



AU-SARO BULLETIN

**AU Southern Africa
Regional Office**



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COMMEMORATION OF WORLD AIDS DAY 2007

The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) Commemorated the World AIDS Day on 1st December 2007. The commemoration was carried out in the context of the African Union Commission's programme of this year's World AIDS Day. The Office issued a statement in the Nation Newspaper on 1 of December 2007 and held a brainstorming debate at the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa. The theme of the World AIDS Day 2007 was 'Leadership' to promote the slogan 'Stop AIDS Keep the Promise'.

The Minister of Health was the Guest of Honor at the commemoration. In her statement she thanked the African Union for the leadership role in the fight against the pandemic since the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases of 2001. Also, she stated that the Malawi government's efforts to arrest the spread of the pandemic in recent years had resulted in substantial reduction of new infections. The Minister called for more improved leadership role at all levels, to strengthen the positive contributions from leadership interventions, resolve those problems relating to effective leadership intervention and for increased imagination and vision.

Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan, AU Regional Delegate to SADC, commended on behalf of the AU, the Minister of Health for her presence at the event in spite of her commitments and engagements. He stated the importance of World AIDS Day commemoration, which inter alia include renewed collective solidarity, the examination of related issues and search for the ways forward in the fight against the epidemic.



Hon. Marjorie Ngaunje, MP, Minister of Health, presenting her statement at the Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2007 on 1st December 2007

He also highlighted the important role of leadership at all levels, national, regional and continental. In this connection he reiterated the role of the AU since the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infections Disease in 2001, to present. Finally, he indicated the important linkage between the attainments of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) to the progress made in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Commemoration was covered by the Malawian media and Benefice Production, a Canadian film crew, producing a documentary on HIV/AIDS in Malawi. It was attended by Hon. Marjorie Ngaunje, MP, Minister of Health; Dr. Mary Shaba, Principle Secretary, Office of the President and

Cabinet - HIV/AIDS and Nutrition, members of the diplomatic corps, intergovernmental representatives and students from various colleges from Lilongwe. Other speakers include

The Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2007 was very successful in terms of the organization, participation, and highlighting the issue of HIV/AIDS and its connection to economic development in Africa, youth role and leadership. All speakers stressed the need for leadership to stop the growth of the epidemic. The function also achieved its objective in raising awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS, to educate the public, especially the youth, and to



Editorial

Children's Rights in Africa

The African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the Government of Egypt and development partners called for the Second Pan-African Forum on Children that was held in Cairo, Egypt from 29 October to 2 November, 2007 under the theme 'Review of Progress Towards Achieving the Implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Plan of Action on Children', to highlight and promote the issue of children's rights and welfare in Africa.

The Forum also aimed at strengthening national systems for child care protection and promote coalitions between governments and civil society organizations to secure the rights of the child in African countries.

The Forum discussed issues of right of protection from violence, abuse and sexual exploitation and presented a number of recommendations to accelerate actions towards these abuses and enhancing life chances, set up effective health care system, food security, better hygiene for children and more resources towards child welfare matters.

The conference viewed children participation of high importance, as it was believed that children should have a greater role to advocate their concerns and problems in the media and Children Parliaments that exists in some African countries.

Furthermore, the meeting approved the plan of action that provided the necessary guidelines for the African Common Position and called on all African countries to implement the existing legislation on children.

It can be illustrated, that Africa is progressively strengthening its focus on children's rights by assessing the progress made by African states in implementing the commitments contained in the Declaration of May 2001 in Cairo and the development of a Plan of Action of the African Common position. This will help African states to do better against protecting children from violence, abuse, exploitation and diseases.

AU-SARO ACTIVITIES

The AU Regional Delegate to SADC, Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan on 12 October 2007 was the Guest of Honour at the closing ceremony of the Regional Training on Girls in Science by Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA) at Lingadzi Inn in Lilongwe, Malawi. He spoke on the importance of education of girls in Africa's drive towards adequate capacity building for accelerated development.

The Senior Policy Officer, Dr. Tarek A. Sharif, represented the Office at the University of Malawi, Chancellor College Symposium on the 12 October 2007. The theme of the symposium was "Critical and Creative Minds a Tool for Innovation and Sustainable Development."

On 17 October 2007, the Senior Policy Officer represented the Office at observing the worldwide call to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against poverty, inequality and for the Millennium Development Goals, held at the World Food Programme Office in Lilongwe, Malawi. The AU Regional Delegate to SADC, represented the Office at the opening session of the 23rd Plenary Assembly of the Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) held in Blantyre, Malawi on 23 October 2007. The Assembly, ..., discussed strategies to effectively combat HIV/AIDS and enforced SADC Summit to consider transforming the Parliament into a full legislative body.

The AU-SARO participated at the Second Pan-African Forum on Children from 29 October to 3 November 2007, Cairo, Egypt. The Senior Policy Officer represented the Office at the meeting. The Forum focused on a variety of issues on children's rights to protection of African children from violence, abuse,

exploitation and diseases, fighting child labour and trafficking and stopping the use of child soldiers. The conference assessed the progress made by member states in implementing the commitments contained in the Declaration, the Plan of Action of Africa Common Position and the development of partnership with NGOs in supporting AU member states to implement the plan of Action.

On 26 October 2007, the AU Regional Delegate to SADC was the Guest of Honour at the closing ceremony of the course in Epidemiology with particular reference to Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis for state veterinarians from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at AU Centre for Ticks and Tick Borne Diseases (AU-CTTBD).

On 7 December 2007, the AU Regional Delegate to SADC, led an AU-SARO delegation consisting of the Senior Policy Officer, Dr. Tarek Sharif and the Finance and Administration Officer, Mr. Misbahu Ibrahim to attend a joint meeting with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Southern Africa Office and the African Development Bank (AfDB) Office for Southern Africa in Maputo, Mozambique. The objective of the meeting was to develop a Joint Prospectus on regional integration in the SADC region.

AU Regional Delegate to SADC was mandated to lead AU delegation to the workshop on "Good Governance and Sustainable Management of Petroleum and Mineral Resources," organized by the World Bank, African Development Bank and the African Union, held on 10 December 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia. The objective of the workshop was to examine the critical unresolved issues on good governance and sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources.

(cont. p.6)



African Experience: The Way Forward



*Ahmed Al-Bashir Alhudhiri
Secretary Designate
Libyan People's Bureau*

The Great Libyan Jamahiriya feels the huge responsibility and historical duty towards the people of our continent. There are critical issues that we believe that their resolution is necessary for durable development for example, scientific solutions to the problems of dependence and plundering. The Great Jamahiriya is deeply conscious of the necessity of the African Union, especially the consolidation of its institutions. Colonization had worked against the unity of the continent. As of now, there are tendencies for domination and encouragement of permanent subordination and control over Africa.

But freedom and progress in Africa depends on the extrication from all forms of dependence, retardation, and disease .

This lead us to the need for a wider vision to build better future. The real unity of Africa can be promoted, by preserving its genuine history from the impurities of colonization and encouraging scientific co-operation among the African countries. Also, African Unity could be promoted by vitalizing African languages, and writing African history in African languages.

Also the promotion of African Unity will require an ideology to develop trust, abilities, and power.

The aim of the Great Jamahiriya is to establish a system that facilitate the realization of the aspiration of people. Ideological drive can be important in this respect.

The experience of the Great Jamahiriya, its philosophy, etc could be useful for development in social and economic areas. Also, the promotion of human rights and respect for humanity are important elements. In addition, we must put an end to conflicts and assure peace and security.

In conclusion, the promotion of African Unity will imply that we organize and hold cultural, scientific meetings, and forums, which will bring together researchers and experts in different disciplines to discuss and enable us to plan a united vision.

This will help African educational institutions and universities, to indorse and establish specialized research centers for Arabic, ... etc..

Encourage the establishment of African Youth Centers, with African efforts to help develop the culture and understanding the new civilization facing the youth. Also African scientists should assist in building a strong generation, equipped with scientific knowledge which will enable the youth to promote their identity.

*Ahmed Al-Bashir Alhudhiri
Secretary Designate
Libyan People's Bureau*

*World AIDS Day
Commemoration
(cont. from p.1)*

express solidarity with those infected and affected by the pandemic.



The Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa



*Dr. Kenneth Hamwaka
Director, GCYDCA*

The Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa is a non-profit inter Governmental organization conceived in 1993 following the Pan-African Conference on the Education for Girls in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The African Ministers of Education initiated the establishment of the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa in 1994. Within this framework, African Ministers of Education further agreed to establish a Regional Centre to coordinate and manage the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Programme. The Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa is located in Lilongwe, Malawi. A satellite office was established in Bamako, Mali to facilitate the setting up of Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Programme in the French speaking countries. The Centre has 32 participating countries which comprises of France-phone, Anglo-phone and Luso-phone countries.

The Centre seeks to develop and institutionalize guidance, counseling and youth development services as non-

academic support with needs of girls as a special focus. The ultimate aim is to give both girls and boys the information and skills necessary to handle complex social issues that are part of their daily life.

The Centre has been established with the aim of building capacity among participating countries to address issues affecting girls and boys in Africa including HIV/AIDS, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, Alcohol and Drug abuse, Outdoor Education/Recreation, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Enterprise Education and Youth Leadership among others. Capacity building is mainly done through Training of Trainers approach.

The Centre has been granted full Diplomatic status by the Government of Malawi and all legal capacities comparable to the UN agencies and other International Organizations. The centre enjoys good relations with the Government of the Republic of Malawi and all the Diplomatic missions accredited to the Republic of Malawi.

Other objectives of the Centre include:

- (a) to train and develop expertise in guidance, counseling and youth development that would help parties to accept agreement to reduce or eliminate, in youth, behaviors that are inconsistent with the educational, social, cultural and economic prosperity in Africa;
- (b) train and produce teachers, counseling and youth development with relevant skills and content for the region;
- (c) develop, coordinate and manage programme in guidance, counseling and youth development which transcends national interest and accommodate various experiences and concerns affecting the African Child;

- (b) encourage parties to this agreement to establish practical national youth programmes and policies that promote, protect and support the right of the child.

The Centre is administered by a Board of Governors, comprising of African Ministers of Education. This board appoints the Director, set policy programmes and guideline to be implemented by the appointed Director. The current Board Chairperson is the Honourable Prof. Geoffrey Lungwangwa MP and Minister of Education for Zambia. The Executive Director is Dr. Kenneth Hamwaka.

Finally, the centre runs an annual Regional Training Course in Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development targeting school teachers and administrators from participating countries. The training course comprises of eight modules namely:

- HIV/AIDS
- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Behavior Change
- Entrepreneurship
- Outdoor Education/Recreation
- Guidance
- Counseling
- Workshop management

*Dr. Kenneth Hamwaka
Director*

*Guidance, Counselling and Youth
Development Centre for Africa
(GCYDCA)*



Signing of the Joint Bilateral Commission between South Africa and Malawi

The Republic of South Africa and Malawi strengthened their relations by signing a Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation (JPCC). South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and her Malawian counterpart, Hon. Joyce Banda, signed a co-operation agreement between the two countries at Zimbali Lodge near Durban on 7 May 2007.

Hon. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said that the Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation Agreement created a "Framework" for the two countries' future co-operation in bilateral relations. On her part, Hon. Joyce Banda said that there are so many areas that the two countries can co-operate and the signing of the JPCC has brought the guarantee to that co-operation.

It can be recalled that in 2005, Malawi was South Africa's 10th largest export destination in Africa.

PROMOTION OF SCHOOL LEARNING GARDENS

Activities marking the launching of the 4th Cycle pupil graduation in the promotion of school learning gardens took place on 27 November 2007 at Patsankhondo Primary School in Lilongwe.

The graduation at Patsankhondo Primary School is part of the co-operation between South Africa and United Nations through the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to address the needs of vulnerable households in Southern Africa.

A total of 1,700 pupils graduated in the 4th Cycle bringing the overall total of direct beneficiaries to 7,000 households.

Official Visit to Malawi by the South African Minister of Science and Technology, Hon. Mosibudi Mangena

The Minister of Science and Technology, Hon. Mosibudi Mangena visited Malawi from 12 to 14 August 2007 to preside over the signing of the bilateral agreement on science and technology between Malawi and South Africa. Hon. Mangena was accompanied by Senior South African Research Scientists from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), National Research Foundation (NRF) and National Advisory Council on Innovation (NAC).

The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement on Science and Technology Co-operation between the two governments took place on 13 August 2007. President Bingu wa Mutharika who is also Minister of Education, Science and Technology mandated Hon. Richard Mswoya, M.P, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology to sign the agreement on behalf of the Malawian Government.



South Africa High Commissioner, H.E. Ms. Ntshadi M. Tsheole offers further encouragement talk to the girls to work hard in their studies for a brighter future during the 4th Cycle Graduation of Pupils Ceremony at the event - Promotion of School Learning Gardens held at Patsankhondo Primary School in Lilongwe on 27 November 2007.



*Activities of the
Regional Office
(cont. from p.2)*

The workshop brought together a number of experts on the theme to discuss and propose recommendations to enhance good governance for sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources.

The AU Regional Delegate in his statement, stressed that petroleum and mineral resources are exhaustible resources. But what is more important is their potential for positive contribution to sustainable economic growth and development, if effectively managed, to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. He also pointed out the symbiotic relations between good governance and sustainable management of petroleum and mineral resources, particularly in the context of political governance, economic management, corporate governance and institutional checks and balances.

AUC UPCOMING EVENTS

**African Union Summit, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia**
Theme: "Industrial Development of
Africa

- 25-26 January 2007: The 5th Ordinary Session of the PRC
- 28-29 January 2007: The 12th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council
- 31 January to 2 February: The 10th Ordinary Session of the Assembly.



Hon. Marjorie Ngaunje, MP, Minister of Health (centre) ; Prof. R. Omatayo Olaniyan, AU Regional Delegate to SADC (left) and Dr. Mary Shaba, Principal Secretary, Office of the President and Cabinet-HIV/AIDS and Nutrition (right) at the Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2007 on 1 December 2007



Group photograph of all invited guests and students at the Commemoration of World AIDS Day 2007 hosted by the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office on 1 December 2007 at the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA)

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NOTE

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