat was deeply mindful that unless the citizens of the region were constantly reminded and well informed about the SADC agenda, policies, including various programmes being pursued and highlighting milestones scored by the regional body, ordinary members of society will not appreciate the giant progress being made to uplift the welfare of citizens. "SADC will be misunderstood, and its achievements remain obscure. It is for that reason, that SADC

Secretariat, feels that it is important that the Secretariat interacts more closely with the media and shares information on the SADC Agenda and programmes being pursued by the SADC Secretariat as it contributes to the realisation of the goal of SADC," he said. The Secretariat has since appealed to the media to be proactive in reporting programmes being implemented by the regional body to add value to efforts crafted to improve and foster regional integration among SADC countries. And Director Press and Media Development, Isaac Chipampe said it was not far-fetched to suggest that journalists in Zambia and the politicians have redefined journalism to only mean reporting on politics.

"Yes, reporting on politics is necessary, but journalists should reclaim their role in society and report on issues that matter to the citizens; issues that affect the livelihoods of citizens," Mr Chipampe said. Officially opening the SADC workshop on media capacity building in Chingola, Mr Chipampe said there was need to understand that reporting on SADC should not be confined only to covering politicians but to also interrogate how much has been achieved within the regional body. "It can be argued that the media in the region, not just Zambia, has, unfortunately, not given due attention to SADC on whether SADC has benefited the regional members thus far. SADC has acknowledged this fact and hence the development of a Communication and Promotional Strategy with the ultimate objective of increasing visibility and publicity of SADC stories," he said. – Times of Zambia

SADC Executive Secretary participates in Extraordinary Summit on African Union Reforms

By Mukundi Mutasa

The Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Stergomena L. Tax, in November 2018, attended the 11th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held to cement consensus on the proposals to reform the Union. During the Extraordinary Summit, SADC Member States welcomed the progress made towards implementing the reform agenda. Since the decision to reform the AU was made, the region has adopted an "inclusive and consultative approach that has enabled SADC not only to build consensus, but also to speak with one voice," according to Dr Tax.

Dr Tax said this during the SADC Heads of State and Government working dinner hosted by the SADC Chairperson and President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, on 16 November, to consolidate SADC's position on issues on the Extraordinary Summit agenda. The Heads of State working dinner was preceded by a SADC Ministerial Breakfast Meeting on 14 November, both of which were held in Addis Ababa on the margins of the Extraordinary Summit.

Among others, the Extraordinary Summit, held from 17 to 18 November 2018, considered proposals on reforming the AU Commission, deliberating on the structure of the Commission; selection, appointment and termination of senior leadership; and financial and administrative reforms. In addition, the Assembly reached consensus on the mandate of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA), which is the transformed New Partnership



H.E. Dr. Tax (left) and the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat

for Africa's Development (NEPAD). On division of labour between the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs), Member States and Continental Organisations, the Assembly emphasised the need to develop the proposals in a consultative process that includes Member States of the Union.

The AU recognises eight African RECs. These are the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); East African Community (EAC); Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); and Southern African Development Community (SADC). In this context, division of labour aims to "delineate responsibilities within each area or sector of integration based on the principles of subsidiarity, comparative advantage, cost/burden sharing and

proximity to the people," according to an AU Commission Issues Paper on division of labour.

The Extraordinary Summit also deliberated on negotiations towards a post-Cotonou Cooperation Agreement between African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union to succeed the Agreement signed in Cotonou, Benin, on 23 June 2000. The Cotonou Agreement of 2000 was premised on three pillars: development cooperation, political cooperation, and economic and trade cooperation. The ACP and EU states have since commenced negotiations as the Cotonou Agreement draws closer to its expiry in February 2020, with the EU indicating that the "ambition is to transform today's partnership into a modern political framework geared to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals."

The AU Assembly agreed that the negotiations should proceed within the framework

of the ACP, while there will also be a region-to-region compact between Africa and EU, which will address specific priorities and challenges, with the AU Commission and RECs providing technical support to the African Members of the ACP negotiating teams. While attending the Extraordinary Summit, Dr Tax also took the opportunity to meet with the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, to discuss issues related to the AU reform, and follow up on SADC's request for support towards the construction of the SADC Regional Logistics Depot.

The Extraordinary Summit was preceded by a meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee from 5 to 6 November and the 20th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council held from 14 to 15 November at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Dr Tax was accompanied by Policy, Planning and Resource Mobilisation Director, Dr Mubita Luwabelwa, and other Secretariat officials.



H.E. Dr. Tax (forth from left) H.E. Ambassador Breth (second from right), H.E. Ambassador Sadek (forth from right), SADC Ambassadors in Botswana and other senior officials

EU, Germany and SADC Secretariat launch a €18.7 Million Programme to support SADC Member States and Secretariat in implementing Regional Integration

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on 23rd November, 2018 launched the SADC Integrated Institutional Capacity Building (IICB) Programme, co-funded to the tune of 18.7 Million Euros.

The IICB Programme is aimed at enhancing the capacity of national structures of SADC Member States and the Secretariat to facilitate and co-ordinate implementation of regional programmes as identified in the SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), a development and implementation framework that guides SADC Regional Integration Agenda. Speaking at the official launch held in Gaborone, Botswana, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax hailed the continued and long-standing collaboration between SADC, the European Union and the Republic of Germany in promoting and deepening SADC regional integration.

Dr Tax said, through this IICB Programme, SADC will focus on activities with impact in sectoral coordinating structures in

three sectors, namely Industrialization, Agriculture and Infrastructure development. The SADC Executive Secretary said, building on the success of Strengthening National-Regional Linkages (SNRL) Programme, implemented by the GIZ since 2016, SADC will expand coverage to at least 10 Member States from the three; Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia that were supported under the SNRL programme. On this note, Dr Tax said efforts are already underway to establish and revamp SADC National Committees in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Tanzania.

In his remarks, the Head of Delegation of the European Union to Botswana and SADC, His Excellency Ambassador Jan Sadek said the relations between the EU and SADC have been very positive over the last decade and indicated that, for the future, the EU is looking to intensify existing relations and evolve the relations towards a true partnership of equals, a partnership based on strategic common interests and values and advanced through political dialogue. Ambassador Sadek said the EU's support to SADC is very comprehensive, addressing nearly all priority areas within SADC, such as infrastructure, trade, business environment, and agriculture and supporting peace and security, regional political cooperation and migration, thereby,

contributing to the implementation of the SADC Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), on Politics, defense and security in the region. He announced that, in the next four years, the EU support to SADC will reach a total of more than 150 Million Euros, of which around 80 Million Euros will be managed directly by SADC.

On his part, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Botswana and SADC, His Excellency Ambassador Ralf Andreas Breth said Germany takes great pride in supporting the continuous capacity development of SADC structures at all levels and in many sectors.

"At the centre of the Programme's efforts stands the realisation that with competing commitments and insufficient capacities, effective coordination of the SADC agenda at the national level is crucial," added Ambassador Breth. Ambassador Breth highlighted that the launch of the IICB Programme reflects and reinforces Germany's belief of sharing the European experiences and providing opportunities to SADC and other regional organisations to benefit from them, adding that Germany is committed to supporting political and economic cooperation across national borders.

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Dr Thabane (seated, fifth from left) with leaders of opposition parties and senior political figures in the Kingdom of Lesotho

SAPMIL closes down in Maseru

The SADC Preventative Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho (SAPMIL) officially closed office after one year's deployment in a ceremony held at Setsoto Stadium in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho on the 20th November 2018.

Speaking during the occasion, the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Dr Motsoahae Thomas Thabane when whilst thanking the entire SADC community for the support rendered to Lesotho, he noted that the commitment of the government of Lesotho to undertake inclusive and transparent reforms remains unshakable. To that end, he observed that significant strides were made since the SAPMIL deployment. He explained that all stakeholders have pledged to support and participate in the reform process. Prime Minister Dr Thabane informed his audience that two episodes of the National Leaders Forum, comprising of all leaders of political parties and civil society have been held and this has paved way for the holding of the Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue Planning Committee on the 26th to 28th November 2018.

The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Zambia, Hon. Davies Chama, on behalf of

the Chair of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His Excellency, Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu President of the Republic of Zambia, explained that the purpose of SAPMIL mission was to create a secure, stable and peaceful environment, that is conducive for the implementation of security sector reforms and to implement SADC decisions. He said the successful completion of the mission showed the extent to which SADC Member States were committed to solving their own problems. Hon. Minister Davis shared with his audience that SAPMIL was deployed on 20th November 2017 in line with the Decision of the Double Troika Summit held on 15th September 2017 in Pretoria, South Africa.

In her remarks, the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax also noted that the SAPMIL has made good progress since its deployment in November 2017. She said the presence of SAPMIL and the conduct of confidence building patrols amongst others have acted as a deterrent and created a conducive environment for the reforms to take place.

Dr Tax observed that the political and

security situation in Lesotho is now calm, and there is steadfast improvement in the working relations amongst the stakeholders. She said the National Security Forum has been established, and weapons which were seized from the Lesotho Mountain Police during the 2014 raids were returned. To this end, the SAPMIL has been able to support the Kingdom of Lesotho in the re-training of its personnel, especially within the area of Civil Military Relation (CIMIC), International Conflict Management, and the capacitation of 400 Military personnel, Police, Correctional Services and Intelligence branches.

Dr Tax said, in relation to the National Dialogue, SAPMIL has assisted in the signing of a framework document by key Basotho stakeholders known as the "Framework Document to Facilitate the National Dialogue Process in the Kingdom of Lesotho". She reminded all Basotho that they have the responsibility to ensure that they adhere to the framework document without compromise.

She further assured that through the Oversight Committee, headed by Retired Chief Justice Matthew Ngulube, from the

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SAPMIL closes down in Maseru

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Republic of Zambia, SADC will continue to monitor and act as an early warning mechanism, and support Lesotho reconciliatory process, while on the other hand, the Facilitator, His Excellency, Cyril Ramaphosa and his team, will continue to facilitate the National Dialogue and reforms process.

The SAPMIL Closing Down Ceremony and Medal Parade was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia & Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, representing the Chair of SADC, Minister of Defence and Veterans for the Republic of South Africa, Hon. Nosiviwe Nolutshando Mapisa-Nqakula, who represented the Facilitator for Lesotho peace process and President of the Republic of South Africa, Retired Chief Justice Matthew Ngulube, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Defence and Security Chiefs and Senior Government Officials.



SADC forces during a drill at the closing ceremony for SAPMIL

€18.7 Million Programme to support SADC Member States and Secretariat in Regional Integration

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H.E. Dr. Tax (centre) H.E. Ambassador Breth (right) and H.E. Ambassador Sadek

The IICB Programme is co-funded by the European Union and Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) the EU is providing a total of €13.2 million while the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has co-funded the implementation with an amount of €5.5 million.

The launch of the IICB Programme was attended by SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners, the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs, Ambassador Joseph Andre Nourrice, SADC Directors and senior officials from SADC Secretariat, representatives from the EU Delegation and Germany Embassy in Botswana, the programme managers from GIZ and EU and the media.



H.E. Dr Tax (right) and H.E Ambassador Muvangua

Namibian High Commissioner to Botswana bids farewell to the SADC Executive Secretary

By Letso S. Mpho

The Namibian High Commissioner to the Republic of Botswana, H.E Ambassador Mbapeua Muvangua bade farewell to the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax at the SADC Secretariat Head Office in Gaborone, Botswana on the 27th November 2018. Ambassador Muvangua has completed his tour of duty following his appointment to serve in this portfolio since 2014.

Ambassador Muvangua thanked Dr. Tax for strong bonds of friendship, and pledged to continue providing support to SADC. The Ambassador acknowledged the role played by both the political leadership and the Secretariat stating that the role of the regional body is made possible by the willingness of the SADC Member States to achieve a common goal, of attaining an inclusive regional integration agenda. He also wished SADC good progress in

undertaking its various assignments aimed at improving the livelihoods of its citizens.

Dr. Tax thanked the Ambassador for the good relationship and for having demonstrated remarkable level of cooperation during his tenure of office. She applauded the Ambassador for his experience and dynamism in articulating issues of the regional block and advancing Namibia's agenda and interests as the Plenipotentiary to SADC.

She further paid homage to the Republic of Namibia for its role as one of the founders of SADC, stating that she has full confidence in Namibia to steer the work of SADC to greater heights, as the current Chairperson of the organisation. She said Namibia has in the past hosted and spearheaded monumental achievements for SADC to ensure through common action, progress and improvement of the wellbeing of the people of Southern Africa.

Ambassador Muvangua was the current Chair of the SADC Committee of Ambassadors and High Commissioners.



H.E. Dr Tax (right) and H.E Ambassador Muvangua

Ambassador of Indonesia and SADC Deputy ES underscore need to enhance South-South Cooperation

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Botswana and SADC, H.E. Mr. Salman Al Farisi and the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr Theminkosi Mhlongo met at the SADC Secretariat on 18th November 2018 where the two discussed the need for enhancing South-South Cooperation. Ambassador H.E. Mr. Salman Al Farisi During said Indonesia is ready to share its success story, having made progress in the areas of micro-financing, the development of Macro, Micro and Medium Enterprises and agro-processing.

"It's true Indonesia became an active participant in the development of SADC Member States and Africa, as a whole," said H.E. Al Farisi, saying in 2017, Indonesia became a donor country and is currently exploring areas of cooperation with African countries. The Ambassador said the Government of Indonesia is ready to support and collaborate with SADC Member States in infrastructure development, particularly the kind of infrastructure which will be beneficial for the people. On his part, Dr Mhlongo said SADC has a lot to learn and benefit from Indonesia's economic successes. He cited the progress Indonesia has in inclusive economic growth, which he said remains one of the major challenges for most SADC Member States.

Dr Mhlongo informed the Indonesia Ambassador that the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap provides for value addition in agro-processing which creates potential areas of partnership and investment, based on the robust value addition He hailed the spirit of entrepreneurship that is prevalent in Indonesia, especially from small scale business operators which, he said, has enhanced inclusive economic growth for Indonesians and is worth emulating.

The Deputy Executive Secretary invited the Indonesia business community to the 2019 annual SADC Industrialisation Week which will take place in the United Republic of Tanzania, ahead of a precursor to the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit. The SADC Industrialisation Week is a public-private engagement platform aimed at fostering new opportunities for intra-African trade and investment in the SADC region.



H.E. Al Farisi (left) Dr Mhlongo

SADC staff revisits SADC Website

By Jocelyne Lukundula

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held a 2-day workshop from 14th to 15th November where focal persons from Directorates and Units discussed the updating of the SADC website www.sadc.int. The objectives of the workshop were to: review the content on the current SADC website; guide Focal persons on the concepts of website maintenance and writing content for the website and aligning the SADC Website with the new Organisational Structure. Appointed Focal persons reflected during two days on how to achieve these objectives.

The team was taken through an overview of the current SADC website, a demonstration of the content management, and provided with basic skills on how to write for the World Wide Web, as well as on the concepts of website maintenance, among others. Participants also undertook a benchmarking exercise, where they visited the websites of related organisations and other Regional Economic Communities, as well as private sector

organization websites such as banks and came up with suggestions that can be implemented from now, with the current technical system that is used while other changes could only be implemented during the overall revamping of the website in 2019. It was agreed that the meeting will particularly work on the updating of the static information in order to align it to the new SADC Secretariat organizational structure adopted in August 2017 at the Summit of Heads of State and Government.

The SADC website is a very important information sharing tool not only for the region but even beyond the region. According to google analytic records, the website is visited by more than 1 million people per month. The SADC website offers static information such as SADC legal instruments and policy documents, the SADC structure, reports, brochures, Member States information and also promotes the SADC Secretariat Library. The news stories on the SADC Secretariat website are tweeted on the SADC Secretariat Twitter account @sadc-news and shared on the SADC Secretariat Facebook for wider dissemination.

SADC Commemorates Malaria Day by spraying Mosquitoes in Namibia



Dr. Haufiku (right) leading a delegation of SADC Ministers during the spraying of mosquito

By Letso S. Mpho

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Health and Ministers responsible for HIV and AIDS took part in the commemoration of the SADC Malaria Day held in Kayengona village; an area affected by Malaria in the East of Rundu, Namibia. The event took place on 9th November 2018 under the theme: "Strong Cross border collaboration is key to Malaria Elimination" and the slogan, "SADC Unite to End Malaria".

The commemoration took place following to the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV and AIDS which convened in Windhoek, Namibia on the 8th November 2018 to deliberate on public health issues aimed at contributing to the attainment of improved quality of life of the people in the Region.

Held also within the margins of the commemoration, was the Elimination 8 Ministerial Committee Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia on the 7th November 2018 which deliberated and reflected on experiences, shared best practices and efforts towards accelerating elimination of Malaria and collaboration to develop an Acceleration Plan, and intensify efforts in core interventions,

cross border cooperation, as well as pooled capacity building. Following the signing of the Windhoek Declaration on eliminating malaria in the SADC Region by the SADC Heads of States and Government in August 2018, SADC has reaffirmed its commitment to Malaria Elimination as a top priority on its Agenda.

During the commemoration, the Key Speaker, the Minister of Health and Social Services for the Republic of Namibia, Hon. Dr. Bernhard Haufiku set the tone by calling for a joint concerted effort by Member States and relevant stakeholders to urgently eliminate Malaria. He stated that the region needed to network and strengthen cross border collaboration to halt the transmission across borders and minimise the spread of the disease to areas especially where it has been cleared out or has been reduced. "It's either we kill the mosquito or the mosquito kills us," Dr. Haufiku affirmed.

The Minister underscored the commitment of the region in fight against Malaria and mentioned that initiatives are in place to assist Malaria infested areas. One such initiative is the Elimination 8 project which is intended to accelerate zero local transmission, especially in the four frontline countries (Botswana, Namibia,

South Africa and Swaziland) by 2020; and the second line countries by 2030, through the provision of a mechanism for collaboration and joint strategic programming.

The Elimination 8 (E8) Strategic Pillars and activities are;

- To strengthen regional coordination in order to achieve elimination in each of the E8 member countries
- To elevate and maintain the regional elimination agenda at the highest political levels within E8 Countries
- To promote knowledge management, quality control, and policy harmonization to accelerate progress towards elimination
- To facilitate the reduction of cross-border malaria transmission
- To secure resources to support the regional elimination plan, and to ensure long term sustainable financing for the region's elimination ambitions

The Minister further stated that the Southern Africa region is in danger given all other social problems, with 35 million people being children under the age of five at risk of contracting Malaria; 8.5 million people being pregnant women, and with 90 percent of all malaria cases in Africa mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. He also took time to reflect those who lost their lives to the disease by stating that, "we are also here to remember all those who have been victims of malaria and particularly those who have lost their lives, as we observe this day to remind ourselves that while malaria continues to devastate our communities, the disease can be prevented" said Dr. Haufiku.

Dr. Richard Nchabi Kamwi, former Minister of Health of the Republic of Namibia and now Ambassador for Malaria Elimination also graced the occasion. He acknowledged and commended the SADC Heads of State and Government for prioritizing malaria elimination following the signing of the Windhoek Declaration on Malaria Elimination in

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Malaria Day

from page 14

August 2018, including the African Union (AU) level and committed to 2030 as the Elimination Hall Mark as shown also by the signing of the declaration. He said the declaration, amongst others, encourages SADC to firmly place regional malaria elimination on its national agendas; promote a supportive policy and legislative environment for malaria elimination; and reinforces accountability for malaria elimination commitments among Member States.

The Malaria Ambassador also implored SADC Member States to reflect, interrogate and introspect on means of safeguarding families, protect children and take part in spraying the mosquitoes and take precautionary measures and also take ownership as communities in the war against malaria.

SADC Ministers also conducted the Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests at a local clinic, participated in household indoor residual spraying, interacted, shared information and created awareness on malaria in the eventful day.



Comoros Flag

Comoros officials visit SADC Secretariat

By Jocelyne Lukundula

tary and SADC Management team.

Following their country's depositing of the instrument for Accession to SADC Membership, a delegation from the Union of Comoros visited SADC Secretariat in Gaborone Botswana on 12 November 2018 to meet with the SADC Double Troika, SADC Executive Secre-

The purpose of the meeting was for the SADC Secretariat to introduce Comoros to the existing Legal Instruments of SADC, i.e. Protocols, Declarations, Charters and Memorandum of Understanding; and outline their status and purpose with an expectation to have a position from the officials on their country's plans to sign, ratify and accede to the legal instruments.

The meeting discussed the status and steps taken since the Comoros acceded to the SADC Membership at the Summit of Heads of States and Government in August 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia.

The delegation led by Comoros Ambassador to Pretoria, Mr. Chamsidine Mhadjou accompanied by Permanent Liaison Officer for Regional cooperation and Indian Ocean and SADC National contact point, Mr. Imam Abdillahi was briefed on SADC's legal, strategic and other administrative documents. The meeting also discussed the next step and agreed on a calendar of activities that will lead to the completion of their membership. The Union of Comoros is now the 16th SADC Member State.



Mosquito spraying team



Dr Mhlongo (forth from left) and H.E. Dr. Rillo (fifth from left) with senior officials from both parties

SADC, ASEAN discuss Digital Economy and Private Sector Engagement Mechanism to further regional integration

**By Innocent Mbvundula &
Dr Johansein Rutaihwa**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr Theminkosi Mhlongo on 21-23 November, 2018 led a delegation from the SADC Secretariat to the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia.

Among other engagements, the SADC delegation held discussions with the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community, H.E. Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo. The two parties noted the long standing and historical relationship between Asia and Africa which has led to some Asian countries supporting SADC Member States in the areas of peacekeeping, infrastructure, agriculture and investment.

The two parties noted the advances that the ASEAN has made in the areas of digital economy and Private Sector engagement to accelerate economic integration and growth in the region. It was noted that ASEAN nations have made great strides in increasing levels of Internet penetration with 260 million individuals in the ASEAN region having regular access to the Internet by 2016 according to a Google-Temasek survey and the figure is projected to increase to 480 million by 2020.

On the Private Sector engagement, it was noted that the ASEAN has a strong private sector engagement

mechanism, where the private sector provides policy guidance and advice to ASEAN decision making organs. The SADC Secretariat appreciated the role of Private Sector Engagement Mechanism in the ASEAN structure and took note of the elements that could be replicated as SADC is in the process of establishing the Business Council which is aimed at bringing the private sector as partners in the implementation of SADC Industrialization Agenda

The SADC Secretariat is committed to assist and support SADC Member States to develop and implement strategic programmes and projects with Partners from the ASEAN Community.

The Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration was accompanied on the visit by Senior Officials from the Secretariat that included the Director of Industrial Development and Trade (IDT), Mr Tapiwa Samanga, Senior Programme Officer for Industri-

alization and Competitiveness, Dr Johansein Rutaihwa, Acting Senior Legal Officer, Ms. Nthabiseng Liphapang and Senior Programme Officer for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting, Ms. Lerato Moleko

The visit was aimed at understanding the role played by ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme in promoting industrial cooperation and development in ASEAN; understand the architecture of ASEAN monitoring and evaluation system; and ASEAN Private Sector Engagement mechanism. While in Jakarta, the SADC Secretariat held discussions with Mr. Cecep Herawan, Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy in the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Jörg Hager, Principal Advisor, ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) 2025 – Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening, which is commissioned by Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (AA)



Meeting in progress

Madagascar heads for second round presidential poll

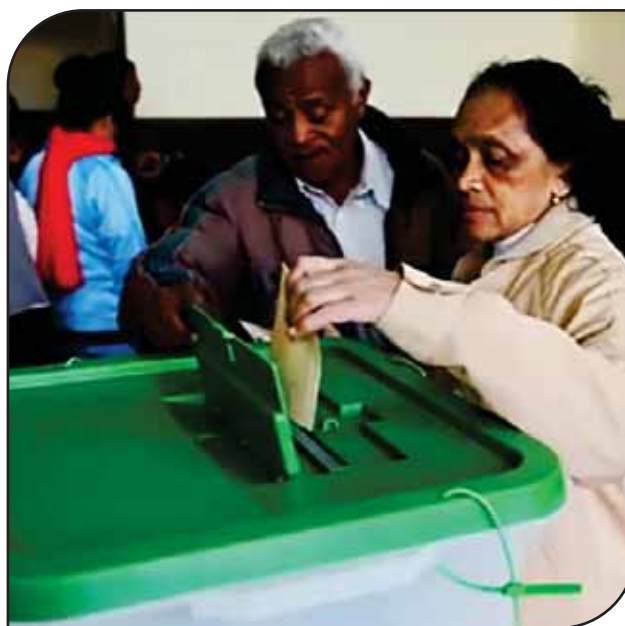
By Joseph Ngwawi

Madagascar is set for a run-off on 19 December after no presidential candidate amassed enough votes to be declared outright winner following elections held in early November 2018.

The run-off will be contested by two former presidents, Andry Rajoelina and Marc Ravalomanana who led first round presidential polls. According to provisional results announced by the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI-T) on 17 November, Rajoelina and Ravalomanana emerged as the two candidates with the most votes in the first round elections, receiving 39.19 and 35.29 percent of the vote, respectively.

Incumbent President, Hery Rajaonarimampianina, could only manage to secure 8.84 percent of the vote, according to CENI-T. The rest of the vote was split among 33 other presidential aspirants. The Madagascar Constitution requires that a presidential candidate must amass 50 percent-plus-one of total votes cast in a national election to be declared as president. The fact that neither Rajoelina nor Ravalomanana managed to garner the 50 percent-plus-one vote threshold has, therefore, necessitated the holding of a second round poll.

The provisional results will now go to the Special Electoral Court for validation. The winner will replace Rajaonarimampianina who has been in power since winning the last elections held in December 2013. He also had to fight off the challenge of former health minister Jean-Louis Robin-



Residents casting their votes in Madagascar

son after another inconclusive presidential poll that was held the previous month. Rajaonarimampianina replaced Rajoelina, a former disc jockey who had himself ousted Ravalomanana as president in a military-backed coup in 2009, in a similar method used by Ravalomanana to oust his own predecessor, Didier Ratsiraka. Voter turnout was high during the elections at about 54.3 percent of registered voters as the people of Madagascar chose among the 36 candidates for a president to lead them for the next five years. More than 9.9 million registered voters cast their ballots at nearly 25,000 polling stations across the country. A total of 24,852 polling stations were set up to facilitate smooth voting on Election Day. The election was endorsed as credible and fair by international and regional observers such as those from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union.

Head of the SADC Election

Observer Mission (SEOM), Joseph Malanji said the voting process was generally peaceful and in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act despite concerns raised by some of the contestants.

He said the SEOM observed that the elections were "conducted in an orderly and professional manner, and within the requirements of the legal framework of the Republic of Madagascar and further, in accordance with the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015)." He commended the public media for providing prime time coverage to all political parties and the military for maintaining professionalism during the election period. The SEOM noted a number of other "good practices worth sustaining."

"These include the calm and peaceful political and security environment before, during, and immediately after polling day and adherence to the laws and legal provisions governing

presidential elections, particularly, the requirement that the incumbent President should resign 60 days before a presidential election if the incumbent desires to be a candidate in that election," said Malanji, who is Zambian Foreign Affairs Minister.

SEOM made a number of key recommendations to further strengthen Madagascar's political systems.

These include, among others, the need to revise legal provisions to hold harmonised elections; provision for continuous registration of voters by allowing this to be done throughout the year; intensified voter education for citizens; timely delivery of electoral materials; enforcement of the rules on election campaign finances; strong political party institutions and the need for the development, adoption and enforcement of an Electoral Code of Conduct for electoral stakeholders.

The SEOM was made up of observers from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A total of 53 observers were deployed who covered 10 regions of Madagascar. SADC has been seized with the political situation in Madagascar since 2009 and appointed former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano as special envoy to mediate in the peace talks. The conduct of the forthcoming presidential election in Madagascar should, therefore, be viewed in the context of these on-going regional initiatives that are designed to bring lasting political stability to the country. sardc.net

SPGRC trains Seychelles plant genetic resources conservation officers

*By Thandie Lupupa,
Peggy Ng'ono &
Justify Shava*

Plant genetic resources (PGR) are a key component of the food production and productivity value chain in the SADC region. In addition to the provision of direct food and nutrition to the 370 million citizens of the SADC region, plant genetic resources are an ingredient in the crop improvement and seed production business. Plant genetic resources, therefore, occupy a critical position in the effort of SADC to increase the region's agricultural production and productivity as a reservoir of nutritional and genetic diversity needed for perpetual food and nutrition security. SADC, through its institution mandated with the coordination of conservation of plant genetic resources, SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC), continues to build capacity in plant genetic resources conservation in Member States by imparting many different skills in long term handling of plant genetic resources.

Plant genetic resources conservation is at different stages in different Member States and different Member States focus on specific crop species depending on the major food crops of each country. In general, the most common crop species conserved in the region to date are the orthodox seed producing species. Vegetatively propagated crop species are also conserved but in their natural habitats or on farms where they are managed by farmers with assistance from plant genetic resources conservationists.

The SPGRC provides technical assistance to Member States requiring support in establishing and running their plant genetic resources conservation programmes. After an invitation by the Seychelles Agricultural Agency, on 11 – 19 April 2018, officers from the SPGRC conducted a mission to the Republic of Seychelles to train plant genetic resources conservation personnel on germplasm inventory preparation, conducting germplasm



Mrs Peggy Ng'ono training Seychelles genebank staff on germination testing



Assessment of farmer led on-farm conservation efforts in Praslin Islands

collection, seed viability testing (germination test procedures) and the characterisation of root and tuber crops.

The Republic of Seychelles is in the process of establishing a national genebank (also known as a National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NPGRC)) for its plant genetic resources, hence, the need to train its plant genetic resources conservation staff on the core activities carried out in a genebank such as germplasm collection, germplasm viability testing and general germplasm inventory management. In order to extract more nutritional and genetic value

from her fruit trees, root and tuber crops such as cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz), yam (*Dioscorea* sp.) and taro or cocoyam (*Colocasia esculenta*), the republic of Seychelles intends to characterise accessions of these species occurring in the country. Characterization is useful for the identification of unique traits that are documented and information provided to breeders for further crop improvement activities.

The SPGRC Senior Programme Officer responsible for In – Situ conservation of plant genetic resources,

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Seychelles plant

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Thandie Lupupa, trained the Seychelles plant genetic resources conservation personnel on morphological characterization procedures for cassava, yam and taro using methods laid out in the Bioversity International Descriptors.

The training was held at the Anse Boileau Research Station in Mahe where a total 14 officers (Researchers, Technical Officers and Extension Workers) were trained on how to develop an inventory for conserved food crops, crop wild relatives, fruit trees and endemic plants and a list of different categories of food crops was drawn based on whether the crop species are rare, threatened or endemic. The list would be used as a guide to the officers when prioritizing plants that are to be urgently collected and rescued from extinction.

A one day farmers' visit was carried out in Praslin where a total of six farmers with a high crop and fruit tree diversity were encouraged to work together in an on-farm conservation group. Crop diversity of plant genetic resources need to be conserved in their natural habitats, on farms or as seed in community seed genebanks. This will ensure that they are guarded against the threat of extinction exerted on them by natural forces like climate change or manmade forces such as changes in food preferences which has made communities to shun their traditional diets in favor of the highly processed crop species. Crop diversity such as the one maintained by farmers on the Island of Praslin have to be monitored and threatened species rescued. More work also needs to be done to identify farmers promoting on-farm conservation in Seychelles to support them and encourage more partnerships in the area of agro-tourism. Sharing of plant material among local farmers needs to be promoted as this also ensures that germplasm is not easily lost from communities. In the end, food security will be guaranteed in the region.

SADC Military Health Services successfully conducts training exercise

The Military Health Services of SADC conducted Exercise Pabalelo from 14th to 29th November 2018 in Maun, Republic of Botswana. The aim of the Exercise was to test the SADC Standby Force's Medical Battalion capability to provide combat medical support during peace support operations and humanitarian assistance missions. This was the first ever Exercise of its nature for the SADC Military Health Services (MHS) conducted under the theme "Fortified and comprehensive health: A precursor to military success and victory in combat".

In addition, Exercise Pabalelo also aimed at validating the draft SADC MHS Doctrine and to practice Command, Control, Communications and Coordinating structures during the provision of medical support. Further, the Exercise intended to ensure interoperability amongst the SADC Member States' Military Health Services, while strengthening the operational readiness of the SADC Standby Force. In order to attain this, Ex Pabalelo was able to set up Level I medical support stations in Kareng, Tsau, Phatlhane and Bodibeng, Level II medical support stations in Sehithwa and a Level III medical support station at Letsholathebe II Hospital in Maun town, which served as the final referral level.

The closing of Exercise Pabalelo was graced by Major General Gotsileene Morake, Deputy Commander of the Botswana Defence Force who, while appreciating the successful conduct of the Exercise also noted that the array of activities geared towards mobilizing and jointly planning, strategizing and training the health personnel of the magnitude displayed, demonstrated the high regard SADC Member States accord to Military Health Services interoperability in the region, which he said was praiseworthy and represents the timely capability for SADC militaries in combat medical support, in particular during SADC Standby Force peace support operations and humanitarian assistance missions. The Deputy Commander also noted that the contemporary and future security environments

are significantly characterised by epidemics and challenges to health care services in conflict zones, which calls for the SADC Standby Force to exercise in such capabilities.

In a similar manner, the Exercise Director, Colonel Mothusi Chelenyane also informed that, as part of its mandate, the Military Health Services Exercise was able to integrate Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) at the Level III medical support, where they were able to conduct specialist surgical operations at Letsholathebe II Memorial Hospital by health professionals from all participating SADC countries. A total of 160 different types of medical procedures were thus performed on the local civilian population to alleviate surgical backlogs, particularly in the areas of cataracts, Caesarean section, Hysterectomy, Open reduction and Internal fixation. Other outreach programmes included Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) for malaria and Canine vaccinations for rabies.

The conduct of Exercise Pabalelo is also timely especially as the SADC goes into the African Standby Force Roster duties from January 2019, whereby SADC will be expected to provide Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) towards Peace Support efforts in the entire African Continent, as part of the African Union's conflict resolution mechanisms. In addition, as part of Force Preparation, together with the recently concluded SADC Command Post Exercise (CPX), code-named Umodzi, held in the Republic of Malawi in October 2018, the SADC Special Forces Exercise, codenamed Matumbawe, which was held in the United Republic of Tanzania in August 2017, and the SADC Military Aviation Exercise, codenamed Blue Kunene held in the Republic of Namibia in September 2017, Exercise Pabalelo served to enhance the overall operational readiness of the SADC Standby Force.

The Exercise was attended by the Republic of Botswana as the Host Country, the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the Republics of Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

SADC facilitates discussions to enhance capacity of National Early Warning Units

By Panduleni Elago

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) technical staff undertook missions to Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Botswana, between the 5th to 15th November 2018, to discuss how to enhance capacity of National Early Warning Units (NEWUs) to better inform and communicate timely on food security situation.

The discussions also included the current processes in compiling annual Cereal Balance Sheets, key challenges and areas that require further support; validation of the results of the recent national vulnerability assessment committees (NVACs); technical capacity assessments undertaken. During the missions, plans which will guide the NVACs in improving their effectiveness on issues of social and economic vulnerability of the food and nutrition security were endorsed. Amongst others, some of the regional interventions and outcomes from the discussions that Member States considered as key for support were:

- the need for Secretariat to ensure that the methods used for data collection in all the 16 Member States are harmonized, to allow comparison of country to country, and season to season situations.
- the need to support Member States with mobile/satellite monitoring tools, remote sensing products that will enable continuous efforts to monitor crop production and data collection, as continuous threats, unpredictable and unfavorable weather conditions continue to face the Region;

As Member States still require capacity building in methods of crop forecasting for national early warning units, they agreed to include planning and designing of crop surveys, field data collection, and crop survey data analysis. The meetings also noted the need for advocacy by all Governments



Food

PHOTO COURTESY OF EAST AFRICAN AGRI-NEWS

to adequately allocate budget to National Early Warning Units, as they are a key source of agricultural information to inform policy decision makers. Most SADC Member States are lagging behind in the production and productivity targets of basic cereals and other essential food commodities as stipulated in the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (RISDP).

The SADC Food Security and Agriculture Unit, within Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), and the Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme are involved in monitoring crop production, which all aim to strengthen the collection, analysis of food security data for purposes of providing advance and timely information on the food security prospects for SADC Member States. They are also involved in, sharing of information in the region, which positively impact regional perspec-

tives concerning issues of agricultural performance, early warning systems for food insecurity, and vulnerability and disaster preparedness. As the Region continues to face fluctuations in climatic conditions, resulting in reduced rainfall performance all across, so is the need to continuously support and strengthen monitoring of crop production to better prepare the impacts that may be realized at every end of the crop season.

At Member States level, data about food production and availability is generated mostly through early warning units, and in close partnership with National Statistical Agencies. The European Union, under EDF 11 programme is supporting implementation of some of the components of the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (FNSS) and the national early warning units to strengthen food and nutrition security data collection and analysis.

SADC needs to tell the story of its Liberation Struggle

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax on 30th November, 2018 held discussions with the Minister of Defence and War Veterans of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Oppah Muchinguri- Kashiri where the two underlined the need for the SADC region to tell the amazing story of its Liberation struggle.

The two said the story of liberation of the Southern African states is at the foundation and existence of SADC and that there is need to preserve the history of liberation for posterity. Dr Tax and Hon. Muchinguri- Kashiri acknowledged that people of the SADC region are better off today because of many brave and patriotic men and women who made sacrifices to secure freedom and that such people deserve special recognition. Hon. Muchinguri- Kashiri welcomed the decision of the 38th SADC Summit to set 23rd March as the Southern African Liberation Day to remember freedom fighters who played a pivotal role in the struggle for liberation of Southern African states.

The Minister said Zimbabwe values the important role played by war veterans in the fight for independence and that Government has an established mechanism of recognizing them. She said Zimbabwe will continue to promote peace and security in the SADC region as the Incoming Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Dr Tax informed the Minister that the Hashim Mbita Publication which contains a comprehensive record of liberation struggle in southern Africa is part of the effort by SADC to assist the present and future generations to remember the sacrifices made by millions of their forefathers and mothers in the liberation struggles.

She said the 30th SADC Summit approved to put in place a mechanism to honour Founders of SADC, while working to incorporate the teaching of the Southern African Liberation



H.E Dr Tax (left) and Hon. Muchinguri- Kashiri

History in the school syllabi of SADC Member States. The Executive Secretary assured the Minister of the SADC Secretariat commitment and requested Zimbabwe to continue championing SADC regional integration agenda.

During the meeting, the Executive

Secretary was accompanied of the Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs at the SADC Secretariat, Mr Jorge Cardoso, the Commandant of the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) Colonel Valentine Khumalo and officers from the SADC Secretariat.

SADC ES advocates for the lifting of outstanding sanctions in Zimbabwe

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has reiterated SADC's abiding commitment to support the Republic of Zimbabwe and has called on the international community to remove outstanding sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe as the country undertakes measures towards economic recovery. Dr Tax made the call during a media briefing in Harare.

The Executive Secretary said sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe continue to pose as a stumbling block to faster economic recovery of the country and have a negative impact on the lives of Zimbabweans and the SADC region as a whole. Dr Tax commended Zimbabwe for measures it has taken to move the country forward. She cited the land audit and plans to compensate farmers as positive steps towards revitalizing the economy, especially considering that Zimbabwe's economic success largely depends on productive utilization of the land.

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Second SADC-SABA Broadcasting Forum Held

By George Ah-Thew

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in collaboration with the Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA) convened the Second SADC-SABA Broadcasting Forum from the 29th to 30th October 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The forum was attended by about 70 delegates from 10 SADC Member States and other experts from media and communication regulatory authorities in the SADC region and various SABA members.

The Member States presented the status of their Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Migration process and their overall achievements and challenges in running media houses in the region. It was established that the Kingdom of Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania have completed the digital migration process and the remaining Member States are committed to completing the process by the 31st December 2018.

The main challenges experiencing the Member States was availability of Set Up Boxes (STBs) and slow uptake in view that the National Public Channel is a must carry on other commercial networks and CableTV networks. Most SADC Member State are continuing their efforts to complete the DTT Migration and STB assembly plants have been set up in some Member States to reduce the burden of importing large numbers of STBs.

Delivering his keynote address, the President of SABA and Director General of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), Mr. Benjamin Stanley Similo, said that most Public Broadcasters are experiencing difficult times, financially, and are struggling daily to make ends meet in running their stations, and called upon Governments to appreciate the mandate of Public Broadcasters, and increase their support and funding of public broadcasters. Dr. George Ah-Thew, the SADC Acting Senior

Programme Officer thanked the SABA President and Secretary General of SABA and the Chair of the SADC TV Bouquet Implementing Committee for presenting the pilot SADC TV Channel on the 27th September 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia to the Ministers responsible for ICT, Information, Meteorology and Transport.

Dr. Ah-Thew further indicated that over 70% of the SADC Region population is under the age of 35 years and combined with a high uptake of mobile services and social media usage, the SADC Region presents a unique opportunity for SABA to play a

leading role in the development and use of broadcasting services to empower people for socio-economic development. He said that one area SABA should be promoting the regional agenda is through streaming of interactive broadcasting content on the Internet for the young people and encouraged SABA to facilitate the sharing of experiences among Member States on streaming content to mobile phones.

The Second SADC-SABA Broadcasting Forum was officially closed by Mr. Benjamin Stanley Similo, the President of SABA.

SADC ES advocates for the lifting of outstanding sanctions in Zimbabwe

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She called on Zimbabweans to unite, noting that irrespective of their political differences, all Zimbabweans share a common destiny and that there cannot be tangible economic development without unity, peace and stability in the country. On this note, Dr Tax said she was pleased with the efforts to unify the country after the elections held on 30th July, 2018.

The SADC Executive Secretary also congratulated Hon. Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri on being appointed the first female Minister of Defence and War Veterans in the history of Zimbabwe.

During the meeting with Hon. Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, the Minister thanked the SADC Executive Secretary for visiting Zimbabwe and for committing to stand by Zimbabwe through the initiatives that the country has embarked on to revitalize its economy and sustain peace and unity.

The Honourable Minister said, as a member of SADC, Zimbabwe will continue to play its rightful role to advance the ideals and objectives of SADC, adding that Zimbabwe will use its position as the Incoming Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation to sustain peace and stability prevalent in the region.

During the meeting the SADC Executive Secretary and the Minister of Defence and War Veterans signed the Memorandum of Understanding between SADC and the Government of Zimbabwe which creates a framework of support from the Government of Zimbabwe to the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC). The Minister pledged to continue supporting the RPTC to carry out its mandate of building and sustaining the capacity of peace support operations of the SADC Standby Force.



H.E. Dr Tax (front row centre) Mr Stock (second from left) and senior officials

Cyber-Crime, Counter-Terrorism Top on Agenda as SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr Tax engages INTERPOL

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax on 30th November, 2018 visited the INTERPOL Regional Bureau in Harare, Zimbabwe and held meeting with the Management led by Head of the Bureau, Mr Mubita Nawa. The Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr Jurgen Stock joined the meeting through the video call from the INTERPOL Secretariat in Lyon, France. Top on issues that were discussed, was the urgent need to strengthen cooperation to fight cyber-crime, counter-terrorism and other organized crimes.

The INTERPOL Secretary General, indicated that SADC is a strategic partner in advancing the work of INTERPOL of enabling police in its member countries to work together to fight international crime. Mr Stock said the 87th

INTERPOL General Assembly resolved to bring INTERPOL activities closer to its member countries, while strengthening regional bureaus across the world.

The meeting also took note on progress made towards the finalisation of the Framework Agreement between SADC and INTERPOL, which is expected to be finalized by March 2019. The Framework, aims to provide a platform of general cooperation between the two parties, In this regard, the INTERPOL Secretary General thanked the Secretariat, recognizing, the Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs at the SADC Secretariat, Mr Jorge Cardoso and the entire Team for progress made in developing the Agreement.

In the discussion with the Management of the Bureau, H.E. Dr Tax commended the Management for the process made in the implementation of regional cooperation on

crime management, and pledged continued support to the Bureau, for it to achieve its objectives, emphasising that Cyber-Crime and Counter-Terrorism pose an existential threat to peace and security of the SADC region and beyond. The meeting underscored the importance of joint planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of activities between the INTERPOL Regional Bureau and SADC.

On this note, H.E. Dr Tax informed the Management of the Bureau that a Unit has been included in the structure of the Secretariat to among others, facilitate effective cooperation and communication between the SADC Secretariat and the Bureau. The Head of Unit is expected to assume duties by February, 2019.

The Secretary General also seized the opportunity to invite the SADC Executive Secretary to deliver a Keynote address at the

88th INTERPOL General Assembly to be held in Santiago, Republic of Chile. He said the General Assembly will be honoured to have the first woman SADC Executive Secretary address it.

H.E. Dr Tax thanked the Secretary General, and assured INTERPOL of SADC's continued commitment to cooperate with the INTERPOL. She also congratulated INTERPOL for holding a successful 87th General Assembly in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and for increasing its membership to 194 Member States, making it one of the largest global network of countries. The SADC Executive Secretary said she was delighted to note that a citizen of the SADC Region, Mr Destino Pedro from the Republic of Angola, was elected Delegate for Africa in the INTERPOL Executive Committee, the body that sets organisational policy and direction.



Wildlife

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAKE MY TRIP

35th SADC Technical Committee on Wildlife convened

By Deborah Kahatano

The 35th meeting of the SADC Technical Committee in Wildlife was held from 5– 6 November 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia to review the regional wildlife programme and clear policy documents and reports in preparation for the ordinary meeting of Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources tentatively planned for May 2019.

The SADC Director of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mr. Domingos Gove, informed the Committee of the progress made in the implementation of the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 and the roadmap towards development of the post 2020-development plan. Mr Gove said that although southern Africa is endowed with abundant wildlife resources that have vast potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of the region this can remain a pipe dream, unless Member States take collective actions to harness this potential and in addressing challenges facing these resources.

The Committee received the progress report on the implementation of SADC Protocols on Wildlife Conserva-

tion and Law Enforcement, and associated strategies, programmes and projects and the areas where implementation was lagging due to a number of reasons including limited resources. The Secretariat reported on the following:

- . milestones achieved towards implementation of the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) Strategy;

- . progress made in the implementation of the SADC/GIZ Project on Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources (TUPNR) and the proposed plans up to the end of the Project in December 2020;

- . progress towards the establishment of a Regional Financing Facility for SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas to be supported by ICP partner's resources;

- . progress in the implementation of the Training Programme for Wildlife Managers and Rangers;

- . development and validation of two TFCA regional guidelines namely Guidelines for community engagement in TFCAs and Guidelines on development of cross-border tourism products in TFCAs;

- . activities of the SADC TFCAs Network from the Network Chair; and

- . the role that is being played by SADC

Secretariat in facilitating the development regional positions for the meetings of the Conference of Parties Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The Committee:

- . urged Member States to submit progress reports to the Secretariat annually on the implementation of the SADC LEAP Strategy; to undertake further national consultative processes on the draft Guideline documents (up to 30th March 2019) before recommending them for approval by Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources; to be submitted to Ministers for consideration and approval.

- . requested the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to consider continued support to Natural Resources and Wildlife Management activities in the proposed new SADC/-German Technical cooperation Project beyond 2020;

- . adopted the proposed implementation modalities and road map for the operationalization of the Regional Financing Facility for SADC TFCAs; the reporting by the Steering Committee for the Regional Financing Facility for SADC TFCAs to the Technical Committee on Wildlife; and contracting of IUCN, by SADC Secretariat, as the Executing Agency for the Regional Financing Facility for SADC TFCAs; and, adopted the proposed concept to convene a SADC TFCAs Summit in 2020 as well as the draft Sustainability Strategy of the SADC TFCA Network.

- . directed the Secretariat to develop a plan on how to implement the Training Programme of Wildlife Managers and Rangers with time frames and submit it to Member States by March 2019;

Further, the Committee received an update on SADC collaboration with partners including Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), USAID Programmes on Combatting Wildlife Crimes and Resilient Waters and Boundless Southern Africa.

SADC TFCA Network holds its Annual meeting



Due to persistent poaching, species like rhinoceros are becoming extinct PHOTO COURTESY OF KRUGERPARK.CO.ZA

The SADC TFCA Network held its annual meeting from 16th to 18th October at the Southern African Wildlife College, within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Report on progress made in the implementation of the SADC TFCA Programme;
- Receive updates on the activities and work plans of the Communities of Practice (CoPs)
- Create an understanding of SADC TFCA training needs, offers and gap to create the future professionals in TFCA management; and
- Prepare recommendations to be tabled at the Technical Committee on Wildlife.

The outcomes of the meeting included the following:

- A shared understanding of progress made in the implementation of the SADC TFCA Programme by individual

TFCAs;

- Identification of opportunities for enhanced cooperation among TFCAs and TFCA stakeholders;
- A roadmap to roll out implementation of the SADC TFCA Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that was approved by Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources in November 2017;
- A proposal to host the SADC TFCA Summit 2020 to commemorate 20 years since the establishment of the first TFCA, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park between Botswana and South Africa;
- Agreement to show-case the contribution on SADC TFCAs in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
- Update on current ICP landscape in the region and the existence of international funds, which could be accessed by TFCAs.

The meeting was attended by 59 participants from 11 SADC Member States, including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as Conservation Organization, several regional training and academic institutions and ICPs.

The meeting of the SADC TFCA Network paid tribute to the departed members of the SADC TFCA family namely Hon. Edna Bommo Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa; Mr. Ernest Otladisa Mokganedi, Director responsible for TFCAs, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa; and Mrs. Anna Titus, a ranger of the Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park and front desk officer for the Desert Knights Tour, Namibia, for their leadership and contribution to the achievements of the SADC TFCA Programme. Desert Knights is one of prominent cross-border tourism products in TFCAs.

The SADC Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) Network was established in 2013 to support the implementation of the SADC TFCA Programme through learning, information exchange and knowledge management. The Network has about 300 members including National Governments, NGOs, Private Sector, donors, Academia and is guided and led by a Steering Committee (SC) comprising TFCA Focal Points from all SADC Members States and SADC Secretariat. Since its establishment, the network has made direct contribution to the implementation of SADC TFCA Programme. Examples include development of TFCA Guidelines, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SADC TFCAs and showcasing TFCAs in global tourism and conservation platforms namely the annual international tourism show in Berlin, Germany, the World Parks Congress, 2014 in Sydney, Australia, and at the 17th meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 2016, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

SADC Seed stakeholders meet, and discuss domestication of Harmonised Seed Regulatory System

By Esiah Tjelele

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Feed The Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project (Seed Trade Project) convened a national seed stakeholder meeting in Maputo, Mozambique from the 19-20 November, 2018.

The objective of the meeting was to bring the seed stakeholders together to launch the Association for the Promotion of the Seed Sector in Mozambique (APROSE) project aimed at facilitating the domestication of the Harmonised Seed Regulatory System (HSRS) and enhancing smooth implementation of the system in Mozambique.

The specific objectives were as follows;

- to create a forum for dialogue for all national seed stakeholders,
- to launch APROSE seed project as a platform through which the HSRS would be implemented as a pilot, and
- to raise awareness to all key seed stakeholders around the SADC HSRS.

In an effort to improve crop production, productivity and competitiveness, the SADC Region, following extensive consultation, developed the Harmonised Seed Regulatory System to contribute to food and nutritional security, as well as poverty reduction.

The HSRS is composed of



Group photo of delegates

the SADC Variety Release System, the SADC Seed Certification and Quality Assurance System, and the SADC Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures for seed. The region is implementing HSRS to facilitate the movement of seed between Member States through trade. The system is meant to ensure smooth flow of seed of high quality at a less cost to the farmers.

Currently the USAID through the Seed Trade Project is implementing the project to facilitate the implementation of the HSRS in four focus countries - Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The progress in the implementation of the project was reported during the SADC Seed Technical Committee meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa and Member States agreed to use this project as a pilot to draw lessons from, prior to upscaling implementation

of all components of the HSRS. The Seed Trade Project is supporting the APROSE to engage in dialogue and training for key stakeholders in Mozambique in order to bring awareness about the SADC HSRS. APROSE is a membership-based association that brings together various actors in the seed industry in Mozambique, namely the seed multiplication companies, input suppliers, financial institutions, government institutions including the National Seed Authority (NSA) and Plant Protection Department (NPPO), development partners and other interested institutions. The APROSE project is envisaged to improve farmers' access to high quality seed of appropriate improved varieties from the region and is expected to accelerate the domestication of the SADC HSRS which Mozambique committed itself to through the signing of the MOU on SADC seed policy

harmonization.

The meeting brought people involved in the seed value chain together and helped to raise awareness to enhance smooth implementation of the Harmonised Seed Regulatory System. It also provided the platform for stakeholders to interact with each other and interrogate the HSRS thereby gaining thorough understanding of the system. Furthermore, the meeting facilitated the launch of the funding to the APROSE and enhanced full participation of seed stakeholders in the quest to realise regional seed security.

The meeting was attended by Government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Seed Companies, seed traders and associations involved in the seed value chain.

Zambia launches SADC seed certification and harmonized seed regulation system

By Esiah Tjelele

Zambian Government has launched the Southern African Development Community (SADC) seed certification and harmonized seed regulation system. Minister of Agriculture Michael Katambo says the launch signifies that Zambia has capacity to produce seed that can be traded across the SADC region.

Mr. Katambo says the launch is in line with the national agriculture policy whose overall agenda is to increase access to quality seed that assures increased production and productivity. Mr. Katambo said this in a speech read on his behalf by Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary Julius Shawa at Seed Co Zambia Business Park in Lusaka West. And speaking at the same function United States Agency for International Development (USAID) representative for the Seed Trade Project Takele Tasew says SeedCo Zambia will for the first-time plant and harvest three seed varieties under the SADC harmonized seed regulation system.



Meeting in session

Meanwhile SADC Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Resources senior crops officer Esaiah Tjelele said Zambia is leading the region in terms of domesticating the harmonized seed regulation system. Mr. Tjelele said SADC

member states will depend on Zambia to learn how they can upscale their activities in variety registration, certification and quarantine and phytosanitary issues.

SADC MISSION

"To provide sustainable and equitable economic and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security, so that the region emerges as a cooperative and efficient player"

MISSION DE LA SADC

"Assurer le développement économique et socioéconomique durable et équitable par les moyens suivants : systèmes efficaces de production, renforcement de la coopération et de l'intégration, bonne gouvernance, paix et sécurité, de sorte que la région émerge comme un acteur coopératif et efficace."

MISSÃO DA SADC

"Viabilizar o desenvolvimento económico e socioeconómico sustentável e equitativo, através da implementação de sistemas produtivos eficientes, do aprofundamento da cooperação e da integração, da boa governação e do alcance de uma paz e segurança duradouras, para que a região se transforme num interveniente cooperativo e eficiente"



PUBLIC OUTREACH SONG FOR SADC

Call for entries to a competition to produce
a public outreach song for SADC

For more information visit:

<https://www.sadc.int/awards/outreach-song/>

DEADLINE:
22 FEBRUARY 2019

2019



DID YOU KNOW THAT



The following SADCC/SADC milestones 2010– 2014 were achieved at the following SADCC/SADC Summits:

Date & Place	Milestones Achieved
30th Jubilee Summit 16 – 17 August 2010, Windhoek, Namibia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit celebrates the 30th SADC Anniversary and pays tribute to the Founding Fathers of SADC, the Frontline States and the visionary Pan-Africa leaders; and notes the achievements recorded by SADC in the 30 years of its existence.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit confers the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal of Excellency to the following notable Statesmen of the Region: Dr Kenneth Kaunda; Dr Sam Nujoma, and Brigadier General Hashim Mbita of the United Republic of Tanzania.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit approves the establishment of a SADC liaison office in Madagascar to support the political dialogue process in the country and approves the continuation of sanctions until the country returns to constitutional normalcy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit endorses the Council decision on the establishment of the Regional Poverty Observatory which will facilitate the implementation of the SADC Declaration on Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit instructs that a review of the role, functions and terms of reference of the SADC Tribunal be undertaken and concluded within 6 months.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit congratulates Angola and South Africa for successfully hosting the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations and the FIFA World Cup respectively.
Extraordinary Summit 20th May 2011 Windhoek, Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADC considers report on the review of the role, responsibilities and TOR of the SADC Tribunal & mandates Ministers of Justice/Attorney Generals to initiate process of amending relevant SADC legal instruments of the Tribunal.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit places moratorium on receiving cases or hearings of any cases by the Tribunal until the SADC Protocol on the Tribunal has been reviewed and approved.
Ordinary Summit 17 – 18 August 2011 Luanda, Angola.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit directs the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration, within the context of the review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan, to identify priority areas and reorient the SADC Integration Agenda accordingly.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit endorses the pillars of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite integration as Market Integration, Infrastructure Development and Industrial Development.
	<i>Source – SADC Summit Communiques</i>

To be continued in the next issue
Compiled by Anne Kulemeka

MEMBER STATES INFORMATION

REPUBLICS OF MADAGASCAR & SEYCHELLES



All Saints' Day is a celebration in Madagascar and Seychelles in November, particularly those who have no special feast days of their own, in many Roman Catholic, Anglican and Protestant churches.

In many western churches it is annually held November 1 and in many eastern churches it is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. It is also known as All Hallows Tide, All-Hallowmas, or All Hallows' Day.

All Saints' Day is observed by Christians in many countries around the world. In countries such as Spain, Portugal and Mexico, offerings are made on this day. In countries such as Belgium, Hungary and Italy people bring flowers to the

graves of dead relatives. In other parts of Europe, such as Austria, Croatia, Poland, and Romania, it is customary to light candles on top of visiting graves of deceased relatives. It is also observed in parts of Asia, such as the Philippines, where people visit graves of deceased relatives and clean or repair them. They also lay flowers on the graves and light candles.

Also called All Hallows, Solemnity Of All Saints, and The Feast Of All Saints. A national public holiday, also celebrated all over the world A day to honor martyrs and Christian Saints

Source: <https://prezi.com/edkpoth-oe/madagascar/>



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

20 November: Maulid day is celebrated, both in Tanzania and all over the world. This festive day, also called Mawlid or Milad, marks the birthday of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, or Mohamed, in the year 570 of the Gregorian calendar.

Sunni Muslims celebrate the event on the 12th of Rabi' al-awwal, the third month of the Muslim calendar, while Shi'a Muslims observe it in November in celebrating Maulid, which marks the birth of Prophet Muhammad S.A.W, praising the good work by religious leaders in promoting peace and unity in the country.

In contemporary usage, Mawlid refers to the observance of the birthday of Muhammad. Along with being referred to as the celebration of the birth of Muhammad, the term Mawlid also refers to the 'text especially composed for and recited at Muhammad's nativity celebration' or "a text recited or sung on that day".

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mawlid>



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



berthed in the Port Louis depot with the first 39 indentured labourers from South India. On November 2, 1834, Atlas – another vessel – arrived – this time with an additional 36 Indian labourers. Most of them were from Bihar and were destined to the sugar estate of Antoinette, in the region

of Piton.

In November, Mauritius celebrates the arrival of indentured labourers. 1834 marks the beginning of the arrival of indentured labourers in Mauritius. That year, on August 1st, a vessel named Sarah berthed in the Port Louis depot – on its board, the very first 39 indentured labourers from South India. This migration wave would swell with the abolition of slavery and the need for the British to recruit workers for the sugarcane factories and fields.

But Indian presence on the island goes beyond 1834. The difference laid in the status. In 1806, during the French era, 1 600 Indian slaves lived on the island. They were cooks and marine carpenters from Pondicherry and the south of India. On August 1st, Sarah

These indentured labourers were named «Girmitia», meaning, « terms of agreement ». They embarked in the port of Bhawaneepore, in Calcutta, next to Ghanta Ghar or the Clock Tower. The voyage from India to Mauritius spanned on 39 days. The vessels which sailed to Mauritius were known as « Coolie Ships ». The Indian and Mauritian governments unveiled a monument on January 11, 2011, at the Kidderpore Depot to commemorate this port of embarkation.

Source: <https://magazine.beachcomber-hotels.com/en/front/details/192/the-arrival-of-indentured-labourers-in-mauritius--they-dreamt-of-a-better-life>

DECEMBER | DECEMBRE | DEZEMBRO

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 World AIDS Day
2	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4	5	6	7	8
9 International Anti-Corruption Day	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION DAYS



HIV AND AIDS

SADC Member States have made commendable efforts in addressing HIV and AIDS. This has translated to more people accessing treatment and subsequent improvement in quality of life. Between 2010 and 2016, access to ARVs more than doubled. Although new cases of HIV infections have been reduced, they still remain very high. Ending new infections requires that “no one should be left behind”; all populations should be part of the response; and the increase of domestic funding for HIV prevention.

MEMBER STATES HOLIDAYS



MONTH OF DECEMBER 2018

HOLIDAY	DATE	MEMBER STATE
Immaculate Conception	08	Seychelles
Independence Day	09	Tanzania
Namibia Women's Day	10	Namibia
Day of Reconciliation	16	South Africa
National Unity Day	22	Zimbabwe
Christmas Day	25	All SADC Countries
Boxing Day	26	Botswana/Lesotho/Malawi/Swaziland/Tanzania/Zimbabwe
Family Day	26	Namibia
Day of Goodwill	26	South Africa
Last day of the year	31	Angola