

BUILDING PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT CORRIDORS IN THE SADC REGION

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by

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1. Introduction.

- I am going to use two road signposts in introducing this discussion
- 1.1 In December 1973, James Mayall observed that relations between Malawi and Tanzania were “almost permanently strained” because of three events since 1964. Further, he asserted that the boundary dispute would be enduring.
- 1.2. A report in 2011 on managing transboundary water resources observed that “... Cooperation on international water resources s important in order to prevent conflicts in the SADC region”.
- 1.3. My second road sign heals “permanently strained” relations contained in my first road sign. One way to understand this assertion is through a critical examination of the strategy of development corridors in the SADC.

2. SADC corridors for development.

- 2.1. Preliminary assertion is that at this stage of the study, I shall be mean in defining and deploying key concepts necessary in effective examination of the subject.
- 2.2. Development corridors are focal project initiatives comprising many countries and addressing diverse social economic and social resources. In the SADC, most D.Cs bring together countries that share boundaries such as the Beira-Zambezi Development Corridor, Limpopo Development Corridor, Mtwara Development Corridor. The other format of development corridors in the SADC are based on infrastructure development and functioning such as the North-South Development Corridor with the port of Durban as the fulcrum (And this facilitated the Beit bridge-Bulawayo railway).

SADC corridors for development (Cont.)

- 2.3. Development corridors are pro-active in building peace. This highlights wisdom in James Mayall's assertion on relations between Malawi and Tanzania. Zimbabwe paid Zambia debt inherited on dissolution of Federation RN. Swazi Lubombo development corridors. The Sedutu case left bitterness between Botswana and Namibia but this being melord by the Wavis Bay corridor.

SADC corridors for development (Cont.)

2.4 Development corridors are microcosms of regional integration and transformation. A d.c is an investment zone for (a) Governments (b) public-private partnership. The concept Victor Muzvidziwa used in a 2005 publication for OSSEREA.

2.4 (b) The recent UNTWO conference in Livingstone and ~~¥Vic~~ falls best illustrates how states can build , understand , collaborate wok and consequently avoid

3. Best Practices.

- 3.1. Major General Michael Nyambuya claimed Zimbabwe as a leader in the SADC in making and keeping Peace; Nicholas Kwendakwena asserted Zambia's commitment to peace.
- 3.2. Despite Sedudu dispute, Botswana and Namibia are prime movers for the Walvis Bay Development Corridor.
- 3.3. In august 2011 SADC published a report that advocated building peace through joint management of transboundary water resources.

4. CONCLUSION.

- 4.1. Regular contacts and collaboration in many projects are more likely to build trust, common and shared goals. Tension or conflict will be avoided. For example, malawi-Tanzania current conflict could have been avoided with joint corridor development.
- 4.2. SADC is a complex development corridor.

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