

## SADC leaders urged to uphold regional protocols signed.



*PS information and media Kennedy Kalunga sharing notes with CUTS programme advisor Sajeev Nair*

Zambia's Information and Media Permanent Secretary Kennedy Kalunga has called on journalists to not only report and monitor developments in regional economic groupings but also encourage leaders to uphold their commitment to the protocols signed.

Officiating at the two-day SADC media training workshop that attracted both the public and private media houses, Mr. Kalunga noted that without firm commitment from media actors, the visionary and ambitious continental development plan will have diminished chances of success.

The objective of the training organized by CUTS was to engage journalists in detailed discussion on SADC Regional Intergration, assess their views, contribution in the implementation and establish an effective media engagement mechanism at national level.

CUTS and the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa are implementing a 17 months' project titled "Engagement for Results: Capacitating Regional Civil Society Organizations and their networks to effectively participate in the SADC regional integration process".

This project is part of the Intergrated Institutional Capacity-Building (IICB) by the SADC Secretariat for CSO Stakeholders financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), being implemented in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Speaking at the same fora, CUTS board member Sajeev Nair said the meeting was focused at emphasizing the value of SADC regional integration and assist stakeholders in understanding their role in the execution of operations.

Highlighting the role of the media, Sharon Mulenga a consultant urged journalists to ensure that SADC becomes part of consumer's lifestyle, away from the President's club [heads of State summit].

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### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to our audience, about highlight news and activities being undertaken by SADC



Mr Chitwamali

### Regional integration a tool to support the disadvantaged, CUTS

Regional Integration is a vehicle that can support the socially disadvantaged by facilitating the flow of trade, capital, people and ideas says SADC project team lead from CUTS, Mr Allan Chitwamali.

Mr Chitwamali said the regional body's main objectives are to achieve economic growth and development, peace security, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people

He said this during the 30 minutes radio programme dubbed "A conversation on the SADC Regional Integration a Zambian Perspective," aimed at highlighting the relevance of SADC regional integration and the role played by the various national stakeholders in successful implementation of the SADC activities beyond the project.

Currently, CUTS Lusaka and SDGCA are implementing a project titled "Engagement for Results: Capacitating Regional Civil Society Organizations and their networks to effectively participate in the SADC regional integration process".

This project is part of the Integrated Institutional Capacity-Building by the SADC Secretariat for CSO Stakeholders financed under the 11th European Development Fund, being implemented in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As part of the project activities, CUTS Lusaka has mobilized and engaged media houses and the Non-State Actors in bringing their voices together to find ways to enhance their capacities.



### SADC records progress on industry, finance, trade

Over the past 11 months, SADC has recorded more progress on programmes aimed at facilitating industrial development, finance and investment, and trade in goods and services among Member States.

SADC customs, directorate of finance investments and customs, senior programme officer Mr Alcides Monteiro said this during a SADC Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI) Thematic group meeting.

Mr Monteiro said that 25 out of 63 outputs, or 40 percent deliverables of the Multi Year Action Plans 2021-2023, had been successfully completed; 37 out of the 63 (59 percent) deliverables are making good progress and only one out of the 63 (one percent) outputs has not made substantial progress between November 2021 and October 2022.

The completed outcomes include the SADC electronic Certificate of Origin (e-CoO) Framework, whose live transmission was launched in September 2022 in Malawi where three Member States, Eswatini, Malawi, and Zambia demonstrated the exchange of the e-CoO. More capacity building strategies have been planned to bring more Member States to implement the e-CoO Framework.

The e-CoO is intended to address the challenges encountered with the use of manual Certificate of Origin by simplifying customs procedures, enhancing e-Commerce, eliminating fraud, improving record management and statistical data, reducing cross-border certificate verification time as well as reducing the cost of doing business. – Source SADC



## SADC holds tax expenditure model training workshop



SADC member states attending a capacity building workshop on SADC Tax Expenditure Model held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

A two-day training workshop to capacitate SADC Member States on the newly reviewed SADC tax expenditure model was held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The SADC Tax Expenditure Model, first designed in 2015 and reviewed in 2022 under the Support to Improving the Business and Investment Environment in SADC Region programme (SIBE), is a tool that will empower Tax Administrations and Ministries of Finance to estimate, evaluate and analyse how much tax revenue a Member State forgoes through its tax benefits policies and thus observe the efficiency of such policies.

The workshop came as a continuation of the work of the SADC Tax Incentives Work Group towards harmonising tax incentives policy in the Region to ensure that Member States yield the best results from their tax benefits internal policies and reduce undesired economic impact of such policies.

SIBE is a European Union supported programme aimed at enhancing the business environment, develop a SADC investment zone, promote intra-regional investment and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the SADC Region, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises.



Source SADC



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