



Dar es Salaam Declaration contains pro-active strategy for regional food security

SADC member states have initiated a pro-active strategy for agricultural development to address food security on a sustainable and regional basis, rather than rely on food aid from outside the region.

Heads of State and Government meeting at an Extra Ordinary Summit in the United Republic of Tanzania in mid-May, committed themselves to promote agriculture as a pillar in national and regional development strategies and programmes in order to attain short, medium and long-term objectives.

Following months of preparation and a week of meetings of officials and ministers, the leaders adopted and signed the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region, reaffirming their commitment to accelerate agricultural development, upon which most people in the region depend for food, income and employment. (See pages 8-9)

The tone was set in the opening address by the SADC chairperson, President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, whose regional term of office over the past year has been notable for his insistence on results and time-bound targets.

Urging his colleagues to ensure that the region can feed itself on a sustainable basis, Mkapa said bluntly, "unless we, the leaders of SADC, feel ashamed of having to beg for food – sometimes receiving it with all manner of conditions – we cannot bring honour to our countries. Let us work together to bring honour, not shame to independent southern Africa."

He reminded the Summit, "We are here to help each other build the political will to put the question of agriculture and food security at the heart of our national and regional priorities."

The problems are already known, he said, "the solutions have been debated for years."

Mkapa called for a Plan of Action with activities "that are specific, have measurable targets, and are time bound," with clear responsibilities at national and regional levels.

Member states have agreed to ensure availability of key agricultural inputs, to support vulnerable farmers, and to vigorously embark on water management programmes including flood control and implementation of the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses.

They have undertaken to accelerate the use of irrigation technologies such as treadle and motorized pumps, canalisation and water-saving tech-

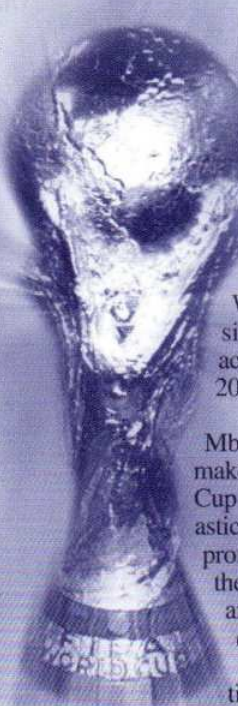
nologies, as well as to mobilize resources for agro-processing and increase the use of savings and credit schemes, and rural mobile banks.

SADC leaders also agreed to consider establishing a regional agricultural development fund, and a regional food reserve facility.

The Dar es Salaam Declaration identifies a number of priority areas on which SADC will focus in the next two years, as well as medium to long-term activities. The multi-sectoral strategy contains an agreed set of short-term objectives (2004-2006)

continued on page 6

SADC region shares South Africa's victory for 2010



The response from South Africa's neighbours has been overwhelmingly positive about the direct benefits to the region of the successful bid to host the football World Cup, the largest single-event sporting activity in the world, in 2010.

President Thabo Mbeki's commitment to make this an African World Cup was received enthusiastically, as it will raise the profile of the region and the continent as a mature and stable investment destination, and add dignity to the perception of African people and countries.

Southern African leaders meeting in Dar es Salaam on 15 May, the same day that results of the bid were announced in Zurich, warmly congratulated the South African government, through Deputy president, Jacob Zuma who was present at the SADC Summit.

The SADC chairperson, President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania said he was "delighted" at the awarding of the bid, describing it as "a great achievement for us in the Southern African Development Community."

A spokesman for Alpha Oumar Konare, who chairs the African Union commission, said "the whole of Africa has much to benefit" from an event that "will also help to change the image of Africa from that of conflict to peaceful activities such as sports."

The SADC region expects to benefit directly as well as indirectly through the potential strengthening of the South African economy and its

continued on page 4

SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community
Vol. 7 No. 2 June 2004

SADC TODAY is produced by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) six times a year on behalf of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions and opinions of the SADC Secretariat or SARDC. Materials from this newsletter may be reproduced freely by the media and others with attribution to SADC TODAY.

©SADC, SARDC, 2004

Editorial Committee

Virginia Muwanigwa, Chipu Muvezwa,
Chengetai Madziwa, Chenai
Mufanawejingo, Phyllis Johnson, Bonifacio
Antonio, Clever Mafuta, Pamela
Mhlanga, Rudo Meda

Editorial Advisors

Esther Kanaimba
Head of SADC Public Relations
Petronilla Ndebele
SADC Information Officer

Editor

Munetsi Madakufamba

Design & Layout/DTF

Tonely Ngwenya

Origination/Printing

DS Print Media, South Africa

SADC Today is funded by the Belgian government under the SADC Information 21 project, whose aim is to strengthen regional integration through information dissemination. Contributions are welcome from individuals and organisations within the SADC region in the form of articles, news items, and comments, and also from outside the region. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items and edit for space available.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

SADC TODAY

Southern African Research and
Documentation Centre (SARDC)
15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia,
P.O. Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263.4.791141

Fax: 263.4.791271

Email: sadctoday@sardc.net

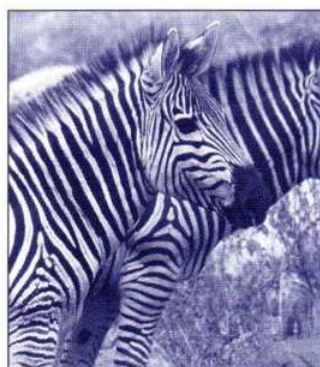
Web: <http://www.sardc.net>



Food security 9



HIV and AIDS 11



GEO yearbook 12



Community building 13

- ☐ Policy Review: RISDP, NEPAD and MDGs 3
- ☐ South African elections increase ruling party margin 4
- ☐ Regional integration key in trade negotiations 5
- ☐ Stronger institutional gender equality mechanisms needed 7
- ☐ Dar es Salaam Declaration on Food Security 8
- ☐ Digital divide hampers fight against poverty 10
- ☐ Around the region: News briefs 14
- ☐ Book review & recent publications 15
- ☐ SADC diary, public holidays & currency checklist 16

Subscribe today

SADC Today is available through an annual subscription fee. For six issues a year, the fee is US\$60 for outside Africa, US\$35 for rest of Africa and US\$30 for SADC. Your subscription will enable you to receive the newsletter by airmail or email.

SADC Today is published in English and Portuguese and is also available electronically in French.

For more details on subscriptions, please contact the Editor.

RISDP conduit through which SADC can achieve NEPAD, MDGs targets

World leaders meeting as the general assembly of the United Nations in September 2000 underscored, through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the multi-dimensional challenge of poverty and agreed on a set of time-bound development targets.

At the continental level, the African Union embraced the MDGs in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an economic programme that is seen as positioning Africa as a key global player.

Taking cue from the global and continental initiatives, SADC has responded with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which is a 15-year blueprint that is being implemented in three-yearly phases. Approved by SADC leaders at the Summit in August 2003 in Dar es Salaam, the challenge is for the blueprint to be embraced at the national level.

The institutional framework is such that the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers provides policy direction and oversees overall implementation, while the Secretariat has the primary responsibility of coordinating operational matters. Given that the development challenges to be addressed are within the member states, the responsibility of operationalising the RISDP cannot be removed from the national governments.

The Windhoek Declaration and Treaty of 1992 underpins the blueprint, in calling upon all "countries and people of southern Africa to develop a vision of a shared future, a future within a regional community."

The RISDP document notes that SADC's "shared vision is anchored on the common values and principles and the historical and cultural affinities that exist between the peoples of southern Africa."

Regional cooperation and integration in SADC date back to the mid 1970s, the days of the Frontline States, whose main objective was to coordinate efforts, resources and strategies of national liberation movements as they fought colonialism and apartheid.

With apartheid South Africa increasingly destabilising majority-ruled countries, both politically and economically, a regional ministerial conference that

met in Arusha in July 1979 agreed on a strategy for the formation of the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC).

SADCC was formally launched in April 1980 in Lusaka at a summit of the then nine majority-ruled states (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). Operating as a loose functional cooperation organisation, whose principal aim was to reduce economic dependency on apartheid South Africa, SADCC drew up a programme of action that covered the key areas of Transport and Communications, Food and Agriculture, Industry, Manpower Development and Energy.

Through a decentralised structure meant to enhance ownership, the programme of action was implemented through member states coordinating sectors. These sectors grew with membership, and as new challenges arose.

Meanwhile, important developments were unfolding at the global and continental levels in the early 1990s. In particular, Namibia attained independence in 1990, signalling the demise of apartheid in South Africa, especially as symbolised by the release from prison of Nelson Mandela in the same year -- leading to the first multi-racial elections in 1994.

There was also a stronger global push towards regional integration groups as countries sought to benefit from economies of scale presented by larger markets. In 1991, the Organisation of African Unity signed the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. Building on the vision of the Lagos Plan of Action of 1980, the Abuja Treaty made regional economic communities such as SADC and the Economic Community of the West African States, the building blocks of the continental community.

Thus the 1992 Summit in Windhoek, which signed the Treaty transforming SADCC, the "coordinating conference" into SADC, the "community", was in many ways a response to regional challenges and international trends. Through the Treaty, SADC redefined the basis for cooperation, moving from a loose association to a more legally binding organisation.

Over the years, SADC's membership increased to the present day 14 countries, with Namibia joining in 1990, South Africa in 1994, Mauritius in 1995 and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Seychelles both joining in 1997. By 2000, sectors had increased to 21, supported by more than 20 sector protocols, charters and declarations.

With these developments, a number of constraints arose ranging from a lack of institutional reform to match the transformation from SADCC to SADC, lack of synergy between objectives of the Windhoek Treaty on one hand and the existing programme of action and institutional framework on the other hand, to the lack of mechanisms for translating political commitments into concrete action.

In response, an Extra Ordinary Summit held in March 2001 in Windhoek approved the restructuring of SADC, which has since seen the clustering of the 21 sectors previously coordinated by member states into four directorates that are now centrally managed by the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone.

The same summit instructed Secretariat to formulate the RISDP to provide direction and framework for SADC policies and programmes, in the longterm. The final document was formally launched by President Benjamin Mkapa, the SADC Chairperson, in March 2004 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, during the Council of Ministers.

In his foreword to the RISDP document, President Mkapa notes challenges that the region is facing, saying: "Poverty reduction in all its dimensions -- including malnutrition, high levels of infant and child mortality, illiteracy, unclean water and poor sanitation -- must receive the priority that it deserves. The HIV and AIDS pandemic, and other communicable diseases, undermine our development efforts... Peace, security and democracy must be upheld and promoted..."

With SADC having embraced continental and global development agendas as outlined in NEPAD and MDGs frameworks, the onus is now with member states to embrace the RISDP and harmonise it with national development plans. □

South African elections increase ruling party margin

South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) now holds more than two-thirds of the seats in parliament after clinching 69.7 percent of the votes in the country's third democratic elections held in April.

At national level, political parties in parliament decreased from 17 to 12.

The ANC increased its power from 65 to 69.7 percent followed by the Democratic Alliance (DA) with 12.4 percent. Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) was third with 6.97 percent.

The elections were conducted without the monitoring services of international observer groups such as

the European Commission. Instead, local and regional teams oversaw the elections with the SADC observer team fielding agents in all nine provinces. These election monitors reported that a peaceful atmosphere prevailed during the elections.

continued on page 6

SADC region shares South Africa's victory for 2010

continued from page 1

proven track record for sharing the benefits through increased investment in neighbouring countries and elsewhere on the continent.

A firm of accountants has estimated that the games should generate direct income for South Africa of R21.4 billion, and that millions more would follow in long-term investment and tourism benefits.

National sports and tourism bodies in the region predicted a surge in sporting links and long term economic benefits, while the same accounting firm worried that the overall financial flows could be negative for the region if too many fans go south for the games!

The President of Zambia, Levy Mwanawasa announced plans to build three modern stadiums ahead of the 2010 World Cup, saying the event would also benefit his country's economy. "It is very likely that some teams will consider camping [training] in Zambia."

National sports organizations recognize the potential for sporting contacts as well as income flows. Rafiq Khan, the chairperson of the Zimbabwe Football Association, which is bidding for the Africa Cup of Nations for 2010, said, "We are going to feed off South Africa's preparations for the World Cup."

Khan predicted that, "A lot of teams will come and camp this side, maybe for a month on their way to South Africa and this will greatly improve our standards."

The Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana has projected economic spillover benefits in tourism, the hotel industry and other service providers including transport and tour operators, predicting that foreign visitors will be attracted to its

world-famous wildlife sanctuaries, such as the Okavango Delta.

The President of the Botswana Football Association, David Fani, noted the challenge to Botswana footballers to take advantage of opportunities offered by the World Cup competition to improve and develop the local sport.

In Namibia, the permanent secretary of Trade and Industry, Andrew Ndishishi, predicted economic benefits in tourism, transport and service provision, due to Namibia's proximity to South Africa. "We will definitely market our services as a package."

Tulimeyo Kaapanda of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce called on businesses to prepare themselves well ahead of time, saying that "six years in reality is not that long to go."

Mozambique's Maria Mutola, known as 'the Maputo express' for her prowess on the athletics track, said this is a "real vote of confidence in South Africa's growth over the past 10 years of democracy."

The chief executive officer of South African Tourism, Cheryl Carolus, reinforced this point, saying that winning the 2010 bid means that previous negative perceptions could be reversed and tourism would be one of the many winners.

"This recognition will have an enormous impact on the perception that potential visitors will have about South Africa as a world-class destination and on our increasing reputation as a major tourism leader," Carolus said.

Surpassed only by the multiple events of the Olympic Games to be hosted this year in Athens, the football World Cup is the next most prestigious and lucrative sporting event in the world.

The President of the International Football Association (Fifa), Sepp Blatter, delivered on his commitment that the World Cup would be held in Africa in 2010, and then it was left for South Africa to battle it out in the bidding with four North African countries of Morocco, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. Blatter said he was thrilled at the quality of the presentations from Africa, describing them all as "intelligent and elegant".

The South African technical presentation was sound, most of its stadiums are already in use, and there was full backing for the bid from an enthusiastic government as well as business, sporting and community leaders, including former President Nelson Mandela. The South African bid team included football stars such as Kalusha Bwalya from Zambia, as well as Abedi Pele, George Weah and Roger Milla from west Africa.

President Mbeki delivered a strong and impassioned presentation of his government's support for the bid in Zurich, and during celebrations back home following the announcement, his main message was that South Africa will do its best to ensure involvement of other African countries, including those who bid and lost.

He called on all Africans, including those in the diaspora, to play an active role in making this a truly African event. His second message was that the work would have to begin now to ensure success in six years time.

The event is also expected to give a boost to a number of high profile infrastructural developments, including the rapid transit railway between Pretoria and Johannesburg, and the Statue of Freedom in Port Elizabeth. □

Regional integration key in multilateral trade negotiations

by Chengetai Madziwa

While the general objective of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Union (EU) is to foster the smooth and gradual integration of ACP states into the global economy, for SADC, the agreement should see the continuous strengthening of regional integration.

One of SADC's major principles in approaching the EPA negotiations is that EPA must support regional integration initiatives of SADC and not undermine them.

EPAs will therefore need to be based on the integration objectives of SADC on trade, in line with the 15-year Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which aims to establish a Free Trade Area (FTA) by 2008 and a Customs Union by 2010.

During the launch of the RISDP in March, SADC's chairperson, President Benjamin Mkapa said, "As we build up to the operationalisation of the SADC Free Trade Area scheduled for 2008, we must already increase the pace of intra-SADC trade."

SADC is already midway in the process of implementing its Trade Protocol and is aiming to increase intra-regional trade to levels above the current 22 percent. Intra-SADC trade is projected to increase to 35 percent by 2005.

The SADC EPA would need to be consistent with the Trade Protocol, as amended in August 2000, to further integrate intra-regional trade. Specific strategies adopted so far to achieve this objective are:

- ♦ the gradual elimination of tariffs;
- ♦ adoption of common rules of origin;
- ♦ harmonization of customs rules and procedures;
- ♦ attainment of internationally acceptable standards, quality, accreditation and metrology;
- ♦ harmonization of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures;
- ♦ elimination of non-tariff barriers; and
- ♦ development and integration of trade in services.

When member states started to implement the protocol in September 2000, almost 47 percent of all goods

traded in SADC were at zero tariffs. "It is expected that by 2008 over 85 percent of the goods will be at zero tariffs, thus ushering in a free trade area in the region," says Fudzai Pamacheche, Supervisor of the SADC Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment Directorate.

The trade protocol is seen as the most important legal instrument in the region's quest for economic integration and SADC expects that any EPA would reinforce SADC efforts, especially by promoting the harmonization of trade policies in the region.

SADC's emphasis on compliance with the trade protocol means that the overarching goal should not be premised on the EPA but rather on SADC's own regional integration programmes with EPA only playing a complementary role.

The Cotonou Agreement under which the EPA is being negotiated is intended to yield development oriented free trade areas, which in SADC's case should take into account the inter-linked objectives of sustainable development, poverty eradication and the smooth integration of member states into the world economy.

Given the negative impact of globalisation it is imperative that the mul-

tilateral trade agreements that SADC engages in strengthen rather than weaken the progress already made towards regional integration.

"It has been observed that globally, intra-regional trade as a percentage of total trade has been growing steadily," says Pamacheche.

One of the approaches of the EPA negotiations between the ACP and the EU countries is that regional negotiations should be for those regions, such as SADC, which have functional regional integration processes and mechanisms.

The approach was motivated by practical considerations of the greater efficiency of conducting complex trade and aid negotiations with groups of closely related countries rather than with all 77 ACP states.

This approach is supported by an officially declared intention by the EU to support the process of regional cooperation and integration being undertaken between various groupings of ACP countries.

EPA negotiations are now in their second phase, which began in October 2003 and must be finalised by 31 December 2007. The first phase, which was at an all ACPEU level, was launched in September 2002. □

COORDINATOR

Angola
Botswana
Lesotho

Mozambique

Namibia
Swaziland
Tanzania

NEGOTIATION SUBJECT

Agriculture and Fisheries (resource aspects)
Standards, sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues
Database, rules of origin, legal provisions and institutional arrangements
Non Agricultural Market access and fisheries (industrial aspects)
Trade facilitation and development cooperation
Trade related issues, trips and trims
Trade in services and Singapore issues

SADC objectives for negotiating an EPA

The SADC EPA is premised on the following objectives:

- ♦ To contribute to poverty eradication;
- ♦ Smooth and gradual integration into global markets;
- ♦ To further the regional integration process in the SADC region;
- ♦ To preserve and improve market access for SADC exports to the EU;
- ♦ To increase productivity and competitiveness of SADC producers; and
- ♦ To build capacity for enhanced growth and sustainable development in the SADC region.

Dar es Salaam Declaration contains pro-active strategy for regional food security

continued from page 1

including the provision of key agricultural inputs; agro-industrial development and processing; control of crop and livestock pests and diseases; crop, livestock and fisheries production; water management and irrigation.

The short-term targets are for two years, and progress will be reviewed at the end of every two years from the date of signature. The SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers has been tasked with initiating implementation and monitoring of the Plan of Action.

In the medium-to-long-term commitments (2004-2010), SADC leaders agreed to address the sustainable use and management of natural resources; disaster preparedness; research, technology development and dissemination; agricultural financing and investment; training and human resource development; gender equality; human health and mitigation of HIV and AIDS, and other chronic diseases.

They also resolved to institute support mechanisms aimed at strengthening private sector involvement in agriculture and rural development, and to undertake a series of measures to increase market access.

In identifying their goals, the SADC leaders reviewed past lessons as well as

the grave state of poverty in their individual countries and the region, based on an analysis of why agriculture is under-funded and underdeveloped, and why the rural farmers are the poorest in their nations.

A concept note prepared in advance of the Summit was critical of efforts to date: "While the developed countries are forging ahead harnessing the application of modern technology to increase productivity in their agricultural sectors, in [southern Africa] ... agriculture remains under-funded, underdeveloped and its farmers remain poor."

Agriculture is a major employment sector in the SADC region, contributing 35 percent of the regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 13 percent of total export earnings.

The final communiqué noted the potential for expansion: "Given the huge land mass available in SADC suitable for the production of food crops and livestock farming, agricultural productivity remains at very low levels."

Unequal access to land and water, desertification, limited mechanisation, little or no credit and poor communications have all contributed to the continuing poverty of rural farmers.

The Summit called on all SADC governments to progressively increase financing to agriculture by allocating

at least 10 percent of national budgets within five years, in line with their commitment of a year ago under the African Union's Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

Summit also expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for a donation of Rands 100 million to be used for agricultural inputs, food aid and for a vulnerability monitoring system.

Summit noted the prevalence of gender inequality in access to land ownership, credit and agricultural inputs, and agreed to advance gender mainstreaming by enacting non-discriminatory laws on finance, credit and land. Member states were urged to promote gender-sensitive technologies, particularly for agro-processing.

The regional leaders also stressed the need to mainstream in agriculture and natural resources policies and programmes, their efforts to combat HIV and AIDS and other chronic diseases.

Other priorities cover the development of rural infrastructure including electrification, water and sanitation; information and communications technology; acceleration of land policy reform initiatives; eradication of crop and livestock pests and diseases; ensuring sustainable use and management of natural resources; increasing production of crop, livestock and fisheries resources; strengthening market access; and engaging the private sector.

Mkapa stressed the need to encourage training in sustainable methods, the use of traditional technologies for agro-processing and food storage and to focus on food security at the family and community level. He said SADC countries need to learn from each other and from regional best practices – "best not in terms of theory, but in terms of practicality, results and impact."

He quoted his inspirational predecessor, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, as saying in times of apparently insurmountable opposition such as that confronting the region when apartheid was still in place in South Africa: "It can be done, play your part". □

South African elections increase ruling party margin

continued from page 4

President Thabo Mbeki, for his second and final term, appointed a core group of ministers to address concerns on poverty, unemployment, HIV and AIDS among other issues raised during the election campaign. The need to balance representation along the country's ethnic, gender and political spectrum was also catered for.

The president delivered on the country's commitment to ensure at least 30 percent representation of women in politics and decision-making, as outlined in the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development.

The new cabinet now has 12 women out of 28 full cabinet ministers, up from eight in the last government. Women deputy ministers have risen to 10 out of 21 up from the previous eight out of 16. President Mbeki also appointed four women out of eight new premiers.

Portfolios assigned to the 12 include: agriculture and land affairs, communications, education, foreign affairs, health, home affairs, housing, justice, public works, minerals and energy, public services and administration, and water and forestry. □

Stronger institutional mechanisms for gender equality needed

by Barbara Lopi

SADC has been challenged to strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women by providing adequate financial and human resources.

The challenge was made by delegates at the southern African Sub-Regional Meeting for the decade review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 26 to 28 April 2004. A meeting of Ministers of Gender or Women's Affairs on 29 April endorsed the outcomes from the decade review.

After reviewing the 12 critical areas of concern outlined in the BPFA as obstacles to the advancement of women and gender equality, the meeting agreed that gender machineries in the SADC region are weak financially, technically and politically.

The meeting cited inadequate capacity to effect policy implementation, lack of accountability, and monitoring and evaluation as challenges towards a strengthened institutional mechanism for gender equality.

In its resolutions, the meeting noted that while the SADC region has scored progress in implementing the BPFA, important issues to gender equality and the empowerment of women remain unchanged.

The southern Africa Office of the United Nations Economic Commission

for Africa (UNECA) in collaboration with SADC organized the meeting as part of a worldwide evaluation ahead of 2005, the year marking the 10th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing, China, in 1995.

Participants included representatives of national gender machineries, and experts in the ministries of finance, planning, industry, commerce and trade, foreign affairs, health, agriculture from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Other participants included representatives of intergovernmental organizations in the southern African region and gender and women's empowerment NGOs.

The meeting resolved that the established institutional mechanisms in the form of ministries, directorates, divisions, sections or units to co-ordinate the implementation of gender issues must be given clearer goals and strategic interventions that are results-based.

The institutional gender machineries at both the national and SADC regional levels are generally understaffed, inadequately funded and most of them are not strategically positioned within the government structures. This makes it difficult for coordination, monitoring and evaluating

progress in gender mainstreaming in other line ministries.

The meeting noted that only a few experts in the national gender machineries have the requisite gender competencies and awareness on gender equality instruments to implement policies and assist in the mainstreaming of gender.

In terms of the sub-regional mechanisms, the meeting noted that the SADC gender unit is currently understaffed with limited financial resources.

Acknowledging the difficulties in ensuring enforcement of the existing national and regional gender policies, the meeting called for the alignment of such policies to the SADC Gender and Development Declaration to ensure enforcement and provision of adequate budgetary allocations.

The meeting further recommended annual reporting on achievements on gender by all national gender machineries. Governments should also establish benchmarks for monitoring implementation of the national, regional and global gender frameworks.

A working session for SADC gender and women's empowerment NGOs convened on 25 April to consolidate input from the NGOs, presented a communiqué which among others, recommended that governments "rebuild the institutional mechanisms for advancing gender equality to well-resourced and adequately staffed offices placed at the level of full ministries or in the president's office by 2006."

The SADC gender NGOs further recommended that a fixed percentage of national budgetary allocations protected and guaranteed by an act of parliament be provided to the institutional mechanisms. They added that progress in this regard should be assessed at the SADC annual heads of states meeting.

The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA) convened the working session in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council (NGOCC), the umbrella body of gender and development-oriented NGOs in Zambia. □

SADC Report to the Beijing + 10 review meeting

The SADC gender coordinator, Christine Warioba, presented a report on the progress made by SADC 10 years after the endorsement of the Beijing Platform for Action.

She highlighted that key achievements include:

- ♦ the adoption of a Policy and Institutional Framework for Mainstreaming Gender and a Gender Plan of Action in SADC by the Council of Ministers in 1997.
- ♦ The adoption, by Heads of State and Government, of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development in 1997, and the Addendum on Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children in 1998.
- ♦ The mainstreaming of gender into policies, programmes, projects and activities of the four directorates.
- ♦ Programmes to develop competence for mainstreaming gender in SADC policies, Programme of Action, projects and activities. SADC also conducted a gender audit study of the SADC Programme of Action.
- ♦ The positioning of the Gender Unit in the Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Policy Harmonisation, to which all Directorates report.
- ♦ The review of the SADC HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2003-2007 in 2003 to make it more gender responsive.
- ♦ The monitoring of the SADC Declaration on gender and development and its Addendum through reports submitted by member states to the Secretariat.

Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region, 15 May

Below is the substantive text of the Declaration signed by SADC Heads of State or Government in Dar es Salaam

WE, the Heads of State or Government...

Declare and commit ourselves to:

Promote agriculture as a pillar in our national and regional development strategies and programmes in order to attain our short, medium, and long-term objectives, on agriculture and food security, and ensure

In the short term (2004 – 2006):

1. Provision of Key Agricultural Inputs

- establish domestic support measures to vulnerable smallholder farmers to ensure access to key agricultural inputs;
- institute measures for timely provision of quality seeds to vulnerable farmers and to encourage contract seed production and to attain regional self-sufficiency by 2006;
- encourage exploitation of mineral deposits for fertiliser production and make maximum use of available capacity to manufacture fertilizers within the SADC region in order to meet the demand of the SADC region in 5 years time;
- ensure fair trade in fertilizers and other agrochemicals;
- endeavour to support tillage services through the promotion of draught power, and the provision of appropriate tillage equipment and affordable mechanisation;
- encourage research and development of affordable equipment and farming implements;
- promote labour-saving and gender sensitive technologies and improve infrastructure in the rural areas;

- accelerate land policy reform initiatives, share experiences of best practices, and ensure equitable access to land by women.

2. Agro-Industrial Development and Processing

- encourage value addition to primary agricultural products through agro-processing, storage and packaging;
- promote non-farm agricultural income-generating activities; and
- support development of agro-business entrepreneurship and other skills to enhance agroprocessing.

3. Crop and Livestock Pests and Diseases

- revitalise national control measures of migratory pests and diseases;
- strengthen surveillance, control, eradication and information sharing on trans-boundary pests and diseases of plants and animals;
- develop and implement strategies and programmes for prevention and progressive control to eradicate transboundary animal diseases; and
- develop comprehensive national Tsetse and Trypanosomosis control and eradication programmes.

4. Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Production

- increase production of drought tolerant crops such as sorghums, millets, cassava and other root crops as well as disease resistant crops;
- establish and develop proper storage and preservation facilities at the household, national and regional levels;

- increase production of short cycle stocks, such as poultry, small ruminants and piggery; and
- increase aquaculture and marine farming, and improve fish stock management and fish product quality through pre and post harvest handling, processing and storage, in accordance with the SADC Protocol on Fisheries.

5. Water Management and Irrigation

- consider allocating a substantial part of the agricultural budget for water management and irrigation development;
- develop appropriate programmes to improve flood and drought mitigation;
- develop water harvesting technologies, flood control, and strategic water storage infrastructures;
- develop and implement policies aimed at attracting investments from the private sector;
- accelerate implementation of transboundary water resources development and management policies and programmes;
- strengthen capacity in irrigation; and
- facilitate inter basin water transfers within the framework of the SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses.

In the medium to long term (2004 – 2010) ensure:

1. Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources

- promote conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of

2004

plants and animals, including fisheries, forestry and wildlife;

- implement policy and legal reforms to monitor and curtail illegal harvesting and export of natural resources; and
- harmonise and accelerate implementation of natural resources management policies and programmes and increase investment in processing of natural resources products.

2. Disaster Preparedness

- strengthen national early warning systems;
- enhance vulnerability monitoring capabilities;
- develop a Regional Integrated Agricultural Information System; and
- consider the establishment of a Regional Food Reserve Facility.

3. Research, Technology Development and Dissemination

- strengthen research and extension services in order to facilitate the development and transfer of technologies;
- revamp extension services through recruitment, re-training and retention of extension workers and development of farmer skills; and
- enhance development of crop varieties and animal breeds that are tolerant to and perform better under prevailing physical environmental conditions.

4. Private Sector Involvement in Agriculture and Rural Development

Institute support mechanisms aimed at strengthening private sector involve-

ment in agriculture and rural development.

5. Market Access

- ensure that a significant percentage of national budgetary resources are allocated for rural physical infrastructure development;
- establish price stabilization mechanisms to protect both smallholder producers and consumers in accordance with WTO provisions on domestic support for agriculture;
- strengthen rules and disciplines governing trade in agriculture through the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol;
- expedite harmonization and implementation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures to the required international standards;
- support voluntary farmer organisations and create opportunities for them to get into the value adding chain;
- call upon developed countries to eliminate trade-distorting agricultural subsidies; and
- adopt measures to increase access of agricultural products into the markets of developed countries.

6. Agricultural Financing and Investment

- progressively increase budgetary allocations for agriculture to at least 10% of the national total budgets as recommended in the African Union Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa July 2003;
- increase the establishment and use of rural financial intermediaries; and

- investigate the establishment of an Agricultural Development Bank/Fund.

7. Training and Human Resource Development

enhance the capacity of professionals and farmers in the region with emphasis on farmer exchange programmes and scholarships, for different specialisations.

8. Gender Equality

enhance gender mainstreaming, in particular, repealing discriminatory laws that prohibit access to finance, land and other key agricultural inputs.

9. Enhancing Human Health and Mitigation of HIV and AIDS and other Chronic Diseases

- mainstream policies and programmes to promote human health, combat HIV and AIDS in agriculture and enhance natural resources development; and
- promote research, production and utilisation of non-traditional foods that strengthen the immune system.

Implementation and Monitoring

In order to achieve the expected results, instruct the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers to initiate implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at this Extraordinary Summit and to monitor progress accordingly.

UNDERTAKE to review progress on the implementation of this Declaration at the end of every two (2) years from the date of signature. □

Digital divide hampers fight against poverty

by Amos Chanda

Information technology experts have urged SADC countries to narrow the digital divide in the region and place Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) at the centre of programmes to fight poverty and disease.

"...ICTs should be seen as tools of attaining some of the basic services that are required by the majority poor in Africa," said experts from five SADC states who met in Lusaka, Zambia, in April.

Participants from Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, noted that SADC countries are lagging behind in policy implementation and are also affected by a huge digital divide.

ICTs experts say the tools of communication should be the commanding drives to disseminate information on diseases such as HIV and AIDS, to fight poverty and to inform public policy on measures that underpin economic development processes in the region.

Experts drew attention to SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which has been adopted as the blueprint for development, as well as continental and global initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), all of which presuppose an enabling environment.

Organised by One World Africa, the workshop stressed that policy implementation is vital. "A number of countries in the SADC region are behind in as far as the ICTs policy implementation is concerned," said Fackson Banda, director of PANOS Institute-Southern Africa.

South Africa has the most advanced ICTs accessibility, surpassing by far, the other 13 SADC members. Experts advised that this digital divide within SADC ought to be narrowed to harness development in the region.

Increased accessibility of ICTs in southern Africa is seen as a step towards creating a well-informed society that can promptly respond to development issues.

Other problem areas in policy-making in developing countries include operational ones such as the lack of technical efficiency of power plants, the low quality of the electricity network and the inaccessibility of transmission channels such as satellites.

The workshop noted that civil society groups dealing with ICTs in southern Africa have failed to form associations in order to speak with one voice on policy implementation.

A clear interface thus exists between the lack of ICTs and the high levels of poverty in SADC because the poor continue to have limited access to tools that can help them to engage their society.

"It is not surprising therefore that most ICTs policy-making initiatives are strongly linked to the attainment of the MDGs," Banda said.

SADC countries, it was noted, like many others in the developing world, have been called to a realisation that existing traditional telecommunica-

tions policies need to be expanded to bring them in line with the emerging new media environment.

The new media include mobile telephony, the Internet, convergence between communications, computer information processing and broadcasting among others.

But Banda cautioned that ICTs should not be used as an end in themselves but as means by the majority poor to improve access to market information, health care, education and other social services.

"ICTs therefore must be tamed to serve the most basic needs of communities. ICTs must not be allowed to drive development, rather, the needs of communities must drive the adoption of technologies," he said.

Experts noted that governments and civil society groups faced challenges in putting their ICTs efforts together to help the vulnerable groups in communities across SADC. □

Malawi election ushers in new faces

The Malawi 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections held on 20 May ushered in some new faces, the main one being the election of economist Bingu wa Mutharika as president, a considerable increase in women representation and the beginning of the end of voting along ethnic lines.

Mutharika's political history is short and was not until recently given serious attention in local circles.

This changed when President Bakili Muluzi announced that he was paving the way for the former COMESA chief to take over as president after the 2004 elections – a situation that raised eyebrows, given the many established politicians and economists in the country.

President Muluzi drafted Mutharika into the central executive committee of his ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) as the presidential elections contender, ahead of the Vice President, Justin Malewezi.

Mutharika won over contenders John Tembo of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), Gwanda Chakuamba of the Mgwirizano Coalition of seven parties,

Brown Mpinganjira of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and Malewezi who ran as independent.

According to the results acclaimed, Mutharika got 1,119,738 votes; Tembo 846,457; Chakuamba, 802,386; Mpinganjira 272,172 votes while Malewezi gleaned 78,892 votes.

Latest figures on the Malawi National Assembly reveal the following composition: MCP, 60 seats; UDF, 49 seats (against 91 of 1999). Independent candidates, a good number of whom are women, have collected 38 seats. Chakuamba's six-months old Republican Party (RP) has 16 seats, while the Alliance for Democracy (Aford), the UDF partner, has managed only 6 seats against the 30 it had in the last election. Small parties, including the NDA, have shared the rest of the seats, in the 193-seat house.

The number of women in parliament almost doubled. In the last National Assembly, there were 17 female parliamentarians, representing 8.8 percent of the 193 chamber Parliament. Now there are 28 female MPs, representing 14 percent. □

Need to balance ARV treatment with proper nutrition

by Jabulani Sithole and Chipu Muvezwa

Southern African countries have been urged to ensure HIV and AIDS interventions incorporate access to treatment, nutrition and gender issues, beyond home-based care and prevention.

The discourse and strategies to deal with HIV and AIDS has shifted from prevention through condom distribution, general awareness, information, education and communication strategies to include issues of access to treatment through antiretroviral (ARV) therapy and access to proper nutrition. Focus now includes treatment of opportunistic infections and dealing with symptoms of severe illness while providing good nutrition.

A Pan African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) conference held in Harare, Zimbabwe in March explored regional strategies for scaling up access to ARV therapy treatment and other essential medicines for the treatment of opportunistic infections.

The conference noted that in any given country between 10 and 20 percent of People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWAs) need to be on an ARV programme. However, delays in rolling out ARV therapy programme have been cited as a major impediment to the treatment of those infected.

SADC countries reaffirmed their commitment to fight the pandemic when they signed the Maseru declaration on HIV and AIDS which proposes a multi-sectoral approach that involves partnership with all stakeholders to deal with the situation.

Infrastructure such as laboratories and counselling services for the roll out programmes pose a major challenge to many countries. Rene Loewenson of Zimbabwe, whose organisation is a member of the regional Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa (EQUINET), notes the need for the region to improve its health services and ensure that there is health activism to support the roll out programmes.

"Along with the need to scale up access to treatment, are systems for making treatment accessible and rein-

forcing wider health systems, through the consideration of how treatment accessibility can be made sustainable," says Loewenson.

For countries that have commenced roll out plans such as Botswana there has been improvement in the lives of many, though challenges still exist.

Out of a population of 1.7 million, Botswana has 16, 000 adults and 1, 500 children on antiretroviral treatment. Eighty-five percent of the patients have improved health and productivity while 90 percent of those on treatment for at least 18 months have adhered to the treatment.

ARV rollout programmes have also been started in Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Absence of treatment literacy and inadequate dissemination of available literature is a stumbling block for PLWA to enrol and adhere to the regimes of available treatment. People need to know where to access treatment, requirements for use and side effects.

A recently launched book *Positive Living: Food and Us* has a more practical approach to the HIV and AIDS pandemic given that most African countries cannot afford the ARV drugs and distribution is limited.

The book recommends wholesome nutrition that strengthens the body and the immune system and is intended to help people to avoid the diseases and conditions that have become common. Top on the list is HIV and AIDS followed by diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, tooth decay and increasing types of cancer.

The book says that utilising poor soils and bad agricultural practices such as monocropping, and using artificial fertilisers and pesticides, has resulted in food having less nutrients.

Traditional African foods, according to the book, are nutri-

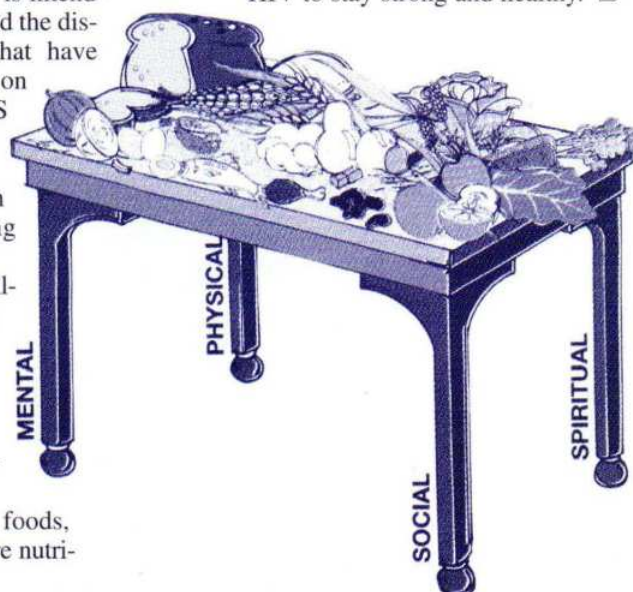
tious but Africans have adopted most harmful foods in the past 50 years copying a "Western" diet. The book proposes that the nutritional balance should be backed by spiritual, physical and mental support.

Suggestions are made that a herbal immune-boosters be taken daily especially for people living with HIV; and argues that herbal preparations are much cheaper than anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs and have no negative side effects. These, taken with proper diet and vitamin supplements will help maintain or improve health.

However, people are cautioned that despite efforts to maintain health, they will fall sick sometimes, and will require medical treatment, which has become unaffordable and is sometimes unavailable. Alternatively, traditional healers can provide effective herbs that can help to control symptoms of AIDS and other illnesses.

The author, Lynde Francis, of The Centre in Zimbabwe, says, "I have seen people living with HIV recover from the symptoms of HIV and AIDS. They have become productive in their communities and are able to carry on raising and nurturing their children."

Francis has been living with HIV since diagnosis in 1986 and shares her approach to guide people living with HIV to stay strong and healthy. □



Africa's wildlife conservation strategies impressive, says GEO yearbook

by Leonissah Munjoma

Africa's wildlife conservation record is impressive despite the continent's challenges arising from extreme poverty, water stress and scarcity and land degradation.

The recently launched Global Environment Outlook Yearbook 2003 (GEO Year Book 2003), says the continent has excelled in wildlife conservation with an increased number of protected areas established both at national and regional levels. The continent has also demonstrated commitment to several international agreements.

Africa has been identified as one of the regions making serious efforts to address environmental degradation. Some of the major challenges noted during 2003 include poverty, armed conflict, water issues and famine.

Enforcement and Governance Ministerial Declaration of October 2003, which recognizes that the biodiversity of Africa's forest ecosystems is essential for the livelihoods of the African people," the yearbook says.

Africa has in the past come under the spotlight for alleged wildlife abuse. In 1989, the international community, through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) banned the sale of ivory due to increased concern for the elephant population.

During the year under review, the yearbook notes, water issues were a priority in Africa. Governments in the region and their partners, participated in various water-related events, including the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, convened in December 2003 in Addis Ababa. One of its objectives was to

explore ways of reaching the internationally agreed water and sanitation targets.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) stipulate that the world should halve the number of people without access to clean water and sanitation by the year 2015.

"These negative changes, however, have been tempered by Africa's impressive wildlife conservation record, including a well-established network of protected areas and the region's commitment to multilateral environmental agreements," says the Geo Year Book 2003.

The GEO Year Book 2003 is the first in the annual series of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reports. A decision to have annual GEO reports was taken at the 22nd session of the UN Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum early last year.

"Africa's commitment to biodiversity conservation was further reinforced by the Africa Forest Law

For Africa to meet this target, it means ensuring improved access to safe water for 405 million people and improved sanitation for 247 million.

Compiled with the assistance of collaborating centres from various parts of the world, the report contains four sections. The first section provides an overview of major global and regional environmental issues and developments that shaped policy decisions and actions during the course of the year.

This is followed by a feature focus on freshwater and its critical role in realizing various internationally agreed

development goals and targets. The report notes that water is key to poverty alleviation, consumption, production, sanitation, human settlements and biodiversity. It also points out the importance of transboundary water in terms of governance and sustainability.

Southern Africa has 15 shared river basins and this makes the issue of freshwater resource sharing even more crucial to ensure inclusive resource management.

The third section highlights emerging challenges - new findings presenting scientific progress made in 2003 that may assist society in recognizing and better understanding emerging environmental issues to help decision makers in designing adequate responses. Two main new findings have been highlighted, the nitrogen cycle and marine over-fishing.

Scientific research in 2003 has found that human activity "is radically altering the world's nitrogen cycle through food and energy production." Without being too specific on regions, the report notes that some areas are negatively affected while the impact in other parts of the world is positive.

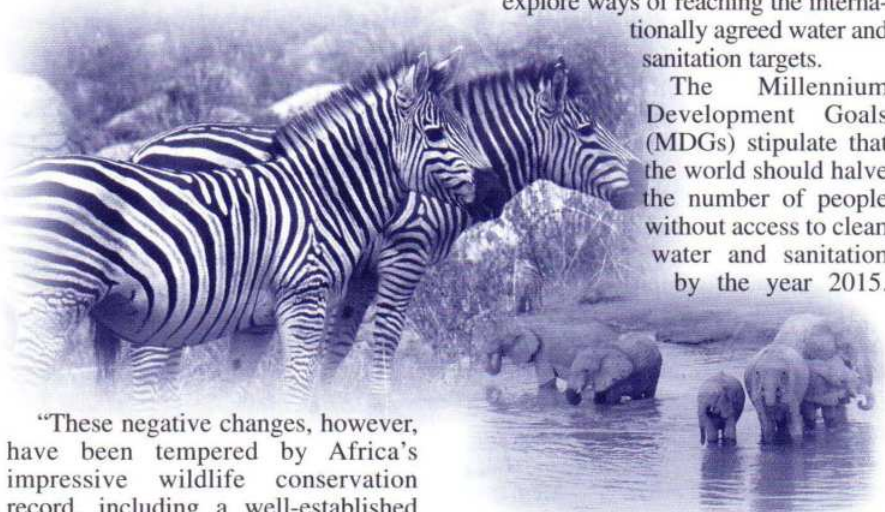
"Problems related to nitrogen exist all over the world but the nature of the problem varies. There is too much nitrogen in some areas, while others have too little to meet human needs," the year book notes.

On overfishing, the report says three-quarters of the world's fish stocks are being overexploited, jeopardising the resources available for future generations.

The last section provides GEO indicators highlighting some of the key global and regional environmental issues and trends that have been identified in GEO reports.

The Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA) of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) was the collaborating partner in compiling the Africa component of the GEO Year Book 2003.

An outstanding challenge is dissemination of the report especially in Africa. This would assist with publicising the findings and also providing best practices for stakeholders in the region. □



The first Under-20 Zone Six SADC Games

by Bayano Valy

Although its athletes did poorly for a host country, Mozambique can be content that its organisation of the first under-20 Zone Six SADC Games met with some relative successes.

Mozambican athletes stood fourth in the overall standings out of 10 SADC countries that took part in the games held between 24 April and 2 May in the capital, Maputo. About 1,100 youths from the region vied with each other in defence of their national colours.

However, according to the organisers, unlike other major sporting events where finishing first is the main goal, the SADC games were intended to foster regional unity – certainly the significance that Mozambique happens to currently hold the chair at the African Union was not lost.

Thus it was fitting that although a regional event, the games had to be opened in a beautiful ceremony by Mozambique's President and current chairperson of the African Union, Joaquim Chissano, who was flanked by such dignitaries as the country's former first lady, Graça Machel, SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy, and various regional sports ministers.

Apart from a few snags at the beginning, when the games got rolling things were gradually smoothed out. One issue that had been of concern was security, but no one athlete or delegation made any complaints, and the protocol seemed to be synchronised as well in order to assist the participant member states.

This was also a credit to the athletes and delegations themselves who behaved admirably.

Since the participants were youth falling within the age bracket most vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, organisers made sure they allocated some time in the busy sporting schedule for the teenagers to discuss and exchange views. Giving the "kick out" was Graça Machel who called on them to be more active in the struggle against the pandemic.

To show that the games were inclusive, organisers made sure that the competing member countries brought with them disabled athletes who added a special dimension to the event.

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were represented. The major competitions included athletics, football, netball, boxing and basketball.

Perhaps by virtue of its neighbourly status and its vintage capacity to organise big events, South Africa helped to ease the burden when sometimes it seemed just too heavy for one country.

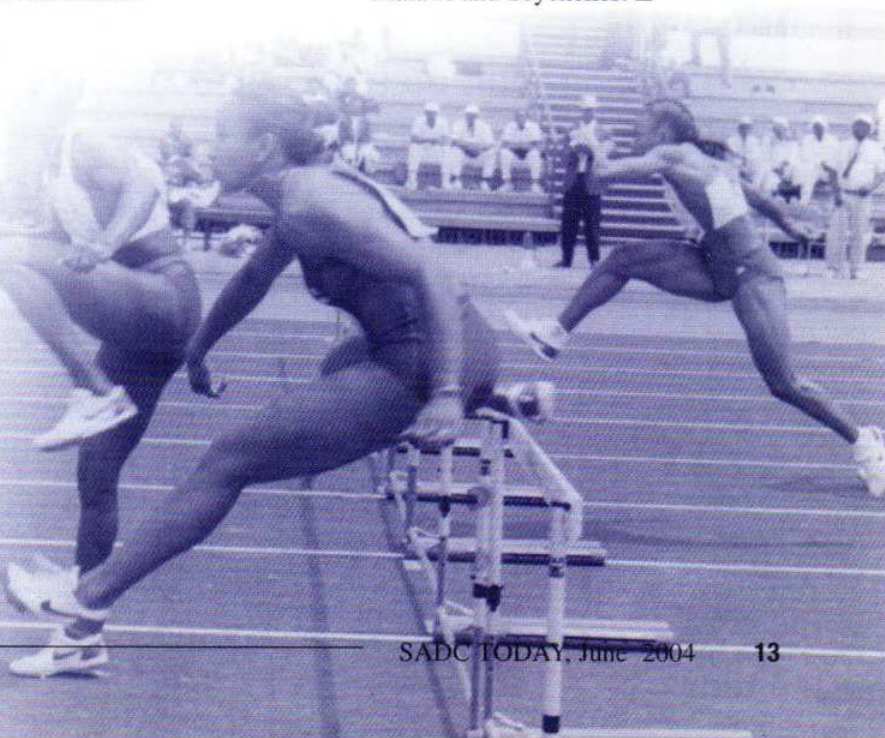
On the closing day a sudden downpour that lasted about half an hour tried to dampen the spirits of the athletes, but this was to end well. After some consultations between Mozambique's sports minister, Joel Libombo, and the heads of delegations, it was decided the venue be shifted from a marina which afforded a sea view to a closed one where the final ceremony led by Prime Minister Luisa Diogo took place.

Mozambique has been applauded in the region for showing courage in organising the event after other countries turned down the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA), the official arm responsible for implementing all SADC sport activities in accordance with the body's Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport.

It is hoped that the Mozambican experience will be followed by Namibia which will host the games in 2006. Absent from the regional event were Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi and Seychelles. □

Table of medals

Country	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total
South Africa	26	19	16	61
Zimbabwe	9	11	17	37
Namibia	11	7	8	26
Mozambique	2	4	8	14
Botswana	5	4	4	13
Zambia	1	6	3	10
Mauritius	4	1	3	8
Tanzania	3	3	0	6
Angola	2	3	1	6
Lesotho	0	2	2	4
Swaziland	1	0	2	3



Tanzania obtains International Development Association credit

The World Bank has approved an International Development Association (IDA) credit of US\$122 million to support the upgrading of strategic roads in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar and improve the operations of Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC).

Amongst the roads to be upgraded are the 110-kilometre Singida-

Shelui section of the Central Transport Corridor and three roads in Zanzibar.

It is expected that construction will start during the last quarter of the year for the Singida-Shelui road and during the first quarter of 2005 for the Zanzibar roads. Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Uganda are also expected to bene-

fit, through increased trade with neighbouring countries.

The upgrading of the three roads in Zanzibar support the development of tourism, agro and fishing industries in Zanzibar, and will help to stimulate human development through making services more readily accessible to local population.

(The Herald) □

Zambia to benefit from gateway through Namibia

Namibia's is set to become a SADC gateway to Europe and the Americas for its landlocked neighbours through the new Sesheke bridge which has generated interest in Zambia.

The Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) says that the corridor infrastructure is in excellent condition and the bridge will provide the first-ever direct country-to-country connection between Namibia and Zambia, improving the utilisation of the corridor.

Presently, Zambia uses Dar es Salaam and Durban for its exports, which is far from Lusaka as well as the

Copper Belt. Through the corridor, Zambia has an opportunity for an alternative route for the country whose main trading partner is?

Zambia has reported an increase in its mining activities and will need a west-bound export route for its agricultural products such as cotton, tobacco, sugar and coffee.

Zambian transport officials have committed themselves to establish a management committee (Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lumbumbashi Committee) to work towards simplifying and harmonising cross-border transport regulations. (New Era) □

Madagascar in bid to join SADC

The Indian Ocean island of Madagascar has applied to join the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The move comes at a time when another Indian Ocean island, Seychelles will be leaving the 14-member organisation in July and the process for admitting new members has been tightened.

SADC executive secretary Prega Ramsamy told a news briefing in Gaborone on 20 May that Madagascar would be assessed to determine whether it qualified for membership.

The executive secretary informed the meeting that the structure of membership contributions has changed from being equal payment to one based on a member's gross domestic product (GDP).

New members are expected to share SADC's aspirations with regard to macro-economic convergence, good governance, commitment to agreed decisions and to carrying out its responsibilities.

Consequently, members contribute between five percent and 20 percent of their GDP. Formerly an independent kingdom, Madagascar became a French colony in 1886, but regained its independence in 1960.

Headed by President Marc Ravalomanana since 6 May 2002, it is located east of Mozambique. (BOPA) □

SADC delegation meets to discuss drug trafficking

A SADC meeting to discuss drugs consumption and trafficking within the region was held in Luanda in May.

The aim of the meeting was to facilitate discussion around the establishment of policies meant to put an end to drug trafficking in the Community. The meeting brought together experts from Angola, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia.

The investigative discussions were within a SADC project, and the delegation will work with the Ministries of Health and Justice towards the installation of drug consumption monitoring system.

The group has been meeting periodically to analyse information on drug consumption and trafficking in SADC countries. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, in June. (ANGOP) □

Looking Back to Move Forward: African development strategies

This book reflects on Africa's previous experiences with alternative paradigms to structural adjustment and explores their implementation in the 21st century.

The stated intention is to "learn from the past in order to chart viable new policy directions for the future, including critically assessing the prospects for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) measuring up to the challenges involved."

The book takes a critical look at broad issues such as external influences on corporate governance, development in the context of globalisation, and the African path to sustainable human development. It also studies some specific issues such as the role of women in policy-making and barriers to participation, water and sanitation, poverty, HIV and AIDS.

This series of essays by scholars primarily from west and east Africa focuses on mobilisation for implementation of indigenous alternative paradigms, governance and development, obstacles to governance and development, and regionalism and development.

The introductory analysis entitled "Forty years of development illusions" by Professor Mbaya Kankwenda, says the three guiding principles for African development should be: internalisation of the accumulation base; enlargement of the social base of development; and peace and political stability.

He says these should constitute the base of three main development objectives of the continent in the 21st century namely: the building of peace and political and social stability; a sustained, endogenous and equitable economic growth; and improvement of human wellbeing and ending of human poverty.

Some of the challenges he identifies are: control of population growth, good governance and democratisation in the idiom of development socialisation rather than structural adjustment; the development of an African tradition of excellence in science

and technology; and the successful management of environmental resources.

In an Epilogue on NEPAD, the book questions whether it is "a Vision, a Programme or a Strategy", and whether it is created around the same basic principles as the Lagos Plan of Action (1980). The book concludes with a critical analysis of its chances for success.

The conclusion stresses collective self-reliance and says that industrial development and manufacturing should be given higher priority through the urgent need to integrate Africa's production structures and its markets.

The book also concludes that there should be more linkages between NEPAD's five priority areas in the productive sector (infrastructure, energy, education, health and agriculture), and that the plan should be more concerned with wealth creation on a sustainable basis rather than on attracting foreign investment.

The occasion for the essays is to pay tribute to one of Africa's most eminent economists, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, on his 70th birthday. Former Executive Secretary for the Economic Commission on Africa and UN Under Secretary General as well as a distinguished scholar and author, Adedeji is best known for his pioneering work in developing the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment.

The book has become a commemoration also of the work of the late Professor Bade Onimode of Ibadan University in Nigeria, a noted author on African economic development issues, who died before this book could be published. □

African Development and Governance Strategies in the 21st Century: Essays in honour of Adebayo Adedeji at Seventy, by Bade Onimode et al, published by ZED Press in collaboration with the African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies (ACDESS), 2004.

Recent publications and acquisitions

Africa and International Trade: A Primer for Cancun and Beyond

Edited by Gruzds, Steven. - 2003
Available from: The South African Institute for International Affairs
NEPAD and Governance Project.
E-mail: gruzds@saiia.wits.ac.za
Website: <http://www.wits.ac.za>

African prospects on paragraph 6 of the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health.

- 2003
Available from: COMESA Regional Integration Research Network Project
E-mail: info@comesa.int
Website: <http://www.comesa.int>

COMESA/SADC Regional workshop for trade negotiators on the Doha development agenda report. - 2003

Available from: COMESA Regional Integration Research Network Project.
E-mail: info@comesa.int
Website: <http://www.comesa.int>

Election Update South Africa 2004. - 2004

The Electoral Institute of Southern Africa
Available from: 2nd Floor The Atrium. 41 Stanley Ave. Auckland Park
P.O BOX 740 Auckland Park 2006. South Africa
E-mail: info@eisa.org.za
Website: <http://www.eisa.org.za>

Smoke and Mirrors? Sub-Saharan Africa's Negotiating Position in the Doha Development Agenda through the Prism of Special and Differential Treatment.

Draper, Peter and Khumalo, Nkululeko. - 2003
Available from: University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
PO Box 31596 Braamfontein, 2017
Email: saiiagen@global.co.za
Website: <http://www.wits.ac.za>

The World Health Report 2003: Shaping the future. - 2003

Available from: WHO Regional Office for Africa, Parirenyatwa Hospital P.O BOX BE 773 Harare, Zimbabwe
E-mail: regafro@whoafr.org
Website: www.paho.org

SADC diary

2004	Event	Venue
June	2-4 World Economic Forum African Economic Summit	Mozambique
	5 World Environment Day	All Member States
	7-11 SADC Workshop on Drafting Training Modules on Risk Management	Zimbabwe
	14 SADC/EU Joint Steering Committee	Belgium
	14-18 SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers	Botswana
	21-24 Regional SADC Media Awards Adjudication Committee	Botswana
	21-27 SADC Women in Business Trade Fair	Botswana
	23-24 Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Summit	Mozambique
	28-29 SADC Information Sharing Workshop for Media Practitioners	Lesotho
	29-30 8th African Union PRC	Ethiopia
July	2-4 5th African Union Executive Council	Ethiopia
	5-16 SADC Regional Training Session for Customs Officers	Mauritius
	6-8 3rd African Union Ordinary Session of the Summit	Ethiopia
	8 Forum on Trade between European Union and SADC	Namibia
	13 Launch of ZAMCOM	Botswana
	20-23 SADC Environmental Education Network Representatives	Angola
August	8-17 2004 Ordinary SADC Summit	Mauritius
	17 SADC Day	All Member States

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	81.78
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.11
DRC Congo	Franc	400.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	7.05
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	109.00
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	27.50
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	23,600.00
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	7.07
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.18
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	7.08
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.10
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,107.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,750.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	5,328.00

10 May 2004

Public Holidays in SADC for the Period June - July 2004

1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
19 June	Corpus Christi	Seychelles
24 June	Fisherman's Day	DRC
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
29 June	Independence	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Saba Saba Day	United Republic of Tanzania
7 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
8 July	Unity Day	Zambia
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
19 July	President Day	Botswana
20 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 July	Public Holiday	Swaziland
1 August	Parents Day	DRC
4 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Peasants Day	United Republic of Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
11 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
12 August	Defence Forces National Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption	Seychelles
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia