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WORLD AIDS DAY - 01 DECEMBER 2017 - "RIGHT TO HEALTH"



WORLD AIDS DAY

"RIGHT TO HEALTH"



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF ALLFREEDOWNLOADS

SADC mourns peace keepers slain in DRC



Dr. Tax

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) says it is greatly saddened by the killing of 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers belonging to the SADC-deployed Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), serving under the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), in an attack which occurred at Semuliki, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on 7 December 2017.

In the attack, 5 soldiers from the DRC were also killed. The Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax condemned the heinous attack and expressed hope that the perpetrators of the attack will be quickly brought to book to ensure that justice is served. Dr Tax conveyed a message of condolences to the Government and

peoples of the United Republic of Tanzania and the DRC, through H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and H.E. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the DRC, for the loss of the gallant peacekeepers and soldiers.

In a statement, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania His Excellency Dr John Pombe Magufuli said he was shocked by the attack. "I am very shocked and saddened to hear of the deaths of our young, brave soldiers and heroes who lost their lives carrying out their peace mission in our neighbor, the DRC," His Excellency President Magufuli said. The Tanzanian peacekeepers were all members of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces participating in a peacekeeping operation in the eastern region of the country.

SADC ES reflects on Secretariat performance

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Executive Secretary (ES) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has commended staff at the Secretariat for their hard work, leading to the success the Secretariat registered in the year 2017. In her end of year message to staff, Dr Tax said in the half year to the financial year 2017/18, the Secretariat has achieved 121 outputs out of the 210 outputs, translating into 58% achievement.

Dr Tax also commended staff for the good work done in preparing and effectively servicing the meetings of SADC Council of Ministers and Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa in August 2017.

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SADC Secretariat Director of Human Resources and Administration, Mr. Elias Magosi (right) handing over a certificate of service to Mr. Mojakisane Mathaha during the staff meeting

ABOUT THE INSIDE SADC NEWSLETTER

The INSIDE SADC newsletter is produced by the Communication & Public Relations Unit (C&PRU) of the SADC Secretariat
For more information and feedback contact: prinfo@sadc.int Tel:+267 395 1863

CONTACTS

SADC Secretariat
Plot 54385 New CBD
Private Bag 0095
Gaborone, Botswana

Tel: +267 395 1863
Fax: +267 397 2848/3181070
www.sadc.int
www.facebook.com/sadc.int
Twitter: @SADC_News

EDITORIAL TEAM

EXECUTIVE EDITOR:
Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax
(SADC Executive Secretary)

EDITOR: Barbara Lopi
(Head of C&PRU)

SUB EDITORS:
Jocelyne Lukundula
Anne Kulemeka
Innocent Mbvundula

WRITERS

Barbara Lopi
Innocent Mbvundula
Peter Mabaka
Mukundi Mutasa

DESIGN & LAYOUT:
Letso S. Mpho

SADC steers development of multi-modal corridors

By Barbara Lopi

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has embarked on an ambitious agenda of setting up multi-modal development corridors.

This was revealed by the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs, Mrs Emilie Mushobekwa, during her remarks at the third Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Week on 11 December 2017 in Swakopmund, Namibia. The third PIDA Week was held under



Mrs Mushobekwa

the theme “Promoting Job Creation and Economic Transformation through Regional Infrastructure

Development”.

Referring to the theme, Mrs Mushobekwa said that SADC

has taken a multi-pronged approach to accelerate the preparation and implementation of PIDA Projects in the region to facilitate regional integration and job creation. The SADC Deputy Executive Secretary-Corporate Affairs said that the SADC PIDA Acceleration Programme on the Beira and North South Corridors was initiated in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in June 2016 culminating into the signing of the corridor governance instruments for both the Beira and North South Corridors in Beira, Mozambique in July 2017.

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(From left to right) Mr. Lisholo, Ms. Makonnen, Ms. Munodawafa and Dr. Pitso during official opening

SADC validates materials on trafficking in persons

By Mukundi Mutasa

The draft SADC regional training manual and awareness raising materials on trafficking in persons were validated by SADC Member States, in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 18 to 20 December 2017.

“Capacity building of frontline officers is important as it is instrumental for frontline officers to effectively identify and respond to the crime,” said Mr Clive

Lisholo, International Relations Officer in Zambia’s Ministry of Home Affairs. This was echoed by the Head of Gender Unit at SADC Secretariat, Dr Joseph Pitso, who said that “training of frontline officers in countering trafficking in persons is a precondition” towards effectively addressing this heinous crime that continues to plague countries in the region.

The validation workshop aimed to:

- Validate the draft training manual and

information, education and communication (public awareness raising) materials on trafficking in persons;

- Ensure that the proposed awareness raising materials convey effective messages to combat the crime of trafficking in persons in the region; and
- Brainstorm on how the manual and awareness raising materials will be rolled out, and develop national roadmaps to that effect.

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Swazi MTN aligns itself with SADC'S 'Roam Like Home' Initiative

The recent reduction of Swazi MTN's South African roaming rates has aligned the company with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) "roam like home initiative."

The SADC "roam like at home" initiative was aimed to convince operators to allow consumers to pay charges as close as they would have paid in their home countries. The initiative was signed in 2007 by SADC ministers of communication but is yet to be fully operationalised. Swazi MTN recently reduced its roaming prices to South Africa by 64 per cent from E5 to E1.80.

Data charges were reduced by 51 per cent from E2 per megabyte to 99 cents per megabyte and the short message service (SMS) was reduced by 26 per cent from E1.14 to 30 cents. During the announcement of the reduction, Swazi MTN Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lumphondvo said the reduction was in response to the company's customers who had been complaining that the company's cost of roaming was too high.

"This resulted in bill shocks for subscribers in other countries," he said. Lumphondvo further stated that preferential roaming rates with other carriers were also ongoing and this was aimed make to make it possible for Swazi MTN customers to roam at reasonable prices. Swazi MTN's price reduction came in a space of about two months following the SADC Ministers of Information Technology (ICT) meeting which was held in Durban, South Africa in September.

During the meeting, the high cost of roaming came under spotlight with the meeting further calling for operators to slash roaming costs in Southern Africa or to do away with them altogether. According to reports, an official from the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), South Africans paid as much as E5 per minute when roaming in countries like Swaziland and Botswana.

This was the exact amount that was paid by Swazis when calling home from South Africa before the price reduction



The Gold Lion maidens using cellphones during the 2013 Festival

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDLIONFEST

by Swazi MTN. The ministers further stated that the high costs of cross-border calls was a hindrance for economic development and the movement of people within the region and this was consequently a threat to the broader goal of regional integration. "We are making progress, but its not going to be easy. " As you know, if you travel from country to country, what they charge you for making a call is an excessive amount of money and you normally get a bill shock for roaming.

We want to change that, said ICASA Councilor Peter Zimri as quoted by Tech Central. "For us as South Africa, achieving low roaming charging for calls is important not only for attracting visitors to our country but its also important for cross-border trade.

What we have established in this project is that there are areas where we have dropped costs substantially by up to 60 per cent on certain routes. "As a result of the drop in certain routes, what we have also noticed is that there has been an increase in traffic in those routes because it has become cheap to communicate so that is the essence of this roam like at home initiative and we want to spread it to all SADC countries," he was further

quoted. Prior to the meeting, South Africa Communications Minister Ayanda Dlodlo was reported to have said the cost of communication within SADC needs to be looked at.

Otherwise the minister said it would be difficult for SADC countries to embrace the so-called "fourth Industrial Revolution" if communication within the region is not eased up. "We are not only concerned about the cost of data or roaming, but the cost of communication in general within SADC. There are quite a few issues we are discussing and at the centre of this are costs that people have to bear as they communicate with one another in the SADC region," the minister said.

The Durban meeting was intended amongst other things to propose strategies on how to do away with the high costs that affect people who have to communicate when they are away from home. It was also intended to look at issues of digitisation and the whole range of issues such as making sure that people have access to the internet at reasonable costs and the massive roll-out of broadband in all SADC countries. (Source: Swazi Observer)

4th Industrial Revolution to improve people's lives



Dr. Ah-Thew making a presentation

By Innocent Mbvundula

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) says the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Information Communication Technology (ICT) has the potential to raise income levels and improve the quality of life for people around the world.

Programme Officer for Telecommunications in the Directorate of Infrastructure Services at the SADC Secretariat, Dr. George Ah-Thew made the remarks on the occasion of a

multi-stakeholder workshop on Bridging the Innovation Divide in Gaborone, Botswana held under the theme; Accelerating Digital Transformation Towards the 4th Industrial Revolution. Dr Ah-Thew said that the 4th Industrial Revolution presents many digital opportunities for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise development and trade promotion, especially for the export of goods and services.

He added that the Declaration made by the SADC Ministers responsible for ICT Sector to prepare for the Fourth

Industrial Revolution repositions the Internet and ICT sector as a cross cutting tool for socio-economic transformation to benefit SADC citizens, by among other things, encouraging affordable access, availability of broadband internet service and devices to accelerate the uptake and usage of internet. The workshop which was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in partnership with SADC Secretariat came following a meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) held in KwaZulu Natal 6 - 7 September, 2017 with the theme: Preparing SADC for the 4th Industrial Revolution through ICTs.

At this meeting, the Ministers noted that the SADC Region is on the brink of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way people live, work and relate to one another. The workshop was attended by various stakeholders that are involved in nurturing and building digital innovation environment, favorable to entrepreneurship and creation of start-ups, growth and expansion of small firms, public service transformation and sector-specific transformation.

Malawi Government to reward SADC Media Award winners

Malawi's Minister of Information and Communications Technology, Honourable Nicholas Dausi has promised Malawian Journalists of substantial rewards if they win in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) media awards.

Dausi made the pledge during the launch of 2018 SADC Media Awards at the Central Office of Information in Malawi's capital city of Lilongwe. The minister challenged Malawian journalists to write competitive stories about tourism, economy and innovation that focus on regional integration within SADC and make Malawi proud. He also commended Malawian journalists for winning in various categories since 2014 when the awards were introduced and urged them to continue doing well.



Minister Nicholas Dausi (center) briefing the media accompanied by the Principal Secretary Mrs. Erica Maganga (right) and the Director of Information, Mr. Gedion Munthali

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Experts leading discussions during the forum

SADC, experts discuss value chains to achieve SADC Industrialization

By Peter Mabaka & Innocent Mbuundula

Industry experts, government officials and academicians agreed on the important role of developing regional value chains in achieving SADC Industrialisation during the panel discussion that was held on the sidelines of the third Science Forum in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa on 8th December, 2017.

The panel discussion was conducted to discuss the SADC Industrialisation Strategy with specific focus on value chains to achieve the Strategy and the role of industry, government and private sector in developing value chains. In his contribution to the discussion, the Industrialization Advisor at the SADC Secretariat, Mr Seth Akweshie, said the objectives of the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 are to, among other things, produce a major economic and technological transformation for rapid catching up with the industrialized economies, to transform Africa from commodity-dependent growth path to value-adding, create a knowledge-based and self-sustaining economic structure drawing on national and regional endowments as sources of prosperity.

He said through research SADC Secretariat has identified six potential value chains clusters which are; agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and related mining operations, pharmaceuticals, other consumer goods, capital goods and services.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology in Botswana, Dr Kekgonne Baipoledi observed that industry plays a critical role in identifying value chain opportunities with high potential.

Dr Baipoledi called for SADC Member States to support a strong entrepreneurial base through entrepreneurship training, access to finance and forging partnerships with local firms when formulating regional and global value chains.

He said there is strong potential for the development regional value chains in the SADC region because of the growing consumer population in the region. He called for SADC Member States to eliminate obstacles that affect intra-regional trade.

Another panelist, Professor Romain Murenzi, who is the Executive Director of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) based in Italy said government and private sector can play a critical role in developing regional value chains.

Professor Murenzi, a renowned scientist, also argued that science and technology are a backbone of Industrialisation. He said a country that cares about people should have a full, multifaceted policy on science, technology and innovation, adding that in the decades to come, Africa will need hundreds of new scientists and engineers to support development and drive growth.

multi-modal corridors

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“The agenda set for these corridors is beyond just trade and transit facilitation. The scope includes industrialization, infrastructure development in the fields of transport, energy, ICT and water, trade and regional economic development and integration”, Mrs Mushobekwa explained. She added that, “spatial economic development along the corridors and their zones of influence are core and central to the region’s corridor strategy, and the corridor states wish to use the corridors as anchors and transformative catalysts to regional economic development as prioritised under the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) of SADC”. In his official opening address, Namibia’s Minister of Works and Transport, Alpheus Naruseb, called for strong coordination in the implementation of PIDA and the preparation of bankable, investment-ready projects that can attract financing for implementation.

The African Heads of State and Government adopted PIDA in 2012, as the continental strategic infrastructure framework for the African Union’s stakeholders and partners to address the infrastructure deficit, boost intra-regional and international trade, increase growth and create jobs on the continent. The annual PIDA Week offers a valuable opportunity for decision-makers, private sector, civil society, and academia to exchange views towards sound realisation of PIDA projects on the ground. Since the inception of the PIDA programme in 2012 by African Heads of State and Government, progress has been made in the implementation of regional projects across the continent such as power interconnectors, the construction of major highways and strengthening linkages with potential financiers.

Some examples are the Dar es Salaam port expansion, which is expected to generate US\$2.6 billion revenue per year if effectively implemented by the Tanzanian government and neighbouring countries.

SADC Media Awards

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“So as we go into another season, I urge you to do your best so that we continue doing well. Come up with winning stories which emphasize on promoting regional integration,” said Dausi. Journalists will compete in categories of print, radio, television and photo journalism. Winners in each category will take home US\$2500 Dollar (about 1.8 million Malawi Kwacha) while runners up will take away a consolation cash prize of US\$1000 Dollars (about 735, 000 Malawi Kwacha). (Source: Malawi News Agency)



Group photo of participants

SADC validates materials on trafficking in persons

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The development of these materials is in line with the region's efforts to domesticate global and regional frameworks on trafficking in persons, such as the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

Article 10(2) of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol obligates States Parties to "provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons." All SADC Member States are parties to this global protocol. While capacity development aims to ensure that the frontline officers are able to identify the people trapped in exploitative circumstances and prosecute the perpetrators, public awareness raising on trafficking in persons is equally critical to ensure that the citizens are informed and do not fall prey to the traffickers.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime representative, Ms Samantha Munodawafa, said capacity building is a constant need in the region, as trained officers are sometimes reassigned to new roles creating a capacity gap in the agencies that are leading the fight against the abhorrent practice in Member States.

SADC countries were also urged to join

hands in their fight against trafficking in persons. "No country or institution can, on its own, say they can effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons," said Ms Alem Makonnen, the Regional Thematic Specialist on Migrant Assistance at the International Organisation for Migration. Therefore, SADC Member States need to "increase their efforts to ensure that victims of trafficking in persons are adequately assisted and perpetrators prosecuted," she continued.

The development of training and awareness raising materials on trafficking in persons are some of an array of activities being implemented by the SADC Secretariat in line with the SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Dr Joseph Pitso, implored the importance of approaching the crime holistically.

"SADC's response thus advocates for holistic and multi-agency actions on capacity building and training; public education and awareness raising; victim support and witness protection; research and information sharing; coordination and regional cooperation; and harmonisation and operationalisation of laws," he said.

He urged the Member States to use the developed tools in strengthening the capacity of the relevant stakeholders involved in countering trafficking in persons in the respective countries. SADC Secretariat's efforts to counter trafficking in persons are currently supported through a Contribution Agreement with the European Union as part of the Regional Political Cooperation Programme.

SADC ES reflects on Secretariat performance

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On the on-going staff recruitment process, the SADC Executive Secretary said recruitment process is expected to be completed by February 2018, adding that four directors have been appointed in the directorates of Finance, Investment and Customs (FIC); Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR); Industrial Development and Trade (IDT); and Infrastructure and Services (I&S). The SADC Secretariat offices in Gaborone, Botswana will be closed for business on 21st December 2017 and will be open on 4th January 2018.

South Africa hosts successful third Science Forum

By Peter Mabaka

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa on 7 - 8 December 2017 hosted the third Science Forum South Africa (SFSA) under the theme "Igniting Science Conversations About Science".

Attended by over 1500 participants, the Science Forum was aimed at creating a platform for a vibrant debate on the role of science, technology and innovation in society; to create a platform for key science, technology and innovation actors, including senior government leaders, academics, scientists, industry, civil society, and students to interact and to promote international science, technology and innovation partnerships. The event was organized as a "public science" and it provided a platform for



SADC Secretariat officials and visitors posing for a photo at the SADC stall

discussion and debate on the role of science in South Africa, the African continent and the world at large.

The Science Forum South Africa (SFSA) was championed by the Minister of Science and Technology for the Republic of South Africa Honourable Naledi

Pandor who convened the first Science Forum in 2015 and second Forum in 2016, recognizing that the world is increasingly seeking to harness the potential of science as an instrument for growth and development. The Science Forum is also held in recognition that Science remains an important

part of the global effort to advance sustainable development, by interfacing science and society. During the two-day event a number of organizations, mostly those that apply science on their business operations, showcased their work for people to appreciate the important role of science.

FESTIVE SEASON SHUTDOWN



Our offices are closed from Thursday December 21st 2017 for the festive season. We will reopen on Thursday January 4th 2018. In case of an emergency, please call: +267 3611063. After hours, please call: +267 75517567 or +267 71307002. We wish you a restful festive season and a prosperous 2018. Thank you.

Informamos que os nossos escritórios estarão fechados a partir de Quinta-feira, dia 21 de Dezembro de 2017, para a época festiva. Reabriremos na Quinta-feira, dia 4 de Janeiro de 2018. Em caso de emergência, durante as horas de expediente, queira ligar para o número: +267 3611063. Depois das horas de expediente, queira ligar para os números: +267 75517567 ou +267 71307002. Desejamos-lhe uma época festiva repousante e um ano novo de 2018 bastante próspero. Muito Obrigado.

Durant la période des fêtes de fin d'année, nos bureaux sont fermés à partir du Jeudi 21 Décembre 2017 et rouvriront le Jeudi 4 Janvier 2018. En cas d'urgence, veuillez appeler le numéro suivant : +267 3611063. Après les heures de travail, veuillez appeler les numéros suivants : +267 75517567 le +267 71307002. Nous vous souhaitons joyeux Noël et une bonne et heureuse année 2018. Merci.



Year 2017 in photos



H. M. King Mswati III visited the SADC Secretariat during his tenure as SADC Chairperson



SADC Family Photo in Pretoria in August 2017 during the 37th SADC Summit



The Union of Comoros becomes the 16th SADC Member State



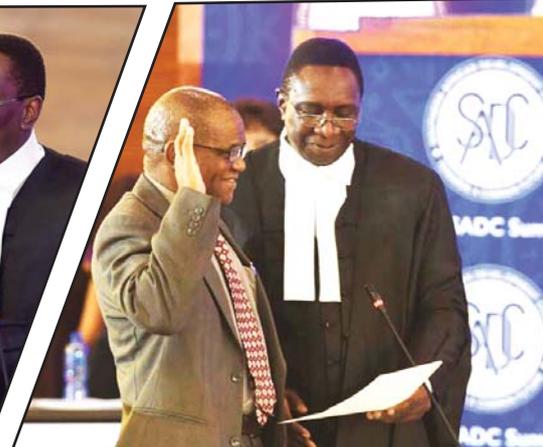
Staff members during the SADC Chairperson's visit



Swaziland handing over the SADC Chairpersonship to South Africa in August 2017



SADC ES, Dr. Tax was sworn in for a second term



SADC Deputy ES, Dr. Mhlongo was sworn in for a second term



SADC staff wearing the SADC regalia in Malawi



Enhancing SADC visibility through selfie frames



H.E. Khama, President of Botswana signing the SADC Gender Protocol



SADC launched Preventative Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho



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



H.E. João Lourenço, the new President of Angola



#SADC Summit sign outside the SADC Summit venue



H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi (right), President of Mozambique visited the SADC Secretariat



Former President of Tanzania, H. E. Jakaya Kikwete (right) visited the SADC Secretariat

**DID YOU
KNOW THAT**



SADC has an anthem that highlights the vision and mission of the regional community and its lyrics are as follows:

SADC ANTHEM - ENGLISH

SADC, SADC DAWN OF OUR CERTAINTY
SADC, SADC DAWN OF A BETTER FUTURE
AND HOPE FOR REGIONAL AND UNIVERSAL INTEGRATION
TOWARDS OUR PEOPLES UNITY AND HARMONY
CRADLE OF HUMANITY
CRADLE OF OUR ANCESTORS
LET US PRAISE WITH JOY, THE REALIZATION OF OUR HOPES
AND RAISE THE BANNER OF SOLIDARITY
SADC, SADC, SADC, SADC DAWN OF OUR CERTAINTY



HYMNE DE LA SADC – FRENCH

SADC SADC AUBE DE NOS CERTITUDES
SADC SADC AUBE D'UN AVENIR MEILLEUR
ESPOIR D'INTEGRATION REGIONALE ET UNIVERSELLE
POUR L'UNITE ET L'HARMONIE ENTRE NOS PEUPLES
BERCEAU DE L'HUMANITE
BERCEAU DE NOS ANCESTRES
CELEBRONS AVEC JOIE LA REALISATION DE NOS ESPOIRS
LEVONS HAUT LE DRAPEAU DE LA SOLIDARITE
SADC SADC SADC SADC AUBE DE NOS CERTITUDES



HINO DA SADC - PORTUGUESE

SADC, SADC AURORA DA NOSSA CERTEZA
SADC, SADC DE UM FUTURO MELHOR
E DE ESPERANÇA DE INTEGRAÇÃO REGIONAL E UNIVERSAL
RUMO À HARMONIA E UNIDADE DOS POVOS
BERÇO DA HUMANIDADE
BERÇO DOS NOSSOS ANTEPASSADOS
JUNTOS CANTEMOS ALEGRES, A CONCRETIZAÇÃO DA NOSSA ESPERANÇA
ERGUENDO A BANDEIRA DA SOLIDARIEDADE
SADC, SADC, SADC, SADC AURORA DA NOSSA CERTEZA



All citizens of the region are encouraged to learn the lyrics and sing them proudly at all SADC functions. The SADC Anthem mp3 format can be downloaded at; http://www.sadc.int/files/2913/7883/0055/SADC_Anthem_Lyrics_in_three_official_languages.pdf



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

37th SADC SUMMIT (2017)

Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains

Parceria com o Sector Privado no Desenvolvimento da Industria e das cadeias de Valor Regionais

Nouer des partenariats avec le secteur privé afin de développer l'industrie et les chaînes de valeur régionales

Member States holidays



MEMBER STATE

DATE

HOLIDAY

Angola	1 January	New Year's Day
Botswana	1 January	New Year's Day
	2 January	Public Holiday
	3 January	Public Holiday
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	1 January	New Year's Day
	4 January	Independence Day
	16 January	National Heroes Day
	17 January	Laurent Desire Kabila Day
Lesotho	1 January	New Year's Day
Madagascar	1 January	New Year's Day
Malawi	1 January	New Year's Day
	15 January	John Chilembwe Day
Mauritius	1 January	New Year's Day
	2 January	New Year's Day
	28 January	Chinese Spring Festival
Mozambique	1 January	New Year's Day
Namibia	1 January	New Year's Day
	2 January	New Year's Day Holiday
Seychelles	1 January	New Year's Day
	2 January	Public Holiday
South Africa	1 January	New Year's Day
	2 January	Public Holiday
Swaziland	1 January	New Year's Day
Tanzania	1 January	New Year's Day
	12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day
Zambia	1 January	New Year's Day
	2 January	Day following New Year's
Zimbabwe	1 January	New Year's Day

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted between January 1947 and December 1948. It aimed to form a basis for human rights all over the world and represented a significant change of direction from events during World War II and the continuing colonialism that was rife in the world at the time. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is considered as the most translated document in modern history. It is available in more than 360 languages and new translations are still being added. The UN General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France, on the December 10, 1948.

All states and interested organizations were invited to mark December 10 as Human Rights Day at a UN meeting on December 4, 1950. It was first observed on December 10 that year and has been observed each year on the same date. Each year Human Rights Day has a theme. Some of these themes have focused on people knowing their human rights or the importance of human rights education.



REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

National Unity Day is a public holiday in Zimbabwe celebrated on December 22. It commemorates the unity accord between the country's two political parties, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU).

ZAPU was founded on 1961 as the successor of the National Democratic Party that had been banned by the Rhodesian government. Its main aim was the fight for the national liberation of Zimbabwe. ZANU was formed two years later, when some ZAPU members decided to split from the party. Since Zimbabwe finally gained full independence in 1980,

the two parties have often clashed over major political decisions. These clashes sometimes resulted in violent fights. Finally, in 1987 the leaders of ZAPU and ZANU decided to put an end to their confrontation and merge the parties. The Unity Accord was signed on December 22 that same year. National Unity Day was officially established in 1997 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Unity Accord. This national holiday is widely celebrated throughout the country.

Source: <http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/national-unity-day-zimbabwe/>



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

16 December is a day of great significance in South Africa due to two historical events that took place. The first of these was in 1838, when the Battle of Blood River took place between the Voortrekkers and the Zulus.

The Voortrekkers, having moved into the interior of South Africa during the Great Trek, were eager to settle on land. Theland was already inhabited by the Zulu. Voortrekker leader, Piet Retief was eager to negotiate with the Zulu chief Dingane. Dingane planned an ambush and murdered Retief and his party of 100 people. This act culminated in the Battle of Blood River, in which 470 Voortrekkers, having the

advantage of gunpowder, defeated the 10 000 strong Zulu army. This Voortrekker victory was commemorated since then as the Day of the Vow.

The second historical event that took place on 16 December was in 1961, when Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) was formed. This was the military wing of the African National Congress (ANC), which was launched to wage an armed struggle against the apartheid government.

Source: <http://www.sahistory.org.za/dated-event/day-reconciliation-celebrated-public-holiday-sa-first-time>