



## Southern Africa shows great potential for growth

by Munetsi Madakufamba

**S**outhern Africa's abundant human and natural resources, the prevailing peace and stability, massive regional infrastructural development are testimony to the region's great potential for growth with competitiveness.

This was echoed by delegates at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) 1997 Southern Africa Economic Summit in Harare on 21-23 May. The forum, co-chaired by WEF President, Klaus Schwab and SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende, noted that the region had in a number of ways acquitted itself as a major investment destination. It was doing everything possible to improve its competitiveness in line with dictates of the globalisation process.

"A preference for democracy and the peaceful resolution of disputes, demonstrable commitment to the disciplined management of public resources, policies designed to encourage the flourishing of enterprise and far-reaching plans for reconstruction have effectively become the norm across the

region," said Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa and Chairman of SADC, in a speech to mark the opening plenary session of the summit.

He noted that no country in the region can succeed on its own, emphasising the need for regional integration. "Interdependence amongst neighbours and the pressures of a

globalised economy increasingly defined by regional blocs dictate that we work together as a region," he added.

Echoing his counterpart's themes, President Robert Mugabe told the delegates that SADC, and Zimbabwe in particular, is ready for domestic and international business to come in as joint

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## OAU Summit makes landmark decisions

by Maxwell Chivasa

**T**his year's 33rd ordinary session of the Organisation of African Unity in Harare will go down in the annals of history as having made several landmark decisions and takes a number of actions.

The meeting, which saw Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe assuming the chairmanship of OAU and incumbent Secretary General, Salim Ahmed Salim being re-elected for a third term, is being viewed as one that brought the continent much closer together than ever before. The leaders met for the first time as the newly formed African Economic Community (AEC) which aims to industrialise the continent.

As the Organisation of African Unity moves beyond a more politically oriented agenda to focus on economic integration, it could not avoid some political hotspots in Africa which included a coup in Sierra Leone just a few days before the summit.

Burundi and Nigeria were military-led governments in attendance, with General Sani Abacha's wife, Maryam, of Nigeria making history as the first First Lady to address the OAU.

Liberia also sent the only African woman head of state, Ruth Perry.

But the new chairman of the OAU, President Mugabe was not shy to speak out against military leaders and pointed



New OAU Chairman, President Mugabe, Secretary General, Salim Salim (left)

out that any coup plotters risk not being accepted to the organisation's future meetings.

Salim said the OAU had made its position very clear for the first time on military governments and that is why it had condemned the new military government in Sierra Leone.

"We are getting tougher and tougher," said Mugabe at a press conference after closing the historic meeting

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### SADC trade ministers on a successful USA mission

**S**ADC ministers of trade and industry were recently in Washington DC, United States, in a reciprocal mission to the one to southern Africa by the late US Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown in February 1996.

During his visit, Brown signed a memorandum of understanding with the SADC Executive Secretary aimed at promoting trade and economic relations

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## SADC Summit

The SADC summit to be held in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997 will among other issues, discuss recommendations of the just ended Southern Africa Economic Summit regarding the need for a coordinated macro-economic policy framework and ways of creating an enabling environment for investment and trade in the region. The other issues include labour management relations and productivity measurement following recommendations by the SADC Consultative Conference held in February this year in Namibia.

On macro-economic policy framework, the conference recommended the creation of a Regional Productivity Movement. This would be supported by the establishment of productivity monitoring mechanisms or building that capacity in SADC.

Also to be discussed are ways to promote NGOs, the private sector and labour movement in SADC activities to increase productivity.

The leaders will also discuss SADC gender strategies following adoption by Council of Ministers in February 1997 of comprehensive measures to be taken on board by SADC in dealing with gender issues.

## The SADC food security programme

This is an excerpt from the SADC Food Security Programme prepared by the Food Security Technical and Administrative Unit. The Food Security Programme is one of three components of a wider Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) programme which comprises three major, cross-cutting developmental programmes. The Food Security Programme is being implemented in all SADC member states.

The SADC region is well endowed with the natural and human resources necessary for agricultural production. Out of a gross arable land base of 477 million hectares, 5 percent is under crops; 41 per cent is range land; 33 percent is forests and woodland; and 21 percent is, at present, considered unsuitable for agricultural use, given available technology and market conditions. The region also comprises some of Africa's best soils, large forests, rivers and lakes. Agriculture contributes about 34 percent of the region's Gross Domestic Product, employs up to 80 percent of the total labour force, and accounts for about 26 percent of total foreign exchange earnings.

Despite having such an abundance of basic resources with which to feed all its people, the SADC region has not been able to do so. The agricultural sector in the region has performed poorly for the last two and a half decades. With a population growth rate greater than that of food production, per capita food production actually fell by an average of nearly 2 percent per year between 1979 and 1993 necessitating steadily increasing food imports...

It was against a similar background of declining per capita food production, persistent food deficits and increasing dependence on food from outside, that the founding document of SADC, the 1980 Lusaka Declaration, called for improved food security. Food security was therefore one of the first areas to be given priority in the context of regional cooperation.

Following consultations with experts from all SADC countries, the government of Zimbabwe developed proposals which identified several areas where regional coordination would improve food

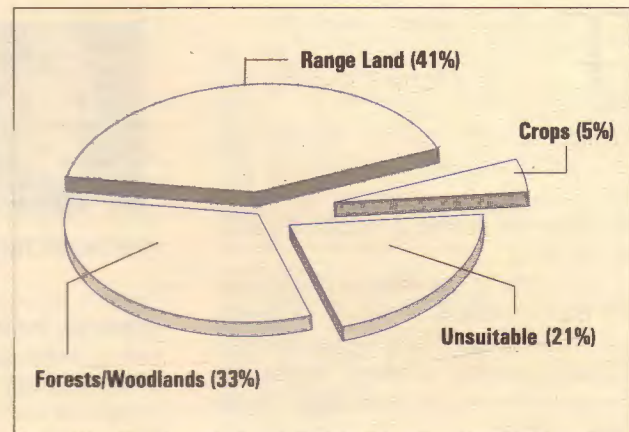
security in the region. These included the exchange of technical data; the development of data banks; development of an early warning system for food security; examining ways of achieving post-harvest food loss reduction and improved food processing technology; the development of a regional food reserve; improvement in the food marketing infrastructure; and a coordinated approach to regional food aid. These proposals were subsequently developed into a programme of complementary and inter-locking food security projects.

The programme encompasses a number of regional projects which are directed towards the creation of a comprehensive network of institutions aimed at strengthening SADC's capacity, both at national and regional level, to respond to the problems which have undermined the ability of SADC member states to achieve food security.

The overall objective of the SADC Food Security Programme is to improve household, national and regional food security. Within this broad aim, the immediate objectives are to:

- reinforce and facilitate the efficient growth and development of food and agricultural production in member states so that the region can become self-reliant in relation to its basic food needs;
- promote the development and harmonisation of policies, projects and programmes to increase agricultural production, improve household food security, raise rural incomes and facilitate employment generation; and
- eliminate the periodic food crises which affect areas or countries in the region and to promote trade.

During its early stages, the food security sector's strategy focused mainly on assisting member states to increase food availability through increased domestic production, reduction in post harvest losses, and expanded grain storage. However, a review of the Food Security Programme in 1986 recognised



LAND BASE: SADC gross is 477 million hectares

that increasing food production and efforts toward national self-sufficiency *per se*, would not automatically end hunger and malnutrition. The updated strategy adopted after the review therefore aims to improve household, national and regional food security by encouraging activities that will enhance the ability of all people to acquire an adequate diet.

The strategy reiterates the importance of increasing food production in food deficit member states. It emphasises the need to give first priority to helping increase food production in these countries; and to support agricultural diversification projects in food surplus countries. At the same time, emphasis is now also given to efforts to increase the involvement of the private sector in food marketing, to promoting a more favourable food security policy environment, and to monitoring vulnerable groups. The programme also seeks to engender faster agricultural development in the widest sense, in order to improve employment and income opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

Following the development of a new strategy for the FANR overall sector in 1993 and in the light of some major economic and political developments in the region, the original regional food security portfolio was reviewed. To give the programme more coherence, four interlinked sub-programmes were defined, within which project activities will now take place. These sub-programmes are: the generation and exchange of information; food policy analysis and research; promotion of improved food availability; and promotion of improved food access...□

# Smart Partnership dialogue begins in southern Africa

The first Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID '97) on the concept of Smart Partnership held May 3-7 at Botswana's resort town of Kasane brought together for the first time political leaders and the private sector to find how best they can co-operate to make the region a successful economic bloc.

Under the theme "Smart Partnership for the Generation of Wealth in Southern Africa", over 250 delegates from the Commonwealth, southern Africa and beyond convened to share ideas on the way forward to achieve economic growth and development. Ten heads of state and government present at the conference were from Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

President of Ghana, Jerry Rawlings, Uganda's Yoweri Museveni and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad attended as special guests. Other regional countries, Angola, Zambia, Swaziland, Mauritius and Lesotho were represented at the deputy prime minister and ministerial levels. There were also representatives from Canada, the United States and Taiwan.

The Smart Partnership concept underlines a complimentary and mutually



PATRONS OF THE SMART PARTNERSHIP: Masire, Mugabe, Muluzi, Nujoma

rewarding business association between two or more parties. The concept is a baby of South East Asia's series of Langkawi International Dialogue, held in Malaysia.

Southern African leaders who attended last year's Langkawi International Dialogue were so impressed with the idea that they agreed to establish a southern African hub to parallel and interact with the successful one in Malaysia.

In a keynote address at the opening of the conference, Botswana's President Sir Ketumile Masire spoke of the need to establish a Southern Africa Incorporated.

"Smart Partnerships mark a shift in emphasis from the purely competitive to the more co-operative. They achieve their effect through networks and dialogues, involving a shift in emphasis from formal contractual relationships to informal personal relationships," he noted.

Malawi's President Bakili Muluzi said the region needed to start somewhere and by bringing the concept of Smart Partnership to southern Africa, the region was not isolating itself from the rest of the continent. Instead, it is a step toward African Economic Community.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe spoke on the need for countries to remove economic barriers. He cited the issue of trade tariffs and suggested they could be lowered to zero percent within the next five to eight years.

One of the guest leaders, Prime Minister Mahathir said given the fact that the trend towards forming trading blocs was moving fast the world over, the concept of Smart Partnership may come as a bonus in the future of SADC.

"I believe the SADC too will evolve into a Smart Partnership. Other regions may follow suit. When such a time

comes, it will usher in a new understanding between regions and groupings which may contribute to an era of global peace and prosperity, a commonwealth of the world where wealth would truly be common," he said.

The leaders are keen to achieve a good understanding of the Smart Partnership philosophy and propagate it in the region. However, the common feeling from the many discussions during the four-day conference was that the relationship between governments and the private sector should not be adversarial but rather complementary. The ultimate goal would be win-win relationships where all parties benefit mutually.

The conference was organised by the London-based Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) and co-sponsored by Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. □

## Involve all stakeholders in Smart Partnership - Chissano

It is our conviction that we need to pull our resources together in order to grow. We cannot develop separately the same way we could not attain independence separately...

Common action means for us the involvement of all stakeholders, i.e, governments, private sector, civil society institutions and individuals.

In some countries trade unions, an important segment of the civil society, are getting involved through different forms...

The area of trade unions is yet to be given due consideration so that workers could become part of the interaction, pulling jointly towards the same direction, because some trade unions by lack of correct involvement may move against all efforts of Smart Partnership...

## Initiative complements existing SADC programmes - Masire

This initiative is being launched with the aim of supporting and complementing the various efforts being made under the auspices of SADC.

The peoples of this region have already committed themselves to pursuing policies aimed at integrated development, peace and security through the treaty establishing SADC...

Our vision now and for the next generation must be to establish a Southern Africa incorporated. It may very well be that the [dialogues] will play a crucial role in transforming this region's economy to a higher level of prosperity. We all have a role to play in catalysing this important process.

Southern Africa must become one of the strong building blocks of an emerging African Economic Community...

# SADC Water protocol: towards implementation

by Maxwell Chivasa

**S**outhern African countries have committed themselves to ensure that the rules of the SADC Shared Water Course Systems Protocol are clearly understood before implementation so that water does not become a source of conflict in the region.

Delegates at a recent SADC workshop in Gaborone on the implementation of the protocol, highlighted the bottlenecks and challenges in the implementation of the new protocol.

The workshop, sponsored by the US Agency for International Development, Regional Coordinating office for Southern Africa (USAID/RCSA), focused on the theme "Towards Implementation of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems: Stakeholders' Input".

The new SADC Water Sector took a leading role in the proceedings of the workshop and collected inputs from water experts from governments, non-governmental organisations, lawyers and the private sector in SADC countries. The sector sought information on how the protocol can be smoothly implemented without upsetting water agreements already operating.

Delegates noted with concern that the protocol had only been ratified by four out of the 12 SADC countries, resulting in a piece-meal approach in the water development in the region.

However, all SADC countries have signed the protocol except Angola. SADC countries are said to be concerned about increased competition to extract water upstream on the Zambezi river. The fear that this would affect the river's ecosystems as well as member states such as Mozambique at the tail end of the river course. Some third party riparian states were also interested in the Zambezi water. At least eight countries in southern Africa have immediate access to the river's water.

"Suppose a country does not respect the SADC water protocol and goes ahead to rip water from a river, even as

a third riparian state, what happens here?" asked one delegate.

Most delegates agreed that members should ensure that the protocol works to avoid legal wrangles ending in an international court of law or resulting in war over water. The protocol provides for a tribunal to hear cases of the riparian states.

It was agreed that the protocol, much as it is a SADC agreement, should be guided by the Helsinki Rules on uses of waters of international rivers in the event of a conflict.

A recent book entitled, *Water in Southern Africa* by SADC, IUCN and SARDC, has warned that, unless water issues are dealt with through an agreement such as the SADC water protocol, the resource will be an issue of conflict soon.

Water experts have warned that freshwater will be a strong weapon as populations increase in the face of scarce water resources.



Zambezi river in western Zambia: shared by eight SADC countries

A number of proposals were made during the workshop which included sufficient dialogue between riparian states on the equitable sharing of water, the use of basin institutions or commissions that would control water use and adhere to the rules of the protocol.

The workshop also noted that some water laws, important in the implementation of the SADC water protocol, were outdated. The protocol must be reconciled to each country's water law to document inconsistencies and establish some harmony. Four countries are in the process of harmonising the protocol with water laws, namely, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Delegates also recommended that each river basin should establish a commission or guidelines on how water will be allocated, and how the environment will be protected. The issue of equitable distribution of water was said to be not quite practical since another country might not necessarily have to draw water from a river when it did not need it.

Concern was also raised regarding the capacity of the water sector in handling all water issues in the region, even the minor ones.

At least 17 known donors were funding different water projects in the region.

"I would like to know whether there was also need to define how existing water agreements such as the Zambezi River Action Plan (ZACPLAN) contribute towards the implementation of the SADC Shared Watercourse Systems Protocol," a delegate from the private sector asked.

The acting director of the new SADC Water Sector, Sechocha Makhoalibe, outlined the ongoing and planned water development activities in the region adding that the protocol would not in any way disrupt these activities.

The Sub-Saharan Africa Hydrological Assessment Project, funded by the EU, is looking at the state of national hydrological services, but organisational, administrative and funding problems are being experienced. It has been recommended that capacity in water resources monitoring be strengthened. □

## SADC/EU water meeting

SADC and the European Union also jointly held an international conference in Maseru, Lesotho, on May 20-21, this year on the management of shared river basins. The conference, which provided a platform for exchange of ideas on water sharing, addressed water management: political; legal and institutional levels; and the operational level of river basin planning.

For more details, see next issue of *SADC Today*. □

# CITES: southern African states win ivory trade war

by Tinashe Madava & Maxwell Chivasa

Three southern African countries, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, with abundant elephant populations have won the battle to have the African elephant downlisted from Appendix 1 on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which will allow restricted trade in accumulated elephant tusks and hides to "certified" buyers only.

The downlisting had the following conditions:

- exports of sport hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes
- exports of live elephants to appropriate and acceptable destinations
- no international trade in ivory before 18 months after the transfer to Appendix II comes into effect. Thereafter an experimental quota for raw ivory not exceeding 25.3 tonnes (Botswana), 13.8 tonnes for Namibia and 20 tonnes for Zimbabwe, may be traded with Japan subject to the conditions established by the Conference of Parties.

Elephant populations are not endangered in the SADC states of Botswana with 72 000 elephants, Namibia 8 901 and Zimbabwe 68 000. Current estimates also put ivory stockpiles at 300 000 kg in the region worth about US\$30 million.

The trade was effectively banned internationally in 1989 when the elephant was placed in Appendix I of CITES prohibiting trade in the animal and all its products.

The proposal by the three SADC states was strongly backed by the other nine member states with South Africa putting forward amendments to the proposal with specific conditions for each of the proponent countries. The amended version of the proposal was key to its acceptance and the result of the vote.

But two days before the voting, the situation at the conference was tense with intensified lobbying for: downlisting by SADC member states and their friends, and for maintaining the elephant in Appendix 1 by most Western countries.

Botswana received 74 votes for the

downlisting while 21 opposed with 24 abstentions; Namibia, 74, 22 opposed and 24 abstentions; Zimbabwe, 77 votes, 20 opposed and 23 abstentions. The result was greeted with excitement, ululation, whistling and singing of "God Bless Africa". Sadness and disappointment was also witnessed among states and some animal rights non-governmental organisations that opposed the downlisting.

For an animal or plant to be downlisted, it required a two-thirds majority of the participating parties. The Zimbabwe Minister of Environment and Tourism, Chen Chimutengwende described the mood during the voting and just before the announcement of the result as "nerve-wrecking moments".

The unity of SADC states drew further support from other African states and beyond, which was manifested itself in the results of voting.

Immediately after the announcements of the results, some of the SADC ministers responsible for environment and tourism, addressed a joint press conference at which all expressed their happiness over the outcome of the Cites COP 10.

Chimutengwende, with Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, Gert Hanekom, Botswana's Minister of Commerce and Industry (which is responsible for environment), George Kgoroba, South Africa's Deputy Minister of Environment, Peter Mokaba, Zambia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, Amusaa Mwanawambwa, all said for southern African states it was a great day. This was a major step towards sustainable utilisation of natural resources which will be conserved as well for future generations.

Chimutengwende said there was great solidarity among SADC states and many other African states at the CITES conference.

Hanekom, visibly happy, said: "I'm

going back home excited, practical conservation news," pointing out that it is the only possible way that "our people can benefit from welfare and our conservation."



Elephants at Ndotu near Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

South Africa's proposal to have its white rhino downlisted from Appendix 1 was unsuccessful despite two attempts by open voting and a secret ballot plus support from other SADC countries. After losing in the earlier voting, Zimbabwe requested the conference to re-vote in a secret ballot which resulted in 50 parties voting in favour of the downlisting while 48 were against with 10 abstentions. □

## Mbuende welcomes CITES decision

In welcoming the CITES decision, SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Kaire Mbuende, said it underscored the importance of conserving our environment by ensuring that there is balance between utilisation and careful management of natural resources. He also pointed out that it had not been fair that the three SADC countries were seemingly being penalised for implementing successful elephant conservation and management strategies.

Dr Mbuende also said that the CITES conference had demonstrated that there is indeed strength in unity and that as a cohesive lobby group southern Africa could influence the outcome of major decisions that affect the lives of its citizens. □

## Plan of action: mainstreaming gender

by Virginia Muwanigwa

In one of the most important follow-ups to post-Beijing activities in southern Africa, more than 100 delegates converged in Mbabane, Swaziland from 14-18 April, to discuss the mainstreaming of gender issues.

The workshop, the third in a series of regional follow-up meetings to the 1995 Beijing conference, reaffirmed the need to maintain the momentum gained in lobbying for gender equality in national and regional policies.

SADC, through its Gender Task Force, has adopted a gender Plan of Action to turn rhetoric into action. During SADC's Consultative Conference in February, the Council of Ministers adopted recommendations for a programme to mainstream gender in all its structures and programmes.

"We, the women of the SADC region, have set ourselves the task of developing policies, programmes and strategies for the implementation of the regional plan of action for post-Beijing activities," said Caroline Davids, a member of the task force during the workshop.

Swaziland's Home Affairs minister, Prince Guduza urged participants to "design achievable mechanisms unique to the region," in his opening remarks. Toward this end, Mauritius, the latest entrant into SADC, has drafted a bill to make domestic violence a criminal offence. "Recognising the high incidence of domestic violence in the country, a domestic violence bill has been drafted.

The bill criminalises domestic violence and provides measures for timely and comprehensive protection of victims. Once the bill is passed by the Ministry of Justice, we will embark on a legal literacy campaign programme," said Sheila Gunganah of the Mauritius Alliance of Women (MAW).

Delegates from Angola, attending the conference just two days after the inauguration of the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation (GURN), said the country, which is emerging from a ravaging 20-year old civil war, is determined to ensure women's advancement. Six critical areas which include women's participation in

the peace process, women and poverty, food security and lack of economic power have been identified by the government.

"Efforts are being made to promote gender equality which include the identification of priority areas of concern for the advancement of women," said Henda Ducados, a NGO representative.

Swaziland, the only country that has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), said its major activity was to ensure it is ratified by the end of the year. A committee of officials is currently working on CEDAW for cabinet's attention and it is hoped that by the end of this year the government would have ratified. During the international women's day celebrations in March, the convention received tremendous attention from women's rights advocates.

The Prime Minister's Office in Swaziland has also created a gender task force within the Economic and Social Agenda. Their specific task is to draft a national gender equality policy by June 30 this year.

Some SADC countries still have no gender policy to ensure women's con-

cerns are taken into consideration, due largely to culture and traditions. The society, in most SADC countries, is a patriarchal one where powers are vested in men, and women have no decision-making powers or control over resources.

The need to repackage information in the national gender profiles as well as in the forthcoming regional book to suit various targets for effective use was highlighted.

Participants felt correct information on women's issues was vital for gender equality. The regional book, like the national gender profiles on the 12 SADC countries, has chapters derived from the 12 critical areas of concern.

Participants noted that information on the situation of women with disabilities, women and the environment, and women in media and information systems was not available and called for more research in such areas.

The workshop was jointly organised by the Regional Gender Advisory Committee and Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), facilitated by the UN Women's Development Fund (UNIFEM) and the Netherlands Government Directorate of International Cooperation (DGIS). □

### Africa's first woman leader at OAU Summit!

For the first time ever, women played a direct role at the recently ended Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit. The Liberian Interim President, Ruth Perry, (right) attended the summit on behalf of the West African nation.

After the summit, President Perry addressed a meeting to share ideas with Zimbabwean women in business, and political decision-making positions. Participants learnt that her perseverance has contributed to peace in Liberia where she has been participating in programmes for women and children.

"I am from the grassroots and I will remain at the grassroots because I want to know the problems and how I could assist," she said, noting that it is a challenge to be a woman head of state, because "if I fail all women would have failed".

The President said that women are good organisers who teach children good values and mould them



to become leaders. "How then can we fail to rule the very people that we mould," she mused, adding that it is important that women support each other.

President Perry said that to be a leader, one had to be firm, flexible, patient, loving and she had applied these principles when she came in and stabilised the situation.

Commenting on the First Ladies Peace Initiative (a report was presented to incoming OAU chairman, President Robert Mugabe), President Perry felt they should be given support. □

## region shows great potential for growth

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partners with indigenous entrepreneurs.

Mugabe lamented that in a region with a population of 140 million, growing at an annual average of three percent and with combined gross domestic product (GDP) of about US\$170 billion, average annual economic growth rate is creeping below three percent, a situation that has resulted in a one percent annual erosion in the living standards of the region's people.

He pointed out that after political security, justice, peace and democracy, many people in the region still hunger for economic emancipation and prosperity. "The democratic vote alone cannot bring about an improvement in a person's standard of living," Mugabe said, adding that increased investment and employment opportunities were a necessary complement.

Many international business-persons were impressed to learn of the vast potential of the region as well as real cases of success stories unveiled during the summit, in contrast to a picture of an Africa ravaged by war and famine as portrayed in the western media.

Baroness Lynda Chalker, former British Minister for Overseas Development, chaired a session on the "Challenges of Developing a Free Trade Area" which drew a lot of excitement from the participants.

Although all panellists were positive about how to establish a Free Trade Area within an eight-year framework, Chalker noted that there remains a great deal of work for individual countries, bilaterally, within SADC and between the region and the rest of the world.

Just how much work was demonstrated by a question from Simba Makoni, former executive secretary of SADC, who asked why only two countries had ratified the SADC Trade Protocol which was signed a year ago by heads of state.

On ways to increase foreign direct investment, it was recommended that governments should deregulate markets, phase out foreign currency controls, ensure a stable legal system and adopt a friendly tax environment.

Although this was already happening, much still needed to be done to give the region a competitive edge over other

possible investment destinations around the globe, said David Robins, executive vice-president of the Union Bank of Switzerland.

"Am I entering a region where my capital and entrepreneurship are welcome or shall I be endlessly entangled in bureaucracy? The greater the ease of doing business and the fewer the obstacles put in your way, the greater the interest in investment," said Robins challenging policy-makers in SADC to create investor friendly economies.

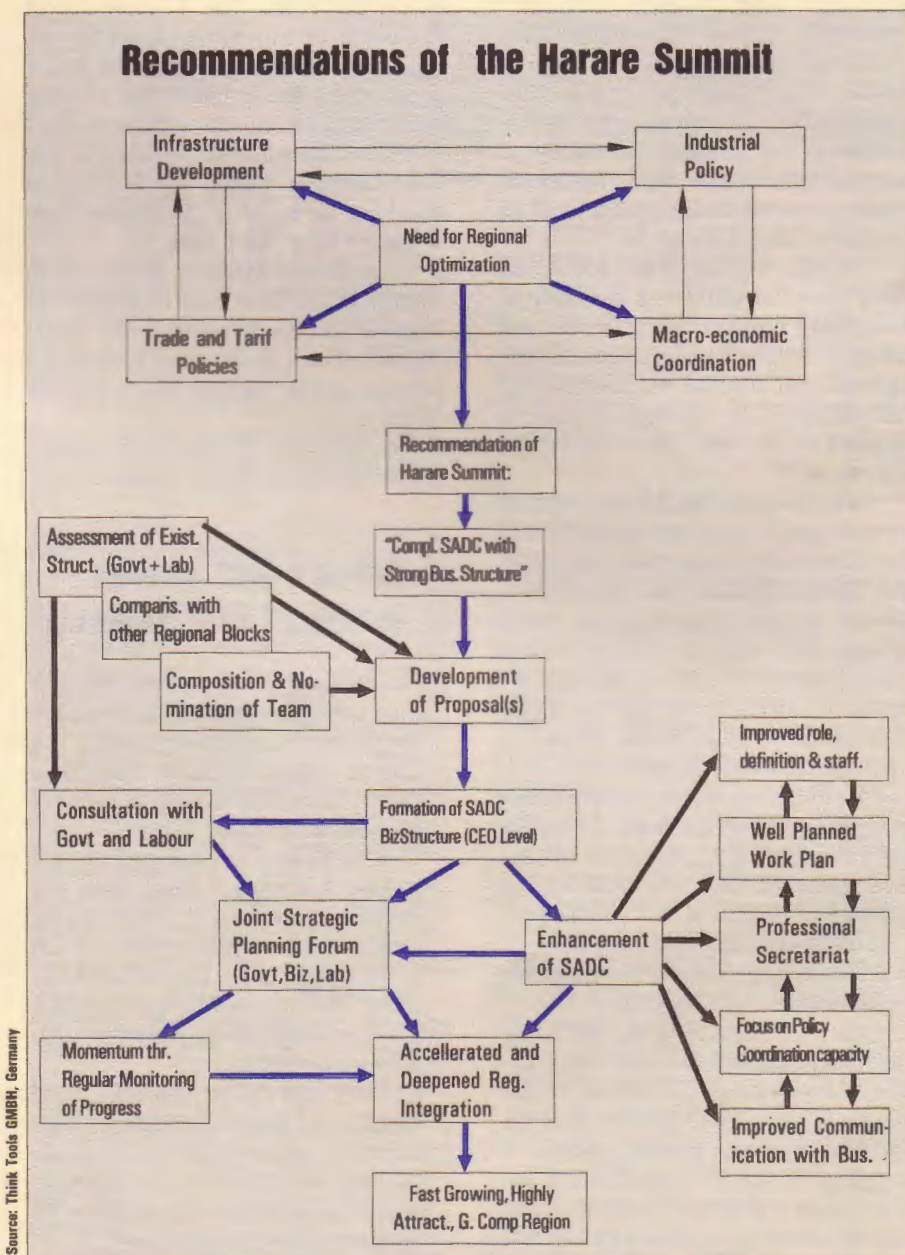
In 1995, investment flows into individual SADC member states was US\$90 million each, compared with US\$2 billion into Peru and US\$7 billion into tiny Singapore.

Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Harvard Institute for International Development, dispelled any notions of mystery surrounding Africa's slow growth, saying that the continent does not need unique model to attain high economic growth.

Fast growth in southern Africa, as elsewhere, would be achieved by increasing export performance.

The next Southern Africa Economic Summit will be held on 13 - 15 May 1998 in Mauritius. □

### Recommendations of the Harare Summit





## OAU summit in Harare

*continued from page 1*

which came to a completely liberated southern Africa for the first time since the last OAU gathering in the region in Zambia in 1972.

The newly installed President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, Laurent Desire Kabila attended the 33rd OAU session after his seven-month campaign that removed the ailing former leader Mobuto Sese Seko.

The Islamic President of Sudan, Omar El-Bashir promoted his government's peace attempt back home saying all political parties were "free to come into the agreement" signed by six political parties in the country.

But the Harare-based Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) spokesman, Dr Benjamin dismissed the peace agreement in his address to journalists saying it was unacceptable and war would continue. SPLA criticised the OAU for not putting the world's longest war, 42

years, on the agenda. "I don't know what magnanimity is required for something to get on to the OAU agenda," said Dr Benjamin.

OAU's final declarations were particularly strong on some of the more critical issues like the setting up of the AEC and the united stance by African leaders on their threat to break United Nations Security Council sanctions on Libya in connection with the alleged bombing of an airline over Lockerbie in 1988.

The resolutions also included the Harare declaration of the OAU on the reform of the UN Security Council to democratise its composition which they want expanded to 26. They want the membership to benefit developing, and African countries in particular.

OAU wants Africa to be allocated no less than two permanent seats to be allotted to countries by a decision of Africans on a rotational basis. The continent should also be allocated five non-permanent seats in the expanded Security Council.

The African Economic Community (AEC) also met for the first time at the OAU in Harare. Salim Ahmed Salim was asked to continue establishing strong relations between the AEC and the regional economic communities in Africa such as SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS and others.

In line with the new thrust of economic development of the OAU, the political leaders acknowledged the role of industrialisation in economic transformation and resolved that efforts should be redoubled to promote sustainable industrial developments to overcome major socio-economic constraints.

This would help Africa achieve a greater stake in the global market place as called for in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty Establishing the AEC. Member states were urged to involve the African private sector and technical support from UNIDO and other organisations.

A meeting by relevant UN agencies will be held by the end of 1998 to decide measures to be taken for financing programmes.

The threat by African states to break sanctions against Libya in her dispute with the United States and Britain was made in sympathy with Libya's plea to the OAU to help resolve the crisis. The heads of state and government emphasised that the sanctions had affected not only the Libyan people but also neighbouring countries.

OAU backed Libya's refusal to extradite the two nationals allegedly implicated in the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 which resulted in the country being slapped with sanctions by the UN Security Council.

Recognising that malaria remains a major killer disease and a barrier to sustainable social and economic development, the OAU meeting pledged to take malaria control in Africa as one of its priority programmes and prevent the disease.

The meeting took note of, and commended the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the activities so far carried out to promote dialogue at regional and sub-regional levels and the dissemination of information on peace, security and disarmament in Africa, despite its limited financial resources. □

## SADC trade ministers on US mission

*continued from page 1*

between the US and SADC focusing on agri-business, manufacturing, mining and energy, transport and communications and tourism.

The main purpose of the mission by SADC Ministers was to enhance SADC-US economic, trade and investment relations. The delegation had roundtable discussions with the new US Secretary of Commerce, William Daley, and other senior US officials at the Capitol Hill. They also met Congressmen working on the Bill to expand trade and investment ties with Africa and discuss the SADC Trade Protocol with US experts on trade and trading blocs.

The SADC mission also benefited from attending the Corporate Council on Africa Summit whose conference theme was "Attracting Capital to Africa".

The roundtable brought together SADC ministers and ambassadors, and US government senior administration officials to discuss US commercial policy for Africa and other issues related to Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Post Lome Arrangements, the

World Trade Organisation (WTO) and global trade.

The delegation welcomed the new US Commercial Policy for Africa which is aimed at establishing a framework for supporting and facilitating African efforts to create an enabling environment for the promotion of trade, investment and sustainable development.

But the delegation expressed concern at the apparent reduction of development aid to Africa, pointing out that the flow of American investment to the continent was still small and was not commensurate with the reduction in development assistance.

SADC states also stand to benefit from the US McDermott Bill which will facilitate:

- the negotiation of a US-Africa Free Trade Area by the year 2020,
- the creation of a US-Africa Economic Cooperation Forum, and
- the establishment of a US-Africa trade and investment partnership to support privately managed equity and infrastructure funds. □

## Redefining stakeholders in the culture sector

Culture has a potential to be the most dynamic tool in building the SADC. This potential has been recognized by the nature of projects in the Culture and Information Sector especially the SADC Arts and Culture Project conceived in 1993. The SADC Music Festival which was held in 1995 was an excellent example of how cultural exchanges among the ordinary peoples of the SADC can be realised as a way of consolidating regional integration, understanding and community consciousness.

It is evident that the enthusiasm shown by the members of the Regional Organizing Committee of SADC Arts and Culture Festival in 1993 has waned tremendously as uncertainty in realizing this project dominated the attitude and commitment of cultural departments of member States. This uncertainty has been responsible for the poor and hesitant publicity of the planned festivals in member States. The unfortunate result of this uncertainty is that those who should have been key-players and stakeholders in this project have been totally marginalised as the planning and implementation of these events become the sole responsibility of government departments of member states.

During the Consultative Conference of the SADC held in Namibia in February this year, the Culture and Information Sector attempted to review the SADC Arts and Culture Festival Project and other projects of the Sector. This review was aimed at addressing the fact that the planned festivals tend to be postponed regularly and that the funding of the project was uncertain.

It was also the concern of government representatives in the sectoral meeting in Windhoek that the festival and other projects of the Culture and Information Sector were solely dependent on donor funding and yet in 1993 it was argued that the SADC Arts and Culture Festival Project would eventually become a responsibility of the cultural industries of SADC which, in many cases, are quite viable. There was no time to review projects and answer the fundamental question of who the stakeholders of the projects are and what their responses to these issues of funding and sustainability have been.

My own view is that projects of the SADC culture and information sector cannot achieve their objectives and be successfully implemented until the sector has identified the key-players and stakeholders as well as establish a mechanism for their participation in the planning and implementation of projects. Cultural industries are largely the responsibility of the private sector and mass cultural organizations.

More recently, cultural promoters, which are private concerns and tourism operators have become important players in the development of cultural industries.



Stephen J. Chifunyise

### VIEW ON CULTURE

To a great extent, most of the enterprises involved in cultural industries already operate on a regional context. Those involved in these cultural industries should therefore be regarded as key-players and stakeholders.

During the annual meetings of SADC Ministers responsible for culture and information, it is often taken for granted that mass cultural organizations and the private enterprises in cultural industries in member States will be involved in the implementation of SADC projects.

What this assumption does not take into consideration are the following factors. Firstly, in many member States, mass organizations do not exist in many facets of the arts and culture. The formation and sustainability of these mass cultural organizations requires financial resources provided by government departments on the understanding that these organizations are key-players and stakeholders in cultural development. Secondly, it is evident that in many member States, there are no structures for regular consultation between government departments and mass cultural organizations. Thirdly, many delegations of member States to sectoral

meeting hardly include representatives of mass cultural organizations and leaders of private sector cultural industries. Fourthly, documents which spell out the nature of stakeholders and their role in the implementation of the SADC Culture project do not exist.

In 1996 the critical evaluation of SADC Music Festival showed clearly that private sector funding would guarantee the success of the future music festivals and that of the remainder of the events in the SADC Arts and Culture Festival Project.

The fast developing tourism industry has begun to play a role in the promotion of a viable access to the arts and culture of the region by both the people of the region and tourists.

The most important project for the Culture Sector should therefore be to identify stakeholders and to develop structures for their consultation and participation in sectoral policy and project formulation meetings. Of paramount importance is the establishment of SADC-driven organizations in the culture sector as part of the process of building the capacity of key-players and stakeholders in the sector.

The current tendency of government departments of member States to present SADC Culture projects as "government" programmes, can only give way to the idea of "community projects". When the identified key-players and stakeholders of the sector have been made to appreciate their role and expected contribution, they need to be involved in the formulation and the implementation of the projects.

This strategy will require the reform of the annual sectoral meetings in such a way that they are preceded by formal "in-country" consultations budgeted for by member States as part of the community building process.

At the moment, sectoral meetings have placed so much trust in what reports of member States indicate without a system of checking whether real consultation between government departments and the private sector have taken place. □

*The author, Stephen J. Chifunyise, is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Recreation, Zimbabwe.*

## From Zaire to Congo signals brightest future in 30 years

As Laurent-Desire Kabila took over the leadership of the new Democratic Republic of Congo, there was jubilation and hope, not just among the 46 million citizens of Africa's third largest country, but throughout most of the continent.

Mobutu Sese Seko slipped away from the capital of old Zaire and has since stopped over in Rabat, Morocco, where he is living with his entourage.

The end of more than three decades of Mobutuism cannot help but stabilise central, eastern and southern Africa. Congo has borders with nine countries, including three SADC nations -- Zambia, Angola and Tanzania. It has riches galore and links people from east to west across Africa's midriff.

Kabila, who has now formed a broad-based government, has promised to hold elections by April 1999. However, veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi who was left from the transitional government claims the post of prime minister and wants elections in one year.

Kabila has also pledged to rebuild the DRC and its economy and bring together its 200-plus ethnic groups into a nation. USAID has already moved into the country to assess areas that require financial assistance. □

## Council of ministers meets on SADC peace organ

A SADC meeting of ministers of foreign affairs, defence and security in Harare, Zimbabwe outlined the organ's institutional framework to replace the Frontline States.

The regional "Ministerial Workshop on the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence Peace and Security" on 9 May explored the most appropriate and practical ways and structures to realise the goals of the organ.

"What we expect now, before the end of June, is that we will have scrutinised the protocol and meet again to pass on our recommendations to the heads of state. We think we have worked within

the leaders' mandate and that they will adopt our agreements," said Stan Mudenge, Zimbabwe foreign affairs ministers, after the meeting.

Described as "a milestone in the enhancement of the political and other forms of cooperation" that have characterised regional relations, the meeting said the organ is "an important vehicle for effective cooperation with the OAU Central Mechanism on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and the United Nations". The meeting also explored the possibility of reforming the UN with particular emphasis on the Security Council.

Two papers were presented on the OAU's experiences in establishing preventive diplomacy and political cooperation in the region.

Already, regional cooperation has taken place with Zimbabwe hosting Operation Blue Hungwe, a military training exercise for peace-keeping operations. □

## SA-EU closer to trade agreement

The long-standing trade negotiations between South Africa and the European Union (EU) have reached an advanced stage, with the latter granting Pretoria partial access to the Lome Convention.

A recent statement from the EU said the community gave the green light to a draft protocol to the convention which sets out the terms and conditions of South Africa's membership of Lome.

"It was agreed that Lome trade benefits will not apply to South Africa. Trade relations will be governed by a separate bilateral agreement, which will contain provisions for the establishment of a free trade area," said the EU.

The major stumbling blocks in the negotiation process have been resistance from the EU to allow unrestricted access of South African fruit and agricultural produce, and negotiations for preferential treatment under Lome, as well as separating these talks from the bilateral trade agreement.

Reports from South Africa say the country is keen to acquire even restricted membership to the Lome Convention which grants preferential treatment to 70 developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP).

A joint statement issued early this

year said the EU was responsive to South Africa's concerns for regional implications of a possible SA-EU trade agreement. But the EU is adamant on excluding 39% of South African agricultural exports under the initial proposals, which represents less than four percent of the country's total exports to the EU.

The European Commission said recommendations in the draft protocol were to be approved by the EU Council of Ministers, before final approval by a joint EU-ACP Council of Ministers meeting later in the year. □

## Poverty forum in Namibia

Namibian President, Sam Nujoma, has called for concerted action in reducing poverty against statistics that more than 140 million people of SADC, around 70 percent reside in rural areas and a vast majority are poor.

Nujoma made the call when he opened the "Regional Forum on Poverty Eradication in southern Africa" in Windhoek, Namibia on 13 - 15 May which drew together more than 150 participants to discuss attainable strategies to alleviate poverty in southern Africa. Delegates were drawn from government, NGOs, media, community-based organisations, regional and UN agencies from Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Namibia.

SADC representative, Fudzai Pamacheche, noted that political and economic changes in the region have brought to the fore new challenges, namely the tragedy and persistence of rural poverty. "However, a common and frustrating theme is a wide gap between words and deeds, between policy statements and programme implementation," he said.

Globalisation and structural adjustment programmes have "eroded social responsibility for combatting poverty and achieving equity" increasingly marginalising the poor.

The gender dimension of poverty was also highlighted, where it was observed that women, whether employed or otherwise, urban or rural, constitute the majority of the poor.

Some of the poverty reduction strategies identified were facilitating economic growth and enhancing status of women. □

## Recommendations from the Windhoek conference

*The 1997 Consultative Conference held in Windhoek approved the following conclusions and recommendations. Part of these were carried in Vol. 1, No. 2 issue of SADC Today published in April 1997.*

### Macro-economic policy framework at the regional level

- In order to ensure commitment, initiative and to facilitate follow-up, there is need for the creation of a Regional Productivity Movement. This should be supported by the establishment of productivity monitoring mechanisms or building that capacity in SADC.
- The region should attract both regional and foreign investment. Factors that are key to the stimulation of investment include the speedy establishment of a free trade area in the region; the creation of an enabling macro-economic policy environment; the coordination and harmonisation of macro-economic policies; and increased trade with the rest of the world.
- There is a need for conscious efforts directed at employment creation. Particular focus should be on the development of small and medium-scale enterprise; giving preference to expertise already available within SADC; as well as provision of training.
- The region should institutionalise the participation of labour movements and the private sector through the creation of tripartite consultative forums.
- The region's consumption patterns should change with more emphasis directed towards long-term savings.

### Enabling environment at the enterprise level

- The region should focus on entrepreneurship promotion through national campaigns.
- There is a need for the creation of a Regional Business Association.
- Joint ventures between companies operating in different SADC member States should be encouraged.
- The region should promote the participation of NGOs, the private sector and labour movement in SADC activities. For instance, the private sector should play a prominent role in sectors such as Finance and Investment, Trade and Industry, Tourism etc.
- Special funds should be established to promote research and development of new products, processes, equipment, and marketing efforts by small and medium scale enterprises.
- Education systems need to change to reflect the new global order. Basic business skills should be provided for at schools.

- New mindsets or market orientation, and "right first time" should be inculcated in all employees.

### Labour management relations

- Labour-management relations and its relation to productivity should be incorporated in SADC protocols, especially those relating to Human Resources Development and utilisation.
- Progress regarding labour-management cooperation for productivity improvement should be included in the Progress Reports of SADC.
- Mechanism should be put in place for sharing experiences on participatory performance improvement approaches that work in the region, taking into consideration specific cultural issues, legal frameworks, enterprise structures, etc.
- Management in both the public and private sector should take the initiative in implementing labour-management cooperation, employee participation and empowerment, effective communication, training of management and workers, and installation of support and human resource management practices supportive of harmonious labour-management cooperation.

### Productivity measurement

- Productivity measurement needs to be vigorously carried out within SADC. This must include measurement at enterprise level (including governments departments and NGOs), sectoral, national and regional levels.
- An awareness campaign designed to highlight the importance of measurement needs to be carried out.
- There is need for a coordinating body to orchestrate national productivity efforts and act as a clearing house for productivity information.
- Measurement functions at national and enterprise levels need to be strengthened and improved through training and capacity building.
- One way to simultaneously build capacity and ensure standardisation of procedures and data at national level would be to hold a regional productivity measurement seminar.
- Awareness of the importance of productivity measurement and of measurement approach at enterprise level can be achieved through study missions to review measurement in successful organisations.
- All awareness and capacity building activities must stress that perceptions of productivity measurement are often negative and the installation of measurement systems can be seen as a threat to job security.
- SADC Secretariat should include productivity benchmark information in its statistical publications. The information would be of both a regional and international character...□

## Make culture a two-way traffic: Matusse

As different cultures come to Africa blending with local ones, the SADC Sector Coordinator on Culture and Information, Renato Matusse, says people should ensure that the culture highway is a two way traffic.

These were the realities of the world. "We need to recognise that culture is not static, it is always changing and people will be adapting to new realities as we go on in life.

"Various aspects of culture keep coming from other parts of the world, some of them are enriching our cultures while others can be ignored," said Matusse in Lusaka, Zambia, during last month's meeting of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Culture, Information and Sport.

In an interview with *SADC Today*, the Sector Coordinator emphasised the need to ensure that the culture highway is a two way traffic, and therefore cultures were exchangeable.

The SADC region was a "cultural goldmine" awaiting to be exploited and now there was need to develop regional markets for it.

Various musical and cultural festivals had been planned in Harare and Maputo and some already implemented.

"But whatever we are doing now, we must be able to attract the private sector, taking advantage of the political will of governments, especially on the management of the facilities."

On the media, SADC countries had adopted the Windhoek Declaration for the media to operate freely. He noted that it was not an easy process.

The coordinator said criticism was welcome throughout the region but it was also important to consider that there



Culture and Information Coordinator, Matusse

were "a number of good things" taking place in SADC. Peace and stability had come to the region, with multiparty democracies emerging. Matusse deplored criticism of SADC for the sake of it when a lot had been achieved. □

## Use of African languages in schools urged

The official use of African languages in educational institutions is a prerequisite for maximizing African creativity and resourcefulness in development activities, an Inter-governmental Conference on Language Policies in Africa held in Harare Zimbabwe concluded.

"Many Africans cannot fully be involved in the development of their

countries because of language barriers so there is need to give African languages the official status and functions they deserve, said the Director of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Federico Mayor, in a paper presented on his behalf by the Assistant Director General, Sector of Culture, Lourdes Arizpe.

The conference noted that there is need for Africa to adopt clear policies for the use and development of mother tongues as well as community, national and international languages.

Institutions and research departments were encouraged to initiate and teach African languages to intensify and reinforce their activities to play a catalytic role in the global effort to achieve the development of Africa.

"Africa is resolved to ensure that its linguistic and cultural diversity can and should be enabled to constitute levers for individual actualization, collective progress and national strength," said O. Akinluyi, chairman of the Africa Group of Ambassadors in UNESCO.

There are between 1 250 and 2 100 languages in Africa concentrated in an area between Senegal in the West and Ethiopia in the East. About 105 million people speak about 410 languages in Nigeria, Zaire has 206 languages and Tanzania, 120.

The conference was jointly organised by UNESCO, the Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique (ACCT) and the Organisation of African Unity. □

## 1998 World Cup soccer qualifiers

Angola and South Africa may carry SADC's dream of World Cup glory as they now need to win or draw respectively their remaining fixtures to qualify for the soccer finals in France.

South Africa, who are tied on 10 points with Congo-Brazzaville after five matches, are group three favourites. The Bafana Bafana, as the South African national squad is affectionately known, only need just a point from their remaining fixture at home against Congo-Brazzaville to be sure of a first ever appearance at a world cup soccer final.

South Africa boosted their chances after a 3-0 thrashing of fellow southern Africans, Zambia early this month to lead group three on goal difference.

Bafana Bafana's chances were in doubt after an earlier threat to withdraw by the Democratic Republic of Congo citing financial problems. The latter has however fulfilled their fixture against Congo-Brazzaville putting South Africa back in contention.

Angola, who are currently lying second in group four, have an easier task away to Togo who anchor the group with one win from five outings. However, the Leopards of Angola need an outright win against Togo in their last game and hope Cameroon lose or draw their remaining but tricky fixture away to Zimbabwe who are however out of the race.

All the remaining qualifiers are scheduled for August this year after which the fate of the two SADC contenders will be known.

Other African countries which have already qualified for the finals are Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia. □

## Tourism: the region's fastest growing industry

*Below is an extract from a report by the SADC Tourism Sector, coordinated by Mauritius, February 1997.*

**T**ourism is a delicate but very viable industry, if properly managed. Delicate because it is based on volatile human desires, and viable because these desires are varied and therefore very broad-based. Since the industry deals with these varied needs, the product it sells is a composite one, made up of various other products that are required for human comfort.

The SADC region is endowed with natural attractions, prominent of which are wildlife, mountain ranges, the wilderness and scenery, the beach and islands, natural wonders like the Okavango Delta and the Victoria Falls, dinosaur footprints and bushman paintings, culture and the beautiful people of southern Africa. All of these, and many more, combine to make a visit to the region a memorable experience.

Organisation within the sector has not been conducive to its optimal performance. This has primarily been due to the hitherto minimal contacts between the two main players in tourism, namely, the public sector as facilitator, and the private sector as implementor. Hence, in August 1995 it was decided to establish the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) within the SADC framework. RETOSA is meant to enhance the role of the private sector in tourism development.

An interim phase ran from September 1995 to March 1996. This period was set aside for interim activities that would lead to the formal start of RETOSA operations in April 1996. However, due to budgetary constraints, the interim period has had to be extended indefinitely.

Interim activities of RETOSA were performed by interim structures, namely, an Interim Board of Directors and an Interim Secretariat. Since October 1995, several meetings of the Interim Board and the Interim Executive Committee have been held.

During the interim phase, several activities have been undertaken in the promotion of RETOSA. These included participation by ministers responsible for tourism at major Travel and Tourism

Exhibitions like International Travel Board (ITB) in Berlin and WTM in London. The sector also interacted with prospective investors at various Trade and Investment fora.

A draft Charter of RETOSA is actively under consideration...

Mauritius was admitted as the 12th member of SADC in August 1995. This

has diversified the tourism product. It has also presented a challenge to the sector because of the geographic distance of this new member in terms of product packaging, for instance.

In its five-year Development Strategy, the Tourism Sector acknowledges the need to restructure the sector in order to bring the private sector into the mainstream of its activities...□

### Let's market tourism as a region, minister

Although southern Africa's tourism industry is endowed with an abundance of natural assets ranging from game parks, deserts, waterfalls to mountains, rivers and sun-drenched beaches, the region is not reaping full benefits of this great potential.

The region lacks clear-cut and coordinated strategies on marketing its tourism, one of the fastest

growing industries in southern Africa, says Jose Arunasalom, Minister of Tourism of Mauritius which coordinates the SADC Tourism Sector.

According to latest figures released by the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), tourist arrivals in SADC have increased by over 19 percent per annum on average between 1987 and 1996. This represents the highest percentage of any African sub-region and twice more than the average of the whole continent which grew by 8.5 percent over the same period.

Tourism receipts have also increased by an annual average of 16 percent, almost double the average for the whole Africa region over the same period.

"However, southern Africa is still a very small player with only one percent



**WILDLIFE:** one of the region's major tourist attractions

of world arrivals and 0.6 percent of world tourism receipts," said Arunasalom at the recent Southern Africa Economic Summit in Harare.

He questioned why tourism's contribution to GDP was still comparatively low considering the opportunities presented by the region.

Inadequate infrastructure, poor air networks, lack of trained manpower and uncoordinated regional efforts are some of the factors often cited as obstacles hindering SADC from claiming its fair share of what is fast becoming the biggest industry world-wide both in terms of job creation and revenues generated.

"If we want to tap the interesting opportunities in tourism for the benefit of all countries of our region, the basic infrastructure requirements are needed," advised the minister. □

*Southern Africa After Elections: Towards a Culture of Democracy*  
 Edited by C. Marias, P.H. Katjavivi and A. Wehmhörner  
 Reviewed by Virginia Muwanigwa

This book, a result of a regional conference on *Southern Africa after Elections: Towards a Culture of Democracy*, analyses the situation and trends in the region where several countries have embraced democracy and held multi-party elections.

Due to social movements strengthened by pressures which overthrew colonialism and apartheid, historic political changes occurred in southern Africa and beyond. Democratic elections in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe formed the basis of the analysis for the conference.

The conference also sought to establish the conditions for the promotion of a culture of democracy beyond the preparation and conduct of free and fair elections.

The conference, held in Windhoek, Namibia, was jointly organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) the University of Namibia and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

Topics covered include; Democratic Spring in Africa; Problems and Perspectives; Political Parties and Democracy; Institutions and Democracy, Development and Democracy; and Challenges for Regional Cooperation and Suggestions for Future Action.

The main topics were further broken down to specific subjects including the role of opposition parties, the importance of parliament as a democratic institution, the role of media, traditional leaders and the grassroots people.

The book notes that all countries have

committed themselves to participatory democracy within multi-party systems, alluding to the decentralisation of power to local and regional governments, and involvement of non-state actors in power-sharing.

"Moving towards democracy means putting democracy into practice, in all ways of behaviour and interacting with other human beings..." reads a section in the book.

According to the book, although a conducive environment for democracy and political and cultural freedom to think critically and express oneself exists, there is need to question "the paradigms of development, governance and rethink modes of thought and institutions".

The publication assesses successes and failures of democracy, and explores the role of institutions such as local and regional governments, parliaments, judiciary, political parties, non-governmental organisations and the media.

The report urges "governments in the region to create political atmospheres conducive to the participation of all citizens in the political process, particularly women, and all other civic organisations without fear and free from any form of intimidation".

Finally, *Southern Africa After Elections: Towards a Culture of Democracy* states that: "The process and practice of democracy could not occur without the existence of informed and active citizens, including the population at grassroots level." □

Published by Gamsberg Macmillan Publishers (Pty) Ltd, P O Box 22830, Windhoek, Namibia.

## LETTER BOX

Dear Editor

I was pleased to go through the first volume of SADC Today. You must be congratulated for such an initiative as it is informative particularly to member countries.

I would appreciate to subscribe for issues to come. I am writing a dissertation on SADC as an emerging trade block. I would be grateful if you can provide me with relevant information on SADC as a cooperation organisation.

Rabin Gungoo  
 Telfar, Moka, Mauritius.

Dear Editor

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your informative bi-monthly, newsletter, SADC Today Volume 1 No.1 of February, 1997.

Copies of the same are being forwarded to our missions within and outside the region. We are looking forward to receiving the same number of copies of future editions.

I. I. Matiyenga  
 for Secretary Foreign Affairs, Zimbabwe.

Dear Editor

Thank you for sending us copies of *SADC Today*. We have distributed them to a number of NGOs here and hope they will be good use to them.

We shall appreciate more copies to distribute to as many NGOs as possible.

John Kakaire-Menya  
 Coordinator Information Exchange,  
 Development Network of Indigenous  
 Voluntary Associations (DENIVA),  
 Uganda.

## Recent publications & acquisitions

*An Inventory of Women Scientists in SADC Countries*

--Mpuchane, Sisa.- 1996

Available from Academic Science Publishers, PO Box 14798, Nairobi, Kenya.

*Sub-regional Security Co-operation: the Southern African Development Community in Comparative Perspective*

--Cawthra, Gavin.- 1997

Available from CSAS, UWC, P Bag X17, 7535, Bellville, RSA.

*Canada and Southern Africa After Apartheid: Foreign Aid and Civil Society*

--Swatuk, A. Larry and Black (eds).- 1996

Available from Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, University of Dalhousie, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3H 4H6.

*Gender Inequalities in Education in the Southern Africa Region: Analysis of Intervention Strategies*

--Dorsey, Jo Betty.- 1996

Available from UNESCO Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa, P.O. Box HG435, Highlands, Harare, Zimbabwe.

*Economic Integration in Southern Africa: Towards Cost and Benefit Analysis in Tanzania*

--Wangwe, Samuel.- 1995

Available from Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), 51 Uporoto Street, Ursino Estates, P.O. Box 31226, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

## SADC diary

1997		Event	Venue	
June	2-4	OAU Summit	Zimbabwe	
	2-5	*SADC Industry and Trade Sectoral Meetings	Mauritius	
	4-13	*SADC HRD Sectoral Meetings	Namibia	
	9-13	*SADC Water Sectoral Meetings	South Africa	
	9-20	CITES 10th Conference of Parties	Zimbabwe	
	10-14	*SADC Energy Sectoral Meetings	Tanzania	
	16-20	*SADC Marine Fisheries Sectoral Meetings	Namibia	
	21-27	SADC Theatre Festival	Mozambique	
	23-24	Workshop on SADC-EU Relations on Post Lome	Botswana	
	23-27	*SADC FANR Sectoral Meetings	Mauritius	
	23-27	*SADC Mining Sectoral Meetings	Swaziland	
	28-4/7	*SADC Transport and Communication Sectoral Meetings	Mauritius	
	July	5-7	International Conference on Democracy and Zanzibar's Political Development Process	Tanzania
		7-8	*SADC Sector Coordinators Meeting	Botswana
11-16		Regional Workshop on Biodiversity	Zimbabwe	
12-14		Launching German Business Initiative	Namibia	
15-17		Forum for Financial Integration & Financial Market Development in Africa	Mauritius	
16		SADC Finance and Investment Sectoral Meetings	Angola	
18		SADC Finance and Investment Ministers Meeting	Angola	
21-25		African-African American Business Summit	Zimbabwe	
28-31		Pan African Women Organisation (PAWO) Conference	Zimbabwe	
28-01/08		Parallel convention and exposition to be held in conjunction with the 13th Triennial Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers on the theme "Education and Technology-- the Challenges for the 21st century"	Botswana	
August		2-9	Zimbabwe International Book Fair	Zimbabwe
	17	SADC Day	All SADC	

\* Unless otherwise stated, Ministers meet on the last day of each set of sectoral meetings.

Public holidays in SADC countries  
for the period July-August 1997

Date	Holiday	Country
1 Jul	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
6 Jul	Independence Day	Malawi
7 Jul	Saba Saba Day	Tanzania
7 Jul	Heroes' Day	Zambia
8 Jul	Unity Day	Zambia
16 Jul	Maulid	Tanzania
17 Jul	King's Birthday	Lesotho
21 Jul	President Day	Botswana
22 Jul	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 Jul	Public Holiday	Swaziland
4 Aug	Farmers' Day	Zambia
8 Aug	Peasants' Day	Tanzania
9 Aug	National Women's Day	South Africa
11 Aug	Heroes' Day	Zimbabwe
12 Aug	Defence Forces' Day	Zimbabwe
26 Aug	Heroes' Day	Namibia

## Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 Lewi)	200979.00
Botswana	Pula (100 Thebe)	3.48
Lesotho	Maloti (100 Lisente)	4.47
Malawi	Kwacha (100 Tambala)	15.10
Mauritius	Rupee (100 Cents)	20.34
Mozambique	Metical (100 Centavos)	11100.98
Namibia	Dollar (100 Cents)	4.47
South Africa	Rand (100 Cents)	4.47
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 Cents)	4.47
Tanzania	Shilling (100 Cents)	601.03
Zambia	Kwacha (100 Ngwee)	1284.98
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	11.44

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, June 1997