



AU-SARO

Bulletin

African Union Southern Africa Regional Office



Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Pays Courtesy Call to Newly elected Lesotho Prime Minister



Lesotho Prime Minister HE Thomas Thabane (R) welcoming African Union Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr. Salif Sada Sall (L) during his courtesy call

On behalf of H.E Dr Jean Ping who unfortunately could not attend the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, H.E Thomas Thabane, Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, Dr Salif Sada Sall, undertook a courtesy call to the new leader..

The aim of the courtesy call was to congratulate H.E Thomas Motsoahae Thabane on his victory in parliamentary elections in May 2012 which made him the new Prime Minister of Lesotho.

Dr Sall started the visit to Lesotho from 26-28 June 2012, by meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Mohlabi Kenneth Tsehoa on 28 June at his office in Maseru, Lesotho.

Honourable Minister Mohlabi Kenneth Tsehoa welcomed Dr Sall and expressed his gratitude that the AUC undertook the

visit to Lesotho and thanked Dr Sall and the Commission for its support.

Commenting on the elections, Dr Sall congratulated the Kingdom of Lesotho on the conduct of the polls and adherence to the rules and laws of democracy in the formation of a government of unity.

Dr Sall highlighted that the Kingdom of Lesotho has since independence been a valued member state of the African Union and still continues to play an important role in the African Union and the region. The Kingdom has also always paid its budgetary contributions to the AUC on time. “The people of Lesotho have shown their commitment to the AU and Africa”, Dr Sall said.

Upon completion of the meeting with Honourable Minister Mohlabi Kenneth Tsehoa, Dr Sall was received by H.E Motsoahae Thomas Thabane. Dr Sall

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EDITORIAL

The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office welcomes you to the second quarter edition of its 2012 bulletin. The office in the quarter continued with its mandate of developing and maintaining constructive and productive relationships between the AU and Member States in the region which includes SADC and COMESA.

This issue focuses on electoral process in the region, and other multilateral activities that AU-SARO undertook in the quarter.



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Regional delegate to southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall being welcomed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho during his courtesy call visit

thanked the Prime Minister for the warm welcome and hailed the Kingdom of Lesotho and its people for their commitment to Africa.

Dr Sall congratulated the Prime Minister on his election following the polls in May 2012 and expressed on behalf of the H.E Dr Ping his admiration for the Kingdom in its conduct of peaceful elections and hailed it as an example to be emulated in other African countries.

Dr Sall then wished the government of Lesotho well and said he was confident it will work. He also expressed his hope that the new government of unity, will also help to bring unity in Africa and that Lesotho will continue to play its role as a valued member of the AU. The government of unity, Dr Sall said “is an example for Africa as the cabinet is made up of various political parties.”

His Excellency, Prime Minister Motsoahae Thomas Thabane thanked Dr Sall for coming to Lesotho and for the AUC interest in the country. H.E said that the “African Union is an organization close to my heart. It was OAU which fought for the liberation of South Africa and the Southern African region in general.” He also reiterated the commitment of the Kingdom Lesotho to the AU.

His Excellency added that “the government of unity is a new system of governance and it will require hard

work but is a good foundation for the future of Lesotho.” He further stated that his cabinet is committed to the success of the government of unity and in delivering to the people of Lesotho.

Thomas Motsoahae Thabane was born 1939 and was a member of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) and served in the government of Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili from 1998 to 2006. In 2006, he split from the LCD and formed the All Basotho Convention. After more than five years in opposition, he formed a coalition with other parties in the wake of the May 2012 parliamentary election and was appointed Prime Minister.

“African Union is an organization close to my heart. It was OAU which fought for the liberation of South Africa and the Southern African region in general”

Upcoming Events

- ◆ AU-SARO will hold a preparatory Meeting for a seminar on Regional Piracy on 9-12 October 2012, in Victoria, Seychelles.
- ◆ AU-SARO will hold preparatory meeting for a regional seminar on the Role of Regional bodies in COMESA/EAC/SADC, on 28 and 29 November in Dare salaam Tanzania.
- ◆ AU-SARO will hold a Regional preparatory Seminar on HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and How to achieve MDGs, on 24 and 25 October in Windhoek Namibia.
- ◆ AU-SARO in collaboration with Sub-Sahara Consulting Group will from 29th November, 2012, hold Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and enterprise development Forum in Lilongwe, Malawi.
- ◆ AU-SARO in collaboration with Sub-Sahara Consulting Group African Entrepreneurship Forum 2012, 6th December, in Lusaka, Zambia.

Bakili Muluzi reflects on his role as Commonwealth Chief Observer for Lesotho Elections

The Basotho people of the Kingdom of Lesotho went to the polls on 26 May 2012 in the Lesotho Parliamentary Elections. The elections, widely praised for being peaceful and leading to the creation of a government of unity is hailed as a good example of a democratic transition of power in the region and Africa.

His Excellency, Dr Bakili Muluzi, the former head of state of Malawi, who served as the Chief Election Observer for the Commonwealth Election Observation Mission to the Lesotho Parliamentary Elections spoke, to African union southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) about his experiences as Chief Election Observer and the lessons learnt from this experience.

Dr. Muluzi who arrived two weeks prior to the poll, says that his primary observation of the election has been that “elections are a process”. Elections are an outcome involving civic education, having an effective voters roll, printing of ballot papers and the counting votes which all need to be transparent”, commented Dr Muluzi.

Illustrating this point Dr. Muluzi talked about some of the activities he undertook upon arriving in Lesotho. As Chief Election Observer, Dr Muluzi took proactive steps to meet various role players in the election including political parties, police, the military, religious groups and civil society organization. Also continually informing the public through the media of the outcome of these meetings, the role players were kept accountable to the public.



Dr Bakili Muluzi (R), Commonwealth Chief Observer for 2012 Lesotho Parliamentary election and AU-SARO Information Communication Officer, Brenda Kok at His BCA Hill Residences during AU-SARO's mission to explore his experience of being Chief observer for an African election

At the end of these meetings the political parties signed a declaration agreeing to the stand by the outcome of the election. This, Dr Muluzi remarked, was the outcome of a process of involving different role players and creating conducive environment to hold free and fair elections. The Commonwealth Observer Mission was then able to reassure the public to come on voting day.

Continuing the work on Election Day, the Commonwealth Observer Mission team went around to different voting stations and observed the voting and counting process. Dr Muluzi also remained in Lesotho for one week after the election seeing through his belief that elections are a process and is not only about what happens on Election Day, but also about how activities prior to and after the poll are conducted.

Speaking on what other countries can learn from the way Lesotho conducted the elections, Dr Muluzi said that “institutions be it in South Africa or Malawi should hold the principle of democracy at its core and that the public should be made aware of their rights, voting must be

transparent. In a democratic society we should allow freedom, leaders should accept the will of the people.”

Dr Muluzi added that the most important lesson he has taken from his experience as Chief Election Observer, as was the case in Lesotho is that “peaceful elections are possible if the process is free, fair and transparent.” Commenting on the role of police and the military, Dr Muluzi stressed that the military and police should not be interfering in politics. The military and police should be non-partisan.”

His message to the sitting presidents across Africa is “there is life after presidency”. “When time is over whether by constitutional term of office mandate or by losing in the election, there is a lot that former presidents can do to contribute to their countries.” He said this understanding can help avoid conflicts that are creeping in as a result of clinging to power by leaders on the continent, thereby promoting democracy.

19th African Union Summit Elects New AUC Leadership



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma , newly elected Chairperson of the African Union Commission and first female Chairperson of the Commission

African Head of States and Government during the 19th African Union Assembly elected the new commission which saw South Africa's home affairs minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, assuming the Commission's top position after securing more votes than the incumbent chairperson, Gabonese, Jean Ping.

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, South African, becomes the first female head of the African Union Commission.

The election and confirmation was made at the Assembly's 19th Ordinary Session held from 15-16 July at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Both Dlamini-Zuma and Ping failed to secure the two-thirds majority needed for outright victory in January 2012 which led to the extension of terms of the Chairperson, Jean Ping and Commissioners that their position were due to elections to for six months.

Dlamini-Zuma, 63, won the AU commission leadership in a third round of voting after scooping 37 votes at the 54-member body, giving her the 60% majority she needed to be elected.

The new Commission is composed as follows:

1. **Chairperson:**
 - ♦ **Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Home Affairs of South Africa.** She replaces outgoing Chairperson Dr Jean Ping, who held the position since 2008.
2. **Deputy-Chairperson:**
 - ♦ **Mr. Erastus Mwencha.** He was re-elected to the post which he first assumed in 2008.
3. **Commissioner for Peace and Security:**
 - ♦ **Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Algerian.** He was retained in the post which he has held since 2008.
4. **Commissioner for Political Affairs:**
 - ♦ **Mrs. Aïcha L. Abdullahi, Nigerian.** She replaces Mrs Julia Dolly Joiner who completed two terms of four years each, as authorized by the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

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Erastus Mwencha, African Union Commission
Deputy Chairperson

5. **Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy:**

- ◆ Dr. Mrs. Elham Mahmoud Ibrahim, Egyptian. She was retained in the post which she has held since 2008.

6. **Commissioner for Social Affairs:**

- ◆ Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, Sierra Leonean. He replaces Advocate Bience Gawanas who completed two terms of four years each as authorized by the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

7. **Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology:**

- ◆ This election was postponed to the 20th AU Summit to be held in January 2013.

8. **Commissioner for Trade and Industry:**

- ◆ Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl, Chad. She replaces the late Mrs Elisabeth Tankeu, who was due to complete her second four year term, but who unfortunately passed away in October 2011

9. **Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture:**

- ◆ Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Uganda. She retained the post which she first held in 2008.

10. **Commissioner for Economic Affairs:**

- ◆ This election was postponed to the 20th AU Summit to be held in January 2013.

Among other items on the agenda was discussion on Mali following the coup in March 2012, civil conflicts in Somali, and increasing tension between Sudan and South Sudan at a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council on Saturday.

The assembly reaffirms the commitment to deepen Africa's market integration through the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by the indicative date of 2017 and the implementation of the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade.

The Summit also called for the development of trade-related infrastructure and productive capacity building programmes and an enabling policy and legal framework by the AUC, RECs and Member States which build upon the frameworks of Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA), and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) so as to contribute specifically to the boosting of Intra-African Trade.

The summit underscored the importance of mainstreaming the implementation of the CFTA and Action Plan for Boosting intra-African Trade at the national level through various measures and actions including the identification of focal points at national and regional levels.



Dr Jean Ping, the outgoing African Union
Commission Chairperson

African Union Electoral Bodies Discuss Principles of Free, Fair and Credible Elections



Participants in the African Union Continental Election management Bodies (EBM) meeting, in Lusaka, Zambia. Sitting 6th from right is the Zambian Vice President Guy Scott and sitting in the middle is the AUC Commissioner for Political Affairs, Julia Dolly Joiner.

African Union says it believes that good governance is the bed rock of peace, stability and development in Africa, hence prioritizing capacity building programmes for the African Union Commission (AUC) and Electoral Management Bodies (EMB) on the continent.

The remarks were made by the Commissioner for Political Affairs H.E. Mrs. Julia Dolly Joiner in Lusaka, Zambia during a one day long Second Continental forum for chairpersons of Electoral Management Bodies (EMB).

The forum focused on free, fair and credible elections as part of African Union shared values. It reflected on the concept of elections as a shared value and its role in the society of diversities.

“I believed that the outcome of the forum is going to contribute to the policy debate on collective actions that could lead to a meaningful integration agenda for Africa in the realm of governance and democracy,” she said.

The Regional Delegate to Southern

Africa, Dr. Salif Sada Sall participated in the forum and observed that the issue of free, fair and credible elections was important because for many years on the continent it had generated a lot of controversy and violence in some cases.

He said in the past, there have been worrisome scenarios in Africa when leaders clung to power despite losing elections and others resorted to rigging elections and as a result violence emerged.

The international EMB meeting was organised by The Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit DEAU of the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission to strengthen the relationship between the AUC and EMB's for capacity development.

The meeting established the formal structure for interaction and exchange between the AUC and EMBs to achieve compliance with the electoral norms in the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

The Forum focused on free, fair and credible elections as part of African Union shared values, agenda in the year 2012, and discussed principles and practices that have been developed and

acquired by the AU in relation to the principles of free, fair and credible elections.

At the forum the AUC urged EMBS to develop risk analysis and management plans to enable the EMBS work in highly politicized and polarized environments and engage in risk mitigation and security management. In order to increase transparency in elections and fight political intolerance on the continent, political parties and stakeholders were told to participate in all electoral stages during an election.

Participants also advised African governments and political leadership to ensure that elections are funded by national budget with supplementary financing from external sources if need be. In addition the AUC promised to support and provide guidance to EMBS so that management of diversities and gender equality are included in the electoral cycle.



AU-SARO Celebrates 2012 Africa Day on “Boosting Intra-African Trade”



Dr Salif Sada Sall, African Union Regional Delegate to Southern Africa delivering Africa Day message from the AUC Chairperson at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi

As is customary every year, the African Union commemorates Africa Day on 25 May to honour the founding of the Organization of African Unity on 25 May 1963.

This year, the African Union Southern Africa (AU-SARO) coorganised the Africa Day celebration with Malawi government on the theme “Boosting Intra-African Trade”. In Southern Africa, the main function was held at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi where Malawians, other Africans and members of diplomatic community patronized the event.

Africa has been witnessing improvements in its economic fortunes and a lot of investors see the continent as the future growth pole of

the world. A new region of growth is in the process of emerging in the world and there is increasing consensus that Africa is on the verge of economic take-off and that in the near future it will become the engine of growth of the global economy.

Presenting the message from the AUC Chairperson, HE Jean Ping, AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall emphasized the need for Africans to intensify their efforts to enhance and further accelerate economic growth in a more sustainable and inclusive manner.

In this endeavour, it is obvious that the continent will be confronted with a number of obstacles and constraints that may demand urgent, decisive and concerted action in many respects to ensure, in particular, political stability, reduction of political crises, the promotion of attractive investment codes and the development of human

capital and infrastructure, within the dynamic of regional integration aimed at boosting intra-African trade,” said the RD.

The African Heads of State and Government had chosen “Boosting Intra-African Trade” as the main theme of their 2012 Summit Meetings

The trans-border networks of production which constitute one of the sources of economic dynamism in East Asia and other regions of the world are still nonexistent in our continent whose potential in terms of regional trade has not been fully exploited despite their substantial benefits. These include the creation of large market, diversification of economies, reduction of costs and poverty and improvement in productivity.

This situation deprives the continent of new sources of

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economic growth, job creation and significant reduction in poverty.

In the message, the regional delegate further said Africa should acknowledge that the global financial crisis has made uncertain some of the sources of external funding. He added that the economic growth of the continent slowed down markedly in 2011, settling at 2.7% as against the over 5% growth rate recorded in 2010.

This situation was mainly due to the intensity and persistence of serious political and social crises in some North African countries in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. However, he was quick to assure the patrons that the growth could bounce back strongly this year provided political stability is restored in North Africa and the global economy picks up and the debt crisis is resolved.

“Africa, continent of opportunities and growth, is determined to pursue its development agenda despite the current challenges,” he said adding that Africa is also determined to devote all its energies in this direction, cognizant of the opportunities available to her, as well as the challenges and constraints to be addressed.

In this endeavour Africa has embarked on Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa (PIDA); the launch of the Pan African University, the merger of three regional blocks into a single Free



Malawi Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rachel Zulu (L) and African Union Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, Dr Sall during the commemoration Day at Capital Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi

Trade Area known as COMESA-CAE-SADC Free Trade Area. This arrangement is considered the precursor to the realization of the total economic integration of the continent.

The regions involved will constitute an economic zone comprising 26 countries representing half of the Member States of the African Union and accounting for a little over 58% of the GDP and 57% of the total population of the African Union.

The establishment of the Continental wide Free Trade Zone (CFTZ) is expected to be operational in 2017. It is recommended that Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), Eco-

nomnic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and African Mathematical Union (AMU) enter into similar arrangements.

Malawi Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rachel Zulu commended the establishment of CFTA, which she said would create an enlarged market for goods and services and enhance competitiveness at the industry and entries level. “Enhanced, customs cooperation would help to foster broader trade opportunities,”

One of the main the decision taken by the Heads of State and Government during the Summit in January is to increase the volume of trade among African countries by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers and the enhancement of trade relations between countries.

It is expected that the intensification of trade will make it possible for the countries to specialize and export goods that are produced in a cost-effective manner. It will also enable the Member States to achieve economies of scale and procure equipment, machines, finished and semi-finished goods at reasonable cost, factors that are essential for effective growth.



Some of the Diplomats patronizing the Africa Day Celebration at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi

Zambia Hosts Sub Regional Business Plan Validation Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa

The Validation workshop on the Business Plan of the Sub-regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for Eastern and Southern Africa was held from 22 to 23 August 2012, in Lusaka, Zambia at the Protea Hotel.

African Union Southern Africa Regional Office was represented by Mr. Tichawona Shumba, Senior Economist, who chaired a stimulating session on 'Resourcing the Business Plan'

The meeting was jointly organized by the ECA Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA), ECA Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) and African Union Southern Africa Regional Office with the support of the Economic Development and NEPAD Division (EDND) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and extensively deliberated on the draft SRCM Business Plan.

Officially opening the workshop, Honorable Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA reiterated that the architecture of regional integration is based on the principles of treaties and devolution of power.

The Secretary General underscored the need for the SRCM process to take into account this historical perspective of regional integration to avoid missing the essential components of development that need to be addressed. He also emphasized the need for the African Union Commission, AfDB and the ECA to work together in the SRCM as these three institutions, together, have a comparative advantage in Africa as they leverage each other in providing the political, financial and economic expertise on the continent.

Workshop deliberations were based on three outcome areas of: Making a case for fostering a broad based economic development; Natural resource management and food security and Building Institutions for Social Cohesion. The three main output areas were further broken down into a number of thematic areas *viz*: Regional Integration; Infrastructure Development; Knowledge



Mr. Tichawona Shumba, AU-SARO Senior Economist, represented AU-SARO at the workshop and chaired a stimulating session on 'Resourcing the Business Plan'

Management; Science and Technology; Information and Communication Technology, Climate Change; Agriculture and Food Security; Industrial development; Tourism; Governance; Peace and Security; Gender Mainstreaming; Youth Employment; and Community Development and Social Cohesion.

The meeting concluded by emphasizing the importance of the Draft Business Plan to align the SRCM institutional framework to the existing cluster and thematic leadership arrangement of the RCM. It was further noted that the activity leadership arrangement should also be informed by the actual operating environment in the sub-regions wherever it made sense to do so as the lead agency at the level of the RCM might not necessarily fit the sub regional realities.

SRCM focuses on reducing fragmentation in the UN operations and increasing coherence and coordination in the work of the UN agencies in support to the programs and priorities of RECs and IGOs operating in East and Southern Africa. Hence the SRCM Business Plan has been developed to strengthen the partnerships between the UNECA Southern Africa, UNECA East Africa and their respective RECs and IGOs within the Framework of the SRCM.

The objectives of the workshops were to examine the Business Plan's proposed activities, measures and the

framework for SRCM Steering Committee; formulate commitments in terms of actions and funding arrangement with stakeholders and development partners necessary for the implementation of the identified activities; establish working modalities with the RECs & IGOs based on their priority programmes; assign roles and responsibilities for program implementation; and establish an efficient and effective program implementation mechanism. It was noted that the SRCM will be fully owned and driven by RECs and IGOs, while the UN and other partners will provide technical support.

Representatives of the following continental organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) attended the meeting: Economic Commission for Africa (SRO-EA, SRO-SA, EDND, PATCO, GPAD, FSSD, OPM, AGCS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), East African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), Northern Corridor Transit Transport Coordination Authority (NC-TTCA), and Nile Basin Initiative. Representatives from the following UN organizations and agencies also attended the meeting: FAO (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDP.

AU-SARO on Media Outreach

African Union believes that the media is the key players in increasing awareness and accelerating exchange of information between countries in the region and the AU. It is from this background that AU-SARO has embarked on media outreach to some media organisation in the region.

Explaining the purpose of the outreach to individual media organisations' managers in Malawi, the Information and Communications Officer for Southern Africa Regional Office, Brenda Kok said the office believes in the crucial role of the media and their commitment to tell the true story of Africa to Africans and to the world.

"We know the gaps in knowledge currently exist among the media about the AU and the representative office in the region and we felt that together, we can identify and find solutions to them,"

Starting with the host Malawi, the media outreach established that the media does not know much about the organisation due to lack of information about AU among the media, delay of information sharing by AU and language barrier. All the media organisations visited share the challenges faced by their journal-



Alfred Ntonga one of the media managers, identifying the gaps between the media and AU

ists to effectively report on African Union issues.

"We struggle to get information from AU. The organisation delays to respond to our requests for information and sometimes it sends us information in French and we can't use it because we don't understand French," said Capital FM Radio Managing Director Alaudin Osman

It was also established that veteran journalists seem knowledgeable about the African Union while their junior counterparts know little about the organisation.

Veteran and experienced media managers for Nation Publications Limited, Alfred Ntonga and Zodiak Broadcasting

Station, Owen Lupesha seemed well conversed with the AU as they followed the transition of the organisation from Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to African Union and developed interest in the business of African Union. However, the two said the challenge for their journalists is understanding and packaging information about AU related issues. They added that journalists require training in coverage of conflicts, humanitarian issues and matters related to regional integration. The senior journalists committed themselves to do more to mentor journalists about the AU. But added that it was important that AU should be willing to share its stands on different topical issues such as conflicts.

Deploring the fact that most media houses in Southern Africa do not have adequate knowledge of African Union especially how different organs of the AU work, University of Malawi, Polytechnic's Head of Journalism and Media Studies, Maclane Kanyang'wa said the journalism curriculum must include a component on African issues such as African Politics, economics and regional integration. The Department of Journalism is looking into reviewing its current curriculum to include Africa related focus areas. This would help journalists develop continental issues including understanding the African Union.

The AU committed to improving media freedom, the capacity of African journalists and access to information. "AU-SARO is ready to cooperate with all continental and regional initiatives and efforts that aim to improve media coverage of African issues".

"It is the responsibility of the African Union, though to identify pro-active and results-oriented initiatives to ensure that such information is shared with the media in appropriate language," she said

"The African Union is taking up this endeavour with great vigour." assured the Information and Communication officer.



Head of University of Malawi's Journalism and Media Studies Department, Maclane Kanyang'wa (2nd R), his Deputy, Elard Manjawira (R) Lecture, Abel Mwanungwe (2nd L) and AU-SARO Information and Communication Officer, Brenda Kok (L), brainstorming ideas on how best they can work together to bridge the existing gaps in the media concerning coverage of AU issues.

AUC Deputy Chairperson Visits AU-SARO



AUC Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Erastus Mwencha in the centre and to his right are Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Thandiwe Dumbutshena, Indian Ambassador, European Union Head of Delegation, Alexandar Baum, Japanese Ambassador to Malawi, Fujio Samukawa, German Ambassador Peter Wotse, Vatican Charge d Affairs to Malawi, Monsignor Van Megen. To Mwencha's left are AUC Chief of Protocol, Simone Abala, AUC Director of Information and Communication Habiba Meji Cheikh, South African High Commissioner to Malawi, Ntombile Mabude, Irish Deputy Ambassador, Adrian Fitzgerald, Zambian High Commissioner to Malawi Billy Munyumbwe and Mozambican High Commissioner to Malawi, Pedro Devane at AU-SARO Offices in Lilongwe.

In June 2012, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr Erastus Mwencha carried out a number of assignments in Malawi, prior to the 19th African Union Summit, which was scheduled to take place in Malawi in July 2012, which was later shifted to African Union Commission Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Mr Mwencha visited Malawi to discuss with government and donor community several issues concerning the Summit.

Beginning his mission, the Deputy Chairperson visited Malawi's President

Joyce Banda where among other things he congratulated her on being sworn in as president of the Republic of Malawi, following the death of Professor Bingu wa Mutharika. He also discussed ways of how best the host and AUC could work together towards a successful 19th AU Summit.

After his meeting with Her Excellency Joyce Banda, Mr Mwencha, accompanied by delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall and AUC Chief Protocol, Madam Simone Abala met members of Africa Group comprising African Ambassador to Malawi, Donor Community and other Members of Diplomatic Corps resident in Malawi at AU-SARO Offices in Lilongwe. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how donors

and other diplomatic missions could support Malawi in organizing the Summit.

Immediately before he left for his duty station in Addis Ababa, Mr Mwencha visited African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO), where he described his mission a success.



AU- SARO in Pictures



African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha (R) and Mozambican High Commissioner to Malawi, H.E Pedro Davane, immediately after his meeting with African Ambassadors Group and other members of diplomatic corps and donor community resident in Malawi.



The picture above captures AUC Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha posing with the Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall , Senior Economist Mr Tichawona Shumba and other members of staff of AU-SARO



The photograph above among others, captures AUC Head of delegation H.E. Jean Mfasoni, AU Regional Delegate to Southern Africa Dr Salif Sada Sall, reporting the findings and recommendations of the Mission to the Malawi Government Ministerial Committee on the Summit at a meeting held at Malawi's Office of President and Cabinet (OPC), in Lilongwe.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in the articles of the AU-SARO Bulletin are not those of the African Union but of the individual authors. AU-SARO assumes no responsibility for inaccuracies that may have transpired.

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