

## Former Trade Minister Call For Improved Infrastructure to Facilitate Trade



### *Mr Sichinga*

To facilitate regional integration, Zambia's former Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Robert Sichinga has called on member states to improve infrastructure and transportation at border posts.

Mr. Sichinga said there is a wide range of soft infrastructure constraints obstructing the regional integration process, including the lack of harmonisation of policies, regulations, and procedures governing both trade and infrastructure development.

In addition, poor hard infrastructure continues to cast a long shadow on Africa's competitiveness and diversification agenda.

"SADC has been promoting intra-regional transport development, with particular emphasis on the development of corridors. There is need to address the challenges being faced at border posts, currency harmonisation, and institutional frameworks to facilitate regional integration," he said.

He said this in Lusaka during the regional CSO capacity building workshop held in Lusaka organised by CUTS and SDGCA, which attracted participants from Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SADC is a Regional Economic Community comprising 16 Member States; Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SADC mission is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Govts urged to develop SNCs engagement calendar
- Bring SADC closer to the people
- SADC engages partners on prioritised regional projects.
- SADC calls for accelerated disaster preparedness

### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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*Dr Twinoburyo*

## Govts Urged to Develop SNCs Engagement Calendar

Governments have been advised to develop an annual calendar for the operations of the SADC National Committees (SNCs) to allow for predictable engagement processes and ensure social accountability.

SDGCA senior economist Dr. EnockTwinoburyo said the creation of an annual calendar will aide Non State Actors (NSAs) to be actively involved at national and regional levels in government and NSA-led processes on the implementation and monitoring of the RISDP to formalise the social compact between states and people.

“SADC secretariat and member states should

also establish platforms and processes, including publicly sharing plans and reports, at regional and national levels to ensure NSAs are able to engage substantively in the implementation and monitoring of the RISDP, built upon the principles of social accountability,” DrTwinoburyo said.

He said this in Lusaka during the regional CSO capacity building workshop held in Lusaka organized by CUTS and SDGCA, which attracted participants from Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

He also called for the establishment of NSA national advocacy forum comprised of the key apex bodies that work collaboratively with NSA technical committees on the respective

thematic areas. The NSA advocacy forum would therein interface with SADC SNCs as well as SADC Civil Society Forum and the envisaged NSA Forum.

Dr Twinoburyo further urged the SADC secretariat to popularise the NSA engagement mechanism guidelines (once approved) to all stakeholders.

“There is need to promote proactive information disclosure through the use of multiple communication channels including the NSA established forum and SADC NSA office... Governments should tap into the diverse reserves of skills and knowledge within NSAs to provide training for members of SNCs,” he said.



## Bring SADC Closer to The People

CUTS in partnership with the SDGCA held four hybrid regional meetings that commenced with the media training, public debate forum, CSO led advocacy and CSO capacity building workshop that attracted participants from Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The workshop provided a platform for stakeholders to enhance awareness, identify key issues related to domestication of SADC vision and regional indicative strategic development

Plan (RISDP) relevant for Non-State Actors in SADC project countries.

Opening the training, CUTS country director Ms. Angela Mulenga said one of the greatest threats to regional integration in Africa is the absence of information on benefits, opportunities and challenges of regional integration as well as lack of citizen ownership of integration initiatives.

“Without an effective communication, SADC will continue to be misunderstood and its achievements

will remain invisible and the organisation will not fully realise its development aim, which is to eradicate poverty in the SADC region with its citizens being prime drivers of the integration agenda,” MsMulenga said.

SDGCA programme director Dr. Ambrose Aheisibwe Rwaheru highlighted how the media can effectively leverage SADC processes, in supporting monitoring and advocacy. Closing the workshop CUTS board member Mr. Sanjeev Nair, acknowledged the achievements made in bringing SADC closer to the people.

## SADC Engages Partners on Prioritised Regional Projects.

On 16th June, 2023 SADC secretariat engaged international cooperating partners on the prioritised projects derived from the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2023, as part of the resource mobilization drive for regional high impact projects.

The meeting took place in Gaborone and was co-chaired by the SADC executive secretary Mr Elias Magosi and the European Union (EU) head of delegation to Botswana and SADC who is the chairperson of SADC International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), ambassador Petra Pereyra.

Mr Magosi hailed the enduring partnership between SADC and ICPs as critical towards the attainment of regional aspirations as outlined in the RISDP 2020-2030 and SADC Vision 2050. He underscored the need for the region implement critical and impactful projects that will uplift the living standards of SADC citizens.



And Ambassador Pereyra said most of the prioritised projects address the contemporary challenges that SADC faces, including youth unemployment, gender inequality, climate change, peace and security. He added that issues of climate change, peace and security addressed in the prioritised projects are well aligned to the priorities of the ICP in the SADC region.

## SADC Calls For Accelerated Disaster Preparedness

The SADC Committee of Ministers responsible for disaster risk management have called for accelerated disaster preparedness and resilience building to mitigate the devastating impacts of natural disasters.

The Ministers made the call during the meeting held in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 25th May 2023 as they deliberated and agreed on measures to relieve the region of the recurrent disasters caused by floods, drought, diseases and other health issues caused by climate change and variability.

In his address, DRC Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Security of the Democratic Mr. Peter Kazadi Kankonde who is also the chairperson of the committee of SADC ministers responsible for disaster risk management urged the region to increase its preparedness in the fight against climate change and natural disasters, and continuously seek to enhance disaster risk management.

He highlighted the recent torrential rains in Bushushu and Nyamukubi in Kalehe, both in the South Kivu region in the DRC, which caused extensive damage,



flooding and mudslides, that claimed over 400 lives and left over 2,500 others missing.

He also drew attention to the damages and losses in the region, particularly in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa, where nearly 2,000 lives were lost between March and May of this year. This is in addition to the billions of dollars lost in property, and infrastructure damages.

Mr. Kankonde applauded the SADC region for developing the Regional Multi-Hazard Planning

Framework 2022-2030 and the SADC Regional Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan 2022-2023 that will guide the development of annual regional multi-hazard contingency plans based on current

sector-specific disaster risk projections. And SADC deputy executive secretary responsible for Regional Integration Ms. Angèle Makombo & tumba who was representing the SADC executive secretary Mr Elias M. Magosi emphasised on the need to accelerate interventions necessary for the region to stay afloat.



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