



AU-SARO Bulletin

African Union Southern Africa Regional Office



African Ambassadors and Donor Community Briefed on the 18th AU Summit Outcome... Updated on the Preparations of the 19th Ordinary Summit

Volume 5, Issue
April 2012

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Dr Salif Sada Sall African Union
Regional Delegate to Southern Africa

He took leave of the African Ambassadors and donor group operating in the African Union Southern Regional Office host country, Malawi when departing for the 18th Ordinary Session of the AU Heads of State and Government Summit of the African Union (AU), that took place from 29th January –30th February 2012, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The diplomats were not only interested in the Summit theme **“Boosting Intra-African Trade”**, they were fascinated too with the outcome of the elections of the Commission which were high on the agenda of the continental meeting, and they enthusiastically looked forward to a report by the AU Regional Delegate envoy to Southern Africa, Dr. Salif Sada Sall.

Immediately upon his return from the Summit, the AURD/SA, Dr. Sada Sall convened two meetings to brief the groups on the outcome of the Summit which took place at the new AU Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and to update them about the preparations of the next AU Ordinary Summit scheduled to take place from 9th—16th July in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Opening his report, Dr. Sall said the 18th Summit was the most crucial meeting ever

in the history of the African Union. “On the political front, we were witnessing major changes in the fabric of African political culture. Besides the wind of change blowing across North Africa, which some have dubbed the ‘Arab Spring,’ democratic elections are taking place across the continent where countries are experiencing free and fair elections for the first time, while others are consolidating their democratic credentials.”

The two extremes were happening when Africa was striving to establish a continental free trade area by 2017, in order to promote the economic development and integration of the continent.

Inauguration of the New African Union Conference Centre.

Saturday 28 January 2012 was a special day in the history of the AU with the inauguration of the new Office Complex and Conference Centre.

Bringing the vivid idea of the structure to the Ambassadors most of whom have not seen the building, Dr Sall said the USD200 million worthy modern building, fully equipped facilities covers over 100,000 square metre land donated by the Ethiopian government, was built by the Chinese government as a gift to the African people. The 20 storied building, 100 meter tall with a 2,500 capacity plenary hall, was inaugurated by the outgoing AU chairperson, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on Saturday 28th January 2012.

The Regional Delegate also informed the diplomats that the Summit also witnessed the unveiling of a Statue of Kwame Nkrumah, the founder of OAU; the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of an African Union Human Rights Memorial.

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EDITORIAL

The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office welcomes you to its first quarter of the 2012 bulletin. The articles in this issue focus on the activities that AU-SARO undertook towards achieving promotion of constructive and productive relationships between the AU and Member States in the region.

The major articles in this issue include preparatory activities for the 19th African Union Summit slated for 9th -16th July 2012 in Lilongwe Malawi. It also highlights Missions and popularization activities performed by the office. The issue also pays tribute to the President of the Republic of Malawi, Late Ngwazi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika, and acknowledges the peaceful transition of power in the country following the death.

AURD/SA Reports on the 18th AU Summit

Cont from page 1.

Elections of the Commission Members

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are elected by secret ballot. A majority of two thirds must be from members with the right to vote, that is, Members States that are not under sanction. According to the rules of the AU Assembly, the Candidates must be "competent women and men, with proven experience in the field, leadership qualities and experience in the civil service, parliament, international organizations or any other relevant sectors of the society." The election results should be announced the same day.

The election was postponed to July 2012 during the 19th AU Assembly in Lilongwe, Malawi because none of the candidates for the chairmanship could obtain the 2/3 votes as stipulated in the AU constitution. The summit resolved that an ad-hoc committee be set up as soon as possible to look into the election matter ahead of the next AU summit in Malawi. The committee is expected to meet in March 2012. To that effect, the mandate of the present Commission was extended until the next AU Summit.

For the position of the Chairperson of the AUC, the Gabonese Dr. Jean Ping is seeking a second mandate, competing with the Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma, the South African Interior Minister. The Kenyan Erastus J. O. Mwencha who is the current Commission's Deputy Chairperson is the only candidate for position of the Deputy chair seeking a second mandate.

The elections, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson must not derive from the same region.

Immediately after the election of the Chairperson and Deputy of the Commission by the Assembly, the Executive Council retires to elect the eight Commissioners of the AU. The results are announced at the end of the close session dedicated for the election during the Executive Council meeting. Since the Assembly failed to elect the Commission's chair, it could not proceed with the election of the Commission-thus the



AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, Dr Salif sada Sall (L) with some members of Africa Group. Mozambican High Commissioner to Malawi H.E. Pedro Davane (C) and Zambian High Commissioner to Malawi H.E. (R).

position of the chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners shall take place during Lilongwe summit.

According to the rules governing the elections of the eight Commissioners of the AU, each region is expected to present two candidates including a woman for each position.

As of the expiration of the deadline on 15 September 2011, submissions for 25 candidates from the different regions were received for the following portfolios: Peace and Security, Political Affairs, Infrastructure and Energy, Social Affairs, Human Resources, Science and Technology, Trade and Industry, Rural Economy and Agriculture, and finally Economic Affairs. These candidates were selected based on work experience, education and age (35 years minimum).

Elections of Members of Peace and Security Council

The 18th AU Summit featured the election of ten members of the Peace

and Security Council (PSC) of the AU for a term of two years. The AU PSC consists of 15 members, 5 from (Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Zimbabwe and Nigeria) they are elected for a period of 3 years and 10 others for a period of two years. This difference in the duration of terms ensures continuity in the monitoring of the PSC records and achievements. The candidates for the next election are drawn from the following countries: (North) Egypt; (West), Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Guinea (East), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda; (Centre) Congo and Cameroon; (South) Angola and Lesotho.

The Heads of States adopted 25 Decisions, one resolution and two Declarations. The summit was preceded by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), on January 23rd 2012, the meeting of Ambassadors of AU Member States which ended on 24 January 2012; the 20th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, which is made up of African Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held Thursday and Friday the 26th and 27th of January 2012.



Youth Leadership and the African Union

Concerted and innovative efforts are required to improve the livelihood of youth especially at a time when the youth population continues to increase on the continent, the Regional Delegate to Southern Africa has said.

In his paper *"Youth Leadership and the African Union"* that he presented at the certificate presentation to the last group of the participants of AU Model Summit in Malawi, the AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa said very often youth are considered as 'tomorrow's leaders' or 'tomorrow's hope,' while in reality, they are today's leaders and need to be part of the system contributing to the Economic Development and be considered in the development model that most African States follow.

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) declared the years 2009-2019 the decade of youth development in Africa during its January 2009 Session held in Addis Ababa. The decade according to the Regional Delegate, is an opportunity to advance the agenda of youth development in all Member States across the AU; and ensure effective and more ambitious investment in youth development programmes and increased support to the development and implementation of national youth policies and



AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr. Salif Sada Sall posing in a picture with Participant of the 2011 AU Model Summit and staff of Catholic university of Malawi at AU-SARO offices in Lilongwe, Malawi.

programmes.

About 62% of Africa's overall population fall below the age of 35 and more than 35% are between 15 and 24 years old. More than half of youth survive on less than US\$2 a day.

"The gap between the MDGs targets and its interconnection to the current state of the young people leaves no time for questions," said Dr Sall.

Dr Sall observed that increased investment in youth development yields greater economic growth and social wellbeing for generations to come. He explained that missed investments in young people's intellectual and human potential are a missed opportunity for generations and also costly to reverse, both for

youth and for society.

He said several commitments, policies and programs on youth have been prioritized at national, sub-regional and global levels; however, these initiatives are yet to translate into the desired outcomes.

The African Union acknowledges the principles and significance of the African Youth Charter that was adopted by the Ministers in charge of youth and approved by the AU Heads of State and Government in July 2006. The youth Charter aimed at capacitating the youth and enabling Member States to fully benefit from their contributions, in addressing the continent's social and developmental constraints.

The African Youth Charter and its rapid entry into force, the celebration of the Year of African Youth in 2008 and the annual celebration of the African Youth Day every 1st November, the declaration of a Decade (2009-2019) for Youth development, and its approved 10 year-plan of action, the decision then taken to devote the July 2011 Heads of State and Government Summit on youth empowerment in Africa are convincing evidences that confirm the continental impetus to the African youth development.



Catholic University Vice Chancellor Anacklet Phiri (L) and Youth Council of Malawi Programme Officer, Wekha Khonje during Certificate presentation of AU Model Summit

African Union Youth Volunteer Corps Programme Engages Young People in the Continent's Development



AU Volunteer Corps Training Coordinator, Daniel Adunga (L), shading more light on the programme. With him is Malawian aspiring youth, Mlenga Mvula.

As Southern Africa prepares to host the 19th African Union Ordinary Summit in July 2012 in Lilongwe, Malawi, the African Union Commission is facilitating the Youth Volunteer Corps (AYVC) training as a side event during the Summit from 4-18th July.

The AYVC concept is in line with the African Youth Charter as well as the Decision of AU Head of States and Governments in January 2010, to set up a continental Volunteer initiative. It was officially launched on 3rd of December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria where 30 volunteers participated in the first training. The second volunteer training programme was held in Equatorial Guinea, at which a further 95 volunteers were trained.

It is expected that the 3rd training programme in Malawi will take 100 participants, of which 30 will come from the host, Malawi and the rest from the other 53 member states. Two participants will come from each Member State.

Explaining the importance of the Programme at a Press Conference in Malawi, the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office Senior Economist, Tichawona Shumba, AU-YVC promotes volunteering and deepens the status of young people in Africa as key participants in the delivery

of Africa's human development targets and goals.

"It brings people together to share skills, knowledge, creativity and learning to build a more integrated Continent and by implication strengthen Africa's relevance in the globalized world," he said.

The objectives of the programme is to engage Africa's Youth in the Continent's development through meaningful youth participation by providing Service for their Continent. "It also provide opportunities to Young Africans to serve and gain crucial professional experience, soft skills, social competence, international exposure and leadership skills," said Shumba adding that the programme also promote shared values and Pan-Africanism among the upcoming generation.

A trio team led by AUC Director of Human Resources Science and Development, Madam Vera Ngosi visited Malawi to work on with Ministry of Sport and Youth Development on modalities of the training.



Left to Right: Malawi's Principle Secretary for Sport and Youth Development, Mr. Mseka; AUC Director of Human Resources Science and Development, Vera Ngosi; former Minister of Sport and Youth Development, Vuwa Kaunda; African Union Youth Volunteer Corps Coordinator, Daniel Adunga, and Head of Division for Human Resource and Youth Division, Dr. Raymonde Agossou, during the AYVC training negotiation Mission to Malawi in January.

Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in SADC: Opportunities and Challenges in Tourism Sector



Dr Sall: Climate Change has affected tourism industry

Experts from Southern Africa in February this year gathered in Port Louis, Mauritius to brainstorm and agree on ways of Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in the region.

The gathering on the theme ***“Harnessing Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa: Opportunities and Challenges in the Tourism Sector”*** took off with the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting (AEGM) from 28 – 29 February 2012 and ended with the 18th (eighteenth) meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) from 1st - 2nd March, 2012.

In his opening remarks, the African Union Regional Delegate to Southern Africa AURD, Dr Salif Sada Sall, said Africa’s environmental and cultural treasures are fragile and utmost care should be taken to conserve, protect and enhance the tourism resource base.

“Tourism sector, directly and indirectly contributes an estimated 8.3 per cent to GDP and 5.9 per cent to employment in Africa,” said the AU Delegate to Southern Africa, referring his point from the 2009 World Travel and Tourism Council report.

On the African Union efforts to promote the tourism industry, Dr Sall said the 2009/2012 African Union Commission Strategic Plan takes into account the current climate change and global economic and financial markets instability; and so, it had to find appropriate responses to emerging issues and developments. “Indeed, Africa is well aware that these exceptional times have affected tourism industry, hence putting its focus on the urgent need to forge a common African voice in negotiations to mitigate Climate Change effects on the Continent.”

Both the ICE and the AEGM focused on the recommendations of the last ICE session held in March 2011 in Windhoek, Namibia which called for the need for the region to intensify diversification efforts to avoid

economic concentration in primary commodities whose prices are highly volatile. The objective of the AEGM was to critically review the technical report presented by a consultant on the above mentioned theme, and thereby discuss with a particular emphasis on the role of tourism in promoting and enhancing growth as an anchor for development in Southern Africa.

Discussions dwelt on the technical report and were mainly considering how the countries in Southern Africa could utilize their natural resources within the tourism sector to promote sustainable development and contribute towards socio-economic development.

On the other hand, the main goal of the 18th Session of the ICE was to examine statutory issues related to the mandate and operation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Sub-Regional Office (UNECA-SRO); assess the socio-economic situation in the sub-region; and strengthen partnerships to develop regional cooperation and integration consistent with the priorities of the member States in the sub-region.

Three reports were presented to the ICE meeting for review and discussion as follows; Progress Report on the work of the ECA Southern Africa Office including status of implementation of the multi-year programme (MYP); Report on the Economic and Social Developments in Southern Africa; and Progress Report on the Implementation of Regional and International Agendas, including NEPAD and other special initiatives in the sub-region.

The two meetings were organized by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and of the UNECA-SRO. It brought together government officials from SADC and COMESA members states, private sector, civil society and IGOs. Selected UN agencies such as UNEP, sub regional and regional development partners also attended the meetings.

AU Regional Delegate Familiarises with African Union Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases (AU/CTTBD)

The Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall has pledged to advocate for funding of the African Union Centre for Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases (AU/CTTBD).

Despite the Centre operating under the African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) and constitutionally charged with the provision of demand-driven support in the control of livestock diseases for the development of the livestock industry in Africa, it is wholly self funded. This according to the Centre's Director Dr Nkhwachi Gondwe, is a challenge for the African institution to achieve its objectives.

Commenting on the presentation by the Centre, Dr Sall said the fact that the establishment of the Centre followed the adoption of the resolution by the OAU Council of Ministers in 1978, like any other AU institutions, the CTTBD must have an annual budget at the African Union Commission (AUC).

"This has to be presented to the Commission and action must be taken. Since the Centre is in the region where I am representing the AU, I will take up the matter with the responsible authorities in the commission," pledged the regional delegate.

The Centre's core activities are production of quality assured vaccines for tick-borne diseases; assistance in the investigation and control of tick-borne diseases; training in epidemiology and livestock disease control strategies and research; and backup services to tick-borne vaccine application in the field.

Briefing the AU Regional Delegate during his familiarisation



AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall (R) being oriented in African Union Centre for Ticks and Tick Borne Diseases by the Centre's Director Dr. Nkhwachi Gondwe (L) and far her left is Dr. George Tchaka, Vaccine Production Manager and Dr. Victor Mbao CTTBD Manager (C)

mission to the Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi, Dr Gondwe said the origin of the AU/CTTBD dates back in 1967 with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regional programme under the then East African Community (EAC).

"Although the programme ended in 1977, the original donors and others undertook support for national and regional tick and tick-borne disease control programmes," said Gondwe, adding that this happened at a time when ticks and the diseases they transmit were becoming recognized as serious constraints to increased livestock productivity and the development of a profitable livestock industry in Africa.

The director said in 1978, the OAU Council of Ministers adopted a resolution acknowledging this threat and agreed to set up three regional Centres located in North Africa, West Africa, and Southern and Eastern Africa, to spearhead tick-borne disease (TBD) control efforts on the continent. The Government of Malawi offered to host the Centre for Southern and

Eastern Africa and the Centre started operating that same year under the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) who were appointed coordinators of the regional programme for the control of ticks and TBD in Eastern and Southern Africa.

With the Assistance of the Governments of the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium, the Centre was officially opened by the African Union /Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) in 1994. The centre was run under the leadership of AU/IBAR with the support of member countries from 1996.

She added that in 2001, CTTBD was registered with the Government of Malawi as a TRUST governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board is composed of Directors of Veterinary Services from all the SADC countries with Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda Uganda, Burundi and SADC attending Board meetings as observers. AU-IBAR chairs the Board which meets annually to review the Centre's activities, approve budgets and provision of general oversight. The Centre operates as a legal entity in itself with the Board having powers to make independent and prompt decisions on the running of the institution.

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AU SARO to Advocate Funding for the African Union Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases

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Vaccine Production

The tick-borne disease vaccines and sero-diagnostic reagents produced at the Centre include; East Coast fever (ECF) vaccines; Heartwater (Ehrlichia) vaccines; Anaplasma/Babesia vaccines; Antigen slides. The ECF vaccine strains produced include; Muguga trivalent (cocktail) for East African countries including Malawi; Katete strain for Eastern Zambia; and Chitongo strain for Southern Zambia.

Currently, emphasis is placed on production of ECF vaccines. This is because the African Union recognizes the economic losses of livestock due to the disease in Sub-Sahara Africa. In this light, the Centre is undergoing an expansion plan to prepare it for up scaling production of ECF vaccine production. The areas of expansion include staff training, equipment upgrading and refurbishments of laboratories. Staff has been trained in Business and Financial management, Intellectual Property Management, Contracting, Cost of Goods and various technical aspects pertaining to research. All this has been funded by GALVmed a not-for-profit organization based in Scotland.

Research

Throughout the region, there are a several research gaps in the field of animal health particularly tick and tick-borne diseases. The CTTBD was mandated to seek collaborative work with reputable institutions pursuing various research topics particularly in the field of vector-borne diseases. Currently the CTTBD has collaborations with ITM (Antwerp, Belgium), University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), University of Zambia (UNZA), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), University of Malawi (Bunda College of Agriculture) and various government laboratories in the SADC region. The Centre also offers contract research services to

international organizations. In the recent past, it has collaborated with Pfizer, Intervet, University of Karolinska/European Commission and Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine on various research trials.

Training

Capacity building, being very crucial in development, is supported by the Centre through training which remains one of the Centre's priority activities. With the changing landscape of livestock diseases, introduction of new diseases to new areas as well as dynamics of science, refresher courses are important to revitalize and broaden the existing knowledge base of the participants.

Additionally, the courses bring together people from different areas and with different experiences and this enhances the knowledge base even further. The ultimate goal of the training courses is therefore to provide course participants with the best possible learning experience, skills and support for recognizing livestock diseases and planning, monitoring and support for sustainable animal disease control and production programs.

The courses which are of short to medium-term duration are offered in French and/or English depending on the target group and the clients' needs. Courses include Veterinary Epidemiology; Livestock Economics (Animal Health); Advanced Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics; Risk Analysis; Vaccine Production; and Quality Assurance. The centre offers the

following courses Veterinary Epidemiology; Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics for Technicians; Livestock Economics (Animal Health); Risk Analysis; Geographical and Information Systems. The following countries participated between 1999-2009. About 536 people from Angola, Botswana, Congo DR, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria; Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe have participated in the training.

Farm

The Centre has a farm of 65 hectares whose primary function is to house sufficient disease free cattle for use in vaccine stabilate production, for conducting contract research and as a quarantine facility to generate income for the Centre. However, the farm is also used for training purposes when need arises. The farm has cattle holding facilities for up to 300 cattle. In addition, a rabbitry housing about 40 rabbits forms part of the animal quarters. This will soon be replaced by a bigger unit under construction which will house over 500 rabbits. There is also a tick-breeding facility for maintenance of the tick population which is used during stabilate production.



Cattle : Their wellbeing is targeted by the CTTBD



AUC Advisory Mission on the 19th AU Summit in Malawi



AUC Secretary General, Ambassador Jean Mfasoni led the Advisory team to Malawi

Southern Africa is privileged to host the 19th African Union Ordinary Summit to take place in Lilongwe Malawi from 9th-16th July 2012. As per tradition, the African Union Commission (AUC) takes an advisory role to ensure that the Summit hosting Member State provides standard services during the Summit. During the first quarter, the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office continued working hand in hand with the AUC on the advisory missions to Malawi.

The second Mission led by the Commission's Secretary general, Ambassador Mfasoni took place from February 2012 involved the Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, Dr. Salif Sada Sall, the Director of Conference Services, the Director of Information and Communications Department, Chief Protocol, the Legal Council representative, Bright Mando, the Acting Director of Administration and Finance and representative from Security department. The Malawi Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union H.E. Dr Mbuya Isaac Munlo who joined the team as a host..

Presenting evaluation report to the Malawi Government Ministerial

Committee on the 19th AU Summit, leader of delegation the Commission's Secretary General, H.E Ambassador Mfasoni said the commission would continue advising the host on services that are not ready or do not meet the standards.

He said the Mission aimed at checking on how ready Malawi is to host the 19th AU Summit. The team found out that the crucial service that need to look into was accommodation of the Malawi government assured the Commission of sorting out accommodation issue through placement of adverts, calling on Malawians to let out their houses for rent during the Summit.

"I also suggest that Presidential Villas be added by requesting for private houses to accommodate the presidents, because we are looking at accommodation as the major challenge for 54 Heads of State," advised Mfasoni, adding that the Commission expects the recommendations to be considered before the advising body visit the host for final assessment in May.

The final assessment Mission will include representatives of the African Union Permanent representative (PRC) so that they report to their colleagues about the readiness of the host.



AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall (C), Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union H.E. Dr Mbuya Isaac Munlo and Malawi government Official (R) during the African Union Commission (AUC) Advisory Mission to Malawi on the 19th Ordinary Summit that Malawi is hosting in July 2012.

The delegation also recommended that Taxis be given clear identification for security of the visitors.

"Hotels should install wireless internet facilities because communication will be needed that time," he added.

About 4,000 plus delegates are expected to attend the Summit.



AUC delegation reporting its findings to the Malawi Government Ministerial Committee on the summit at a meeting held at Malawi's Office of President and Cabinet (OPC).

AU-SARO Pays Tribute to the President of Malawi, Late Ngwazi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika

On 5th April 2012, Malawi lost its President, Ngwazi Prof. Bingu wa Wamutharika after he suffered Cardiac Arrest. African Union Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, Dr Salif Sada Sall on 14th April 2012 joined fellow Diplomats, government and people of Malawi, in welcoming the remains of Late Wa Mutharika on arrival at Kamuzu International Airport from the Republic of South Africa where he was pronounced dead. On 15th April the Regional Delegate together with other members of the Diplomatic Corps led by the Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Malawi, the Zimbabwean Ambassador, Her Excellency Nthandwe Dumbutshena paid their last respects to Late President Wa Mutharika, at the New State House, in Lilongwe. Dr Sall, on 16th April signed Condolence Book at the Malawi's Ministry of Foreign Affairs before witnessing the burial on 23rd April at his home village, Ndata farm, in Traditional Authority Chimaliro in Thyolo District.

On behalf of the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, His Excellency Dr. Jean Ping and entire Commission; the AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa and African union southern Africa regional Office have expressed sadness at the untimely death of the President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Ngwazi Prof. Bingu Wa Mutharika.



AUC Chairperson H.E. Dr. Jean Ping (R), and AU Regional Delegate to South Dr Salif Sada Sall paying their last respects to Ngwazi Prof Bingu Wa Mutharika at Ndata Farm.



AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall (L) passing condolences to the former Malawi First Lady, Calista, through Late Wa Mutharika's Advisor on Religious Affairs, Rev. Billy Gama



AU Regional Delegate Dr. Salif Sada Sall (L) signing Condolence Book at the Malawi Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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AU-SARO and Diplomats in Malawi Mourn Late Wa Mutharika



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AUC Chairperson Jean Ping (L) and Former Malawi President, Bakili Muluzi (R) laying wreaths on the tomb of Late Wa Mutharika during the burial ceremony at Ndata Farm.



Head of Diplomatic Corps in Malawi H.E. Dumbutshena leading diplomats paying respects to Late Ngwazi Prof Bingu wa Mutharika



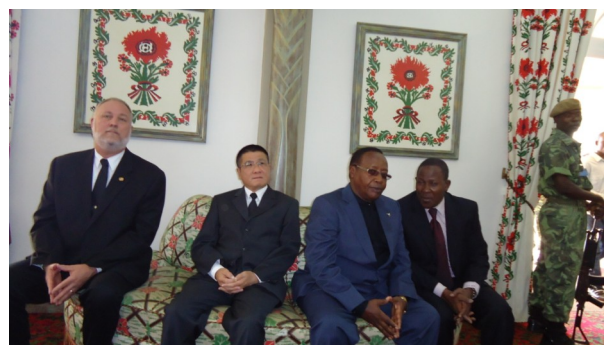
Sad faces: DFID Resident Representative, Sarah Sanyahumbi (L) EU Head of Delegation to Malawi, Alexander Baum (C) and AU Regional delegate to southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall after viewing the body.

“AU-SARO expresses condolences to Her Excellency, President of the Republic of Malawi Madam Joyce Banda, the Government, People of Malawi and the entire family of President Wa Mutharika on this great loss and shares Malawi’s sadness during this period of enormous pain,” said Dr Salif Sada Sall the AU envoy to southern Africa in a press release.

Dr Sall said with his wisdom, qualifications, expertise and experience, Late President Wa Mutharika served his country, continent and the world at large in several capacities. AU-SARO and the African Union Commission (AUC) will fondly remember the Late President for his Chairmanship of the African Union from January 2010 to January 2011, during which he laid down a roadmap for Africa to achieve food security and sustainability and championed an "African Food Basket Initiative" as a priority agenda.

He recalled that it was Late Wa Mutharika at the 18th Ordinary Summit in January 2012 who proposed that a Summit theme be chosen and run for at least three years to ensure its implementation, the idea which was then adopted by his fellow Heads of State and Government.

“AU-SARO shares Malawi’s sadness during



Diplomats waiting for their turn to enter the body viewing room to pay their last respects to Late President Bingu wa Mutharika.



AUC Chair Attends Malawian President's Funeral



AUC Chairperson Jean Ping(L) and Former Malawi President, Bakili Muluzi (R) laying wreaths on the tomb of Late Wa Mutharika during the burial ceremony at Ndata Farm.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr Jean Ping has hailed Malawi for the peaceful transition of power following the sudden death of the country's President His Excellency Ngwazi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika on 5th April 2012.

The AUC was in Malawi between 22nd – 24th April to join African Heads of State, Diplomatic Corps and the entire Malawians to rest Late Wa Mutharika at his home village, Ndata Farm in Thyolo District on 23rd April. Wa Mutharika collapsed on 5th April at the New State House in Lilongwe and was flown to South Africa the same day where he was pronounced dead at Military One Hospital. Consequently, the Malawi's Vice President, Her Excellency Mrs. Joyce Banda was sworn in as president of the country on 7th April 2012.

"The transition of power was constitutional and I can say Malawi is one of the AU Member States that have demonstrated their commitment to democratic principles," said Ping, adding that a country may not be perfect but by

following the constitution, it reflected peace and tranquility of the country.

In his condolence message to Her Excellency President, Mrs. Joyce Banda, Dr Ping said the African Union Commission will fondly remember Late President Wa Mutharika for his Chairmanship of the African Union from January 2010 to January 2011, during which he laid down a roadmap for Africa to achieve food security and sustainability and championed the "African Food Basket Initiative" as a priority agenda for Africa. During the 18th Ordinary Summit in January 2012, in Addis Ababa, Late Wa Mutharika proposed that a Summit theme be chosen and run for at least three years to ensure its implementation, the idea which was

then adopted by his fellow Heads of State and Government.

His predecessor, Mrs Joyce Banda was born on 12 April 1950 is the fourth president of Malawi and first female president of the country. She is the second female president in Africa. Prior to becoming president, she served as the country's first female vice-president. She was also Member of Parliament and Minister for Gender, Children's Affairs and Community Services. She was the founder of the National Association of Business Women (NABW), Young Women Leaders Network and the Hunger Project. She was listed in Forbes Magazine 2011 as the third most powerful woman in Africa. She is the founder and leader of the People's Party (PP), formed in 2011 after she was expelled from the ruling.

In another development, on his return from the funeral, the AUC Chairperson stopped over in the Malawi's Capital Lilongwe to appreciate the facilities that Malawi has in place for the 19th African Union Ordinary Summit that the country is hosting July this year.

Dr. Ping visited the country's International Conference Centre, Presidential Villas, Five Star Hotel and Kamuzu International Airport. "I am impressed with the Conference Centre which is the most important facility for the Summit." He said he was aware that the major challenge was accommodation which quickly said could be sorted out through other mechanisms like limiting the number of delegation accompanying Heads of State.



AU-SARO Hails Malawi for Peaceful Power Transition ... Congratulates President Mrs. Joyce Banda



Her Excellency Madam Joyce Banda (C) taking oath of office in company of her husband the Malawi First Gentleman Justice Richard Banda (L) and Malawi Chief Justice Lovemore Munlo (R.) presiding over the swearing in ceremony.

African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) has commended the Government of the Republic of Malawi and all Malawians for the peaceful transition of power following the death of His Excellence Ngwazi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika on 5th April 2012.

In a press releases issued by AU-SARO, the regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr salif Sada Sall said Malawians had demonstrated their commitment to democratic principles by applying the country's Constitution in the transition process.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Her Excellency Madam Joyce Banda on her inauguration as President of the Republic of Malawi," he said.

After Mutharika's death, there were fears of a power struggle following Information and Civic Education Minister Patricia Kaliati's statement that "the conduct of the honorable Joyce Banda in forming her own opposition party precludes her from being eligible to succeed the presidency. Malawi's ex-President Bakili Muluzi and the Civil

Society insisted on "constitutional order," saying the vice president must automatically take power under the constitution.

"I am calling for a constitutional order, for continued peace and order. The laws of Malawi are very clear that the vice president takes over" when the sitting president can no longer govern. We have to avoid a situation where there is disorder. Let us follow the constitution. We have no choice but follow the constitution. It's very important that there must be peace and calm." Said Bakili Muluzi at a press conference he held at his residence in Blantyre.

The Malawi Law Society confirmed the former President's assertion that under section 83(4) of the constitution of Malawi, Joyce Banda was the legitimate successor to the Presidency.

During her swearing in ceremony at the Malawi Parliament Building in Lilongwe on 7th April 2012, the Malawi's first female president appealed for national unity. "I want all of us to move into the future with hope and with the spirit of oneness and unity. I just sincerely hope we

shall stand united and I hope that as a God-fearing nation we allow God to come before us, because if we don't do that then we have failed."

Born on 12 April 1950 as Joyce Ntila, Joyce Hilda Ntila Banda is a Malawian politician who became the President of Malawi on 7 April 2012 following the sudden death of President Bingu wa Mutharika. She is Malawi's fourth president and its first female president. Prior to becoming president, she served as the country's first female vice-president.

She was also Member of Parliament and Minister for Gender, Children's Affairs and Community Services. Prior to an active career in politics she was the founder of the Joyce Banda Foundation, founder of the National Association of Business Women (NABW), Young Women Leaders Network and the Hunger Project. She was listed in Forbes Magazine 2011 as the third most powerful woman in Africa.

Her Excellency Mrs. Joyce Banda is the founder and leader of the People's Party, formed in 2011 after she was expelled from the ruling DPP.

WFP African Risk Capacity Programme Chief Visits AU Southern Africa Regional Office

The World Food Programme (WFP) Chief of Contingency Planning and Operations for African Risk Capacity programme (ARC) Jane Pearce was in Southern Africa in April this year to discuss with some AU Member States prevention mechanisms for the natural disasters in the regions.

Briefing the African Union Southern Africa Regional Delegate, Dr Salif Sada Sall, Pearce said the project is groundbreaking project of the African Union designed to improve current responses to drought food security emergencies and to build capacity within AU Member States to manage drought risks.

The project has set finances to advanced satellite weather surveillance and software — developed by the UN World Food Programme (WFP), to estimate and trigger quick-disbursing funds to help African countries hit by severe drought to implement effective and timely responses to assist those affected.

The project is an African-owned, continental index-based weather risk insurance pool and early response mechanism. “ARC offers an African solution to one of the continent's most pressing challenges by bringing together the concepts of insurance and contingency planning,” said Pearce, adding ARC creates a new way of managing weather risk by transferring the burden away from African governments, and their vulnerable populations who depend on government assistance, to international financial markets that can handle the risk much better”.

Speaking during courtesy call at AU SARO, Dr Sall said his office welcomes the programme which he described as very important in Southern Africa since drought and other natural calamities have not



AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, Dr Salif Sada Sall (L), WFP Chief of Contingency Planning and Operations for ARC Programme, Madam Jane Pearce (C) and Mr. Papa Zoumana Diarra from the United Nation World Food Programme Kasili Head Office in Democratic Republic of Congo (R) discussing the impacts of the risks and possible prevention mechanism in the region.

spared the region.

“There are many cases of malnutrition in the region resulted from natural disasters,” he said

Currently the project is piloted in six countries Senegal, Mali, Niger, Malawi, Kenya and Ethiopia. It will be expanded to many other AU Member States. According to Pearce, her team will shortly to consulting other Southern African Countries such as Swaziland, Mozambique and Tanzania.

During her visit to Southern Africa, Pearce and her team held discussion with Malawi Government Officials before paying a courtesy call to AU-SARO.

WFP jointly with the African Anion Commission initiated the project after noticing that the current structure, the international system for responding to natural disasters is neither as timely nor equitable as it could be.

ARC website says funding is secured on a largely ad hoc basis after disaster strikes. In the meantime, lives are lost, assets are depleted, and development gains suffer major setbacks, forcing more people into

chronic destitution and food insecurity in the world's least economically developed countries. By linking contingency funding to effective response plans, ARC will help African governments reduce negative impacts of droughts on the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable, while decreasing reliance on external aid.

Since 1990, there have been 132 recorded droughts in sub-Saharan Africa, including the most recent events seen in the Horn of Africa, but because droughts do not happen in the same year in all parts of the continent, pan-African solidarity in the creation of a disaster risk pool like ARC is financially effective. Pooling risk across the continent could save countries up to 50% in costs related to emergency contingency funds making ARC an attractive financing mechanism in support of African food security.

Message from the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping on World Press Freedom Day, May 3, 2012

The African Union is celebrating this year, 2012, as the year of Shared Values. These values are accepted and shared by all member States of our Union. Among them, there is one which is a fundamental human right entrenched in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights: Freedom of Speech. This value is of critical importance because it feeds democracy and consolidates good governance, which our world needs.

The demonstrations that occurred in 2011 in several African countries, mostly in North Africa or the more recent mobilization of the Senegalese people during the February and March Presidential election confirm, once more, that freedom of speech is indeed one of the most invaluable human rights, and a source of social transformation. Most importantly, all those who believed that their societies could evolve and develop without freedom of speech learned, at their own expense, that progress must follow the path of freedom and the respect of human rights, otherwise their citizens might turn against them.

Meanwhile, the freedom of speech that was suppressed, for too long, made way for the freedom of the press that we are celebrating today. In this context, I can only fully embrace the theme that was chosen by the United Nations for this year's celebration: "New Voices: Media Freedom Helping to Transform Societies".

Indeed, new and louder voices are always heard and their number is constantly increasing in the streets and particularly through traditional media and social networks to demand that their voices be taken into account and their rights respected, so that the people may regain their dignity and enjoy their citizenship. Voices have been raised to demand change regardless of the risks and perils, and have succeeded. I would therefore, at this point, pay my respects to those who lost their lives in breaking the wall of silence to inform their fellow citizens, moved by the desire to see their society evolve into something better. It is through access to information, freedom of speech and freedom of the press that citizens feel that they are part and parcel of the life of their countries; since they are in a better position to perceive the social, political and economic agendas of their environment.

With new technologies such as social media, the people and the youth in particular, are rising to protest against all forms of injustice imposed on them and especially against infringements on the freedom of expression and human rights. For it is above all, by words and messages, that human beings exist. To deny this right is simply to suppress the whole concept of democracy. In deed, popular uprisings have introduced a new dimension in relations as well as in communication between the government and the governed.



AUC Chairperson, Dr Jean Ping

The "Arab Spring" of the year 2011, marked a turning point with regard to freedom of speech and the press, and I welcome the progress made. Popularizing the use of media and social networks is a valuable opportunity to address the issues raised by the people. Today, all children aged 7 to 17 years have one or more knowledge of the many social networks available. In addition, the campaigns launched on the web have shown the significance of these new means of communication through their accessibility, their comprehensiveness and their simplicity. They offer the opportunity to share information, facilitate access and dissemination, for greater transparency.

The celebration of World Press Freedom Day is also an opportunity for us to condemn in the strongest terms, attacks and unacceptable treatment practiced here and there, on journalists just because they have attempted to do their work well; this commemoration gives us an opportunity to honor all those who have lost their lives in carrying out their mission.

The African Union, which has signed the African Platform on Access to Information (APAI), at the end of the first Pan African Conference on Access to Information, held in Cape Town in September last year, will spare no effort to help strengthen the security and protection of journalists along with freedom of expression which are the natural nurseries of freedom of the press; We will also continue efforts in the cooperation with Member States, to adapt to the new realities and needs of the populations, in monitoring the laws enforced in the States, on access to information and freedom of expression.



Upcoming Events

Africa Day

African Union Southern Africa Regional Office will on 25th May, 2012 host Africa Day celebrations at its Residence in Lilongwe, republic of Malawi.

The 19th African Union Ordinary Summit

The 19th African union Ordinary Summit will be held in Lilongwe, Republic of Malawi from 9th to 16th July, 2012.

The Programme dates are as follows:

1. Meeting of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) will be held from 9th to 10th July 2012.
2. Meeting of the Executive Council will be on 12th to 13th July, 2012.
3. The 27th Summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee will come on 14th July, 2012.
4. Finally, the 19th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government will be held on 15th and 16th July, 2012.

African Union Youth Volunteer Corps Training (AU-YVC)

African Union Youth Volunteer Corps Training will this year take place in Lilongwe, Republic of Malawi from 6th to 9th July, 2012. The training is one of the side events during the 19th African union Ordinary Summit.

AU-SARO Courtesy Calls



Irish Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi Elizabeth Higgins (C) during her courtesy call to the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office. Dr Salif Sada Sall, AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa (L) and AU-SARO Senior Policy Officer, Tichaona Shumba (R).



Japanese Deputy Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi Shigenobu Kobayashi (R) paying his courtesy call to the AU Regional delegate to Southern Africa Dr. Salif Sada Sall (L) at AU-SARO Office in Lilongwe.



Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) Director of Consultancy Services Martin Lyewe (2nd R) and Malawi Country Coordinator, Malango Mlanjira (2nd L) during the institution courtesy call to African Union Southern Africa. AU Regional delegate, Dr Salif Sada Sall (L) and AU-SARO Finance and Administration Assistant, Jones Stamalevi (R) discussing with the team possible areas that the two entities could work together capacity building efforts in the region.

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Published by
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