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Cross-border movement of people

by Munetsi Madakufamba

IN A fitting commemoration of SADC's Silver Jubilee, the leaders of member states concluded their 2005 summit in Botswana by adopting a watershed decision that will facilitate easier movement of people in the region.

This is based on the premise that full participation in the process of building the region into a community is only possible where the citizens of the region can enjoy freedom of movement across borders.

The signing of the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons in SADC, aimed at enabling the movement of people to other countries in the region, is a defining moment in the history of this regional community that has adopted more than 30 legal instruments in its quarter of a century in existence.

While all other protocols and declarations signed thus far are important in harmonising

national policies and providing the legal framework for regional cooperation and integration, the new protocol, as one delegate put it, is "the people's protocol" that will give relevance to all other legal instruments. It directly extends the benefits of SADC to all citizens of the region.

Already signed by half of the 14 member states and still subject to ratification by two-thirds of the members, the protocol's overall objective is to develop policies that are aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the movement of people in the SADC region. It will facilitate visa-free entry, residence and establishment by individuals or families in territories of member states.

The protocol applies to citizens of SADC countries. Although the maximum period per year for visa-free entry will be 90 days, the protocol provides for the visitor to apply for an extension subject to the laws of the Member State.

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Cross-border movement of people

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Applicants for residence permits can expect their requests to be processed much more expeditiously after the protocol comes into force. Similarly, the protocol provides for those who are seeking permission to perform a legal economic activity or business or those who want to practice a profession, for instance as a lawyer or doctor, in a fellow member state.

The countries that did not sign on the day of the summit are Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania and Zambia.

The objectives are to facilitate:

- o entry into member states without the need for a visa for a maximum period of 90 days per year for *bona fide* visit and in accordance with the laws of the member state;
- o permanent and temporary residence in the territory of another member state; and
- o working in the territory of another member state.

The new protocol approved by the SADC summit in August, will now need to be ratified by at least nine member states before implementation can begin. The process of ratification involves member states depositing legal papers with the SADC Secretariat, indicating their readiness to implement the agreement.

João Ndlovu, Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, explained that member states have different constitutional procedures for dealing with protocols. Some require parliamentary endorsement for all international agreements

before the head of state or government can append his/her signature.

Although the procedures vary from country to country, ratification is usually done after some form of national consultation, a process that can take anything up to several years. However, SADC regulations are such that once two-thirds of the member states have ratified, the protocol becomes a legally binding document.

The protocol is in line with SADC's "duty to promote the interdependence and integration of our national economies for the harmonious, balanced and equitable development of the region". It recognises the need to involve ordinary citizens of the region centrally in the process of development and integration.

The SADC Free Trade Area, planned for 2008, is one of the many regional integration efforts that will benefit immensely from the Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons. The SADC Trade Protocol, through which the Free Trade Area will be created, is facilitating the movement of capital, goods and services across borders.

However, critics have argued that a Free Trade Area is meaningless without facilitating the movement of people since trade is conducted by persons. In fact, visa requirements are one of the significant non-tariff barriers to trade.

Some member states have already entered into bilateral agreements to lift visa requirements as a way of promoting tourism and facilitating trade across their borders. The most

recent was a no-visa agreement signed early this year between Mozambique and South Africa. Some bilateral agreements under negotiation at the time of signing of the protocol are between Mozambique and Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and Angola and Botswana.

The new SADC protocol supports efforts of the African Union which is encouraging free movement of people across the continent as a stepping stone towards the movement of persons in an eventual African Economic Community.

Through the protocol, SADC member states also reaffirm their commitment to international agreements, to which they are a party, relating to asylum seekers and refugees. They com-

mit to cooperation, among others, with the UN High Commission for Refugees and the International Organisation for Migration.

Travel facilities

Through the protocol, member states "agree to make travel documents readily available to their citizens. They agree to cooperate in harmonising travel whether by air, land or water and to increase and improve travel facilities especially between their mutual borders".

The member states "undertake to introduce machine readable passports as possible". They also undertake to introduce "technologically sensitive passports and other related facilities as circumstances allow".

Immigration practices

From the date of entry into force of the protocol, member states agree to take steps to achieve:

- o Harmonisation of their laws and administrative practices so that citizens of state parties are able to enter the territory of another state party for a maximum period of 90 days per year for *bona fide* visits;
- o Standardisation of immigration forms used by travelling citizens of state parties;
- o Establishment of a separate SADC Desk at each major port of entry between state parties;
- o By way of bilateral agreements, establishment of a sufficient number of border crossing points into the territory of another state party with identical opening hours on each side of the border and ensuring that at least one such post remains open 24 hours every day;
- o By way of bilateral agreements between the state parties concerned, issuance of a uniform and simple border permit/pass to citizens of state parties who reside in the border areas of the territories of such state parties;
- o Abolition of visa requirements where they still exist, provided that where visas are regarded as necessary, they shall be issued free of charge at the port of entry; and
- o Cooperation with the assistance of the SADC Secretariat or any such designated body of SADC and other state parties in the provision of such training for senior immigration, customs, police and security officials as may be necessary to facilitate the movement of persons within the Southern African Development Community.



SADC aims for macro-economic convergence ahead of common currency

by Munetsi Madakufamba

SADC MEMBER states are working towards stabilizing macro-economic variables in preparation for a common currency expected in the next 10 years.

Fudzai Pamacheche, Acting Director of the SADC Directorate on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment said it is critically important that member states get the economic fundamentals right if the envisaged common currency is to be a success.

SADC central banks are currently harmonizing their monetary policies with a view to establishing a common monetary unit by 2016.

Speaking during the SADC summit held in Botswana in August, Pamacheche said that there would have to be convergence on fundamentals such as inflation, budget deficits and exchange rate stability, as well as currency convertibility.

The framework for achieving some of these fundamentals is outlined in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), SADC's 15-year blueprint. The RISDP targets a common currency by 2016.

The RISDP also sets a target for member states to attain single digit inflation figures by 2008 and a five percent ceiling by 2012. Pamacheche said the single digit inflation target is achievable because 9 out of 13 member states are already registering inflation rates below 10 percent.

Similarly, SADC hopes to achieve sustained fiscal discipline by targeting budget deficits that are less than five percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2008, which can be achieved through tighter expenditure controls, and strengthened revenue collection and tax bases.

Pamacheche said member states need to have stable exchange rates and, even more important, currencies that are convertible in all the other member states.

At the moment, only the South African rand is convertible in all SADC countries, followed by the Botswana pula which is convertible in some but not all member states.

"It's a long process [towards a common currency] and a number of technical issues would have to be addressed," Pamacheche said.

The SADC Chairperson, President Festus Mogae of Botswana, said the process may take longer than anticipated because there are a number of issues that need to be in place first, including the Free Trade Area.

"Its early days," he said, adding that the European Union, which was formed in 1953, had its common currency – the Euro – only recently.

SADC is working towards establishing a Free Trade Area by 2008. This is to be achieved through the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol, which began in 2000.

Member states are removing tariffs and non-tariff barriers on all but a few sensitive products for which separate agreements are being negotiated.

The Free Trade Area is expected to boost intra-regional trade, which has steadily increased from five percent of all international trade before the implementation of the trade protocol, to the current 25 percent. By 2008, the intra regional trade is expected to rise to 35 percent.

Driven by the Committee of Central Bank Governors, the common currency is expected to spur intra-regional trade to even greater heights.

Mkapa: "Let the SADC summit be the fire"

IN HIS farewell address to Summit, President Benjamin Mkapa invoked African tradition to urge his colleagues to strengthen their unity of purpose and move rapidly towards an integrated regional community.

"I believe, passionately, in the power of unity and solidarity," Mkapa said. "And that is what SADC is – and should continue to be – all about.

"Traditionally, Africans would light a fire and sit around it as they discussed issues of community interest, solving family or societal conflicts, or simply as an illustration of their sense of belonging, of unity, of willingness to seek strength in numbers.

"From this historical reality comes a proverb from our part of the world:

How easy it is to defeat people who do not kindle a fire for themselves.

"The outside world is becoming more cold, more competitive

and more exclusionist for those who fail to compete. Our future prosperity and our hope lies in us lighting and sitting around a fire; putting our heads together in unity and enthusiasm.

"Let the SADC summit be the fire around which people in this region sit – in unity, solidarity and enthusiasm – to chart a path of survival and prosperity through the jungle of a globalising world.

"No other region enjoys the same level of shared values and aspirations on democratic good governance, and on shared prosperity, as we do in SADC.

"Let us light the fire that would warm the bones of the old, and provide light and direction for the energies of the young."

Mkapa is standing down later this year after serving two five-year terms as President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Presidential and parliamentary elections are set for 30 October.

Priorities for 2006/2007

Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment directorate

The SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers, at their June meeting, approved the priorities for the TIFI directorate in 2006/7 as follows:

- o Goods and services market integration, which is expected to achieve zero tariffs for intra-SADC trade and a common external tariff;
- o Financial and capital markets development that would lead to free flows of capital in the region;
- o Attainment of monetary cooperation that would lead to currency convertibility and promote regional trade;
- o Attainment of macroeconomic convergence that would lead to a stable macroeconomic environment in the region;
- o Increasing levels of intra-SADC investment and foreign direct investment;
- o Enhancing productive competitiveness through networking technology centres and productive sectors; and
- o Effective participation in and compliance with international agreements meant to assist member states integrate into the world economy strategically.

SADC Silver Jubilee Summit expands membership, appoints new leadership

THE SADC Silver Jubilee Summit held in Botswana made a number of landmark decisions that will see the organisation expanding its membership, its secretariat under a new leadership, and plans approved for citizens to enjoy easier movement across borders.

The 25th SADC summit, which met on 17-18 August, admitted Madagascar as a new member, having assessed the merits of this case since the summit last year in Mauritius.

The President of Madagascar, Marc Ravalomanana, thanked the summit for accepting his country's membership, and pledged his full support to SADC's vision and objectives.

With a population of 16.4 million, Madagascar's entry into SADC brings the total population in the SADC region to more than 220 million.

Other new faces included Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius, who won election in July, and Presidents Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia and Armando Guebuza of Mozambique, taking their seats at SADC for the first time since assuming office earlier this year following elections in their respective countries late last year.

In a show of commitment to extending the benefits of the regional community to all of its citizens, the leaders adopted a Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons in SADC.

The protocol awaits ratification by the requisite two-thirds majority of member states before it comes into force.

The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need to honour the commit-

ments in the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security as a top priority, to "accelerate agricultural production and eradication of food insecurity in the region".

SADC also endorsed the African Union target of 50 per-

cent each of women and men in all political and decision-making positions, but did not adopt a protocol on gender.

New SADC leadership

The Summit host, the President of Botswana, Festus Mogae took over the rotating SADC chair for the next 12 months. His deputy is the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Pakalitha Mosisili, who will host the 2006 summit. The SADC troika for the next year includes those two leaders plus the outgoing chairperson, Prime Minister Ramgoolam of Mauritius.

The chair for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which is also rotational, has now gone to Namibia with the United Republic of Tanzania as deputy.

The troika includes South Africa, which has just relinquished the chair.

A new leadership for the SADC Secretariat was appointed by Summit. Former Mozambican Minister, Tomás Augusto Salomão, an economist, was sworn in as Executive Secretary, as was his deputy, Angolan engineer, João Samuel Caholo. The two executives replaced Mauritian Prega Ramsamy and Albert Muchanga of Zambia, respectively.

The summit also announced 10 members of its dispute settlement organ, the SADC Tribunal. It designated the initial five regular members of the Tribunal who are from Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Mozambique. They are Roberto Kambovo, Onkemetse B. Tshosa, Justice Isaac Jamu Mtambo, Justice Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay and Luis Antonio Mondlane, respectively.

Governance reviewed

In reviewing the socio-economic and political situation in the region, the summit took note of elections in Botswana, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

SADC observers were deployed to all the elections and used the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections as their terms of reference.

"These elections are testimony of the consolidation of democracy in the region," the leaders said in a communiqué.

The summit agreed to establish a SADC Electoral Advisory Council whose responsibility shall be to advise SADC structures as well as the electoral commissions of member states.

Forthcoming elections on 30 October in the United Republic of Tanzania were noted. Summit also mandated the chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation "to work with the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that elections are held within newly agreed timeframes."

Steady economic growth

On the economic situation, the summit noted that the region achieved a GDP growth rate of 4.1 percent in 2004, compared to 3.2 percent the previous year.

The leaders are, however, conscious of the fact that this economic growth is not sufficient to achieve targets set within the context of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

For most of the member states to achieve MDGs, "there is an urgent need for SADC countries to institute policies and programmes aimed at accelerating

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Summit highlights

- Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons is approved.
- Madagascar becomes 14th member of SADC.
- Former Mozambican Minister Tomás Salomão is appointed Executive Secretary.
- Heads of State and Government lay foundation stone at site of new SADC headquarters.
- Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa says farewell.
- New leaders welcomed are the Presidents of Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and Namibia.
- Former leaders of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania attend the Silver Jubilee Summit.



The Foundation Stone monument, site of the new SADC Headquarters

Madagascar joins SADC

Huge potential to contribute to regional development

by Chengetai Madziwa

MADAGASCAR IS SADC's newest member, completing the map of a united southern Africa.

The predominantly agricultural economy is expected to contribute to the region's overall agricultural output as well as expand the market for its products and those of other SADC countries.

The island's main agricultural products include coffee, cassava, bananas, maize, sugarcane, vanilla, potatoes and rice.

Madagascar's mining, oil refinery and tourism, the country's other major industries apart from agriculture, also hold great potential for opening up of trade and business opportunities in the region.

If effectively tapped, economic activity between Madagascar and other SADC member states will contribute to intra-regional trade, which is expected to increase from the current level of 25 percent to be-

tween 35 and 60 percent by 2008. Madagascar's main exports are cloves, coffee, fish, meat, petroleum products, sugar, and vanilla.

The island's growing economy expects its unexploited mineral reserves to increase mineral exports from about US\$100 million to US\$150 million per year over the next ten years. The mining sector currently provides stable employment to at least 100,000 people in the rural areas as well as an additional 500,000 seasonal jobs annually.

Although the country has experienced decades of declining gross domestic product, Madagascar has gradually reformed its economy.

The economy is expected to grow by over four percent this year as a result of forecast increases in agricultural production and higher investment in both tourism and infrastructure.

Although the country has experienced a slowdown in

growth due to a drop in vanilla prices on the world market and uncertainty over export earnings from the textile industry after the removal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), which guaranteed textile exports to developed countries, Madagascar's economy is expected to pick up momentum as it recovers from these shocks.

According to an economic assessment in July, the country's mining and tourism sectors should generate employment in the coming years.

Such trends in economic development are likely, in the long term, to improve the human development indicators for the country, which has a population of more than 16 million people.

According to 2002 national figures, life expectancy in Madagascar is estimated at 53.6 years and the literacy rate is 67 percent. HIV and AIDS prevalence



President Marc Ravalomanana

at almost two percent is one of the lowest in the region.

Formerly an independent kingdom, Madagascar became a French colony in 1886, but regained its independence in 1960.

Headed by President Marc Ravalomanana since May 2002, it is an island off the east coast of southern Africa. The official languages are French and Malagasy. The capital city is Antananarivo.

SADC Silver Jubilee Summit expands membership, appoints new leadership

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social and human development, individually and collectively," reads part of the communiqué.

The summit noted that intra-regional trade is steadily increasing from the paltry five percent of all international trade in 1980 to the current 25 percent. The volume of intra-SADC trade is set to increase to 35 percent by the time of the Free Trade Area planned for 2008.

Greater action urged

President Mogae undertook to expedite delivery on SADC decisions by putting in place a mech-

anism to monitor the implementation of all protocols so far approved. He stressed the need to finalise the restructuring exercise, including the recruitment of permanent staff of the Secretariat, as well as construction of its new headquarters.

Mogae emphasised that SADC must adopt policies that strengthen food production in order to avert hunger. He urged his colleagues to prioritise its activities and concentrate on those issues that would deepen integration within a short timeframe.

Largest producer of vanilla



MADAGASCAR IS the largest producer of vanilla in the world in terms of value, but farmers are suffering from low commodity prices.

The price of vanilla, the Indian Ocean island's chief export, has fallen from about US\$180/kg in 2004 to just \$50/kg by early 2005.

Farmers grow vanilla as a cash crop, and they also grow rice and vegetables for their families. If their land is

big enough, they plant coffee, bananas and beans.

Vanilla was introduced to Madagascar more than 100 years ago. It is one of the most labour-intensive crops in the world, taking as long as five years from planting the vine to producing aged extract. Production involves the entire family, who pollinate the vanilla by hand when it flowers after two years, and then collect, cure and dry the pods. (IRIN)

Africa launches food security and nutrition programme

AFRICA HAS launched a food security and nutrition programme to tackle issues of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition on the continent.

The broad objective of the nutrition programme, administered through NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), is to "improve food security, and to reduce hunger and malnutrition."

The programme will be integrated into sectors including

health, education, trade and gender, and includes the following as part of its broad strategic framework and work plan:

- promotion and consumption of nutrient-rich foods;
- portification of commercially processed food;
- production of fortified foods targeted for vulnerable groups;
- bio-fortification of identified food crops;
- nutrition education promoting

diversification and quality of diets;

equipping agricultural extension workers with nutrition knowledge and skills.

To meet the targets there is need for:

- adequate resources committed to food and nutrition programmes;
- capacity-building to address nutrition issues;

- coherent multi-sectoral planning and implementation of food security and

nutrition programmes at various levels;

review and streamlining of policies and strategies on nutrition and food security to include emergent priorities.

This programme supports the decision by AU member states to give top priority to agricultural development by devoting 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture.

New chief executive for NEPAD secretariat

A LEADING international agricultural economist, Professor Firmino Mucavele of Mozambique, has been appointed Chief Executive of the NEPAD Secretariat with effect from August 2005.

He takes over from Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu who will continue to serve as a member of the NEPAD steering committee.

Mucavele, who has also served as a member of the NEPAD Steering Committee, holds a PhD in food and resource economics from the University of Florida, and has been a lecturer at Eduardo Mondlane University.

He is a member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists and a number of other professional associations, and serves as a special advisor to the president of Mozambique.

Mucavele was invited in 2000 by the UN to join a team of experts to map out a development programme for a rapid transfer of technologies to developing countries. This served as a basis for the third UN conference on science and technology for the least developed countries.

In February of 2001, he was invited to be a member of the Steering Committee of African Economists to develop the Millennium Africa Recovery Programme (MAP).

This programme was approved by the African Heads of State and Government in Lusaka in July 2001 and became the New African Initiative. On 23 October 2001, in Abuja, Nigeria, it was designated as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Mucavele was one of the three consultants involved in the 1995 evaluation of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) sector coordinating unit of SADC. As an agricultural economist he was involved in the evaluation of agriculture and trade programmes, rural development financing, and training in food security and nutrition programmes.

The new Chief Executive will be assisted by two deputies, Dr Hespina Rukato, who has been the NEPAD Environment and Tourism Advisor since 2002, and Ambassador Stephen Olukorede Willoughby.

E-governance first phase is e-parliament

NEPAD IS promoting the development of a framework for

e-governance, which includes the public service sector, election commissions and local government, and also integrates gender considerations,

as do all NEPAD priority programmes.

The first phase will focus on e-parliament, which will enable African parliamentarians to easily source and share information relevant to their legislative and oversight roles.

E-schools initiative scoops global award

THE E-SCHOOLS initiative, which is managed by the NEPAD e-Africa Commission, has won the Global Intelligent Community "Visionary of the Year" 2005 award.

This is the first time that African governments, the private sector, foundations, development agencies and civil society organisations have come together for a common ICT project developed and driven by Africans, and for Africa, says the deputy executive chairperson of the e-Africa Commission, Henry Chasia.

Africa has made significant progress in generating both financial support and the private sector's collaboration, as well as its understanding that satellite communications are key to broadband access.

The 10-year flagship e-schools initiative involves the establishment of an Africa-wide satellite network that will connect the schools to the internet as well as to points within each country from which educational content will be fed to the schools on a continuous basis.

It also involves ICT training of teachers and students, content and curriculum development, community involvement and participation, and establishment of "health points".

Six schools from each participating country will initially benefit from the e-schools demonstration project, the first step toward implementation.

The SADC countries are the DRC, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa.



Tomáz Augusto Salomão

New SADC Executive Secretary widely respected in the region

THE NEW SADC Executive Secretary, Tomáz Augusto Salomão, is a former planning minister in Mozambique who is well known and respected in the region.

His appointment was announced at the SADC Summit in August, and he took up his new post in Gaborone on 1 September.

An economist by profession, Salomão, 51, has made significant contributions to the development of his country and the region, serving in senior national posts for 22 years.

He was most recently the Minister of Transport and Communications from 2000-04, and also held international posts as chairperson of the ministers committee of the African Union charged with the development of ICTs in 2003-04, and as chairperson of the SADC Transport and Communications Committee (SATCC) from 2000-02.

He served as Minister of Planning and Finance from 1994-99, during the period of reconstruction in Mozambique following the peace accord.

During the same period, he also served as governor for Mozambique at the African Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

His career in government began as Secretary of State for National Defence from 1983-89. From this post he rose through the ranks to become Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance, 1990-94.

Prior to his SADC appointment, Salomão was a Deputy of the National Assembly (Member of Parliament) in Mozambique following the elections last December.



Tomáz Augusto Salomão

In his application for the position, Salomão pledged to "continue the implementation of our organisation's angular vectors, namely the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics,

Defence and Security Co-operation (SIPO) and other key instruments, within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)."

During his term as transport minister, Salomão led a successful restructuring of the ports and railways, contributed to the modernisation of infrastructure, including the ports, and led a successful programme of telecommunications reform, aimed at modernisation and competitiveness.

Other achievements include strengthening the technical capacity of the national regulatory body for telecommunications, approval of a new telecommunications law and policy, and licensing of a new mobile telephone operator, thus strengthening the competitive environment as well as improved quality of services provision.

Salomão received his academic training in Mozambique, becoming a Certified Public Accountant in 1972. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics in 1976, and in 1990 he achieved his Master of Arts in Economics from Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, where he also lectured in economics. He is a PhD candidate in economics with John Hopkins University in the USA.

SADC's new Executive Secretary was born on 16 October 1954 in Inharrime, Inhambane province in Mozambique.

President Festus Mogae, SADC Chairperson

PRESIDENT FESTUS Gontebanye Mogae of Botswana has contributed significantly to development in his country and the region. He is committed to tackling poverty and unemployment, and has remained steadfast in his pledge to achieve an AIDS-free Botswana by 2016.

Mogae became the third president of Botswana in 1998, having served as vice-president since 1992, and minister of finance and development planning since 1989.

Mogae was directly involved in regional development as chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers 1992-96. He was permanent secretary to President Ketumile Masire, secretary to the Cabinet and supervisor of elections from 1982-89.

He also served as Executive Director for Anglophone Africa at the International Monetary Fund and was Governor of the Bank of Botswana 1980-81.



President Festus Gontebanye Mogae

He started as a planning officer in government in the 1960s, becoming director of economic affairs 1975-76, and then private secretary to Botswana's founding president, Seretse Khama.

Born 21 August 1939 in Serowe, in central Botswana, Mogae completed matric education at Moeng college and trained as an economist at Oxford University and Sussex in the United Kingdom.

João Samuel Caholo

Deputy Executive Secretary promoted from within SADC

A GEOLOGIST by profession, João Caholo, 49, is a former deputy minister in the Angolan government who also served with the SADC energy sector in Luanda, and has been acting director of the SADC Directorate of Infrastructure and Services since 2002.

Caholo's professional experience with SADC began in the 1980s when he was the focal point for the SADC mining sector in Angola and then desk officer for the Angola committee for SADC in the ministry of external relations.

Between 1986 and 1992, he worked for the SADC Energy



João Samuel Caholo

Sector Coordinating Unit where, among other things, he represented the region in a World Bank study on the distribution of petroleum products in sub-Saharan Africa.

He was also involved in the development of a regional

vision for joint energy resource management, trade and venture capital investments.

Caholo served as deputy minister of fisheries from 1992-99, before being appointed as Co-ordinator of the SADC Energy Sector, a post he held for one year. He was director of the SADC Energy Commission 2001-02.

"The decisions are there. And the priorities are clear... We need to look at the timeframe for implementation..."

SADC Today Exclusive

Interview with Tomás Salomão, SADC Executive Secretary

Q *Congratulations on your appointment. You face many challenges, so the first question is, having taken up senior positions in Mozambique previously, what experiences are you bringing into Southern Africa?*

ES I think that there is no need to reinvent the wheel. The decisions have been taken before by the Summit, the Council, the Integrated Committee of Ministers, the Standing Committee of Officials. So the decisions are there. And the priorities are clear. We don't need to set up new priorities. What we need to do is to look at the timeframe for implementation of the priorities.

To do so, I think that what we need is to streamline, and to build a capacity within the Secretariat to monitor the process as well as our relations with countries, because at the end of the day, who is responsible to implement the decisions are each one of the Member States.

So we need to act to improve the quality of dialogue with each Member State, and with other stakeholders so we can improve the quality of implementation of the decisions taken by the institutions of SADC.

We also need to bring back the trust within the Member States that the Secretariat is there to support them, to act as a facilitator, because the organisation belongs to the Member States. And in this regard, the quality of dialogue is very important.

We have come a very long way in the restructuring process, and I do believe the time has come to see what we've done correctly, what is wrong, and what we need to correct. I'll give you one example.

I think we need to increase the expenditures with the same budget, and we need to look to the sectoral meetings of ministers. In a strategic service such as finance and investment, such as trade and industry, or transport, telecommunications, roads, energy, water, health and education, we need to bring back the sectoral meetings of ministers. We need to have champions. Agriculture, the gender issues – who is the champion in the Member States? And I think that these meetings can bring back the whole issue related to ownership.

The Member States must realise that they are part of the process. What we've done was to close the sectoral units in the Member States and we packed up everything to Gaborone; and today it is very difficult to work. There's no institutional memory and there's no capacity. You cannot have one director who deals at the same time with training, industry, macroeconomics, investment.

So we recognise that we need to build capacity to address the issues, and I think that we need to have a chapter, each Member State a chapter. We had this before, and it doesn't mean more money, additional budget, no, no. We need to do this within the same framework.

Q *That's what you mean by streamlining, which doesn't mean necessarily additional resources? Do you have some ideas?*

ES Yes. I have some ideas and I need to talk to the Member States. I'm preparing a calendar to spend one or two days in each member country, the whole month of September; going around and around and talking to each Member State. I want to listen to what are the concerns, what they think, and what are the expectations. So that when I come back to the office I have the thinking of each one of them before I start to concentrate on anything...

I think that's the best way to progress with the issues. The priority will be dialogue. We must act always in improving the quality of dialogue with the Member States.

We need change at headquarters but also change in our countries in the way people look at SADC, within civil society, within private sector.

Q *The perception is that civil society hardly knows much about its regional community, and what SADC is doing. Are you intending to increase visibility?*

ES I think the important thing is to streamline the activities of the national focal points. That is why it is crucial to spend one or two days in each country talking to the national focal point to say, "tell us what are you doing?" It's important to speak to each of the Member States, and then we need to bring together all national contact points in order to structure the activities of the contact points.

Q *Having worked one way or the other within SADC, being Finance Minister, and then Minister of Transport and Communications, in your view, how far have we gone with regional integration?*

ES I think it is clear that integration is a long-term process. To build RECs [Regional Economic Communities] is a long-term process. When you deal with economics you don't do somersaults. It's impossible. What we need to do is to pave the way to build communities, build capacity, have clarity on the priorities, and skills to address the priorities.

So I think that we have come a very long way. If you look back to the Frontline States; the SADC in 1980, and then in 1992 we moved from SADC to SADC. But at the time we were facing war in Mozambique, in Angola, and the DRC, and we had the democratisation process in South Africa. But now what do we have? Relative peace, stability and security. And now it's time, I think, to address as priority number one, the issues related to social, human and economic development.

Knowing that here in the region, 60 percent of our population are living below the poverty line, then you need to start doing concrete things. So agriculture and food security is priority number one. Second is HIV and AIDS. They're linked. You cannot address the HIV issue without food. One of the ways to address the issue of HIV and AIDS is the quality of food, nutrition. It's very important. You cannot solve the problem only with ARVs. No, no. Number one, food, and then we can deal with drugs.

But the HIV and AIDS issue is also related to human capacity. Why? Because it is killing the best skills that we have. It is also becoming an economic problem. Why? Because one important issue in our agenda is to attract investment. To attract investment means production, but also productivity. You cannot have good levels and stan-



TOMÁS AUGUSTO SALOMÃO mer Minister of Planning and F served his country in senior p sworn in as the new Executive Botswana, Nganunu, at the SADC Today (bottom) was co Bayano Vally of SARDC Mozan

d build capacity for monitoring the process... We need to improve the quality of dialogue with Member States"



l, is an economist and a force from Mozambique, who for 22 years. Salomão was secretary by the Chief Justice of Summit in Gaborone in August term. The interview for text by Pam Mhlana and Je.

dards of production or productivity with absenteeism. So this is becoming a huge problem.

Q *I think we can see the response to that in the Maseru Declaration where it addresses all those different dimensions.*

ES Yes. It's a development challenge. Job creation means investment. Investment means savings. Investment means macro-economic convergence and harmonisation. Investment means trade, and confidence within private sector regarding the region. Investment means the changing of our economic base; and the structure of economies from agro to industrial. Because the final goal is the improvement of the standard of living of the people – jobs, food, health and education.

Q *SADC has its 15-year strategic plan, the RISDP. Some people call it a declaration of intent. How do you propose to implement it?*

ES I think that the document is good. But what we need to address are the numbers of priorities. Because when you list priorities, it means you list one, two, three, four and five priorities. If you say that you have 10, 15 priorities, it means something is wrong.

There is a list of issues you need to address, but when you say you have priorities, you have a maximum of five.

So we need to reassess the document, basically there are too many priorities.

Q *You were talking earlier about the fact that we need investment. How do you intend to galvanise the private sector?*

ES I think that the only way to address the problem is always the quality of dialogue that we need to have: first, with Member States; second, with the main stakeholders, including private sector within our countries and overseas; third, with our cooperating partners.

In today's world, we're competing. We're competing regarding markets. We're competing regarding foreign direct investment. We're competing regarding aid. We need to have always this in mind. So we need to present our credentials so that we can say, "look, this is the right region, the prospects are very good". We need to build the formula.

Q *In this region, we have South Africa, which has been investing in the region, but we haven't had Mozambicans, for example, going to invest in South Africa or Zimbabwe. How are you going to balance that?*

ES I think that in each region of the continent we need to have a strong partner. It's no problem having a strong partner. What is clear to me is that it is of South African interest to see change in our

economies. Why? Because at the end of the day if you are not careful, all of us will want to cross the border to find better opportunities on the other side. And this can become a problem to South Africa, a social problem. So it's good to have opportunities among the Member States so people can get jobs.

All we want to do as SADC is to facilitate because we need one, two, three, four, five, ten Mozambicans going to Botswana; Tswanas coming to Mozambique; people from Tanzania going to Zimbabwe, and so forth.

Q *In this issue of SADC Today we're highlighting the fact that the region is moving toward the free movement of people; it's part of the vision you're talking about. And you'll be at the helm of SADC when the region becomes a free trade area in 2008, which is round the corner...*

ES We are going through changes. And when you have change, you do right and wrong. But you must accept that here and there you've done something wrong, and what you must do is to correct it. There's no other option.

Sometimes people try to compare SADC with the European Union, you cannot compare. This is a different community, a different region, a different history. You have to look at the context. It's clear that they are far ahead of us in terms of regional development. This is the reason we need to speed the process of implementation of our decisions; we need to act and correct our mistakes.

Q *How do you see yourself strengthening the synergies with other regional bodies and institutions, such as SACU, Comesa, the African Union and its NEPAD, and so on?*

ES I don't have any doubts that Regional Economic Communities are the right way forward. But we need to improve the quality of dialogue with other institutions. We need, as a priority, to build capacity within SADC to understand what is going on, to decide what kind of strategic decisions need to be taken, and what kind of cooperation we need to have with the others.

I'm not talking about SACU because SACU for me is not a problem. Why? Because when we build an economic region, we have the market. We also have the customs union, and in real terms SACU is a customs union. So this is a SADC project. Within our common agenda, we have a customs union.

The point is how to take SACU into SADC and expand it within SADC? To do so we need to improve the quality of dialogue. For that, we must pay a courtesy to them, to talk to them, and invite them to talk to us.

Q *You have ambitious plans, but with your appointment and that of your deputy, Joao Caholo, it means the top two positions will have new people at the same time. Is that a problem or an opportunity?*

ES I think that what is important to me is to show to the region that if you're a citizen of a Member State you can be Executive Secretary, you can be Chief Director. I think this is good advertisement. It shows that the organisation is growing. But it's also a responsibility for me. Why? Because it's important to show that people who are coming from non-English-speaking countries, they can act, they can work, they can behave, they can do things as anyone coming from English-speaking countries.



"High probability" of a largely normal rainfall season

CLIMATE SCIENTISTS from southern Africa, attending a seven-day forecast forum in Harare, have predicted a "high probability" of a largely normal rainfall season for most countries in the region.

The scientists from SADC member states said they had conducted wide-ranging investigations which showed high chances of a good rainfall season in most parts of the region. Their maps show normal to above normal rainfall for most of the region in the periods October-December 2005 and January-March 2006.

Notable exceptions predicted to have below normal rainfall later this year are southern Tanzania and DRC, eastern Angola, the whole of Madagascar and the northern parts of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. However, normal rainfall is predicted for most of those areas in the first quarter of next year.

Zimbabwe's Director of Meteorology Services, Dr Amos Makarau, said the investigations were long, carefully conducted and detailed, and significant climate conditions point to good rainfall.

These include "the temperature pattern, humidity and pressure we detected. The behaviours of sea surfaces in some areas over the global oceans are also related to their rainfall pattern in the SADC region."

The experts stressed that stakeholders should understand that they are talking of "high chances" of good rainfall, and the time and frequency or duration of the season would have to be determined by local experts in each country.

Victor Simango of the World Meteorological Organisation said it is "important for all countries to have confidence in this prediction because it is home-grown and was conducted by

experts from 14 different countries."

However, he cautioned that it is a process and "there could be slight shifts in the predictions." He stressed that beneficiaries should be informed of new developments in good time.

Climate experts are now expected to produce a historical outlook to match this year's predictions and help stakeholders for future planning through the season.

Tanzania set to produce first organic cotton this year

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania is set to become the first country in Africa to produce organic cotton.

Organic cotton is produced without the use of chemicals or artificial fertilisers, and the price is reported to be three times that of normal cotton.

It is expected that more than 10,000 farmers will soon be registered to produce organic cotton in Dodoma, Handeni and Morogoro, and more areas are expected to be registered soon.

Organic cotton production occupies a niche market, but there are signs that it is moving into the mass market, with large interna-

tional companies taking an interest. As the first harvest approaches, at least three multinational companies have placed purchase orders.

The shift from conventional to organic cotton production has been spurred by environmental and health concerns. According to scientists, natural cotton production has come to be associated with severe negative environmental impacts including reduced soil fertility, salinisation, a loss of biodiversity, water pollution, adverse changes in water balance, and pesticide-related problems including resistance. (*Financial Times*)

Adding value to waste water

EXPERTS IN Namibia have put their skills together to form a company that will turn challenges with water and wastewater management into opportunities.

The corporation, Aqua Utilities, established four years ago, believes that water treatment holds great opportunities for privatisation, not only in Namibia but also in neighbouring countries.

The objective is to provide, develop and manage water and wastewater treatment plants for local communities, regional councils and industry. This includes operation and maintenance of waterworks, full water treatment solutions and feasibility studies, and concept engineering of water treatment systems.

With 70 percent of Namibia's water found in underground sources, its contamination would spell disaster for the country, which is arid and takes water management as a major priority. (*New Era*)

New technology to help remote areas access the internet

RURAL AND remote areas in the United Republic of Tanzania may soon have access to reliable internet connectivity thanks to a newly introduced information technology.

The technology is a positive development for many remote communities which are beyond the reach of communications infrastructure, reliable internet connectivity, access to libraries, and interaction with other users through e-mail.

The new technology uses satellite communication, which provides a uniform level of service to all communities regardless of their location.

The technology includes a central hub facility, internet backbone connectivity, and fully independent classroom, intra-class computing facilities, training programmes for administrators and teachers, and an education portal.

The education portal provides a single point of interaction with dynamic information, applications, processes and people.

The satellite link will enable any community to have access to high quality education materials from national, academic, medical and law libraries, regardless of where it is located. (*Financial Times*)

Extracting the secrets of palm oil

SOUTH AFRICAN scientists have found a tropical oil that appears to protect against the consequences of a heart attack and is also a natural source of vitamin A.

Red palm oil has been found to have a positive effect in rats, protecting against the consequences of heart attacks. It is the only oil

that contains *tocotrienol*, a strong anti-oxidant with high amounts of vitamin A. This is important for southern Africa where vitamin A deficiency is a common characteristic among children.

In its natural form, 100 grams of red palm oil has 15 times more vitamin A than the equivalent amount of carrots and 300 times more than tomatoes. (*Cape Argus*)



SADC intensifies monitoring of fishery activities

SOUTHERN AFRICA is making significant progress in the monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities at sea in a bid to ensure compliance to fishing laws along the region's coast.

SADC countries are cooperating to improve cost-effective and efficient fisheries surveillance at sea, and inspectors from three countries were on board the *Sarah Baartman* on a journey of 9,000 kms that took it away from the home port of Cape Town for a month.

The joint patrols were undertaken in the waters of Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania, and fisheries inspectors from all three countries were on board.

The joint patrols are operated under SADC's maritime monitoring, control and surveillance programme partially funded by the European Union. Crews and inspectors are trained in boarding procedures and inspections at sea.

Together with aerial surveillance, the inspectors patrolled the waters of the east coast of southern Africa at the same time as a Namibian surveillance vessel was at sea in Angola and

Namibian waters, with inspectors from Angola, Namibia and South Africa on board.

Patrols were also undertaken on the west coast by the Namibian vessel *Nathaniel Maxuilili* that returned to Walvis Bay after a three-week patrol, that included participation by Angola's two patrol vessels, *Temerário* and *Preservado*.

This was the second joint fisheries patrol to be undertaken by Namibia in a two-month period. In June, South African

and Namibian vessels also conducted joint patrols along the west coast. More than 60 fishing vessels were stopped and inspected at sea during June and July, with a number of fines and prosecutions.

This has been the most comprehensive civilian surveillance operation ever undertaken at sea around these coasts, and the results have shown that surveillance activities are critical to ensure fishing vessels compliance with the laws.

The monitoring activities are in line with the SADC Protocol on Fisheries whose priorities include management of shared resources, law enforcement, access agreements, high seas fishing, artisanal fisheries, aquaculture, protection of the environment, human resources development, trade and investment, and information exchange.

The exercise was carried out with the objective of testing the command and control systems in the countries involved, and addressing any weaknesses to raise the standard of fisheries surveillance throughout the region.

SADC states are also in the process of adding another building block to the satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) operated by South Africa.

The VMS will track South African fishing vessels and will also be used by other SADC countries. It is expected that by the end of 2005, VMS information will be exchanged in real-time to enable member states to see, on their VMS display, when vessels enter their waters.

According to 2002 figures, the trade in fish earns the region an estimated US\$3 billion.



The Sarah Baartman is the flagship of South Africa's new, four-strong fleet of patrol vessels for fisheries monitoring and environmental protection. Launched in January this year, the vessel is named for an 18th century slave woman of Khoisan descent who was displayed in Europe as a "scientific curiosity", called the Hottentot Venus. Her remains were recently repatriated and she was reburied with dignity in the Eastern Cape on South African Women's Day, 9 August 2002.

Fish For All summit adopts

The Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS have adopted the Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

Fisheries ministers from Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and The Gambia, meeting at the Fish For All Summit held at the secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria, endorsed an Action Plan based on a five-point strategy.

The strategy focuses on supporting capture fisheries, developing aquaculture, improving fish market chains, increasing benefits from the fish trade, and supporting decision-makers with information.

The Nigerian president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, who closed the four-day summit, said, "If Africa's per capita consumption of fish is just to be kept at its present level, though grossly low and unacceptable, then fish production must be increased by over 250 percent by 2015."

The Director General of the WorldFish Centre, Dr Stephen Hall, noted that, "An investment of \$30 million in the recently launched NEPAD -World Fish Programme for Sustainable African Aquaculture could increase Africa's aquaculture production by 10 percent annually to about 3 million tons over the next 15 years, worth some US\$1-2 billion.

"This could create employment for up to 5 million persons by 2020, and provide food security for millions more. It could also generate exports to the value of US\$50-100 million annually by 2020. Is that not a good return on investment?"

The Fish For All Summit was organized by the NEPAD secretariat and the WorldFish Centre, an international scientific research organization whose mission is to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture.

The Abuja declaration embraces the principles of the NEPAD vision of Africa's development, its objectives to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and build the foundations of sustainable development in the region.

Power utilities sign WESTCOR shareholders agreement

A **SHAREHOLDERS** agreement has been signed by the power utilities from five SADC countries aimed at operationalising the Western Power Corridor project and management arrangements.

The agreement signed on 7 September is a milestone in the creation of a joint venture company, Western Power Corridor (WESTCOR).

The establishment of the joint venture company follows the signing of an Inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding and the Inter-utility

Memorandum of Understanding in October 2004.

WESTCOR is a regional project conceived through the combined initiative of the SADC secretariat and the power utilities of Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia and South Africa.

The project is intended to exploit the environmentally friendly, renewable, hydroelectric energy of the Inga rapids site in the DRC and will add about 3,500 megawatts of power to the SADC region.

The project will also develop the associated telecommunica-

tions and transmission infrastructure in the western part of SADC at an estimated cost of US\$7 billion. The funding is to be sourced through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and international cooperating partners.

The WESTCOR project is expected to create jobs and oppor-

tunities for the people of southern Africa. It will have a project office in Gaborone.

The shareholders' agreement comes at a time when the Southern Africa Power Pool is stepping up efforts to avert the anticipated diminishing energy generation capacity in the region by the year 2007.

Trans-Kalahari highway, strategic link for intra-regional trade

by Lekopanye Mooketsi

THE TRANS-KALAHARI Highway has emerged as one of the most successful infrastructure developments in the SADC region becoming a hub of business activity across four countries, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

The 595-km road that links the capitals of Botswana and Namibia gives access to remote western districts of Botswana and serves as a strategic coast-to-coast link from Maputo on the Indian Ocean to Walvis Bay on the Atlantic coast of Namibia, forming the Maputo-Walvis Bay economic corridor.

The Presidents of Botswana and Namibia have urged the private sectors of the two countries to make full use this infrastructure, commissioned seven years ago.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia describes the Trans-Kalahari Highway as a conveyor belt for trade. "We look at it with pride because we did it."

He said, "the highway holds an enormous potential... as a link between the SADC region and its overseas markets through the port of Walvis Bay."

The highway provides a regional transport corridor, intended to reduce the timespan for movement of imports and exports from the neighbouring countries to the European and American markets by at least five days compared to other traditional routes in southern Africa.

The road also forms part of a strategic link to which further roads can be built to service communities, and it also plays an international role as it offers cheaper routes to the DRC and Namibia.

As of July last year, the highway has been operating at about 50-60 percent of its capacity, up from 15-20 percent in 2002.

Traffic increased following the introduction of a single customs document and bond for Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, and preferential treatment at border posts for registered trucking companies.

Positive economic rating for SADC

BUSINESSPEOPLE in southern Africa are optimistic about the economy and feel the market is stable, according to the latest SADC Regional Business Climate Survey.

The survey shows that the overall positive rating of business performance is valid throughout the region and all sectors are expected to improve their performance within this year, according to the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCCI).

The Advisory Service for Private Business, in cooperation with ASCCI, has launched a Regional Business Confidence Index (RBCI) based on the survey results for both 2004 and 2005.

The index will be updated annually based on performance figures, employment and investment outlooks and intra-SADC investment and trade.

Over 500 companies drawn mainly from the manufacturing sector, with over 20 percent from the primary and service sectors, responded to this year's survey which covers the period ending March 2006.

The companies, according to the survey, expect employment in the next 12 months to remain mostly unchanged or to increase marginally, while investors and entrepreneurs remain confident in developing their businesses domestically in their countries. (*Business Africa*)

Truckers are, however, concerned that the axle weight limit in Botswana is lower than in Namibia and South Africa by one ton. "If we are carrying more load, we can't pass through Botswana," said one.

Customs officials at the Botswana border say the highway is mostly utilised by farmers to transport cattle from Namibia to South Africa.

The highway has become very important for the cattle industry, and enables cattle farmers in western Botswana to transport their cattle to the abattoir in Lobatse, 600 kms away. The highway has made an impact on tourism, as it is the shortest route between South Africa and Namibia, and so game reserves and other attractions are more accessible.

CURRENCY CHECKLIST

Country	Currency	(US \$1)							
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwe)	88.98	Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.45	DRC	Congo Franc	485.00	
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.50	Madagascar	Malgache Franc	9,150.00	Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	122.50	
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	29.65	Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	24,500.00	Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.50	
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.50	Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.50	Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,130.00	
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,250.50	Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	24,108.80				

August 2005

"Integrate African culture into global knowledge"

Namibian prime minister calls on SADC to set up African Culture Centre

THE PRIME minister of Namibia, Nahas Angula, has proposed the establishment of a regional study centre of African culture and traditional knowledge systems.

"The mobilisation of cultural assets as resources for social and economic transformation

is a daunting challenge, which must be addressed if Africa is going to pull itself out of under development," Angula said.

"I believe it is important for SADC to establish a centre for the study of culture and traditional knowledge systems in

order to integrate them into a body of global knowledge.

Delivering the keynote address at a one-day meeting of SADC culture ministers in Windhoek, Angula said the integration of an African Culture Centre into global knowledge could have far-reaching effects on the continent.

He said Africa's poverty and underdevelopment could par-

tially be explained by its failure to mobilise its assets as a means of social transformation.

"We celebrate our cultures as symbolic expressions, preserve it as artefacts and protect it as a heritage... But, we should go beyond celebration. We should not treat our cultural assets as fossils and stop confusing culture with poverty.

Angula said Africans need full understanding to be able to dynamise culture to meet the challenges posted by globalisation. "We must cultivate a deeper understanding of our cultural assets."

"Social cohesion and sustainable development are better promoted through the unleashing of positive cultural forces, which are creative and growth-enhancing. In this context, culture should promote inclusion and sharing... This is what the management of diversity as a creative force is all about."

Ministers from Angola, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe attended the colloquium.

Four journalists scoop SADC media awards

by Lekopanye Mooketsi

WINNERS OF the 2005 SADC Media Awards were presented with their prizes at the SADC summit in August.

The awards were presented in four categories of television, photo journalism, print and radio. The winners are from Botswana, Mauritius, South Africa, and Tanzania

Tirelo Kganela of Botswana won the award in the television category for his documentary *June 16*.

The documentary was based on the 1976 protests against apartheid by youth in South Africa. The protest led to the youths being shot, detained or forced into exile. The judges described Kganela's documentary as "striking and emotional."

The winner in the photojournalism section was Ally Soobye of *Le Mautirician et Weekend* of Mauritius. His winning picture focused on the historical moment when SADC leaders listened to the SADC anthem for the first time.

The regional adjudication committee was impressed by the high quality of entries in the radio category, which were described as innovative, well researched and interactive. The winner was South Africa's Shelly Knipe from a community radio station, ABC Ulwazi.

The winning entry focused on xenophobia and was commended for including personal testimony and expert opinion.

Perege Gumbo from the Tanzanian newspaper, *The Guardian*, took the prize in the print category. His article outlined the importance of reliable electricity supply in efforts towards poverty eradication in the region.

The aim of the awards is to encourage the media to play a leading role in the dissemination of information on SADC and to recognise the role of journalists in the promotion of regional integration.

The theme of the 2005 Media Awards competition was "Issues and activities promoting integration in the SADC region".

Meanwhile, the 2006 SADC Media Awards competition has been launched and will focus on HIV and AIDS to encourage

the dissemination of information on the pandemic to raise public awareness.



Winners of SADC Media Awards (from left) Ally Soobye, Tirelo Kganela, Shelly Knipe and Perege Gumbo

Regional schools essay competition

THIS YEAR'S winners of the 2005 regional Secondary Schools Essay competition were awarded their prizes during the recent SADC summit in Gabone.

The topic for the 2005 competition was, "In the 25 years since it was formed, what has SADC achieved and what more would you like it to do to bring the economies and the people of southern Africa together?"



Winners of the schools essay competition (from left) Thato Senabye, Reuben Mhamika and Sunjamabye Balloo

The first prize was awarded to Sunjamabye Balloo of Mauritius, the second prize to Reuben Mhamika of Tanzania, and the third prize went to Thato Senabye of Botswana.



Beyond Inequalities – Women in Southern Africa

BEYOND INEQUALITIES is a series of publications profiling the status of women and men in southern Africa and the efforts to mainstream gender-equality concerns at all levels.

The first set of profiles, on 12 SADC countries, were published between 1998 and 2000. The new series *Beyond Inequalities 2005* is an update, in the context of the dynamic changes, new challenges, setbacks and opportunities that have occurred.

The analysis is located within some important frameworks: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPFA), and the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, including the 1998 Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children.

The region has experienced rapid socio-economic and political shifts, and the focus is increasingly geared towards accelerated efforts on economic emancipation. Thus, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in particular, identify new benchmarks and targets. Most SADC member states now have empowerment policies in place.

All countries identified critical areas of concern from the BDPFA, and it is significant that a majority identified issues of women's health (later including HIV and AIDS), economic empowerment, and education as key areas for targeted action.

In the political arena, there is a slow upward trend of women occupying seats of power in SADC, where representation in the legislatures rose from an average 17 percent to almost 20 percent in the last five years and continues to rise toward SADC's 30 percent (now 50 percent) target. This has been surpassed in some countries, notably South Africa where 43 percent of the Cabinet are women.

All SADC countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and all have adopted, but few have ratified, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Four books of the series have been published (Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia) with others to be produced at intervals.

The books are available from SARDC WIDSAA and national partners. E-mail widsaa@sardc.net sardc@maputo.sardc.net Website www.sardc.net

The WTO Global Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Health Equity in Southern Africa

THIS DOCUMENT looks at the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Trade Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and shows how, through GATS, national policy options that support equity in health are threatened. This presents a serious challenge to the ability of governments in developing countries to deliver adequate health services.

The paper argues that GATS places the social need for health within a business context, while healthcare is a basic human right that cannot be determined by profit.

The fact that the balance of concessions favours exports of services from developed countries to developing

countries increases the need for foreign exchange to pay for services and reduces local regulatory authority.

The paper highlights risks to health equity of developing countries entering into commitments under GATS and proposes African alliances to strengthen bargaining positions.

The paper recommends that SADC and other regional economic communities need space within the existing multilateral trade framework to provide access to health care for citizens, and presents some policy options for consideration in southern Africa.

Contact S/E, Email admnn@equinetafrica.org Website www.equinetafrica.org

PUBLICATIONS

2005 Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review

Gaborone, Botswana, Southern African Marketing Company, 2005
300pp.

This is a special issue marking SADC's 25th anniversary. It highlights business opportunities in the region, and has sections on SADC's corporate profile; directorate reports; projects; country profiles; trade, industry and investment opportunities; key business contacts and the exhibition calendar.

Available from Southern African Marketing Company (Pty) Ltd. P.O. Box 201112, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel (267)397 4316, Fax (267)397 4316/393 6431,
E-mail samarketing@mega.bw
Website www.sadcireview.com

Republic of Botswana: 25th SADC Summit Brochure

Gaborone, Botswana, SADC Secretariat, 2005
180pp

The brochure is a special issue for SADC's Silver Jubilee summit held in Botswana 17-18 August 2005. It gives background information on the history of SADC as well as profiling the host country. The brochure contains profiles of SADC's new presidents and has 25th anniversary messages from various Heads of State.

Available from SADC Secretariat, P. Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana
E-mail registry@sadc.int
Website www.sadc.int

SADC Annual Report 2003/04

Gaborone, SADC Secretariat, 2004
67pp

The report gives an overview of economic, social and political developments in the region. It also gives an account of the process of implementing the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), both at the level of the secretariat and that of SADC national committees in Member States. Other areas covered are reports on progress in the priority areas of regional cooperation and integration. The final part of the report looks at the development prospects and challenges for 2004/5. Available from SADC Secretariat

The Politics of the MDGs and the Rainbow Nation (South Africa)

Harare, Zimbabwe, AFRODAD, 2005
21pp.

The socio-economic and political setting in which South Africa finds itself today has been shaped by both apartheid policies and the political reforms of recent years. As a result, the central feature of South African society was a pervasive dualism characterised by severe disparities in access and entitlement to resources. These inequalities limit opportunities for the majority of the population, and thus the achievement of the MDGs will hinge on government's capacity to address this.

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EVENTS DIARY 2005

October

17-21 South Africa

Agriculture Successes for Africa's Future: A NEPAD Dialogue with Parliamentarians

Co-hosted by the African Parliament and NEPAD, this forum is designed for parliamentarians in Africa to share their success stories in agriculture.

3-21 France

UNESCO General Conference

The conference draws representatives of UN member states, and meets every two years to determine the policies and the main line of work.

14 All SADC

SADC Creators & Performers Day

Each member state will organise activities to commemorate the important role that creators of intellectual work play in the development and promotion of SADC's cultural heritage and regional integration agenda.

30 Tanzania

Legislative and Presidential Elections

Tanzanians will vote for the next parliament and a new president to take over from the incumbent, President Benjamin Mkapa, who is standing down after two terms in office.

November

16-18 Tunisia

World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)

The second phase of the WSIS seeks to put in motion the plan of action adopted in Geneva in 2003. Working groups have been set up to find solutions and reach agreements in the fields of internet governance and financing mechanisms.

25-10 Global

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

"For the Health of Women, For the Health of the World: No More Violence" is the theme of this annual commemoration, a continuation from 2004, which emphasises the connections between women's human rights, violence against women and women's health.

28-29 South Africa

The Changing Politics and Land in Africa

Theme is "Domestic Policies, Crisis Management and Regional Norms". Sponsored by the French Institute in South Africa, the objective of the conference is to gain insight into the nature of policymaking concerning land at the national level and at the broader African level.

December

5-9 Nigeria

14th International Conference on HIV/AIDS and STIs in Africa

Organised by the Society for AIDS in Africa under the theme "HIV and AIDS and the Family", the conference will bring together African scientists, political and social leaders, to share their experiences in the management of HIV and AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections.

13-18 China

World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference

The Ministerial Conference is the highest authority of the WTO and takes decisions on all matters under multilateral trade agreements. This year, the Conference will be meeting for the sixth time since 1995.



Mkapa invokes spirit of liberation struggle to make poverty history in our lifetime

"DURING THE liberation struggle in southern Africa, it never occurred to me that apartheid could be history in my lifetime.

"But when the then OAU, the Frontline States and the then G7 formed a united front with the struggling people of South Africa, apartheid was swept away.

"The spirit of the Frontline States should invigorate us into action – action that would see SADC emerge as the most purposeful, most powerful and most successful African regional economic grouping in our lifetime... No other such region has the provenance and pedigree that we have in SADC.

"Faced with the formidable task of decolonisation in southern Africa, and the seemingly impossible task of dismantling apartheid, we had the political will, the energy, the resilience and the enthusiasm to persevere until we triumphed."

President Benjamin William Mkapa, United Republic of Tanzania, August 2005

SADC project to document history of the liberation struggle

A PROJECT to document the history of the liberation struggle in southern Africa has started in seven countries.

The recent summit of SADC leaders in Botswana, marking the Silver Jubilee of the regional community, noted that the "Hashim Mbita Project" had begun implementation and reaffirmed their commitment to the project.

The participating countries to date are Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Hashim Mbita was Executive Secretary of the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for 22 years from 1972 until after South Africa gained majority rule in 1994.

The committee was located in the United Republic of Tanzania where the first president, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, and the Tanzanian people gave it their full support.

Mwalimu Nyerere, who died in 1999, was the first chairperson of the Front Line States, which established the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), that later became SADC.

Brig-Gen Mbita, the project patron, who is Tanzania's ambassador to Zimbabwe, gave a keynote address at the launch workshop in Dar es Salaam in August.

In his address to the national researchers, Mbita said the "decolonisation struggle which engulfed the African continent during the last 60 years was basically one, though fought in various parts and against different colonizing powers."

Thus, the need to "record the inspiration, commitment, determination, sacrifices, means, strategies and experiences gained at different stages became apparent," he said.

Noting the decade that has passed since majority rule in South Africa and the need to advance more rapidly toward this goal, he said the people attending the history workshop "manifest the collective will of SADC Member States to leave for posterity some written account of the political transformation of the region."

He thanked Mozambique and Namibia for being the first to pledge resources for the project, and South Africa for funding the initiation of the activities.

"The realization of this project has taken appreciable time, and for me it is coming to light after almost 11 years of a passionate dream to have Africa take its destiny into its own hands as it indeed did in the decolonisation process. First as victims, second as defiant people and third as victors."

"The stages that this process went through covered agitation, political organization and eventually physical confrontation.

"The birth of the Frontline States as a dependable rear base and victory which saw the establishment of SADC as an organ for economic transformation and consolidation of the regional security, peace and defence must be carefully examined.

"What, for example, would this region be had there not been the likes of Presidents Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda, Sir Seretse Khama as well as the uncompromising leaders of National Liberation Movements of the time?"

PRESIDENT FESTUS Mogae of Botswana, the SADC chairperson, said he is "particularly pleased that the government and people of Zimbabwe have honoured the founding fathers of SADC for their contribution to freedom and democracy, and for laying the foundation of SADC 25 years ago, and bestowed them with the highest national honour."

The Royal Order of Munhumutapa



Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere

For his exceptional accomplishments as the luminary and conscience of African nationalism, the fulcrum of liberation efforts in the region, and outstanding contribution to the liberation struggle...



Chief Sir Seretse Khama

For his exceptional commitment to the eradication of colonial domination, unyielding dedication to pan-African ideas... and the pursuit of justice and equality...



Dr Kenneth David Kaunda

For his exceptional strength of resolve, selfless dedication, revolutionary leadership and outstanding contribution to the long and arduous struggle for equality, justice and self-determination...



Marshall Samora Moises Machel

For his exceptional revolutionary courage, unyielding determination, selfless dedication, inspirational leadership and outstanding contribution to the liberation struggle...



Dr Agostinho Neto

For his exceptional commitment, dedication, inspirational leadership and outstanding contribution to the liberation struggle.

Public holidays in SADC October-December 2005

1 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
4 October	Reconciliation Day (Peace Day)	Mozambique
10 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
14 October	The Mwalimu Nyerere Day and the "Climax of Uhuru Torch Race"	Tanzania
14 October	SADC Creators Day (commemoration)	All
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
1 November	All Saints Day	Mauritius
1 November	Divali	Mauritius
2 November	All Saints Day	Angola
2 November	Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Mauritius
4 November*	Idd el Fitri / Eid ul Fitr	Tanzania, Mauritius
11 November	Independence Day	Angola
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC
26 December	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Malawi
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Public Holiday	Zambia, Zimbabwe
27 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe

* Depends on visibility of the moon