



Inside SADC

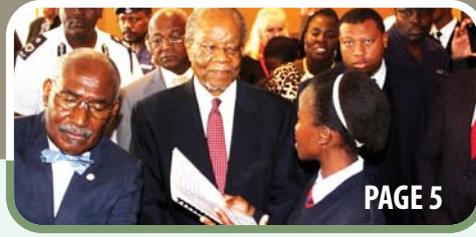


SADC Secretariat Monthly Newsletter Issue 6, June 2017



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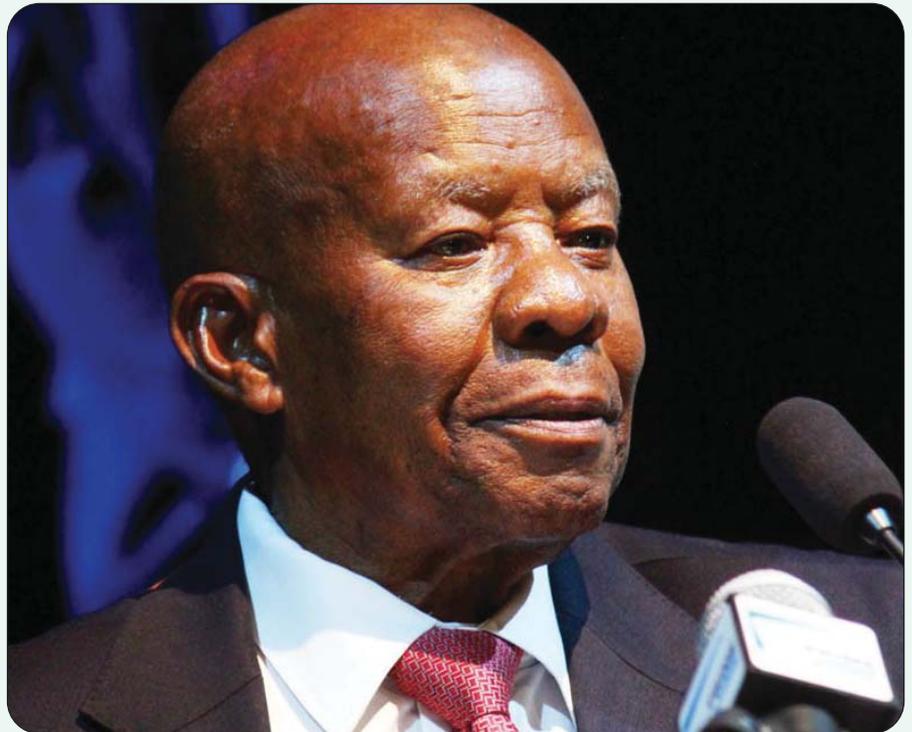
WORLD AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Sir Masire passes on

Sir Ketumile Masire passed on (23rd June, 2017) and was laid to rest in his home town of Kanye, in the Southern part of Botswana on Thursday, 29th June, 2017.

Sir Ketumile Masire, who died aged 91 was Botswana's second president. His Excellency Sir Seretse Khama, was the first and founding President of the Republic of Botswana and one of the Founding Fathers of SADC. Sir Masire was president from 1980 to 1998 and was a leading figure in the independence movement and then the new government, and played a crucial role in facilitating and protecting Botswana's steady financial growth and development. Building up on the great work of His Excellency Sir Seretse Khama, Sir Ketumile Masire played a crucial role in the transition from SADCC, being a conference to becoming Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). SADC, a

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Sir Masire

37th SADC Summit

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

9 – 20 AUGUST 2017, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

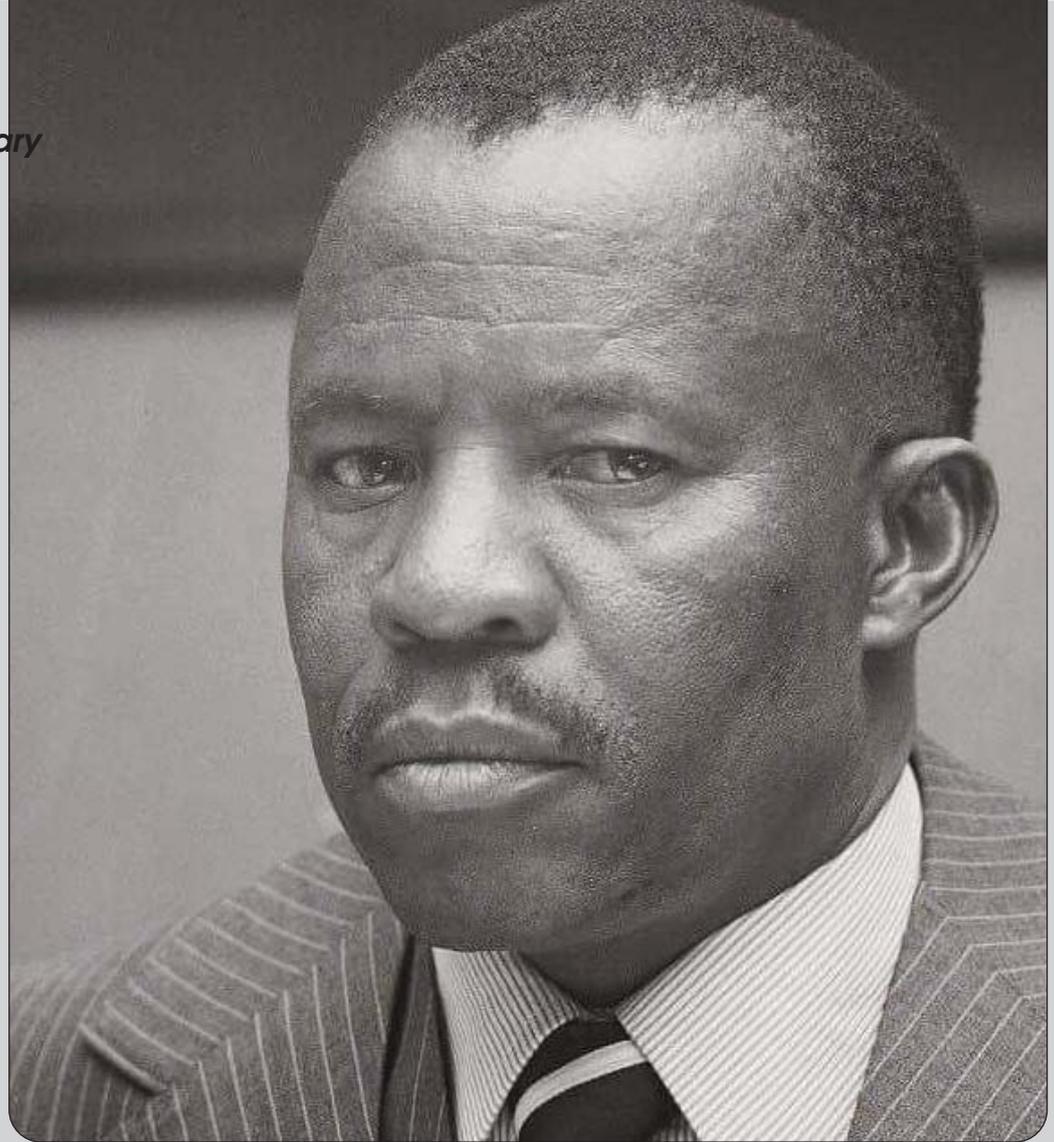


Sir Masire

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community of Southern African States. It was under the leadership of Sir Ketumile Masire, that the objective of the SADC as a Conference shifted from advancing the cause of national political liberation in Southern Africa to include economic integration as a Community following the independence of the rest of the Southern African countries.

Alongside other leaders including His Excellency President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, the former President of Zambia Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, His Excellency President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, the late former President of Malawi Dr Kamuzu Banda, the late former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and the late former President of Mozambique Samora Machel, just to mention a few, Sir Ketumile Masire was actively involved in the discussions to operationalize SADC, in furtherance of the work started by his predecessor.



Sir Masire

Sir Ketumile Masire served as the Chairperson of SADC for eight years, between 1981 and 1988 and, after a one-year break, he was yet again re-elected to serve as Chairperson for a further seven years, from 1990 to 1996 when he handed over to

the late Dr Nelson Mandela, then President of the Republic of South Africa. He was the longest serving SADC Chairperson. It was during his tenure as leader of SADC that the Secretariat was operationalized in Botswana, following the

Meeting of Heads of State and Government in Salisbury (now Harare), Zimbabwe in 1981. It was also in recognition of Sir Masire's leadership and commitment to regional economic integration that the Heads of State and Government entrusted the Republic of Botswana with the responsibility of coordinating SADCC programmes before a full Secretariat was established.

In recognition of his contribution towards the achievement of the ideals and goals of SADC, as well as his contribution to the promotion of the welfare and unity of the people of Southern Africa, Sir Ketumile

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Funeral of Sir Masire

Sir Masire

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received the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal in 1998. This Medal was established in 1985 in honour of Sir Seretse Khama and was given to eminent persons for their contribution.

Other leaders who received the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal include H.E Julius Nyerere of Tanzania in 1985, H.E. Samora Machel in 1987, H.E. Agostinho Neto of Angola in 1995 and H.E Dr Nelson R. Mandela of South Africa in 2000. After serving the people of Botswana as President, Sir Ketumile Masire was involved in a number of diplomatic initiatives including mediating in conflicts in a number of countries in the region including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Swaziland, and in the African continent, namely Ethiopia and Ghana. He was able to bring opposing parties to a round table because of the respect he commanded, and the wisdom and integrity with which he conducted himself as a leader and facilitator.

Sir Ketumile Masire leaves behind a strong legacy that will be remembered for generations to come. As the region mourn his death, they also celebrate his well-lived life for the immense contribution he made during his time as a leader of Botswana and SADC as well as his work in promoting the social and economic well-being of people through the Sir Ketumile Foundation.

In a message of condolence from the SADC Secretariat sent to His Excellency Lt. Gen. Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama, the President of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Foundation and family and all the people of the Republic of Botswana on the passing on of the second president, the institution mentioned that Sir Masire will always be remembered for his contribution to humanity beyond the borders of Botswana, a visionary leader for the people of Botswana and more importantly, as a former chairperson of SADC and former Vice Chairperson of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

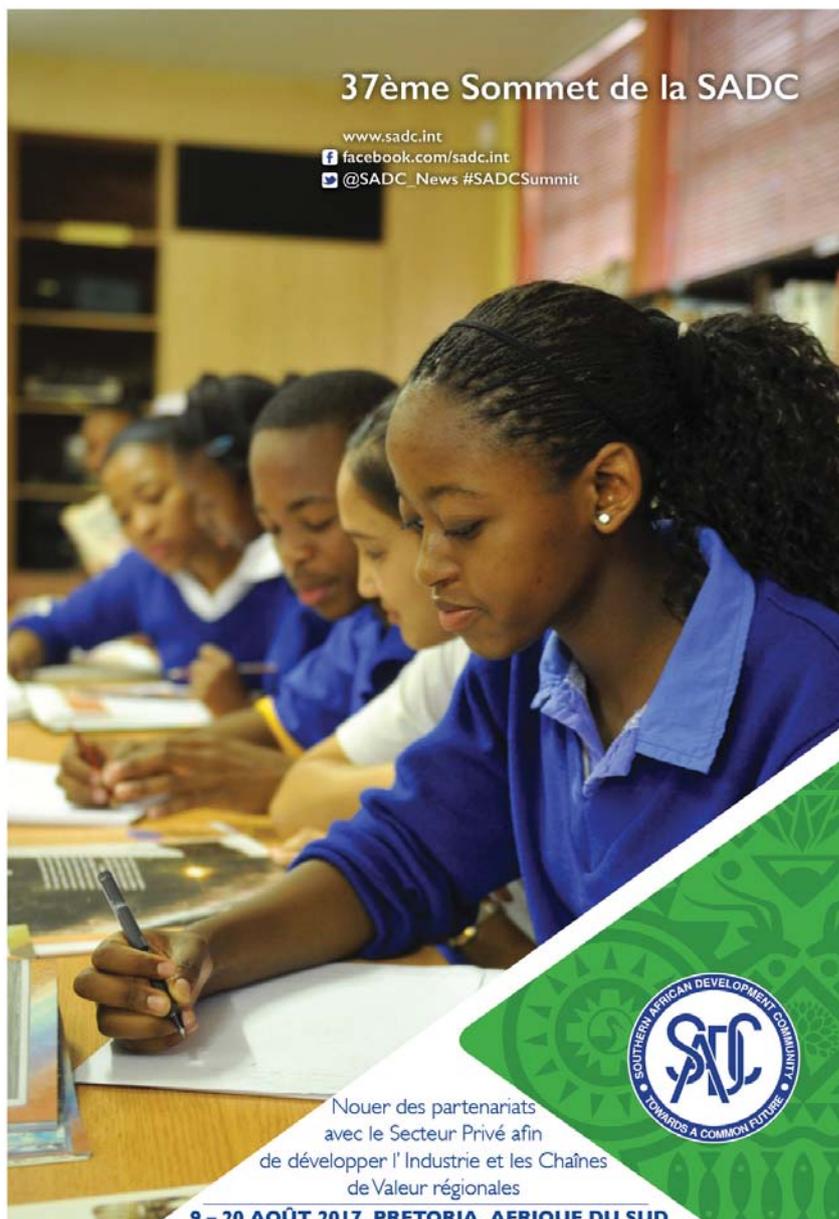
May his soul rest in peace.



With fellow Front Line State Leaders; (left to right) Julius Nyerere, Samora Machel, Ketumile Masire, Eduardo Dos Santos and Kenneth Kaunda PICTURES COURTESY OF BW GOVERNMENT

37ème Sommet de la SADC

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Nouer des partenariats
 avec le Secteur Privé afin
 de développer l'Industrie et les Chaînes
 de Valeur régionales



9 - 20 AOÛT 2017, PRETORIA, AFRIQUE DU SUD

SADC and Germany agree on areas of cooperation

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Federal Republic of Germany held Bilateral Negotiations on Development Cooperation on 27th and 28th June 2017 in Berlin, Germany. Germany committed to extend support to SADC to the value of €39.5 million for technical and financial cooperation programmes.

This amount comprises of €17.5 million for Financial Cooperation and €22 million for Technical Cooperation from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This is in addition to the commitment of 8 million Euro for Financial Cooperation that was made in 2016. This brings the volume of funding available for SADC-German Technical and Financial Cooperation committed in 2016 and 2017 to a total of €47.5 million.

SADC and BMZ also agreed to re-focus their Cooperation from the current six to four programmes by 2019, which will include; Regional Economic Integration (covering also Peace, Security and Good Governance); Transboundary Water Management; Transboundary Natural Resource Management and Resilience to Climate Change; and Strengthening National-Regional Linkages.

Recognizing the importance of Infrastructure Development in leveraging Industrialisation, €13.5million has been allocated to the Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF), a Facility that will eventually be incorporated



SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax (left) and Head of European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC, His Excellency Ambassador Alexander Baum signing the agreement



Group photo

into the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF) as per the SADC Regional Development Fund Agreement. The incorporation of the BMZ resources into the RDF will be guided by the BMZ Social and Environmental Safeguards of the Financial Cooperation.

Among others, SADC and BMZ recognised the importance of aligning priorities of cooperation with

the region's priorities as outlined in the Revised RISDP 2015-2020, the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), and the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) (2017 – 2022), which are aligned to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the AU Agenda 2063, and the BMZ

Marshall-Plan with Africa. Both delegations emphasized the need for adherence to the principles of Subsidiarity and Additionality in the implementation of programmes and projects, in line with the Conclusions of the SADC Strategic Ministerial Retreat held in Swaziland, approved by Summit in March 2017, with the Theme "The SADC We Want".

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Dr. Dlamini (second from left) interacting with students during a tour of their projects at the event

Education & Training, Science, Technology and Innovation are priorities in SADC agenda

By Letso S. Mpho

The SADC Ministers responsible for Education, Training, Science, Technology and Innovation held a joint meeting in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Swaziland from 22-23 June 2017 to review progress and implementation of on-going programmes and initiatives in the related sectors, and in particular, in relation to the regional priority agenda.

Ministers made decisions on key policy and strategic instruments of cooperation and regional integration in the areas of education and training, and science, technology and innovation (STI) in the context of the revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020, and in support of the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Action Plan (2015-2063) which was approved by Council in March 2017 in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The meeting was officially opened by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland, Dr. Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini, who informed participants that the SADC region has identified education, science, technology and

innovation as vital components in developing its citizen's capabilities to shine globally. The SADC Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Regional Integration, Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo also graced the occasion. Dr. Mhlongo highlighted that successful industrialisation and value chain development requires investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills at all levels of education.

SADC region has identified education, science, technology and innovation as vital components in developing its citizen's capabilities to shine globally.
"Dr. Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini"

Representatives from the African Union Commission, United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), International Council for Science Regional Office for Africa (ICSU-ROA), SADC Centre for Distance Education (SADC CDE), Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio), Southern African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (SANWATCE), Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), MIET Africa,

Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) and representatives from the Diplomatic corps also attended the meeting.

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SADC and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) to strengthen areas of cooperation

The SADC Secretariat and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) met in Berlin, Germany, on 29th June 2017, on the margins of the Bilateral Negotiations on Development Cooperation between SADC and the Federal Republic of Germany, and agreed to strengthen their cooperation through the implementation of the existing memorandum of understanding (MoU), which provides for collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

The SADC Secretariat and WWF hailed the idea of enhancing cooperation at the regional level to enable the SADC region to benefit from the technical expertise of WWF. The two Parties agreed to expedite the implementation of the existing MoU between the two institutions. The SADC delegation was headed by the SADC Executive



SADC officials (left-side of the table) looking at the presentation during the visit to Germany

Secretary, H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, who commended WWF for its valuable contribution towards wildlife conservation in Africa, specifically in Southern Africa through

its programmes and projects, among others, the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA).



Family photo of Ministers with Dr. Dlamini (centre)

Education & Training, Science, Technology

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The meeting concluded with the launch of the SADC Regional Qualifications Frameworks (RQF), which will be used as reference framework and a guiding tool on quality assurance

guidelines and a database portal which will incorporate full and part-time qualifications.

The SADC RQF communication Strategy has been developed and is being implemented with the establishment of Social Media Platforms such as Twitter and Facebook accounts.

SADC mourns Dr. Kandiero

The Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has sent a message of condolence to African Development Bank (AfDB) following the untimely death of Dr Tonia Kandiero who until her death, served as the Bank's Director General for the Southern Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office, based in Pretoria, South Africa.

In her condolence letter addressed to Dr Akinwumi Adesina who is the President of the AfDB Group, Dr Tax said the SADC Secretariat learnt with great shock and sadness the untimely death of Dr Tonia Kandiero, saying the Bank has lost one of the leading economists and development banking professionals in Southern Africa.

Dr Tax said the late Dr Kandiero will be remembered for her hard work which saw her rise through the rank and file of the Bank to become its Director General for Southern Africa. "Her death is a great loss not only to the AfDB Group, but also to the SADC Region and Africa, as a whole," Dr Tax added.

Before her appointment as Director General for the Southern Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office, Dr. Kandiero served as the Bank's Representative for Tanzania where she was responsible for managing one of the largest African Development Fund portfolios to the tune of US \$2 billion.

Dr. Kandiero



Dr. Tax (front row second from left) with Ambassadors and SADC officials

SADC Secretariat meets with the SADC Group of Ambassadors to the Federal Republic of Germany

The SADC Secretariat and SADC Group of Ambassadors to the Federal Republic of Germany met in Berlin, Germany, on 28 June 2017, in the margin of the Bilateral Negotiations on Development Cooperation between SADC and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The meeting was attended by Ambassadors and Representatives of the Embassies of the Republics of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe to the Federal Republic of Germany. During the meeting, the SADC Secretariat led by the SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr. Stergomena

Lawrence Tax, shared the outcomes of the Bilateral Negotiations with the SADC Group of Ambassadors.

The SADC Secretariat and the SADC Group of Ambassadors to the Federal Republic of Germany expressed their commitment to work together with a view to mutually support the regional integration agenda through strengthening of cooperation between SADC and the Federal Republic of Germany. The SADC Secretariat pledged to continue sharing information with SADC Missions to keep the Missions up to date on the regional developments.

SADC and Germany agree on areas of cooperation

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The SADC delegation was headed by the SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was headed by Mr Alois Schneider, Head of Division of Southern Africa; South Africa at BMZ. The next Bilateral Negotiations between the SADC Secretariat and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany will be conducted in Gaborone, Botswana in 2019.

ES Reinigorates Cooperation with SADC-CNGO

By Mojakisane Mathaha

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax and representatives of the SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC C-NGO) met at SADC Headquarters on 14 June 2016.

The Secretariat and the SADC-CNGO agreed to make a greater effort to implement the areas outlined in their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation. The MoU seeks to create an environment for analysis and dialogue between SADC and Civil Society on critical issues facing the SADC region, and build sustainable synergies between civil society and SADC in the regional integration process.

Closer collaboration is to be further realised through implementation of the conclusions of the SADC Strategic Retreat of March 2017 and, more importantly, the Revised RISDP 2015 – 2020. The Executive Secretary reaffirmed



Dr. Tax (wearing a scarf) flanked by SADC-CNGO members and SADC Secretariat staff

her intentions to continue to work closely with SADC C-NGO, citing the regional body as an important stakeholder recognised by the March 2017 Ministerial Retreat. She highlighted progress that the Secretariat had made towards preparing a framework of engagement between SADC and non-state stakeholders in the regional

integration process. The framework was submitted to the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2016, and is undergoing finalisation.

They deliberated on the need to meet more frequently to discuss, among other things, operationalisation of the SADC Regional Poverty Observatory, the main elements of the SADC C-NGO campaign – the SADC WE WANT, roll-out of the SADC Monitoring & Evaluation system, implementation of the MoU and Common Plan of Action, as well as C-NGO's contribution to the implementation of the conclusions of the Ministerial Retreat, to mention a few. Meanwhile, the SADC Secretariat continues to engage SADC Member States in sessions to explain the main features and objectives of the draft framework of engagement between SADC and non-state stakeholders.

SADC C-NGO urged the two sides to involve civil society in policy-making at all levels and reinvigorate the overall cooperation between civil society and SADC policy organs. As a starting point, CNGO invited SADC to the CNGO Forum scheduled for 14th August, 2017.

SADC C-NGO is a regional umbrella body of NGOs operating in all SADC Member States. It was formed in 1998 to facilitate effective and meaningful engagement between civil society in the region and SADC institutions at national and regional levels.



Dr. Tax (right) and H.E. Mogae

SADC ES meets Chairperson of the Champions for an AIDS-Free Generation in Africa

The SADC Executive Secretary visited the office of the Former President of Botswana and Chairperson of the Champions for an AIDS-Free Generation in Africa, H.E. Festus Mogae

on the 15th June 2017, to discuss how the Forum and the SADC Secretariat could continue to work together in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

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World Aquaculture Conference held in South Africa

By Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo, Technical Advisor- Fisheries

SADC Secretariat in partnership with WorldFish and the Government of South Africa hosted the 5th meeting of the SADC Working Group on Aquaculture on the 26th June 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting was held as a Pre-Conference workshop of the World Aquaculture 2017 Conference which is taking place from 27-30 June 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. The Conference theme is "Sustainable Aquaculture-New Frontiers for Economic Growth".

The meeting was attended by 11 SADC Member States, viz. Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Other countries which participated in the meeting include Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. Development partners in attendance included the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) SmartFish Programme, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and WorldFish.

The meeting discussed programmes that are being developed to support



Meeting in progress

implementation of these two strategies that were approved recently by the Ministers, Aquaculture and Aquatic Animal Health Strategies. Key programmes which were discussed and adopted include:

- an "Environmental Management Framework for Sustainable Aquaculture Development in Southern Africa" that provides the basis for sectoral policy and management, which is a collaboration with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). The framework will enable Member States to i) apply the principles of ecosystems approach to aquaculture (EAA) at the sectoral level; and ii) identify key components to develop and implement appropriate mechanisms for specific regional and national environmental management of aquatic animal production systems; and

- Secondly, drawing lessons from key success factors on growth of the aquaculture

sector in a number of SADC countries, including Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, a "Science-Based Aquaculture Development Model" together with a mechanism for a regional "Aquaculture Scientific Mentorship Scheme" for young scientists

were proposed, which will involve collaboration with WorldFish, and also between universities and research institutions, governments, private sector and communities in the region.

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SADC ES meets Chairperson of the Champions

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The vision of the Champions is to create an AIDS free generation by mobilizing and encouraging African leaders and global policy makers to renew and continuously intensify the fight against HIV and AIDS. The SADC Secretariat and the Champions would continue to collaborate in this noble initiative.

The Champions comprises the following former Presidents and eminent persons: H.E. Festus Mogae of Botswana; H.E. Kenneth D. Kaunda of Zambia; H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe of South Africa; H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali; H.E. Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique; H.E. Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania; H.E. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, Former Vice President of Uganda; H.E. Joyce Banda of Malawi; H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia; Professor Miriam Were, Former Chairperson of the Kenya National AIDS Control Council; Mr. Edwin Cameron, South Africa Supreme Court of Appeal Judge; and Dr. Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.



Right Honourable Dlamini (front row sixth from left) with Ministers and senior officials

Meeting for Agriculture and Food Security, Fisheries And Aquaculture held in Swaziland

By Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo

SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security and Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture met on 19th May 2017 in Ezulwini, Swaziland to review the overall regional food security situation; consider the report on governance and financial situation in the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development of Southern Africa (CCARDESA); review the Agricultural Development Fund Operational Guidelines; and review developments in the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Moses Vilakati, Minister of Agriculture, and was officially opened by The Right Honourable Paul Dlamini, the Acting Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The Deputy Executive Secretary (Regional Integration), Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo provided a report on progress made towards the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy under which the leather regional value chain has been identified as a key value chain to be promoted in the region. This choice of the leather value chain is based on the fact that it involves and requires a whole host of other agricultural value chains to be effectively implemented thereby providing a much broader basis for developing and industrialising the agriculture sector in particular. He also informed of the new organisational structure of the SADC Secretariat which was approved by Council in March 2017; and it responds to the strategic focus on industrialisation. Under the new organisational Structure, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate has been enhanced by bringing into its fold the Tourism sector.

Ministers noted the regional food security situation which had improved following the good rains received during the season,

and they Member States to improve storage facilities to minimise post-harvest losses. They also noted early indications on a possible recurrence of the El Nino phenomenon, which is associated with reduced rainfall in the region. Ministers urged continuous monitoring of the climatic forecasts and development of contingency plans including water harvesting, irrigation and climate smart agriculture in the event that the El Nino materialises. In addition, Ministers noted reports on diseases and pest outbreaks in the region and the mitigation mechanisms in place. Of particular interest is the Fall armyworm that has been reported since February 2017 and has devastated in excess of 360,000 hectares of crop in the Region. The Ministers also considered and approved the SADC Peste des petitis ruminants (PPR) Eradication Roadmap.

Ministers considered and approved a report from the Troika of Ministers established in November 2016 to look into governance and financial issues of the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), and directed CCARDESA Board and Secretariat to implement the directives of the TROIKA Ministers. Ministers approved 3-year annual contributions to finance activities of CCARDESA. They also considered a report on the SADC Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) Operational Guidelines, and approved the principles of the ADF and urged Member States to undertake extensive and inclusive stakeholder national consultations on the technical issues of the Guidelines towards their finalisation and implementation.

Ministers also considered a report on the status of fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the region. Of particular importance was fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU)

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Agriculture and Food Security, Fisheries

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fishing, where Ministers approved modalities for establishing and operationalising the SADC Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (RFMCSCC) in Mozambique. They also received a report on the aquaculture programme in the region and approved the SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan (2016 – 2025). Ministers received an invitation from the Government of South Africa for attendance and participation at the World Aquaculture Conference in Cape Town, South Africa from 26-30 June 2017.

- Finally, Ministers thanked His Majesty King Mswati III, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland for hosting the third meeting of Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security, and Fisheries and Aquaculture respectively, during the year as Chair of SADC and for the warm hospitality accorded to them and their delegations. Ministers considered a report on the implementation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP).

Following the approval of the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) during their meeting in July 2016, Ministers recommended it for endorsement by Council. Ministers also discussed the establishment of the SADC Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) and have recommended it for approval by Council. Ministers also considered and approved the SADC Livestock Development Programme, the SADC Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, and recommended them for Council endorsement. The two are aimed at supporting both the livestock and aquaculture sectors in the region towards their contribution to improving food and nutrition security and economic growth. Finally, Ministers thanked His Majesty King Mswati III, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality accorded to them and their delegations.



Small-scale fishing

Aquaculture Conference

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Member States and development partners also had a chance to review the outcomes of a study undertaken by WorldFish and the Government of South Africa in the SADC region. The study was undertaken with a view of developing an “Aquaculture Evaluation Tool for the SADC Region.” The aims to provide a systematic mechanism for evaluating the development of aquaculture industries and projects in the SADC region. The tool will inform governments, funders and investors as to the sets of drivers that are likely to determine project success or failure and evaluate projects against these in a process that identifies where weaknesses lie and where interventions need to be made to ensure robust project viability. The tool will be further refined and tabled for validation at the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries for validation.

Finally, the Member States discussed the proposal from WorldFish on collaboration in the development of a harmonized fish genetic improvement programme in the SADC region, under the CGIAR Research Program on Fish. A Task Team consisting of Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe was set up to develop a position paper for this programme, that could be further discussed by the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries, and is expected to guide approaches to aquatic animal genetic improvement in the region, taking into consideration the environmental and biosecurity issues.

SADC Secretariat and FANRPAN discuss areas of collaboration

By Letso S. Mpho

The Agricultural and Food Security Advisor of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), Dr. Tobias Takavarasha, met the SADC Secretariat Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax at the SADC head Office in Gaborone on 14th June 2017. The objective of the meeting was to discuss areas of collaboration between the two institutions.

Dr. Takavarasha highlighted that FANRPAN is an all-inclusive multi-stakeholder platform, which links governments, policy analysts, farmers and the private sector and that the network aims to promote the development of appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty, enhance food security in Africa, and promote sustainable agricultural development in Africa. In her address, Dr. Tax thanked FANRPAN for its willingness to work with SADC and



Dr. Takavarasha (second from left) and Dr. Tax (third from left) with executives

support the region by among other things facilitating knowledge on policy development and research, particularly in the areas of agricultural and water, which are among priority areas for SADC. She pointed out that FANRPAN is indeed a useful partner with strength and capability in areas of food and

agriculture and emphasized the importance of working together.

The two Parties agreed to continue working together in the areas of research and policy development leveraging on each other's comparative advantage.



His Excellency ULRICH (left) and Dr. Tax

Germany Ambassador bids farewell

By Letso S. Mpho

The German Ambassador, and Observer to SADC, His Excellency Mr.

Rolf ULRICH, bid farewell to the SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax on 14th June 2017 after his

four-year term of office in Botswana. H.E. Ulrich thanked the Executive Secretary for the excellent collaboration that existed between the two Parties during his term of Office in Botswana. During the meeting the German Ambassador announced an additional €9.5 million contribution to the Project Preparation and Development Fund. The PPDF is intended to assist SADC in the implementation of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) by preparing projects to bankability, and thus attracting investors to participate in infrastructure projects, which contribute to the enhancement of regional economic integration.

The SADC Executive Secretary thanked the outgoing Ambassador for the productive four years in Botswana that has seen a number of development initiatives in support of the SADC

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SADC, New Zealand explore cooperation

The SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration (DES-RI), Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo says the SADC region stands to benefit from the lessons and experiences of New Zealand, a country whose economy developed from agriculture, particularly industrialised through beef and milk production.

During the meeting with the new High Commissioner to Botswana who is also responsible for eleven other SADC Member States, Mr. Mike Burrell, said the expertise and experience on how New Zealand developed from dairy and meat production to become one of the developed countries, is valuable for SADC Member States.

The SADC DES-RI was speaking during a meeting where he received the New Zealand Envoy to the Secretariat on 15th June 2017 who was accompanied by the Divisional Manager responsible for Middle East and African Division in the New Zealand Foreign Affairs



Mr. Burrell (third from right) and Dr. Mhlongo (fourth from right) and senior officials

and Trade portfolio, Mr Stuart Horne. Dr Mhlongo added that the meeting between SADC and New Zealand representatives came at an opportune time when SADC was due to hold its second Industrialization Week slated for 10th to 14th July 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa whose focus theme is; "Partnering with the private sector in delivering industry and regional value-chains". SADC Industrialisation Week is an annual regional public-private engagement

forum aimed at fostering new opportunities for intra-regional trade and investment. On peace and security, Dr Mhlongo said SADC believes that without peace and security in the region, SADC's core mandate of regional integration will not materialize, adding that SADC has been actively involved in ensuring peace and stability in some Member States including Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Lesotho among others.

Mr. Mike Burrell also appreciated the role of SADC in the area of peace and security in the region, noting the involvement of SADC Observer Mission in Lesotho as an example of important role that SADC plays. The High Commissioner said his government has a special relationship with the Kingdom of Lesotho because of the monarchical government systems the two countries adopted which he said the New Zealand would be willing to strengthen through the established SADC structures. He said New Zealand is willing to support and

collaborate with SADC on industry in the area of agro-processing and considers agriculture as a productive and competitive sector that would help the SADC region to industrialize. He further emphasized the importance of collaboration to assist SADC member states in harnessing the knowledge acquired by New Zealand to support development of agricultural value chains for supporting regional integration and economic growth, which augurs well with the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Road Map 2015-2063.

He further said SADC countries can learn from a broad-based economic growth New Zealand has experienced over the years. The meeting agreed that New Zealand and SADC Secretariat should continue to explore areas of collaboration especially in the fields of trade, agriculture, including sanitary and phyto-sanitary as well as peace and security. New Zealand is in the process of accreditation to the SADC Secretariat.

Germany Ambassador

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regional integration agenda. She also thanked the Government of the Republic of Germany for the additional Resources for the PPDF and wished the Ambassador well as he leaves the country after his 4-year term in Botswana.

The two Parties also discussed the progress and the extent of preparations for the SADC-German negotiations scheduled to take place on 27th and 28th June in Germany. The SADC-German negotiations are aimed at identifying priority areas of cooperation between SADC and German and ensure that German support is channelled towards SADC priorities. They agreed that negotiations will focus on four areas, namely: regional economic integration, strengthening national-regional linkages, transboundary water management and transboundary use and protection of natural resources and resilience to climate change.

Human Rights Watch Deputy Executive Director impressed with SADC's role on governance

By Peter Mabaka

Human Rights Watch Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy Mr. Bruno Stagno-Ugarte says his organization is pleased with improved SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections in SADC Member States. Mr. Stagno-Ugarte said this when he paid a courtesy call to SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax in Gaborone, Botswana on the 13th of June 2017.

He said that the Human Rights Watch follows the conduct of elections within some SADC Member States, and was happy with the work of the SADC Election Observer Mission in the recent elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho, which he hoped would bring the country back to normalcy.

Dr. Tax thanked the Executive Director for visiting the SADC Secretariat and assured him that despite being at different levels of economies and democracies, all the fifteen Member States of SADC are committed to the principles of democracy and good governance.



Mr. Bruno Stagno-Ugarte (left) and Dr. Tax

Responding to Mr. Stagno-Ugarte's question on the SADC Tribunal, Dr. Tax explained that a new SADC Tribunal Protocol has been approved and is undergoing ratification by Member States. The new SADC Tribunal focuses on the settlement of disputes among Member States.

The meeting offered an opportunity for the Human Rights advocates and the

SADC Secretariat to share ideas on how the two parties can work together in strengthening governance and human rights in the region. Human Rights Watch Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, who is based in Paris, France was accompanied by Director of International Human Rights for Southern Africa, Mr. Dewa Mavhinga, who is based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

UNESCO, SADC commit to deliver on MoU

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) reaffirmed their commitment to operationalize their Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2016.

The commitment was made when UNESCO Regional Director Prof. Hubert Gijzen held a meeting with SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana on the 12th June 2017.

SADC and UNESCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), on cooperation focusing on eight priority areas namely; Education, HIV and Health, Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Water Security, Renewable Energy and Disaster Risk Management, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information and Data for Development.

Dr. Tax expressed gratitude to UNESCO for the continued support the UN body has rendered to SADC on numerous occasions. She called for a continued

partnership between the two organizations. The two parties committed to finalizing the framework so that it is operationalized. They further agreed that SADC should sign one MoU with all UN Agencies and negotiate collectively on areas of cooperation and collaboration to avoid duplications. Prof. Hubert Gijzen was accompanied by Director for UNESCO Eastern African Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya, Ms. Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta and UNESCO's Representative to Namibia Dr. Jean-Pierre Ilboudo.



SADC SECRETARIAT

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, co-ordination and management of SADC programmes. It is also responsible for the implementation of decisions of SADC policy and institutions such as the Summit, the Troikas and Council of Ministers. It is headed by an Executive Secretary and has its headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana.

VISION

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*By Segametsi Moatlhaping,
Programme Officer –
DRR Liaison Expert*

The SADC Secretariat has since 2014 been assisting Member States to catalogue various frameworks and mechanisms on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management (DRM).

The catalogue takes the form of a national inventory that shows the status of programmes, policies, strategies and related legal frameworks in a Member State. The development of the national inventory entails extensive consultation of stakeholders to assess the resources, services and implementation capacity of disaster risk reduction and management programmes in Member States. The process also involves mapping of national stakeholders in government, international cooperating partners, private sector and civil society or community based organisations; identifying main hazards, risk mapping / assessments undertaken and methodologies used; statistics on the impacts of disasters that have been experienced in the country and collect data of any relevant national assessment reports/ strategies, plans and programmes on DRR/M.

The Government of the Republic of Mozambique held the validation workshop of their national DRR/M inventory on the 12th June 2017 in Maputo. The workshop was attended by various national stakeholders to make final inputs and confirm the contents of the inventory before publication. For Mozambique, in addition to the production of a database on services, programmes, policies and



Group photo of participants

Mozambique inventory of Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Frameworks validated

strategies; the national stakeholders identified some of the following key lessons from the development process of the inventory:

- DRM is a central priority across different government sectors, through an active decision making platform, the Technical Council for Disaster Management (CTGC). The approval of the DRM Law (Law 15/2014) represents the highest political commitment to elevate and bring DRM to national and local priorities and governance systems,
- Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation,
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and

enhance early warning,

- During the period 1980 – 2016, floods and epidemics had been the most common disasters, representing each nearly 33% of the total events, followed by tropical cyclones representing 19% and 15 % of droughts. The burden of floods and epidemics are very high for the social, economic and public health dimensions and may have negative implication on the country economic development pathway. Although the frequency of droughts is relatively less, but affect by far the largest number of people,
- The number of disaster events has decreased in the current decade except the floods. This will require a lot of country efforts (infrastructures, land use

planning and expertise) to manage floods and water resources. The decreasing trend of natural disasters observed in Mozambique is consistent with the African continent trend. This picture maybe attributed to the collective efforts in continent to reduce the disasters impacts,

- The paradigm shift from the conventional relief and rehabilitation to a more comprehensive approach putting emphasis on risk reduction by addressing vulnerabilities and converging DRR and CCA. This paradigm shift has helped the country reduce hazard-related catastrophic casualties and loss of property. One of the recent examples of successful experience is the population

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Mozambique inventory of Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Frameworks

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resettlement programmes, the setting up of flood early warning systems, and the creation of Local Committees for Disaster Risk Management (CLGRC) that resulted in the reduction of flood victims in the Zambezi, Búzi, Púngoè, Save and Limpopo valleys,

- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels,

- Establishment of mechanisms for access/ dissemination of information. The CTGC platform has facilitated the mechanism of information sharing to help the implementation of programs/projects in Mozambique. Institutional datasets and web pages, reports, and the media also play a critical role as the key means of information dissemination. On the other hand, the ongoing establishment of the Climate Change Knowledge Management Center will function as a repository and dissemination platform of DRR and CCA information to the general public,

- The active participation of local communities and civil society networks in disaster preparedness and response. The government and cooperating partners are engaged in expanding Local Committees for DRM as well as community radios. In addition, more education and training programmes covering subjects on DRR and CCA has been introduced in the current decade. These efforts combined will increase prevention and emergency response at all local,

- The implementation of DRR/M Programmes/ Projects across the country in different sectors. There is an effort implanting various Programmes/Projects covering different thematic areas such as (i) Policy, strategy and institutional building; (ii) Risk identification, assessment and

monitoring;
(iii) Reduction of underlying risk factors;
(iv) Hazard and vulnerability assessment;
(v) Capacity development and training;
(vi) Urban planning and resilience among others. These projects will help to build resilience in sectoral interventions such as education, health, transport, roads, urban infrastructure, agriculture,

- The implementation of several DRR/M programmes has resulted in increased integration of disaster risk considerations into national and local policies and investments. The active participation of local communities and civil society networks in disaster preparedness and response is remarkable best practice in the region. The government and cooperating partners invested in the creation of Local Committees for Disaster Risk Management (CLGRC), which increased prevention and emergency response locally.

Other Member States with complete national inventory on DRR/M frameworks are Botswana, Lesotho,



Meeting in progress

settlements and livelihoods,

- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels,

- Mozambique is developing a new Master Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2017 – 2027) to replace the previous Master Plan for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters (2006-2014). This will serve as good entry point to outline and strengthen the needs and priorities for DRR interventions as aligned with Sendai Framework for DRR (2015 – 2030),

Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The inventories for remaining Member States are expected to be developed by the close of fiscal year 2017/18.

At a regional level, the DRR/M National Inventories are an important resource that will facilitate effective execution of the Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, which was approved by the Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, in November 2016, at Balaclava, Mauritius.



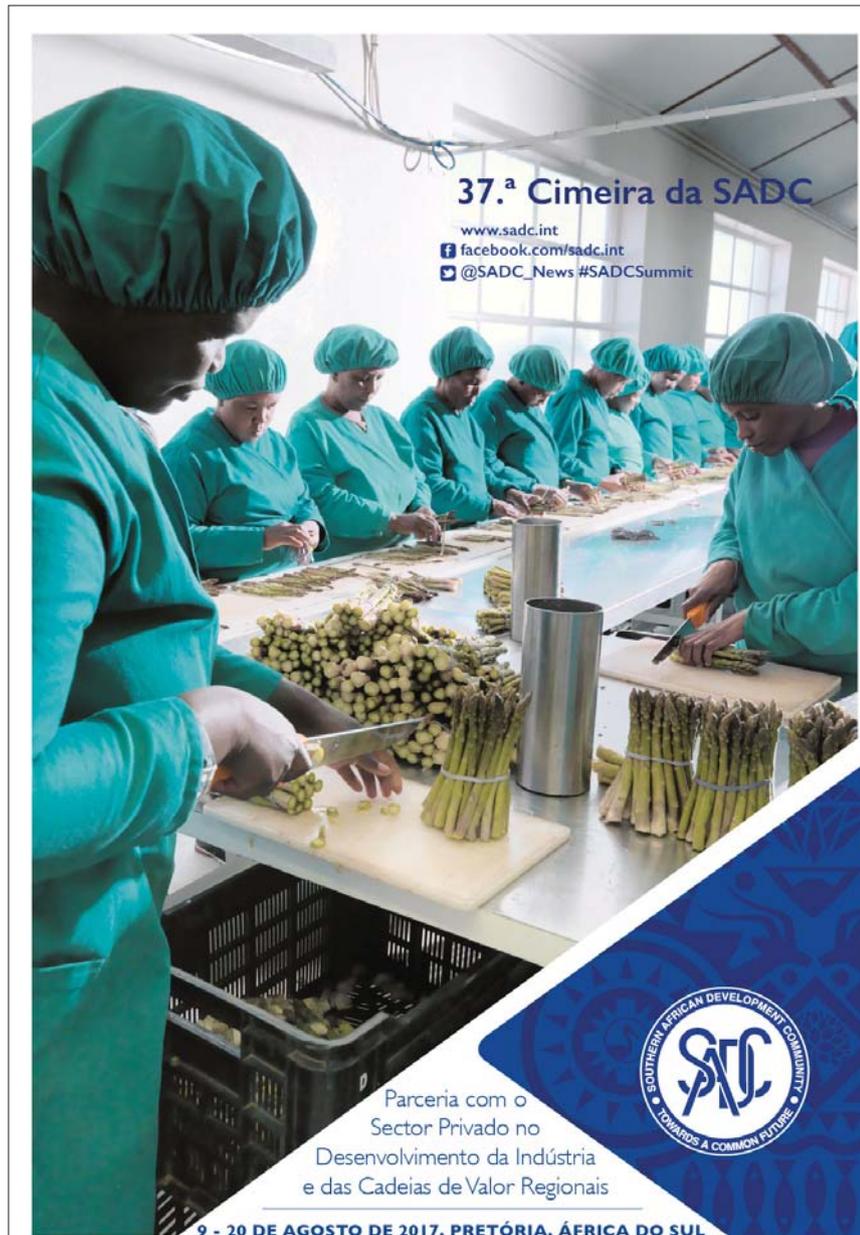
Group photo of RAC members

Swaziland hosts RAC meeting

By Peter Mabaka

The 22nd meeting of the Regional Adjudication Committee (RAC) on the SADC Media Awards competitions for 2017 was held in Ezulwini, Swaziland from 19th–24th June, 2017. The meeting was attended by adjudicators from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology for the Kingdom of Swaziland, Mr. Bhekithemba Gama officially welcomed the delegates. In his opening remarks he mentioned that it is important to recognize the significance of the media in promoting the SADC agenda and that rewarding best stories goes a long way in encouraging good journalism in the SADC region which leads to promotion of regional integration. The Chairperson of SADC, His Majesty King Mswati III, will present the SADC Media Awards to the winners during the 37th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government to be held in the Republic of South Africa in August 2017 in the categories of photo, television, radio and print.

During the meeting, RAC also amended the Media Awards competition Guidelines and Rules with the aim of ensuring adherence to the competition rules and credibility of entries. RAC members, who are mostly the SADC National Media Coordinators in their respective Member States, also reviewed the implementation of the activities of the SADC Communication and Promotional Strategy and made commitment to continue to intensify promotion of the SADC mandate, among other things, sharing information between member states.



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SADC ES meets new UNDP Resident Representative to Lesotho Mr. Niyenzima

SADC Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax met the new UNDP Resident Representative to Lesotho Mr. Salvatore Niyenzima on 3rd June 2017 in Maseru, Lesotho on the margins of the SADC Election Observation Mission to Lesotho.

During the meeting the UN commended SADC for its efforts in facilitating the reforms process through among others the institutionalization of the SADC Oversight Committee (OC) to the Kingdom of Lesotho as established by the SADC Summit to monitor the implementation of SADC Summit decisions regarding the political and security situation and act as an early warning mechanism in the Kingdom of Lesotho. Mr. Niyenzima pledged to work with SADC in ensuring peace and stability in the Kingdom. The two parties highlighted the need for lasting peace, security and political stability, which is critical for the sustainable socio-economic development of the Kingdom. They noted the positive



Dr. Tax (second from right) and Mr. Niyenzima (right)

developments in the Kingdom of Lesotho including the launch of the reforms process in December 2016 and noted the roles that both SADC and UNDP have played in supporting the Kingdom. The Parties agreed to continue working together after the elections, to prioritize among others the

need to continue with the political dialogue to be led by the SADC, and the formulation of an options paper on the reforms to facilitate an inclusive Basotho led engagement process, towards constitutional, public sector, judicial and security sector reforms in the Kingdom

SADC ES hails EU for continued support

The SADC Executive Secretary, Her Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax has expressed gratitude to the European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC for its continued support to various programmes in partnership with the SADC Secretariat. Dr. Tax said this during her meeting with the Head of the EU Delegation to Botswana and SADC, His Excellency Ambassador Alexander Baum at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, on 30 May 2017.

Among other things, the two Parties discussed modalities for the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund (11th EDF) programmes focusing on three priority areas for cooperation namely: Peace, security and regional stability; Regional economic integration; and

Regional natural resource management, with a particular focus on the SADC Regional Agriculture Policy. They also discussed issues regarding preparations for the upcoming 2017 SADC-EU Ministerial Political Dialogue. The EU pledged to support SADC in implementing the conclusions of the SADC Strategic Ministerial Retreat that was held in the Kingdom of Swaziland in March 2017 under the "The SADC We Want". The objective of the Ministerial retreat was to assess progress made towards attaining the vision of SADC since the regional organisation was established, the challenges encountered, and examined

the prospects for the future. The retreat also examined alternative options for sustainably financing the SADC integration agenda.

Ambassador Baum





Ambassador Artieda (second from right) and Dr. Mhlongo (second from right)

Ambassador for Switzerland paid a courtesy call to SADC Secretariat

By Letso S. Mpho

Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Switzerland to South Africa based in Pretoria, Ms. Helene Budliger Artieda paid a courtesy call to the Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) on the 4th of July 2017. The SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration (DES-RI), Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo met with the Ambassador at the SADC Secretariat head office in Gaborone, Botswana. The Government of Switzerland is in partnership with SADC to strengthen relationships with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well

as cherishing bilateral cooperation with the regional body and Member States at national level.

Ambassador Artieda is who is the first observer to SADC, expressed her delight to be working with the region in the areas of political, economic and financial affairs, legal arrangements, science, education and culture. The Government of Switzerland is currently working in partnership with the SADC Secretariat to Strengthen, Monitor, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Systems for Orphans, Vulnerable Children (OVC) and Youth.

The Ambassador mentioned that her visit was meant to

touch base on programmes between the two institutions and explore possible areas of partnerships in many areas of interest. She said that she was making a follow up on mediation situations which her Government was working with the Secretariat. She also mentioned that she was interested in capacitating and supporting the region in areas of political collaboration especially in training of women mediators.

Dr. Mhlongo thanked the Ambassador for her commitment to the social-economic development of the region. He said that SADC is in the process of developing a new strategy for skills

development in particular the vocational education programmes including social enterprise sector as well as education and training. He mentioned that Switzerland being one of the nations which has a unique vocational system, it will come in handy in promotion of vocational education in SADC so as to grow its private sector and create new avenues of employment.

The ambassador mentioned that for SADC to advance its social enterprise it requires economic reforms. She said that this will improve the value chains and diversify the private sector as well as closing the skills gap.



PINTEREST.COM

How to roam more cost effectively

In recognition of the fact that regional mobile telephony roaming plays a strategic role in accelerating regional integration and economic development as well as taking cognizance of the fact that roaming rates are generally high, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal, Information and Communications Technology approved a recommendation to implement a concept called “Roam Like at Home (RLAH)” aimed at reducing roaming tariffs within the SADC region. As part of phase one of this initiative, ICT National Regulatory Authorities (NRA) and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) in SADC Member States have been implementing the SADC Guidelines on Transparency on Roaming Services since 1st June 2013.

The objective of the guideline is to improve transparency of mobile roaming services in SADC to avoid bill shocks. The guidelines are meant to ensure that Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) send SMS Notifications to every SADC roaming customer upon entry into a visited SADC country as well as avail roaming customers with up to date Roaming Tariff information via their websites and other communication channels.

The guideline further prescribes that SMS notifications should contain at the least: roaming tariffs for incoming and outgoing voice calls, SMS and data services. To date, all SADC Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) are implementing the SADC Guidelines on Transparency on Roaming Services and providing adequate information on their roaming tariffs via SMS upon a roaming customer’s entry into another Member State. With the increase in the footprint of roaming, a roaming customer may have the ability to roam on a variety of networks within a visited Member State. This has been made possible because MNOs are signing roaming agreements with a number of network operators in each SADC Member State.

When a roaming customer enters a country, their mobile phone automatically chooses a network. Let us look at this automatic visited selection and what options roaming customers have. SIM cards are pre-programmed with a list of preferred networks. When the previously used network is not available, the handset will work through this preferred list and automatically connect to the first available network. If not, it will turn to another one depending on signal strength. Once connected to a visited network, the handset will remain connected until the signal is lost or the user manually selects another network.

When the phone is switched off and back on again, it will re-connect to this network, provided coverage is available. On the other hand, MNOs may direct their subscribers to preferred networks through initial programming of the SIM card but they are unable to make any subsequent SIM card modifications. Additional to this, most handsets allow users to override this automatic selection and many roaming customers are not familiar with manual network selection that would allow them to switch to the cheapest network.

Some MNOs in an attempt to direct traffic onto a particular network would enter into an exclusive roaming agreement. As a result, roaming customers have no choice and would automatically connect to a single visited network chosen by the home operator, irregardless of whether they are the cheapest or not.

Often roaming customers are ignorant about the prices of roaming services. It is therefore, advisable to select a network manually so that you are aware of the different charges by the different MNOs that are automatically provided once one is registered on the selected roaming network. So next time you roam, select the visiting network that provides the most competitive prices for roaming services.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo Independence Day is a national holiday, which is celebrated to commemorate the country's liberation from Belgium in 1960. The day is observed on June 30 every year. The people of Democratic Republic of the Congo think of it as the most important occasion in their life. Democratic Republic of the Congo was a colony of Belgium from 1908 to 1960.



Independence Day is celebrated on June 30 and it is observed to pay tribute to the people who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the independence of their country. The Republic of Zaire is the previous name of the present Democratic Republic of the Congo or République démocratique du Congo (in French language). The country was also known in other names such as Belgian Congo, the Congo Free State, Congo-Kinshasa, and Congo-Léopoldville.

In 1908, the Parliament of Belgium, in spite of unwillingness in the beginning, bent over to global demands (particularly that from Great Britain) and occupied the Congo Free State in the form of a Belgian settlement from the King. Subsequently, it was known as the Belgian Congo and was governed by the nominated administration of Belgium.

In 1959, a fierce black-autonomist revolt compelled majority of the European settlers to depart the Belgian Congo. The nation achieved independence from Belgium in 1960, and in 1966, the name of Léopoldville was changed to Kinshasa and the name was derived from a rural community of the 19th century.

<https://www.mapsofworld.com/democratic-republic-of-congo/independence-day.html>

Republic of Mozambique

Independence Day in Mozambique Date in the current year: June 25, 2016 Mozambique annually celebrates Independence Day on June 25. This holiday celebrates the day, when Mozambique gained its independence from Portugal in 1975.



The first Europeans set foot on the territory of Mozambique in 1498, when the Portuguese sailors from the voyage of Vasco Da Gama arrived to the country. The Portuguese trading posts started to appear in about 1500, displacing the Arabic

commercial and military hegemony.

After World War II the colonies of Portugal were not granted independence and they were declared to be overseas territory. Many other African countries one by one gained independence from their protectorates.

This wave led to the Mozambican War of Independence that lasted from 1964 to 1974.

<https://anydayguide.com/calendar/2147>

Republic of Seychelles

The Seychelles consist of an archipelago of about 100 islands in the Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar. The Seychelles were uninhabited when the British East India Company arrived on the archipelago in 1609.

Thereafter, they became a favorite pirate haven. The French claimed the islands in 1756 and administered them as part of the colony of Mauritius. The British gained control of the islands through the Treaty of Paris (1814) and changed the islands' name from the French Séchelles to the Anglicized Seychelles.



The islands became self-governing in 1975 and independent on June 29, 1976. They have remained a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Their first president, James Mancham, was overthrown in 1977 by the prime minister, France-Albert René.

At first René created a Socialist state with a one-party system, but later he reintroduced a multiparty system as well as various reforms. While the islands spent years under European rule, the population was mainly of African origin, with immigration also from sub-continental Asia, Madagascar and other island nations of the Indian Ocean.

The result is a creole culture which mixes the best bits from a global range of influences that have somehow combined on the archipelago. There are some, steeping and granite-based, which rise dramatically out of the sea and afford spectacular views to the energetic traveller willing to forego a day on the sun lounger, while the coral islands are largely for observers of wildlife and flora.

<https://www.infoplease.com/country/seychelles>

Member States holidays



MEMBER STATE	DATE	HOLIDAY
Republic of Botswana	01 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day
	17 July	President's Day
	18 July	Public Holiday
Kingdom of Lesotho	17 July	King's Birthday
Republic of Malawi	06 July	Independence Day
Republic of Mauritius	06 July	Eid-UI-Fitr*
Kingdom of Swaziland	22 July	Public Holiday
United Republic of Tanzania	07 July	International Trade Fair
Republic of Zambia	07 July	Heroes Day
	08 July	Unity Day