

Ministry of
**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
& COOPERATION**

"Promoting Botswana's Interests Abroad"

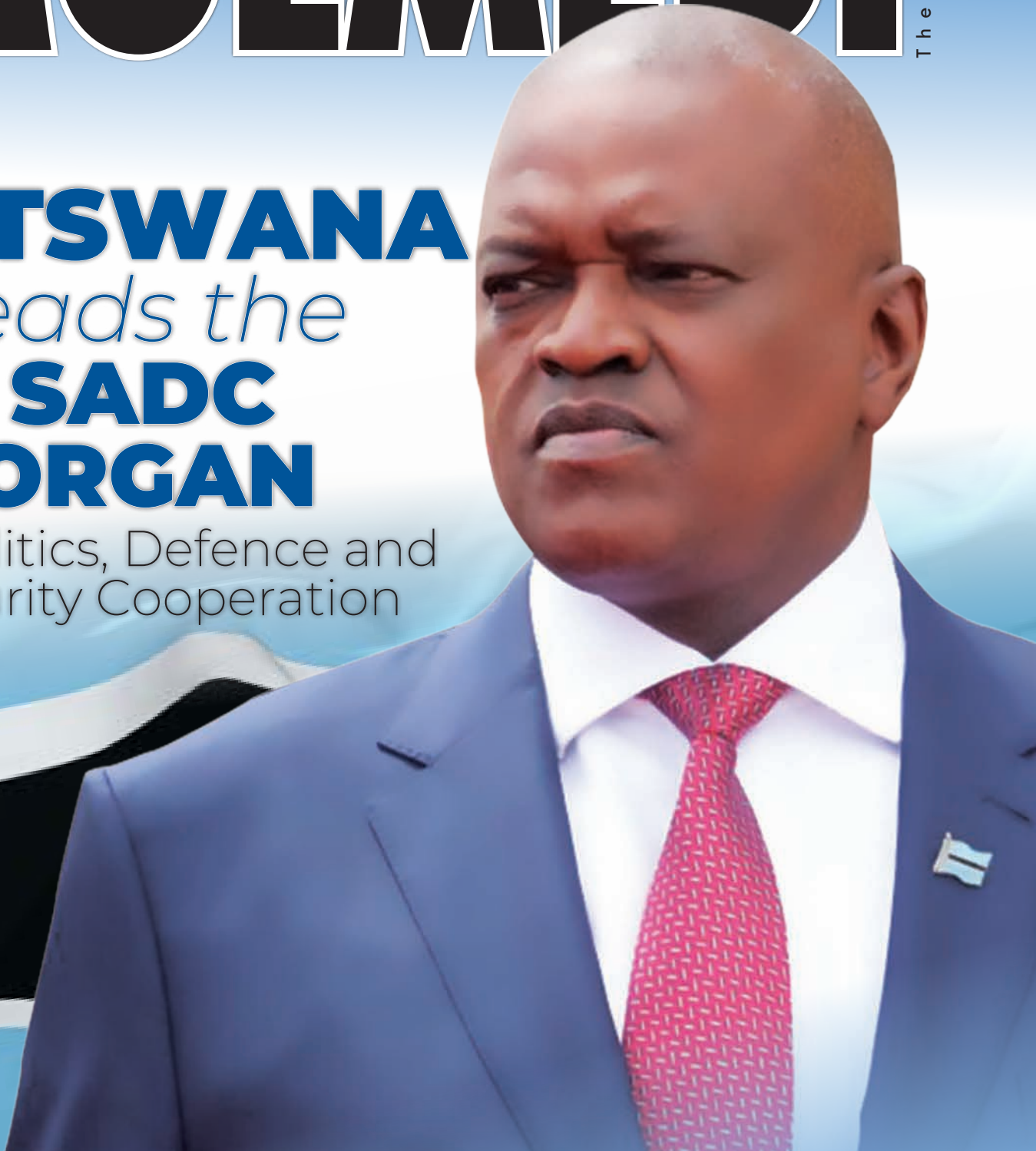
SEPTEMBER 2020

MOEMEDI

The Envoy

BOTSWANA *leads the* **SADC** **ORGAN**

on Politics, Defence and
Security Cooperation





MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The primary responsibility of the Ministry is to manage and nurture Botswana's relations with the international community, and promote the country's interests abroad. In this regard, as a facilitator, coordinator, and custodian of Botswana's foreign policy; the Ministry guides the Government in the conduct of its relations with the international community. This involves fostering strategic partnerships in among others, the following: economic, political, trade, educational, health, and cultural sectors.

The mandate of the Ministry is derived from Botswana's Constitution and its scope and breadth, is informed by Government Notice 356 of 2002. The Ministry is Headed by the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation. The current Minister is Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwappe. He was appointed to this portfolio on 26th August 2020. The Executive Head of the Ministry is Mr. Gaeimelwe Goitseman, who has been the Permanent Secretary since October 2015.



HON. DR. LEMOGANG KWAPPE
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION



MR. GAEIMELWE GOITSEMAN
PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

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A Perspective on Botswana's Contribution to Regional Peace and Security Efforts



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from
the editor...



“ (As) a country that is renowned globally for its good governance, sound leadership, peace, and stability; Botswana is well positioned and ready for the mission ahead...

members, namely South Africa as the Incoming Chair, and Zimbabwe as the Outgoing Chair. The assigned tasks will include addressing emerging security threats, promoting a shared vision of democratic governance, respect for rule of law, and the maintenance of regional peace and security. The objective is to afford SADC citizens the opportunity to live in a peaceful, and stable environment.

Against this backdrop, this Issue of Moemedi, focuses on the SADC Organ and also on the assumption of its Chairship by Botswana. The contributors to this Issue explore, among others, the mandate of the SADC Organ referred to. They trace some of its achievements and challenges over the past forty years, and consider the implications of Botswana's role as the Chair. The contributors also address opportunities that are available for Botswana to have a successful leadership term.

In addition, they share information on the contributions that Botswana has already made to promote regional cooperation and integration related to peace and security matters. These include her involvement in regional peacekeeping exercises of the SADC Standby Force; her leadership role in peacemaking; her participation in the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC); and SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs). They also include her support for the development of regional tools such as the Women, Peace and Security Strategy, and the 2015 Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. The edition also includes an interview by a contributor on the Mediation Reference Group and SADC's Mediation, Conflict Prevention and Preventative Diplomacy Framework. An overview in the Issue, of Botswana's Diplomatic Missions in the SADC region, aims to raise awareness and to inform Botswana about the country's Diplomatic Missions in the region.

The Moemedi team trusts that this Issue will not only document the momentous occasion of Botswana's assumption of the Chair of the Organ, but that it will also be a resource on regional peace and security issues. We hope that the Issue will further contribute to the ongoing deliberations on how best Botswana can effectively perform her leadership role, and constructively contribute to making a difference in the lives of ordinary women, men, and children in the region.

Moving forward, as SADC transitions towards the region's Vision 2050, Botswana stands at the cusp of a defining moment to set the tone for a robust regional peace and security agenda. As a country that is renowned globally for its good governance, sound leadership, peace, and stability; Botswana is well positioned and ready for the mission ahead. ■

Dr. Mavis N. Matenge

Mm



Minister of International Affairs And Cooperation

I VALUE BOTHO AND BELIEVE IT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SERVICE DELIVERY.

WELCOME DR. KWAPE

The Honourable Minister, Dr. Lemogang Kwape, was appointed as the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation (MIAC), on 26th August 2020. Prior to his appointment at MIAC, Dr. Kwape served as the Minister of Health and Wellness, from November 2019 to August 2020. He is also a Member of Parliament for Kanye South Constituency in the Southern part of Botswana.

Dr. Kwape is a visionary leader who is passionate about transformative leadership and good governance. He values botho (social contract of mutual respect towards each other) and believes it is an integral part of service delivery. Dr. Kwape is committed to contributing significantly to the national development agenda, and ensuring the creation of sustainable jobs for Botswana, especially the youth.

The Honourable Minister has extensive experience working in the public, private, and non-governmental organisation sectors. He is a Registered Dietician with Botswana Health Professionals Council, and for nineteen years, he served as the Head of the Nutrition and Dietetics at the National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC). Through his work, he has been able to provide leadership in a number of areas including policy development, public administration, and strategic networking.

He has served in various high level decision-making Boards which include the Botswana Innovation Hub Board, Botswana VISION 2036 Council, and the National Food Technology Research Centre Board. He was also the Chairperson of the National Food Technology Research Centre Corruption Prevention Committee. As the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Kwape represents Botswana on various international bodies, including the World Health Organisation's Executive Board. He currently serves as the Chair of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation.

Dr. Kwape holds a PhD in Epidemiology from University of Aberdeen, Scotland; a Master's Degree in Public Health and Epidemiology from Wageningen University, Netherlands; and a Bachelor's Degree in Dietetics from Texas Southern University, United States of America. He has published and co-authored articles on various health issues. ■

The September 2020 Issue of Moemedi (The Envoy), comes on the heels of the recently concluded virtual 40th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government. It was held on 17th August 2020, and was hosted by Mozambique, the new SADC Chair. This Summit was momentous as it marked a key milestone of 40 years of regional cooperation since the establishment of the development community as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). On 17th August 1992, in Windhoek, Namibia, Member States adopted the SADC Treaty, which saw the SADCC transition into the current day regional body; the Southern African Development Community.

The 40th Ordinary Summit was also particularly historic for Botswana, as for the first time, the country assumed the Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation. Established on 28th June 1996, the Organ, being an arm of the mother body, coordinates and advances regional policies on politics, defence, and security. From August 2020 to August 2021, Botswana, will drive the region's peace and security agenda in the strategic areas of state and public security, defence, and politics, supported by Organ Troika

STOP THE SPREAD

“The prevention of **COVID-19** creates a safe Secure SADC Region”



WASH YOUR HANDS



USE SOAP



AVOID CROWDS



WEAR MASK



AVOID HANDSHAKE



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Meet the Contributors



Dr. Gladys Mokhawa

Gladys Mokhawa, PhD, is the Deputy Permanent Secretary-Bilateral at the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation. She has previously worked at the University of Botswana in the department of Political and Administrative Studies focusing on policy area and governance issues, specifically, Analysis of National Security Policies, Foreign Policy Analysis, and International Relations, State Craft and Diplomacy, International and Regional Security. Her teaching and research experience span a broad spectrum of areas such as Politics and Governance in Botswana.



Professor Mpho Molomo

Mpho G. Molomo acquired a doctorate in Political Science, Boston University (1988) United States. He is a Professor of Political Science, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, University of Botswana; he is on leave of absence to take up public office. Professor Molomo has recently been appointed Secretary for Political Affairs, Office of the President.



Ambassador Oteng J. Tebape

High Commissioner to Zambia, 1st High Commissioner of Botswana to post-apartheid South Africa and Botswana's Ambassador to Japan and numerous countries on a non-residential basis.

During his long years of service, Ambassador Tebape carried out a number of special assignments that include membership of the Frontline States Observer Team in Namibia, Botswana's Representative in South Africa during its transitional phase, Presidential Envoy on Lesotho Conflict, Membership of the OAU (then) Observer Team in Eritrea to observe the independence Referendum and Membership of SADC Mediation Reference Group.

Ambassador Tebape is a graduate of the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland (UBLS) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Politics and Administration. During his long diplomatic career from 1974 to 2005, Ambassador Tebape took up training on a number of work related skills including conflict resolution.

His diplomatic career includes among others, service in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, United Nations (New York), Belgium, South Africa and Japan. He served as Botswana's

Prior to his retirement from the Botswana public service, Ambassador served as Senior Private Secretary to HE President Festus G. Mogae and Clerk to Cabinet. For his dedicated service, Ambassador Tebape was awarded the Presidential Order For Meritorious Service (for "exceptional service to Botswana") by HE Sir Ketumile Masire, and Order of the Rising Sun (Gold and Silver) by His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan (for his "distinguished service in promotion of Botswana/ Japan relations").



Brigadier. Michael Mukokomani

Brigadier Michael M b a k i s o Mukokomani is an officer in the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) with 33 years of experience. He previously served at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as Chief of Staff of the SADC Standby Force PLANELM from 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2019. He started his military career in Botswana as an Officer Cadet in August 1987, and graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, United Kingdom in April 1989. Brigadier Mukokomani rose through the ranks of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) up to his current rank

and appointment as Director Training and Doctrine (TRADOC).

He has undergone numerous training and career development activities commensurate with his rank. These have enabled him to hold various appointments at the training, staff and command levels of the BDF. He holds a B.Sc. Human and Organisational Development (Mil Science), from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He is a graduate of the University of Nairobi where he obtained a Master of Arts (MA) in Diplomacy and International Relations. His Thesis was on "Security Challenges in Africa: The Role of the US AFRICOM".

Brigadier Mukokomani participated in peacekeeping operations in the SADC region and in the continent in Somalia in 1992-1993, as part of the United States of America led Humanitarian Peace Keeping Operations for Somalia (Operation Restore Hope). In 1998, he was part of the SADC contingent to restore peace in the Kingdom of Lesotho, Operation "BOLEAS".

He has held various command, staff and training appointments including, Platoon Commander, Company Commander, Officer Commanding Cadets Training, Brigade Major, and Brigade Second in Command. At Defence Headquarters level, he was Staff Officer Operations and Training, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff Operations, Director Strategic Commitments. The officer has also held the appointments of Chief of Staff-Ground Forces Command, BDF, Brigadier Mukokomani's decorations include the Duty Code Medal (DCO), Pearl Jubilee Medal (PJM), Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), and the Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM).

H.E. PRESIDENT DR. M.E.K MASISI Commends **Zimbabwe** for her **leadership**



On 14th August 2020, His Excellency the President presented the Vote of Thanks at the conclusion of the virtual Organ Troika Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government. As per standard protocol, the Incoming Chair presents these remarks to appreciate and honour the SADC Organ Chair for the year-long leadership provided to the region. Pic.BOPA

It is a great pleasure and distinct honour for me to have been accorded this opportunity to make a vote of thanks to you, Chairperson, on behalf of my colleague, President Edgar Lungu, all the delegates to this Summit, and indeed on my own behalf.

I wish to start by thanking you, Chairperson, for the excellent manner with which you have steered the proceedings of this meeting. Through your able leadership, we had very robust and fruitful discussions on political and security issues of regional importance, and reached very concise decisions.

As your Chairmanship is coming to an end, allow me to pay special tribute to you, Mr. President, for the outstanding stewardship and exceptional leadership you have provided to this Organ. During your tenure, the region continued to enjoy uninterrupted peace and stability. Member States adhered to our cherished values and practises by holding regular national democratic elections, in accordance with SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

We acknowledge with gratitude your sterling job in leading the SADC Election Observation Missions (SEOMs), almost in a quick succession, to four (4) countries in the region. These were Mozambique, my own country, Botswana, Mauritius and Namibia.

Although it was not possible to send an Election Observation Mission to the recent elections in Malawi, due to logistical challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, you were undoubtedly seized with the matter.

“...WE WILL DEFINITELY TAP ON YOUR WISE COUNSEL, AND BUILD ON YOUR LEGACY OF CONSULTATIONS AND CONSENSUS BUILDING, TO ENSURE THAT THE REGION CONTINUES TO ENJOY TRANQUILLITY, PEACE AND STABILITY...”

On that note, we congratulate the Government and people of the Republic of Malawi for conducting successful elections against all odds and for the smooth transfer of power.

Chairperson, we applaud you for the commitment you have shown in advancing SADC's aspirations to achieve regional cohesion, solidarity, peace and security, particularly through close cooperation on political, defence and security matters. We admired your decisiveness and solid leadership in dealing with issues on the agenda of the Organ, especially your wisdom and diplomatic tact.

I can assure you, Chairperson, that when Botswana assumes the Chair of the Organ, in a few days' time, we will definitely tap on your wise counsel, and build on your legacy of consultations and consensus building, to ensure that the region continues to enjoy tranquillity, peace and stability.

As you will all agree, peace and security are a foundation for sustainable socio-economic development and prosperity. In that regard, we must continue to work together to ensure that our region remains the beacon of hope and a model for regional integration in the African Continent.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity also to thank, our Dear Brother and Friend, President Lungu, for his immense contribution during his term in the Organ Troika. It is our considered view that under his tutelage, the region made significant strides towards achievement of peace and security.

Once again, we thank you most profoundly, Chairperson, for your sterling job, and look forward to continue working with you during the next one (1) year. ■

I thank you

A Perspective on Botswana's Contribution to Regional Peace and Security Efforts

...“Botswana has for a long period been contributing to regional peace and security efforts...”



BRIGADIER MICHAEL M. MUKOKOMANI PSC, NDC(K)
(FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF- SADC STANDBY FORCE)

The Republic of Botswana will be assuming the onerous role of the Chairmanship of the 16 member Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation (The Organ), at a time when the region and the rest of the world is faced with a myriad of security challenges such as the invisible security threat faced by COVID-19. The assumption of the Chairship will occur during the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in August 2020.

The Chairmanship that is line with Article 2 of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, carries with it, the responsibility of shouldering the promotion of peace and security in the entire SADC region during the Chairs tenure. By any measure, this is not as easy a task as it may seem but rather an arduous one particularly because previously the Organ Chairperson's have had to deal with difficult and sometimes complex political and security challenges in the region in areas such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the Republic of Madagascar to mention a few.

In dealing with such situations, often Member States who Chair the Organ have had to commit resources beyond what they may normally do as part of their obligations to the SADC Treaty in which the spirit of the Treaty principles and general undertakings as captured in Articles 4 and 6 envisage equity and uniform application. In a similar fashion, realising the pervasive nature of conflict amongst nation states, the function of the Organ is akin to that of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, which was established with the main purpose of maintaining international peace and security. In view of that, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter recognises the role of regional arrangements to deal with peace and security challenges as they affect their regions. The same arrangement



Pic:warchildholland.org

therefore exists at the level of the African Union (AU), in which the AU Protocol on the establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) is mandated to promote peace, security and stability in the African continent.

It is therefore fitting that, in order to deal with peace and security challenges, the AU PSC conflict resolution framework established an operational structure called the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) that could execute decisions to deal with security challenges in the entire continent as coffered by Article 5(2) of the AU Constitutive Act. To operationalise the PSC functioning, its main pillars are the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Peace Fund.

Against this background, Botswana has for a long period been contributing to regional peace and security efforts. In this regard, whilst the role of the Organ Chair may appear to be a tall order, Botswana, with its vast experience in regional peace and security involvement, coupled with its long-standing reputation for its internal peace and security stability looks tailor made for the role. In this context, this article attempts to highlight Botswana's preparedness for regional peace and security leadership by looking at some of her achievements through its contributions to international and regional peacekeeping missions and its participation in peacekeeping exercises.

Botswana's participation in peacekeeping missions can be traced back to 1992 when it contributed personnel to the security and humanitarian crisis in

Somalia under the multinational taskforce during 'Operation Restore Hope'. This mission marked its maiden contribution to international peacekeeping efforts in which, the United Nations had through UN Security Council Resolution 794 urged the international community to send forces to Somalia to avert a looming humanitarian crisis occasioned by the country being plunged into total collapse.

As part of that force, Botswana sent a contingent of 300 men led by then Lt Col (Brig rtd) Thulaganyo Masisi. Botswana's contingent performed exceptionally well impressing both Somali nationals and their multinational colleagues. Botswana would then go on to contribute three other contingents to Somalia during United Nations Mission to Somalia (UNOSOM II) making the total number of Botswana personnel that deployed to Somalia to reach over 1000 troops by the end of the mission in 1994.

From my personal perspective as a young Captain then deployed in Mogadishu the capital of Somalia during Operation Restore Hope, I got to appreciate two important things; first, that the face of war and lack of political, peace and security in any country, that we all take for granted, can be an ugly thing with the undesirable end state of reducing human life to that of worthless beings. I witnessed this daily as we patrolled around the city distinct with bullet holes riddled in every single building indicating the suffering that Somalis had endured for a long period. The other aspect I came to appreciate was the

importance of Botswana Defence members, who guided by the countries overarching national value of 'Botho' raised the flag of Botswana so high despite the many shortcomings they had, such as lack of proper resourcing and being the first time that the Republic of Botswana had contributed to international peacekeeping missions.

Unsurprisingly, the common saying in the mission then became; 'If you are in trouble, just call the Bots'. Following its successful maiden peacekeeping mission, Botswana's contribution to regional peacekeeping saw it participate in the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ) from April 1993 after the country's warring parties had signed the UN General Peace Agreement (GPA) that paved the way for peacekeeping arrangements through a UN mandate. During this mission, Botswana contributed 730 personnel and its first contingent was led by then Lt Col (Brig rtd) Bernard Ntelamo. The BDF contribution also included 15 staff officers who served at the regional Force Headquarters.

By this time, the reputation of Botswana's forces started gaining such international acclaim as ardent peacekeepers to the extent that traditional peacekeeping contributing countries, such as the United States of America (USA), started knocking on Botswana's door in an effort to persuade the country to be more involved in peacekeeping missions. Armed with much experience, in 1994, in response to the Rwanda genocide that shocked the African continent and the entire international community, Botswana once again contributed a team of 14 officers who formed an international military observer mission (MILOBS) to Rwanda to monitor the peace process in that country. With the participation of the observers, Rwanda would later regain normalcy and come to experience a great turnaround in its socio-economic recovery.

In 1998, Botswana also contributed personnel to a SADC military intervention in the Kingdom of Lesotho as part of a joint operation of contingents from Botswana and South Africa codenamed 'Operation BOLEAS'. The SADC intervention mission was sent to Lesotho following political instability that led to the Lesotho Defence Force mounting a mutiny against the government of the day. The Battalion strength Botswana contingent of around 780 was led by then Lt Col Gaolathe Galebotswe (who later retired as Lt Gen) and also included Force Headquarters personnel under then Colonel (Brig rtd) Masisi who was the Deputy Mission Commander.

As fate would have it, I was honoured to serve as part of Botswana's contribution to regional peacekeeping efforts and came to appreciate even more, the value of peace and security as a critical ingredient for national socio-economic development. Whilst Operation BOLEAS was largely successful in restoring peace and security to Lesotho, in 2015, the country once again relapsed into political insecurity and the SADC was forced to send another mission to the country. During the SADC Observer Mission to Lesotho (SOMILES), Botswana sent about 150 personnel to the mission whose mandate was to observe the political and security situation as part of the process leading to the elections process.

A year later, while Botswana did not contribute any personnel, SADC was again compelled to deploy a multi-dimensional force to Lesotho from November 2017 to November 2018 to monitor the political and security situation following the assassination of the Lesotho Defence

Force Commander, Lt Gen Khoantle Motsomotso on 5 September 2017. The SADC mission was also deployed to monitor the implementation of the SADC directed sector wide reforms on political, judicial, public, and security sector reforms. This time around, I was privileged to serve as the SADC Standby Force Chief of Staff in which I was responsible for the overall SADC mission deployment, facilitation of the mandating process with the political leadership, operational monitoring, resourcing, sustenance coupled with continuous reporting and liaison to the AU and UN.

The other observer mission in which Botswana participated in saw the country sending a team of observers to Darfur in South Sudan from 2005 to 2009 who had the responsibility of monitoring the compliance to the Humanitarian Cease Fire Agreement (HCFA) for the facilitation of the peace process in South Sudan. Sadly, during one of these deployments, Botswana lost one of its officers Major Tiro who lost his life during an attack on their camp. Botswana also contributed personnel to the AU Liaison Mission in Ethiopia/ Eritrea (AULMEE) whose mandate was to monitor the cease-fire agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The BDF observer team was deployed from August 2004 to August 2006 and was led by then Brig (rtd) Otisitswe Tiroyamodimo.

Notwithstanding its contribution to peacekeeping missions in the region and internationally, Botswana has also participated in and even hosted some peacekeeping exercises that are designed to prepare regional forces for their role in peacekeeping missions. These exercises are undertaken as part of the practical steps to implement Agenda 2063 of the AU, specifically in regard to "Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020." The SADC Standby Force, within the framework of the African Standby Force and indeed the PSC, therefore undertakes exercises in order to build and maintain capabilities for the SADC Standby Force.



Through her participation in regional and international peacekeeping exercises, Botswana has contributed towards the African Union's agenda to silence the guns in Africa by 2020. Pic:<https://news.un.org/>

The recent exercises in which Botswana participated in therefore are, 'Exercise UMODZI', which was a SADC multidimensional exercise held in October 2018 in the Republic of Malawi whose aim was to enhance the full operational capability of the SADC Standby Force and prepare to be on the African Standby Force roster.

During this exercise, Botswana held the position of Brigade Commander and contributed 45 personnel from the military, police and civilian components. This exercise was followed by 'Exercise Pabalelo' that was a SADC medical health services exercise which was held in Maun, Republic of Botswana in November 2018. The exercise was geared towards enhancing the operational capability of the Military Health Services to undertake humanitarian support missions or to be able to support SADC peace support deployments. During this exercise, Botswana contributed 800 personnel and equipment including a Level 2 Field Hospital.



In 1998 Lt. Col. (Rtd) Gaolathe Galebotswe led the Botswana contingent of about 780 to a peace keeping mission in Lesotho. Pic:SundayStandard

Other notable SADC exercises include Exercise Golfinho that was held in 2009 in the Republic of South Africa to operationalise the SADC Standby Force. Following this regional exercise to continental Exercise's Amani Africa I&II in 2010 and 2015 that were held in Ethiopia and in Lohatla, South Africa to establish initial and full operational capability of the African Standby Force respectively. The aim of the exercises was to operationalise the ASF in order to reach Full Operational Capability (FOC) such that both the AU and the Regions may be able to utilize the ASF as part of its conflict resolution mechanism during peace support missions or to deploy them for humanitarian support missions. Botswana also hosted several SADC exercises such as Exercise Thokgamo that was held in 2005 in Maun and Exercise Blue Okavango also held in Maun in 2015 which were held to practice the SADC Air Forces to be able to provide strategic airlift capability and mission air support for the SADC Standby Force. In the same spirit, Botswana has also contributed personnel to SADC Special Forces, Maritime, Aviation, and Communications exercises that were previously held in Angola, Tanzania, South Africa, and Zimbabwe between 2012 and 2018.

Moreover, to demonstrate its enduring commitment to regional conflict resolution efforts, the government of Botswana has contributed a 19 hector piece of land near Rasasa village about 40 km north of Gaborone, for the construction of the SADC Standby Force Regional Logistics Depot (RLD). The RLD, once fully operational will serve as a logistics support base that will hold and provide material and stock to SADC peace support and humanitarian support missions that may be conducted within and outside the region.

Finally, as we look forward to Botswana's Chairmanship, I would like to wish the President of the Republic of Botswana, HE Dr Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi and indeed all Batswana Godspeed, as they look set to a historical stewardship of the SADC Organ. If Botswana effectively harnesses its political and security dividend it stands to be an effective torch bearer that will not only see the region emerge victorious from the current security challenges, but will greatly enhance the regions peace and security prospects thereby creating the necessary environment for long lasting socio-economic development to take place. ■

Reflections on SADC Organ, Politics, and Security Cooperation – what the Chairship means for Botswana



SADC headquarters. Pic: www.area.co.bw



DR. GLADYS MOKHAWA

Since its formation in 1992, Southern African Development Community (SADC) moved beyond regional economic integration and development to add a defence and security oriented agenda. To this end, the SADC Treaty advocated a shared future in peace, security, stability and regional cooperation that is in tandem with United Nations Charter, the Constitutive Act of African Union and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of Peace and Security of the African Union.

In its espousal of this vision, SADC envisaged a security regime with the potential for joint action and collective security against external threats but also internal cooperation on human rights, policing and democratization. As such the creation of a regional framework that provides a systemic security environment found expression in the construction of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

The aim of this article is provide the contextual basis of the Organ by offering not only its structure but orientation, mandate, capacity and relevance. It also provides an analysis of the performance of the Organ and in so doing, identifies areas that Botswana as Chair can focus on. More importantly, it offers a discussion on the role that Botswana will and should play in its assumption of the chairpersonship of the Organ. It concludes by proffering an envisaged future of the Organ.

SADC Peace and Security Structures

- Organ on Politics, Defence and Security

The Organ on Politics, Defence and Security is a key implementing institution of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security that seek to secure the region against political instability and develop common foreign policy as well as peaceful resolution of inter-state and intra-state conflicts (SADC, 2001).

It is subordinate to SADC and therefore abides by the same principles that SADC espouses such as sovereign equality of all member states, peaceful settlement of disputes and the observance of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (Malan and Cilliers, 1997). It is these principles, as Malan and Cilliers continue to argue, that provide content to the intention to move to a common system of political values, systems and institutions.

The Organ operates at summit, ministerial, technical levels. The Organ reports to the SADC Summit (the supreme policy-making institution of the organization). It is however coordinated through a Troika (three-member arrangement) which comprises the Chair of the Organ (Botswana), the incoming Chair (South Africa) and the outgoing Chair (Zimbabwe). The Chair of the Organ holds most of the authority exercised through the Troika. The Chair is also responsible for general policy direction albeit in consultation with other members of the Troika. As Solomon (2012) portend, this is, so as to circumvent abuse. It must be noted that the chair is rotated on annual basis.

Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO). Interstate Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) and Interstate Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC)

The Troika is supported by the work of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ. The Ministerial Committee, consisting of Ministers responsible for defence, policing and intelligence from all SADC States, reports to the Troika and in practice makes key decisions. It ensures greater coordination between integration of, the state actors and in the process it reinforces the vision of a holistic understanding of peace on the African continent being embedded in the concept of human security' (Solomon and Ngubane, 2003).

The MCO is chaired by the Minister from the same country as the Chairperson of the Organ (SADC, 2001), thus, as Solomon and Ngubane (ibid) retort, reinforce continuity in the Organ. In addition, operationally, work of Troika is carried through two committees of senior officials, the Interstate Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) and the Interstate Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC). The Interstate Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) consists of Ministers responsible for foreign affairs from each of the state parties and is supposed to perform functions necessary to achieve objectives of the Organ relating to politics and diplomacy.

This Committee is at the intersection of operationalizing the new security thinking that gels with most of the issues that affect SADC edifice currently. These include, among others, democratization, conduct of elections in the region and cooperation among governments. The Interstate

Defence and Security Committee is made up of Ministers responsible for defence, public security and state security of the state parties. This Committee focuses on issues that deal with instability, police cooperation, early warning, immigration, refugees, correctional services and disaster management. The ISDSC has three sub-committees: defence, public and state security. Although, Article 3 of the SADC Treaty commits the organization to fully engage the people of the region and non-government organizations, as evident in the structure of the Organ, the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the above-said committees remains unclear.

Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO)

The functioning of the Organ is in turn defined by the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO), which sets out a detailed programme of activities against the key political, defence, public security and state security objectives (SADC, 2004). The implementation of the SIPO was meant to strengthen and deepen cooperation in areas of politics, defence and security. In fact, the SIPO endorses SADC broadened conception of security by focusing on governance and democratization as well as hard defence and security issues. As such, the SIPO commits Member States to cooperate in the political sector, by promoting political pluralism, encouraging political consultations using informal and informal networks to usher in peace and create an enabling environment for development; promote the development of democratic institutions and practices including the observance of human rights (SADC, 2004).

The agenda goes further to include the creation of common electoral standards and the code of conduct, good governance including the creation of conditions for political parties to accept the elections results and creation of regional commissions for human rights (ibid). Moreover, SIPO was also meant as an enabling instrument for the implementation of the SADC developmental agenda embodied in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

Conflict Management Strategies

Additionally, SADC conflict management and preventing capacities include a regional warning system, a regional peacekeeping centre and the SADC standby force. The early warning system is supposed to be helpful in identifying conflicts before they intensify or escalate. Typically, SADC's early-warning does not focus on conflicts per se but rather more on de-securitized issues such as floods and droughts. Thus, the early-warning system in SADC needs to focus on hotspots in the region to be efficacious.

SADC'S FUTURE REMAINS ITS ABILITY AS A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION TO BE RELEVANT TO ITS CONSTITUENCIES, CITIZENS OF MEMBER STATES AND AS SUCH REGIONAL AND SECURITY POLICY FRAMEWORK SHOULD BE IN TANDEM WITH DOMESTIC POLICIES

THE CHAIR SHOULD BE ABLE TO INSPIRE THE REGION TO PIVOT TOWARDS A CREDIBLE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT WILL ENSURE ROBUST DIPLOMATIC SKILLS AND TACTICS THAT ARE NEEDED FOR ALL THE SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE REGION

Another conflict management strategy is the SADC Standby force which was adopted on account of its multidimensional character of the force with military elements, police and civilian components with the expectation to deal with future peace support operations and deploy rapidly. The planning function of the Standby force is located in Gaborone. Moreover, it has since developed a common doctrine, operational guidelines, standard operating procedures and logistics concepts (Cilliers, 2008). However, training is conducted at the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare.

Assessment of the Performance of the Organ

SADC's mediation prospects have been credited as successful even though this has not been shared by many. At least in terms of the facilitation of dialogue and mediation of some aspects of the conflicts with the view of restoring political stability and peace, SADC has been marked as efficacious. In as much as the SADC's interventions have been well-coordinated and coherent, whilst exhibiting greater sense of urgency, the focus has been solely on putting out the fires rather than transform conflicts.

It is the lack of a systemic conflict transformation frame that has meant that countries will sooner than later lapse into conflicts. This concern has necessitated a discourse that argue for the necessity of SADC to broaden the scope of its mediation and negotiations to incorporate key issues that arise from election observer missions. Beyond the limitations of SADC's mediation efforts and capability to transform conflicts, other noticeable challenges that haunt the organization include economic underdevelopment and poverty, consolidation of democracy and governance, corruption, radicalization and extremism.

These challenges speak to the need for the recognition of the wider nuanced conceptions of security that constitute adequate conceptual fit with the realities confronting the region. This will mean transcendence of rhetorical invocation of multidimensionality of security to genuinely embrace security that is broadened and deepened to include issues that relates to crime prevention,



Flags of SADC Member States Pic: <http://www.angop.ao>

human, societal and environmental security and the participation of civil society.

Botswana as Chair of the Organ

Botswana assumed the Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security on 17th August 2020 at the 40th Ordinary Session of the SADC Heads of States. It will become the Chair for a period of one year ending in August 2021. The expectations are insurmountable given the fact the challenges for SADC have become quite complex and sophisticated in character. These demand, leadership that is both visionary and transformational. Leadership in this regard, therefore, should steer clear of action that can come across as unilateralism. And as such consistent engagement with members of the Troika to allow for consensus based decisions becomes highly desirable.

Additionally, the Chair should be able inspire the region to pivot towards a credible conflict management system that will ensure robust diplomatic skills and tactics that are needed for all the security challenges in the region. Specially, the creation of consensus on what constitute peacemaking and governance should be the preoccupation of SADC.

The Organ is also tasked with the responsibility of coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015). In this instance, the Chairperson of the Organ mandates the Secretariat to facilitate and deploy observers for the SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs). The SEOM is headed by the Chairperson of the Organ, usually represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, from the member state chairing the Organ, in his/her capacity as the Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ. Under Botswana's Chairpersonship, the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security

Cooperation will be expected to oversee and support the preparation and holding of elections in Tanzania and Seychelles guided by the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections of 2015.

Although SADC remains cast in the shadows of its history, it faces a number of new ontologies of its own and structural deficiencies. However, these do not mean that SADC cannot secure a region that could develop credible space with new and fundamentally different concerns. This, therefore, presupposes a security regime that can be anchored on the relevance of the law, trust in institutions and governments that will able to take sustained action, make credible commitments and enforce the rules already contained in SADC documents and agreed by region builders.

The envisaged regime should be couched by transparency in decision making and processes. Ultimately, SADC's future remains its ability as a regional organization to be relevant to its constituencies, citizens of member states and as such regional and security policy framework should be in tandem with domestic policies.■



Former Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation Hon. Dr. Dow; Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration Hon. Morwaeng; and Minister of Defence Justice and Security Hon. Mmusi during the virtual SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation meeting on the 14 August 2020. The former Minister presented the Vote of Thanks at the conclusion of the meeting. As per standard protocol, the Incoming Chair of the MCO presents these remarks to appreciate and honour the MCO Chair for the year-long leadership to the region.

Hon Dr. Dow addresses SADC MCO 2020

I wish to commend you, Chair, on behalf of my colleagues, and indeed on my behalf, for the smooth and orderly manner with which you have steered the proceedings of our meeting this afternoon.

Mr. Minister, as many of my colleagues have already indicated, we were indeed all looking forward with great anticipation to enjoy the customary hospitality of the Zimbabwean people in Harare. However, through virtual osmosis, we have still tasted what we could have physically experienced, including the warmth, spiced with the usual rejuvenating Zimbabwean humour.

We indeed had very robust and constructive deliberations under your guidance. We come out of this meeting even more united and stronger, with positive outcomes, which all attest to your able leadership.

I also wish to take this opportunity, Chair, to express our appreciation and to pay special tribute to the excellent stewardship and exceptional leadership you provided to this Committee since you occupied its driver's seat.

During your leadership, you demonstrated selfless commitment to the SADC aspirations to consolidate democracy and achieve solidarity, peace and tranquillity in the region. You did this through open engagement, in the spirit of camaraderie, on regional matters of politics, defence and security.

We wish to acknowledge that, since assuming this role, you actually hit the ground running, crisscrossing the region as the Head of SADC Election Observation Missions (SEOMs), observing elections in Mozambique, Botswana, Mauritius and Namibia. You are, indeed, leaving a legacy that will continue to ensure that our region remains a beacon of hope and a model for regional integration in the African continent.

At a personal level, I am happy to know that you will always be available to provide us with guidance and kind words of advice when we assume the Chair in August this year.

In this regard, may I seize this opportunity to extend my invitation to you, Mr. Chair and my dear colleagues, to the 23rd Session of Ministerial Committee of the Organ, to be held in Botswana, in June 2021. I am hopeful that this time we will be able to enjoy our acquaintances, with the physical hugs that we now miss so much.

Once again, we thank you very much, Chair, for your sterling job. ■

Ndinotenda, My Brother!

Conflict Prevention and Preventative Diplomacy in the SADC Region

AMBASSADOR OTENG JENAMO TEBAPE, DISCUSSES SADC'S MEDIATION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PREVENTATIVE DIPLOMACY STRUCTURE FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE AS A MEMBER OF THE SADC MEDIATION REFERENCE GROUP

OVERVIEW

The SADC Mediation Reference Group (MRG), was established as part of the SADC Mediation, Conflict Prevention and Preventative Diplomacy Structure in 2004, by the SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government, in the Republic of Mauritius. The structure is three-tiered consisting of the Panel of the Elders (PoE), MRG, and the Mediation Support Unit (MSU). As part of its mandate, the Structure is, inter alia, tasked: (i) to strengthen SADC's preventative diplomacy, conflict prevention, mediation and resolution capacity; (ii) to facilitate the effective mediation of conflicts in the region; and, (iii) to advise the Organ Troika and parties in conflict as they engage in dialogue, negotiation and mediation.



Ambassador Tebape, when did you become a member of the MRG?

I was appointed on the 5th May 2015 for a four-year term. The term is renewable for a further two years.

How has your experience been serving as Botswana's representative on the MRG?

My experience as a member has been highly rewarding I must say. First of all, I was exposed to the reality that no country can develop without peace and stability. The relevant SADC protocol has, rightly so, emphasised that peace and security are a prerequisite for economic development.

The development strides that Botswana has made since independence are to a large measure the positive outcome of the peace and stability our country has enjoyed since its independence. On the contrary, some of our fellow SADC countries with comparable natural resources have not made similar progress as Botswana where they have not enjoyed stability.

Why is it important that Botswana has a representative on the MRG?

It is absolutely critical that Botswana should be represented on the MRG given our country's history of active participation on regional issues. Botswana was a key member of the Frontline States and founder member of SADC. The country therefore has a lot to share with fellow SADC states. Our joint campaigns against minority regimes, decolonisation of Namibia, the birth of SADC'S founding principles and many other historical realities give Botswana a prominent position on regional affairs. Botswana was, for example, represented at the Lancaster House talks on Zimbabwe, Frontline States Observer Team in Namibia, Frontline States team to observe South Africa's transition to majority rule and many others.

It will also be recalled that Botswana has been exemplary in its handling of its territorial dispute with Namibia. These are just some of the many examples of why Botswana needs to play a prominent role in all major SADC initiatives such as conflict resolution.

According to your opinion, what are the major impediments to the enhancement of peace in the SADC region? What could be Botswana's contribution to promoting peace in the region?

There are indeed major impediments against SADC'S well intended efforts towards promoting regional peace. The first major impediment I have been exposed to during my work with the MRG is SADC's weakness in implementing its decisions timeously. As an example, the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Governments decided as far back as 2004 at its meeting in Mauritius to establish a mechanism for Mediation, Conflict Prevention and Preventative Diplomacy. To date, over fifteen years later, the structure is not yet operational. A lot has admittedly been done towards the latter goal.

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MEET YOUR
SADC ORGAN
LEADERSHIP

SADC ORGAN TROIKA



H.E. DR. MOKGWEETSI ERIC KEABETSWE MASISI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN



H.E. CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
INCOMING CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN



H.E. DR. EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE
OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE ORGAN

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN (MCO)



HON. DR. LEMOGANG KWAPE
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION-BOTSWANA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN



HON. GRACE N.M. PANDOR
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION - SOUTH AFRICA
INCOMING CHAIRPERSON OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN



HON. LT. GEN (RTD) DR SIBUSISO MOYO
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE-ZIMBABWE
OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN

...Conflict Prevention and Preventative Diplomacy in the SADC Region

As an example, a training program for SADC citizens, including MRG members has been completed. However, to date, the MRG has not been deployed to conflict countries. Some of the observed constraints are as follows:

- SADC has decided that it will only accept donor funding for capacity building such as training on mediation, workshops and the like. SADC will itself fund sensitive areas such as deployment of mediators and related areas. To date, only programs that are funded by donors have been more or less completed. SADC itself does not have, and needs to have a Peace Fund to be able to deploy mediators at short notice and to have a reliable work plan;

- Another noticeable constraint is that the MRG and other related conflict structures are sidelined by the very SADC leaders who set them up. On most conflicts, current practice is that SADC leaders appoint their high powered facilitator to handle specific conflicts. The facilitator in turn appoints his own compatriots to support him. That way, the whole mediation initiative becomes “nationalised”. Whilst it is the absolute prerogative of the SADC Heads to decide how to handle specific conflicts, the Heads of State, in their wisdom need to decide how to interface the MRG involvement in all SADC conflicts;

- The MRG was set up as foot soldiers whose work would include conducting fact-finding missions to SADC countries, providing early warning where potential for violence is evident, recommending post conflict peace building initiatives in countries where there has been violence and other related work. The latter decisions have not been implemented and SADC’s approach to conflicts has at best been reduced to extinguishing fires when conflict has already broken out. My humble view is that, SADC needs to go back to the drawing board and give preventative diplomacy and associated actions a prominent role;

- SADC is yet to address the question of why in some of its Member States, conflicts keep recurring. Is SADC adequately studying and dealing with the root causes of conflicts in such countries, or is SADC simply reactive?

- When conflict breaks out, it is not a simple question of principal parties such as politicians, negotiating a deal. The whole society gets polarised and affected in many ways by conflict. Civil society therefore needs to be involved at least in peace building efforts. SADC is yet to institute the latter practice.

The above are just some of the concerns that Botswana as Chair could bring to the attention of his fellow SADC leaders.

On the question of what could be Botswana’s contribution, I believe our President could call for deliberate re-activation and utilisation of SADC conflict structures such that they are enabled to perform the role they were set up by SADC leaders to perform.

Since the establishment of MRG, how have SADC mediation structures been strengthened to provide for the effective resolution of conflicts in the region? How best could the capacity be strengthened? How do you evaluate Botswana’s contribution to that effect?

Although the MRG and related structures have not yet been deployed to SADC conflicts, there has been commendable capacity building such as training on conflict mediation. The SADC secretariat and the donor community need to be commended for their efforts in the latter regard. What remains now is to deploy

those trained personnel (MRG and MSU) to do the work they were trained and set up to do.

On how best the capacity can be strengthened, my answer is simply, deployment, deployment. That way, the SADC institutions would gain the necessary expertise and relevance. SADC leaders too need to play a supportive role towards the structures, for example, by welcoming the MRG and MSU to be engaged in their countries whenever there is potential for conflict. SADC has after all, since its inception agreed to be guided by common regional governance principles. Where conflict is assessed to be the outcome of failure on the part of a SADC country to observe agreed governance principles, the MRG is mandated to report on that defect and to recommend remedial action. That way, SADC can begin to implement its decision to utilise preventative diplomacy.

The MRG will for its part rely on the support of the Organ Chair and like-minded leaders to deploy the MRG as well as to endorse the institutions plan of action. As I stated earlier, SADC needs to allocate resources and agree on a more realistic budget to support the work of all SADC mediation institutions.

What are the most important emerging issues that, according to your opinion, pose a threat to peace and security in the SADC region?

There are currently many issues that, in my humble opinion need to be addressed in concrete ways before they escalate into conflict.

- Youth unemployment has currently become a common challenge in all SADC countries. If the problem is not addressed, SADC is going to have a generation of bitter, young and educated people who have given up on society and resort to negative ways of earning their living. Many SADC countries that have started addressing the problem, Botswana included, are now faced with the new challenge of COVID-19 that is going to cripple their commendable efforts;

- Another serious problem that is emerging is income disparity and related poverty. In some of SADC countries, 90% of the national wealth is in the hands of 10% of the population. This 10% includes foreigners who are now using their massive wealth to gain even more for themselves and to buy political influence in order to secure their position;

- Corruption is yet another threat to peace and stability given the fact that the majority who do not hold positions of power will be disadvantaged by self seeking holders of power. In most SADC countries, the moral fibre of society has been torn apart and the pursuit of self enrichment through corrupt means is very evident; and

- Over the years, those of us who were born many years back have witnessed a drastic change in the attitude towards political power. Unlike in the past when holding political power was regarded as a national service, competition for political power has now become a life and death issue. Some people want political power in order to “eat” as they say (you asked for my opinion!). Given these new negative attitudes, elections have become a major source of tension and often the main trigger of violence.

The MRG has, in response, held a workshop with its elections counterpart, SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) to work examine how the two bodies can work together. The MRG needs to be represented on election observer missions since the latter are the trigger for many conflicts. One must emphasise of course that not all SADC countries face similar threats. There are others where the new threat of Islamic fundamentalism is presenting a very serious threat to their survival as independent countries. In other countries, criminal syndicates are stealing and taking over key national resources.

In my humble view, these are matters that need to be addressed as national problems. As such, every SADC country needs to institute a national dialogue on the issues. Civil society rather than just politicians, needs to be involved in the search for solutions. Some of the social issues, such as the current savagery against women, are best addressed at the national level.

In general, what are the some of the ways and means in which MRG directly or indirectly can help SADC to promote peace, political stability and security in the region?

As I have already explained earlier, MRG was set up to perform certain tasks that it is currently not being able to because SADC has not yet made the institution operational. Once the MRG is deployed, it will be able to perform the following tasks in support of SADC’s efforts to build peace in the region:

- **Preventative Diplomacy.** Fact Finding missions to conflict or potential conflict areas, Early Warning reports on areas where there is potential for conflict before the latter breaks out. SADC already has an early warning system whose reports will be made available to MRG members on a need to know basis once the MRG is deployed. Root causes of conflicts will be identified by MRG for the benefit of better informed intervention by SADC leaders;

- **Peace Building Initiatives.** MRG will recommend ways of involving civil society such that once mediation teams leave, the affected country can itself conduct lasting peace building initiatives;

- **Election-Related Conflicts.** Since elections are one of the key factors leading to conflict, the MRG will partner with SEAC to observe elections and their relationship to specific conflicts;

- **Historical Factors.** Very often conflicts keep recurring in some of SADC countries because mediators have not identified and sought resolution of historical problems that cause conflict.

In short the MRG and its partner institutions such as MSU will contribute a more professional approach to SADC’s mediation efforts.

SADC has existed now for four decades; what have been some of its key milestones in promoting peace and security in the region?

There are many positive things to say about SADC’s track record in the area of stabilising the region and tackling its major problems. SADC’s tradition of working together on regional problems has seen the region mount spirited international campaigns against apartheid, minority rule in the then Rhodesia, former Portuguese colonies, decolonisation of Namibia etc. The spirit of being my brother’s/ sister’s keeper amongst Frontline States has built unity in the SADC region.

The formation of SADC was itself the positive outcome of SADC region’s realisation that no SADC country can succeed if it stands by itself. Institutions such as bilateral joint commissions on cooperation have cemented ties amongst SADC countries and promoted friendship. On peacekeeping, SADC military and other security organs cooperate closely and have achieved a lot together to the extent that

the region even has a standby force to deal with conflicts.

Are there certain shortcomings e.g. lack of influence of MRG when and where needed, that need to be addressed and where Botswana could make a contribution?

As already stated SADC’s main shortcomings can be identified as the organisation’s failure to utilise its established institutions such as the MRG. Botswana can make a positive contribution by sensitising SADC colleagues to correct the latter omission. Observers who are critical of SADC’s track record on standing against human rights abuse by some SADC leaders have pointed out that SADC leaders tend to shield their offending colleagues. In particular, the critics are saying that SADC countries run by former liberation leaders tend to “get away with murder” because their fellow freedom fighter comrades shield them even where the offending leaders perform atrocities that violate SADC’s founding principles.

One can only leave this sensitive issue to the wisdom of our leaders. Frontline States leaders used to counsel one another behind closed doors. A return to frank introspection by SADC leaders would help.

Botswana has been characterised as a country of peace and stability having never experienced violent conflict since independence. Drawing from that trajectory of relative peace, what lessons can Botswana bring to her Chairship as she takes a lead in advancing the regional peace and security agenda?

Botswana has a good track record in terms of peace and stability. That peace was to a large measure earned through good, orderly and accountable governance. That is the first lesson. Botswana does have the moral authority to insist on good governance as a prerequisite for regional stability.

As Chair, Botswana needs to emphasise to all SADC leaders, the fact that conflict in any part of SADC affects the whole of SADC. Founding fathers of the region in their collective wisdom, have long decided to surrender part of their countries’ national sovereignty to allow for collective advancing of regional peace. SADC leaders need to be more proactive in demanding governance behaviour that is more compatible with SADC’s peace- building efforts.

Our Frontline States’ leaders used to hold emergency closed door Summits to deal with urgent business. As Chair, Botswana could revive that working method given the disturbing build- up towards violent conflict in one of the SADC member states. One doubts whether the Special Envoy sent to that country will succeed in defusing the current tension.■

I thank everyone for this opportunity to share my humble opinion on how our region can build and maintain peace for the sake of its citizens’ well-being.



Consolidation of Democracy in the SADC Region

...Insights from Botswana's representative in the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC)



Professor Mpho Molomo addresses regional efforts focused on the promotion of democratic principles and practices, and the strengthening of democratic institutions in SADC Member States. He draws from his experiences as a member of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC). He has served as Botswana's representative in the SEAC since July 2014. From February 2018-2020 he served as the Chair of the Council.

The SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) is a statutory body of Southern African Development Community (SADC) formally constituted in August 2010 and inaugurated on 13 April 2011. Its broad mandate is to advise the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government through the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation on matters pertaining to elections and the enhancement of democracy and good governance in the region. SADC takes democratic elections as a normative framework that enhances the credibility and legitimacy of government. SEAC's mandate extends to mediation and conflict resolution because at times elections could be a trigger for conflict that may escalate into tension and violence.

This article addresses five broad areas respecting the SEAC mandate and its relevance to the regional body. First, it seeks to articulate the role of country representative to SEAC and the mandate of the Council. Second, it assesses the extent to which SEAC has contributed to the normative electoral standards and good governance set by the regional body. Third, as SADC celebrates its 40th anniversary, what are some of the significant milestones that have been realized with respect to the consolidation of democracy in the region? Fourth, how has SEAC contributed in peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution? And lastly, as Botswana assumes the chair of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, what does it bring to the table in terms of democratic governance, respect for the rule of law, promotion of human rights mediation and resolution of regional conflicts. This article addresses these issues, first by spelling out the SEAC mandate.

The SEAC Mandate

The overarching mandate of SEAC is to advise SADC on issues pertaining to elections and the enhancement of democracy and good governance. The specific objectives are:

- To urge and encourage Member States to adhere to the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015);
- To encourage SADC Member States to adhere to international best practice with respect to holding their elections;
- To advise SADC Member States on strategies and processes that enhance and strengthen the capacity of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in the region; and
- To encourage SADC Member States to uphold and respect the independence and autonomy of EMBs.

In operationalizing its mandate, the scope of SEAC's work includes periodic review of election management principles and procedures to ensure that they are democratic and comply with best international norms and practices regarding the conduct of democratic elections in collaboration with other regional and continental and global organizations. Its role also entails feeding into the regions early warning system by conducting Goodwill Missions that determine the extent to which country's holding elections are ready to hold credible, transparent and democratic elections. The Council also seeks to cultivate a common understanding of the electoral processes through stakeholder engagements to dialogue and agree on best practice. SEAC also undertakes Post-Election Review Missions to determine the progress made in deepening democracy since the past elections.

The Role of SEAC in the Consolidation of Democracy in the Region

Elections in the Southern Africa are guided by the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections adopted in 2015. Elections in SADC are based on "shared values and principles of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights (SADC, 2015:1). SEAC, in its operations, underscores best international practice of elections as a process and not an event, it recognizes the electoral cycle in the conduct and administration of elections. Elections are marked by three distinct phases; pre-election, the election and post-election phases. Elections are a collective endeavour and there are many stakeholders that engage the various processes and phases of the election process. These processes includes voter registration, voter education, delimitation of constituencies, registration of political parties, candidates etc.

In its engagement with various stakeholders, say the Pre-election Goodwill Mission, SEAC is able to identify potential trouble spots and advise the regional body with a view to kick in remedial measures to diffuse tension or violence. In the post-election review missions, SEAC in addition to ascertaining the extent to which the country under observation has implemented the recommendation of the SADC Observation Mission, it may also identify other areas for engagement, such as; facilitating reforms where necessary, stakeholder engagements to build capacity, national dialogues and confidence building measures to name but a few. In other words, SEAC is able to facilitate preventative diplomacy to ensure that problems are addressed before they fester or degenerate into conflict. Although SEAC is not deployed to observe elections, it works with the SADC Election Observation Missions (SEOMs) in an advisory capacity to address issues raised by stakeholders.

SEAC also works with National Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and the SADC Election Commissioners Forum (SADC-ECF), SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), with a view to harmonise and share best international practice in the conduct and management of national elections. Since elections, as has been the case in some countries in the region, have been a trigger for conflict, SEAC in conjunction with other regional bodies, is involved in mediation and conflict resolution strategies.

The Role of SEAC in Mediating Conflicts in the Region

In addressing regional conflicts, SEAC works with other organs within and outside the SADC structure. Within SADC, it works with the Regional Peace Keeping Centre (RPTC), SADC Early warning Centre, and the Mediation Reference Group, to name but a few. Through stakeholder engagements, SADC Goodwill and Post-Election Review Missions, SEAC serves as a regional barometer and feeds into SADC Early warning structures to sensitise the region where there are manifestations of instability. It does so by interacting with Member States, national entities in member states like political parties, parliaments, the security sector, civil society, academia and others. After such consultations, it sends its report to the Ministerial Committee of the Organ, which in turn reports to the SADC Heads of State. Its reports in volatile situations often lead to convening a double troika.

SEAC has played a critical role in preventative diplomacy in countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe. As



Botswana continues to actively contribute to the consolidation of democracy in the SADC region through her participation in the SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOMs)

Botswana Chairs the SADC Organ, it has to grapple with and try to find lasting peaceful and political solutions to the problem of terrorism in the Cabo Delgado region in northern Mozambique, the border dispute between Zambia and DRC. Perhaps more profound are the acts of destabilisation in eastern DRC, especially in the Kivu region and the areas bordering the great lakes region.

Botswana would have to grapple with manifestations in the DRC where the United Nations has a peace keeping mission called the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), where SADC has committed an offensive backup force, the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB). It is incumbent on Botswana to deploy SEAC in a Post-Election Review Mission to feed into processes of early warning and cultivation of political and peaceful solutions in the DRC.

Future Prospects for SEAC

SEAC remains relevant in developing a roadmap for the region in terms of attaining democratic governance and sustainable peace, sustainable development and prosperity for all. As Botswana is a front runner in democratic politics and also cordial relations with international trading partners, there is every indication that the country will be supportive of SEAC initiatives of delivering democratic elections.

Botswana as Chair of the SADC Organ

On 17 August 2020 Botswana was for the first time elected Chair of the SADC Organ deputised by South Africa as the incoming Chair and also supported by Zimbabwe as outgoing Chair. This comes at a time

when the region and indeed the whole world is up against COVID-19. As the region embraces the call for the 4th Industrial Revolution and the advent of digitalization, Botswana is called upon to lead the regional body. Botswana steps in the fore-front not as a new comer in regional leadership but one of the founding member of the Frontline States and the initial Southern African Development Coordinating Committee (SADCC) now the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

In no small measure, despite being surrounded by minority rules States, Botswana was in the frontline and played a critical role in liberation of the Southern African region. On occasion, suffered major reprisals and acts of destabilization but this never weakened her resolve to liberate the entire region. The location of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone gives Botswana a vantage point in effectively discharging its mandate.

After President Masihi ascended to the Presidency, Botswana signed the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as an indication that the country is prepared to walk the talk, stand tall and be counted the communities of democracies. As His Excellency takes the baton to lead the SADC Troika, Botswana claims her rightful place and brings to the table an impeccable record as a frontrunner in democratic politics. Botswana comes to the Chair of the SADC Organ wielding enormous soft power in continental and global politics. It is a member in good standing at the African Union and the United Nations. Botswana's voice at international fora is widely respected and its skilful diplomacy is expected to bring dividends to the regional body. ■



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

Founding Fathers of SADC - Leaders of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe met on 1st April 1980 in Lusuka, Zambia to establish the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC)



BACK FROM LEFT : Dick Matenje-Representative of Malawi | Robert Mugabe - Prime Minister-Designate of independence of Zimbabwe | Rt Hon. Prince Mabandla Dlamini- Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland | Hon. Mooki Vitus Molapo-Minister of Trade and Tourism, Kingdom of Lesotho.
FRONT FROM LEFT: José Eduardo dos Santos - President of Angola | H.E. Sir Seretse Khama-founding President of Botswana | H.E. Dr. Kenneth Kaunda - founding President of Zambia | H.E. Samora Moises Machel - founding President of Mozambique | H.E. Mwalima Julius K. Nyerere - President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Pic: SADC

BOTSWANA'S DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE SADC Region



Currently, Botswana has a total of twenty-three (23) Diplomatic Missions worldwide. In the SADC region, the country's Missions are located in the following countries: **Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.**

The Missions play a fundamental role in representing and safeguarding the country's interests abroad. These interests, which are the bedrock of Botswana's foreign policy are defined by the country's domestic policy and development priorities. The work of our Missions is carried out by our Envoys who play a key role in building and nurturing relations, enhancing Botswana's image internationally, promoting the country as an ideal destination for investment and tourism, as well as effectively implementing the country's foreign policy. This entails articulating the country's policy position on bilateral, regional and multilateral affairs, building strategic partnerships, and securing development opportunities for the country, and securing market access for Botswana products.

The subsequent section briefly introduces Botswana's Heads of Mission in **Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**, and provides information about the Missions. During Botswana's Chairship of the Organ, these Missions will play an active role in supporting the work of the Chair.

MOZAMBIQUE



H.E. MR. GOBE PISTO
HIGH COMMISSIONER
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF BOTSWANA IN
MOZAMBIQUE



Gobe Pitso is currently High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to the Republic of Mozambique. He is resident in Mozambique and is concurrently High Commissioner of Botswana to the Republics of Mauritius and Seychelles on a non-resident basis.

High Commissioner Pitso is a long serving career diplomat with wide ranging experience of over 20 years in the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation. He has worked in various capacities at both Ministry Headquarters and Diplomatic Missions. Prior to taking up his current post in the Republic of Mozambique,

High Commissioner Pitso served as Press Secretary to the President of the Republic of Botswana. He also served at the Botswana Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland and later as the Deputy Ambassador of Botswana to the People's Republic of China from 2005 to 2011. Upon return from the People's Republic of China he acted as Director; Public Relations, Research and Information in the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation before being appointed Press Secretary to the President.

The Mission:

The High Commission of the Republic of Botswana in Mozambique was officially opened in August 2012. The opening of the Mission was

premised on the strategic location of Mozambique as a gateway to the East. At inception, the Mission was accredited to Mozambique only. However, coverage increased to include Seychelles, Mauritius and Comoros during the beginning of 2018.

The main focus for the Mission, since commencement, has been to promote bilateral relations with countries of accreditation, trade and investment, as well as tourism, to ensure that Botswana benefits from niche areas such as in agriculture, energy, education, defence, to mention but a few.

The High Commissioner, Mr. Gobe Pitso, is the third Head of Mission, having arrived in early 2018 to succeed H.E. Mr. Olebile Gaborone, who replaced H.E. Mr. Thuso Ramodimoosi, the first High Commissioner of Botswana to Mozambique.

On a strategic note, the presence of a resident Mission has served to position Botswana favourably with Mozambique, having been appointed to lead an International Military Observer Mission on the Cessation of Hostilities (IMOCHM)

between Government and RENAMO in 2014, as well as being appointed to be the only African country in the Contact Group of the Peace Process in Mozambique.

Since its inauguration, the Mission has seen increased High Level Exchange Visits at Head of State level (State Visits), as well as at Ministerial and Senior Officials levels, increased bilateral cooperation, with annual participation at the Maputo International Trade Fair (FACM) and vice versa for Mozambique regarding the Global Expo in Botswana.

The widening of the scope of coverage presented opportunities to further explore strategic areas of interest between Botswana, and the Indian ocean island countries of Mauritius and Seychelles, which culminated in renewed interest for Botswana beef, employment and training opportunities for Batswana, as well as trade and investment ventures. The Mission also assists with providing consular services for Batswana in countries of accreditation.

The Mission also assists with providing consular services for Batswana in countries of accreditation: **Mozambique, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles.**

NAMIBIA



H.E. DR. COMMA SEREMA
HIGH COMMISSIONER
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF BOTSWANA IN
NAMIBIA



Dr Batlang Comma Serema was appointed High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia in February 2020. He is resident in Windhoek and is also accredited as High Commissioner to the Republic of Angola and Republic of Congo. He joined Foreign Service in the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation in 2020. He served successively as Assistant District Officer (Lands) within the Ministry of Local Government and Lands in 1991; Senior Research Officer in the Botswana National Assembly in 1993 and was later promoted to Principal Information and Public Relations Officer.

He worked as a Lecturer at the University of Botswana and later promoted to Senior Lecturer. He worked as Executive Secretary of the Botswana Democratic Party in 2005. He served in a number of Boards such as Botswana Football Association (BFA), Botswana National Library Services (BNLS), Botswana National Archives and Records Services (BNARS), Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), Information Academy (IA), EIA Projects and Botswana National Productivity Centre (BNPC).

Dr Serema holds BA, Msc and a PhD which combines public policy analysis, information analysis and well as business planning and financial analysis from the University of Botswana, Robert Gordon University and University College London respectively.

SOUTH AFRICA



H.E. CLAUFINAH TSHENOLO MODISE
HIGH COMMISSIONER-
DESIGNATE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF BOTSWANA IN SOUTH
AFRICA



Tshenolo Claurinah Modise, Botswana's High Commissioner-designate to the Republic of South Africa is a career diplomat who joined the Botswana Foreign Service more than twenty years ago. She has served the foreign service in many capacities, both at home and abroad.

Ambassador Modise has recently concluded a successful six-year tour of duty as Botswana's High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia, where she had concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Congo. She leaves Namibia with a number of achievements in not only elevating relations with this importance Neighbour to a higher level, but in overseeing the implementation and conceptualization of critical bilateral projects and agreements. These projects range from water and waste management transport and logistics to twinning arrangements between Botswana and Namibian Towns and Cities.

Prior to her assignment in Namibia Ambassador Modise represented Botswana as Ambassador to the European Union with accreditation to the BENELUX countries as well as France, Germany and Italy, at a time the partnership between Europe and countries of Arica, the Caribbean and the Pacific(ACP) was transitioning to a new and critical mode.Ambassador Modise has served as Director in three of the five Departments in the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation.

The Ambassador returns to the Republic of South Africa after having served in that country in the 1990s during the CODESA negotiations, first elections and transition to democracy. She was part of the Team that established the first Botswana diplomatic office in the Republic of South Africa, under the leadership of one the country's renowned diplomat, Ambassador Oteng Jenamo Tebape. Ambassador Modise is known for her calm, unassuming, and yet firm approach to diplomacy.

The Mission:

The High Commission of the Republic of Botswana was established to promote bilateral relations with the Republic of Namibia, Republic of Angola and Republic of Congo, including advancing national interest with SACU and SADC Parliamentary Forum. Botswana and Namibia established diplomatic relations in 1990. The two countries enjoy cordial relations, share cultural, historic and family ties, largely characterised by the spirit of good neighbourliness.

The cooperation between the two countries is mostly facilitated through the bilateral frameworks of the Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation (JPCC) and Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS). The cooperation covers various sectors including agriculture, water, immigration, trade, defence and security, as well as transport and logistics. The Dry Port facility at Walvis Bay and the proposed Trans Kalahari Railway Line hold immense potential for further strengthening the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Recently, the two countries have agreed to elevate the current bilateral frameworks, that is, JPCC and JPCDS to a Bi-National Commission.

The Mission:

The Botswana High Commission in Pretoria (BOTSA) is charged with the responsibility to coordinate, manage and nurture relations between Botswana and its countries of accreditation (South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini). Essentially, BOTSA provides regular political, economic and social analysis which informs Botswana's position on its relations with the countries of accreditation. As part of its core business, BOTSA is also responsible for the promotion of tourism, trade and investment in the countries of accreditation. BOTSA also seeks bilateral cooperation for the benefit of Batswana, such as scholarships, transport, finance, agriculture, water, energy, minerals, health, research and technology, youth and sports, as well as defence and security matters. BOTSA is committed to providing professional, effective and efficient services to its clients and stakeholders.

In the discharge of our duties, we are guided by certain values: Botho, Integrity, Discipline, Professionalism, and Patriotism. We are also guided by the ethical principles of the Public Service Charter: Regard for Public Interest; Neutrality; Accountability; Transparency; Freedom from Corruption; Continuity; the Duty to be informed and Due Diligence.

The Mission continues to advocate for the economic diplomacy agenda with a view to contribute to national development and the improvement of the lives of Batswana. The Mission achieves this through the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDIs); finding export markets for Botswana's products as well as tourism promotion. Since the Mission's role is coordinative in nature, we closely collaborate with key stakeholders such as the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), Botswana Tourism Organization, as well as Business Botswana, to advance the economic diplomacy agenda.

ZAMBIA



H.E. MR. ALPHEUS MATLHAKU
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA IN
ZAMBIA



His Excellency Mr. Alpheus Matlhaku started his primary education at Bamalete Primary School in Ramotswa. In 1963 he started his Form 1 at Moeding College where his classmates included luminaries such as Phandu Skelemani, Kenneth Matambo, Mphaphi Phumaphi and Daniel Kwelagobe.

In 1971 he became one of the first group of students to start the Botswana Campus of the then University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland (UBLS). He did his BA in Economics and went on to complete his MA in Economics at the University of Connecticut in the United States of America. He then worked at the Ministry of Finance as an Economist from 1976 -1986, where he also served in many permanent and ad hoc committees.In 1986 he was transferred to the Office of the President as Under Secretary where he became de facto speech writer for Ministers Kedikilwe and (late) Merafhe. He left the Office of the President at the level of Deputy Permanent Secretary in 2000 and went to work as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications until he retired in 2002.

Following a recommendation for appointment as Clerk of the National Assembly by the late Messrs Ray Molomo and Bahiti Temane (then Speaker and Deputy Speaker), H.E. Matlhaku went on to become Clerk of the National Assembly from 2003 – 2007. H.E Matlhaku boasts a wealth of knowledge in the public service and has performed the following Special assignments, amongst many others:

- Coordinator of the Fifth National Development Plan (1978-80)
- Secretary of the following:
- Presidential Commission on Economic Opportunities (Mmusi Report, 1982);
- Salaries Commission for the Public Service (Gasennelwe Report, 1985);
- Parliamentary and Local Authorities Salaries and Allowances Structure Commission (The Balopi Report, 1986);
- Cabinet Committee on the Review of Conditions of Service of Members of Cabinet/Parliament/

ZIMBABWE



H.E. LT(RT) MR MATSHWEGO FISHER
AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA IN
ZIMBABWE



Lieutenant General (Rtd) Louis Matshwenyego Fisher is the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana accredited to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and to the Republic of Malawi on non-residential basis. Prior to his appointment to Harare in January 2017, he served as High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from June 2013 to December 2016.

Before his diplomatic postings, Ambassador Fisher served in various capacities in the academic world including stints at the University of Botswana, Wits University, University of Namibia, and the University of Malawi and as a Team Leader for the African Union / European Union assessment Study Team between 2006 and 2013 amongst others. Ambassador Fisher graduated from University of Missouri, Kansas City in 1985 with a Master's Degree program in Public Administration (MPA). In 2000, he completed Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) in University of Botswana before going on to Complete Social Theory Course at Wits University in 2007. Ambassador Fisher has also published a number of academic articles focusing on the military and national security.

Before venturing into the academic world, Ambassador Fisher served in the Botswana Defence Force with distinction for 29 years where he rose through the ranks until he became the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force in 1998 to 2006 when he retired.The Ambassador is highly decorated with a number of service medals which includes Order of the Crown in the Class of Grand Commander by King Mswati III in 2007, the Presidential Medal of Honour (PH) in 2005, French Legion Medal of Honour (LH) in 2005 and Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) in 1999 to name a few.

- House of Chief and Councillors (Mogwe Report, 1991);
- Committee on the Review of Salaries, Allowances of Members of Cabinet, Parliament, House of Chiefs and Councillors (Chiepe Report, 1992)
- Member of the Secretariat of the Delimitation Commission of Parliamentary Constituencies (2002)
- Head of Secretariat of the Presidential Commission of Review of Public Service Salaries
- Observer of Zambia Presidential Elections (2008)
- Rapporteur, Mozambique Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial Elections (2009)
- Member of the Botswana Public Service Commission (2011-14)
- Trained Staff of State Legislatures in South Sudan (2013)
- Appointed to the Independent Electoral Commission (2014)
- Appointed Botswana's High Commissioner to the Republic of Zambia; United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the DRC (2019)

The Mission:

Botswana and Zambia share historical ties dating back to the pre-Independence era. The two countries enjoy strong bonds of friendship and cooperation dating back to 1966 when diplomatic relations were established and the Mission's office was set up in Lusaka. During this period, the Mission was a part of the rich history of the political and liberation struggles of other Southern African countries in the 1960s starting with, among others, membership of the then frontline states of Southern Africa.

The Mission is also accredited to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Although not a full member of COMESA but given Observer status)

Ambassador is also active in the field of conservation. He is currently a member of Member of Conservation International and Chobe Wildlife Trust.

The Mission:

The Embassy of the Republic of Botswana (BOTZIM) in Harare is accredited to the Republic of Zimbabwe and to the Republic of Malawi on a non-residential basis.The Mission was opened initially as a High Commission following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1980. It was later renamed Embassy when the membership of Zimbabwe to the Commonwealth was suspended in 2002, following a presidential election which was marred by politically motivated violence. BOTZIM endeavours to enhance the relations between Botswana and countries of accreditation. This includes political and economic relations as well as cooperation in culture, science and technology, research and social issues.

The core mandate of the Embassy is to promote the interests of Botswana in countries of accreditation. These include providing consular services, monitoring political and economic developments, promoting people to people interaction, cultural exchanges and facilitating, where necessary, causes of common good. The Embassy is therefore responsible for the overall promotion of good relations and pursuit of opportunities in the countries of accreditation for the mutual benefit of our people.

The relations between Zimbabwe and Botswana are managed through a Bi-National Commission while relations with Malawi are managed by the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation (JPCC) and the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (J.P.C.S.S). Both the agreements provide for an annual meeting to review progress made on cooperation agreements.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 40TH SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT 17TH AUGUST 2020

The 40th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held virtually on the 17th August 2020.

Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government and/or their representatives:

Angola:	H.E. President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço
Botswana:	H.E. President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi
DRC:	H.E. President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo
Lesotho:	The Right Hon Prime Minister Dr. Moeketsi Majoro
Madagascar:	H.E. President Andry Nirina Rajoelina
Malawi:	H.E. President Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera
Mozambique:	H.E. President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi
Namibia:	H.E. President Dr. Hage G. Geingob
South Africa:	H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
United Republic of Tanzania:	H.E. President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli
Zambia:	H.E. President Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu
Zimbabwe:	H.E. President Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa.
Eswatini:	H.E. The Right Hon. Prime Minister Mandvulo Dlamini
Seychelles:	H.E. Vice President, Mr Vincent Meriton
Mauritius:	Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade , Mr Nandcoomar Bodha
	Hon. Acting Minister of Foreign Affiars,
Comoros:	Dr Takiddine Youssouf

Also in attendance was H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary.

Summit expressed deepest condolences to the Mkapa Family and the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania following the passing on of H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, 3rd President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and paid tribute to H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa as one of the region's leaders who contributed greatly to the fight for liberation, development, peace, security and stability of the region.

Summit elected H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, as Chairperson of SADC, and H.E. President Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi as Incoming Chairperson of SADC.

Summit also elected H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, as Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic South Africa as Incoming Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Summit received a report on SADC integration from the Outgoing Chairperson of SADC, H.E. President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli and on the implementation of the Theme of the 39th Summit of Heads of State and Government, and commended the Outgoing Chairperson of SADC, for his principled and exemplary leadership during his tenure, notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summit congratulated the people and the Governments of the Republics of Mozambique, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia and Malawi for conducting successful elections, and congratulated H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi; H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi; H.E. Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob; H.E. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth; and H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera for winning the elections. Summit also congratulated

Right Honourable Moeketsi Majoro for his appointment as the new Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Summit received a report on the Socio Economic impacts of COVID-19 on SADC economies, noted its effects across sectors, and approved the proposed measures that are to address the sectoral effects.

Summit endorsed an enhanced Macroeconomic Convergence Surveillance Mechanism that includes high frequency data to complement, but not replace, the existing Macroeconomic Convergence mechanism.

Summit approved the SADC Vision 2050, which is based on a firm foundation of Peace, Security and Democratic Governance, and premised on three interrelated Pillars, namely: Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infrastructure Development in support of Regional Integration; and Social and Human Capital Development. The three pillars also recognize Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management as important cross-cutting components. Summit also approved the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 to operationalise the Vision 2050.

Summit endorsed the Theme of the 40th Summit of Heads of State and Government, “SADC 40 Years Building Peace and Security, and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges”.

Summit approved the Mechanism in Honour of the Founders of SADC, and urged Member States to operationalize the Mechanism.

Summit endorsed a Five Year Sustainable Self Financing Plan for SADC Electoral Observation Missions covering 2021 – 2025.

Summit re-emphasized the need to fully implement the SADC Protocol on Gender, and put in place concrete measures to improve the representation of women and youth in elected political positions.

Summit received a report of the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, H.E. President Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, and commended him for his outstanding leadership during his tenure.

Summit received an Assessment Report on emerging Security Threats in the Region, commended the Secretariat for the Detailed Report, and directed the Secretariat to prepare an action plan for its implementation, that will among others, prioritize measures to combat terrorism, violent attacks and cybercrime; and to address adverse effects of climate change.

Summit welcomed the decision by the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to bring to the attention of SADC the violent attacks situation in the country, and commended the country for its continued efforts towards combating terrorism and violent attacks.

Summit expressed SADC solidarity and commitment to support Mozambique in addressing the terrorism and violent attacks, and condemned all acts of terrorism and armed attacks.

Summit urged Member States to take pro-active measures to mitigate external interference, the impact of fake news and the abuse of social media, especially in electoral processes.

Summit reiterated SADC's position on the reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as submitted to the UN Secretary General, which, among others, emphasizes that the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) should not be tampered with.

Summit expressed its gratitude to the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) Troop Contributing Countries for the continued support to peace and security in the eastern DRC, and reiterated SADC's continued support to the DRC.

Summit received a progress report on the political and security situation in the Kingdom of Lesotho by the SADC Facilitator to the Kingdom of Lesotho, H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, and commended the Government and people of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the smooth and peaceful transition of power.

Summit welcomed the commitment of the new Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to ensure the full and comprehensive implementation of the reforms process, and encouraged the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to keep the momentum in the implementation of the SADC decisions, and submit a progress to the next Summit in August 2021.

Summit commended the SADC Facilitator to the Kingdom of Lesotho H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa for his continued facilitation.

Summit received a report on the DRC - Zambia Border Issue, and commended the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Republic of Zambia for their commitment to resolve the border issue amicably.

Summit approved an Agreement amending the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

Summit approved an Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Southern African Development Community Regarding the Status of SADC Standby Force and its Components Deployed within the Region for Purposes of Training, Peace Support Operation, Exercises and Humanitarian Assistance.

Summit approved the development of a new Protocol on Employment and Labour, and to this effect, approved the withdrawal of the existing Protocol on Employment and Labour. Summit expressed solidarity with the Government and People of Mauritius for the environmental disaster in its waters caused by a grounded ship and called upon SADC Member States, and the International Community to support Mauritius in containing the disaster.

Summit extended its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for using innovative ways to convene the 40th Ordinary Summit in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chairperson of SADC, H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique expressed gratitude to all the Heads of State and Government for attending the 40th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government that was held virtually for the first time in the history of SADC.

Summit noted that a face-to-face Summit will take place in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique in March 2021, if the COVID-19 pandemic situation is contained. ■

Done on 17th August 2020

CHAMPIONING PEACE, DEMOCRACY & REGIONAL SECURITY

The Ministers attended the virtual meeting of the Ministerial Committe of the Organ on Defence, Politics and Security(MCO), 14 August 2020



HON. DR. UNITY DOW
FORMER MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION



HON. KABO MORWAENG
MINISTER FOR
PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS,
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION



HON. THOMAS K. MMUSI
MINISTER OF DEFENCE
JUSTICE AND SECURITY



HON. ANNA MOKGETHI
MINISTER OF NATIONALITY,
IMMIGRATION AND
GENDER AFFAIRS

next issue....



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