



Southern Africa's economic outlook brighter ...as Angola, DRC peace processes take shape

by Munetsi Madakufamba

Investors are keenly but cautiously watching the increasing prospects for peace in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo whose damaging civil wars have prevented the region from realising its full investment potential.

The death of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi early this year, and the subsequent signing of a peace accord between the government and the rebel movement on 4 April ushered in fresh hope for a lasting solution to Angola's civil war that has dragged on for near-

ly three decades. Among others, the agreement commits Unita to demobilise its troops, and the government to call an election within two years.

Council meets in Gaborone

The Council of Ministers meets in Gaborone, Botswana, on 10-14 June to discuss among other issues progress on the restructuring of SADC institutions. *For full story please turn to page 8.*

Those familiar with the history of Angolan politics have every reason to be cautiously optimistic. In 1992, what had looked like a highly promising Lusaka Peace Accord collapsed when Unita reneged on its obligations following an electoral defeat. The civil war, which has been on and off since 1975, continued up until Savimbi and his deputy were killed in clashes with government troops in February this year.

Shaken by the death of their leadership, the rebels have since submitted

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Southern Africa suffers grain shortage, appeals for food aid

by Tafadzwa Sekeso

Some parts of southern Africa have been hit by severe food shortages, particularly the staple maize crop which was affected by either drought or flooding, prompting SADC to launch a regional campaign for food aid.

The worst affected countries are Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Lesotho and Zimbabwe have already declared a state of national disaster to allow their governments to use extraordinary measures to bring food to the needy.

In its recent edition of the *SADC Quarterly Food Security Bulletin*, the

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Drought resistant cereals such as sorghum are recommended in drier parts of the region

IUCN

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New Partnership for Africa's Development

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), of which SADC is a key part, is an initiative by African leaders which is based on a common vision to eradicate poverty and place the continent on a path of sustainable development, as well as facilitate countries, both individually and collectively, to participate actively in the global economy.

NEPAD was launched last year as the implementation plan of the new African Union. Although the problems to be addressed remain essentially the same, NEPAD differs from previous development plans and initiatives in its ownership and management.

The governing structure of NEPAD, which is composed of an Implementation Committee of Heads of State and Government, chaired by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo; a Steering Committee; and a Secretariat which is based in Pretoria, South Africa.

A number of forums have been convened to refine strategies and promote the project. Among these was the recent Conference on Partnership with the Private Sector for Financing Africa's Growth through NEPAD, which was held from 15-17 April in Dakar, Senegal.

NEPAD will also feature strongly during the G-8 summit in Canada in June, and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in August/September.

The policy document of NEPAD takes note of the fact that time has already been lost in trying to achieve some of these IDGs, and thus says something new and radical has to be done to achieve the goals. The initiative is private sector-driven and underlines the critical role played by information technology in achieving its objectives.

Although the policy document mentions gender in passing, it has something for everybody in terms of priority areas in its programme of action which include:

key targets

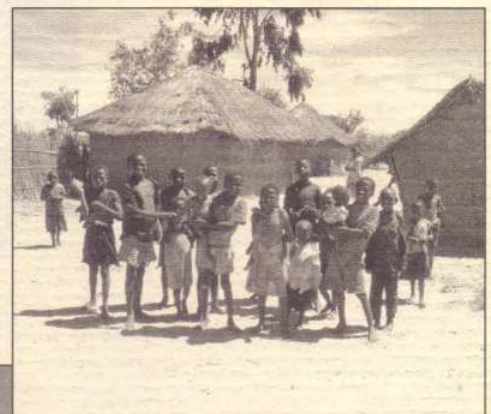
NEPAD's long-term objectives as stated in the policy document are to:

- eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation; and
- promote the role of women in all activities.

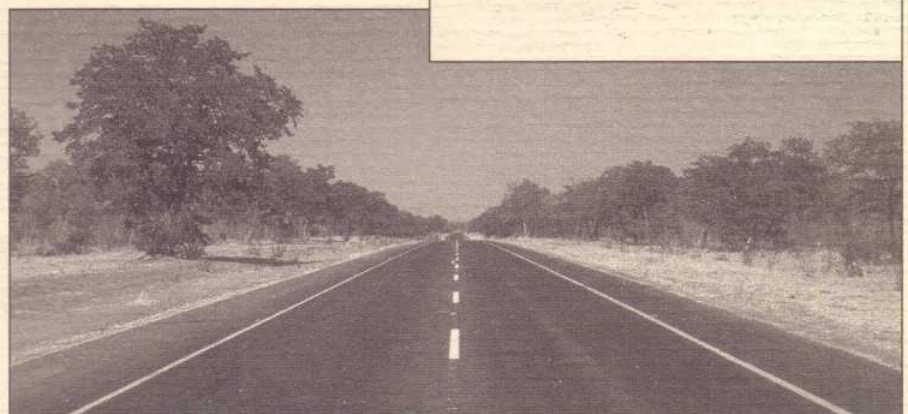
Its immediate goals are to:

- achieve and sustain an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of above seven percent per annum for the next 15 years; and
- ensure that the continent achieves the agreed International Development Goals (IDGs), which are to:
 - ❖ reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015;
 - ❖ enroll all children of school age in primary schools by 2015;
 - ❖ make progress towards gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in the enrolment in primary and secondary education by 2005;
 - ❖ reduce infant and child mortality ratios by two thirds between 1990 and 2015;
 - ❖ reduce maternal mortality ratios by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015;
 - ❖ provide access for all who need reproductive health services by 2015; and
 - ❖ implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005, so as to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015.

- Peace, security and political governance initiative;
- Economic and corporate governance initiative;
- Bridging the infrastructure gap;
- Human resource development initiative;
- Capital flows initiative;
- Market access initiative; and
- Environment initiative. □



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NEPAD aims at halving Africa's poverty by 2015 and put the continent on a path to sustainable development.

Regional forum for women MPs created

The Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC), an autonomous lobby and advocacy structure of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), was launched on 11 April at a ceremony in Luanda, Angola.

The launch took place in the wings of the first session of the biannual 2002 Plenary Meeting of the SADC PF. The ceremony was attended by chairpersons of national parliamentary caucuses in SADC member states, the SADC PF Committee on Democracy, Gender and Conflict Resolution, the Commonwealth Association of Women MPs, and representatives of European MPs for Africa (AWEPA), SADC Secretariat and SADC PF.

South Africa was elected to chair the caucus, while the two deputy chairpersons are Mozambique and Namibia.

Preparations for the formation of the RWPC date back to 1999 when the SADC Secretariat convened a meeting on Women in Politics and Decision-making in SADC where it was agreed that such a caucus should be formed.

The Gender Unit at the Secretariat then embarked on a series of consultations with various stakeholders including the SADC PF and chairpersons of national women's caucuses, leading to the establishment of an interim executive committee and subsequently the launch of the regional caucus in Luanda.

Its overall objective is to accelerate the transformation of parliaments to achieve the full implementation of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development signed by heads of state and government in 1997.

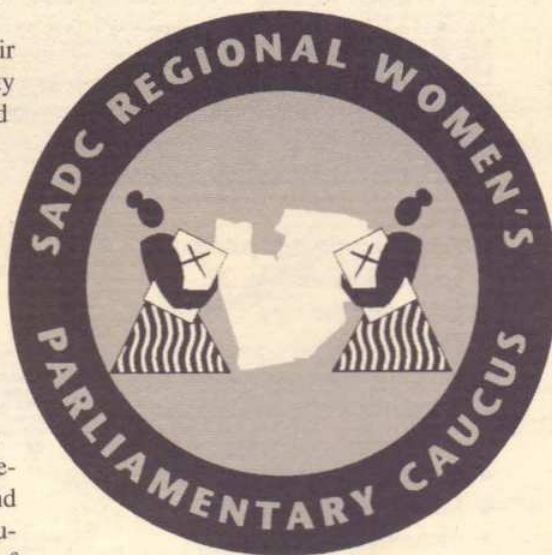
It is also in line with the commitments of the declaration, in particular: "Ensuring the equal representation of women and men in the decision-making of member states and SADC structures at all levels, and the achievement

of at least 30 percent target of women in political and decision-making structures by year 2005; [and]

"Repealing and reforming all laws, amending constitutions and changing social practices which still subject women to discrimination and enacting empowering gender-sensitive laws."

Specifically, the caucus aims to:

- monitor and follow up the domestication and implementation of regional policies and declarations on the advancement of women and gender equality by SADC countries (specifically the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development);



- strengthen the capacity of National Women's Parliamentary Caucuses, networking and support among women MPs on gender issues in SADC parliaments;
- improve the participation and role of women MPs in electoral processes, conflict prevention, resolution and management;
- lobby for the increased representation and effective participation of women in politics and decision making structures to a "critical mass" of at least 30

percent women in policy-making bodies by 2005; and

- improve the allocation of resources towards programmes and activities on HIV/AIDS.

To achieve its objectives, a number of strategies have been identified for the caucus, which include:

- capacity building and training;
- advocacy and lobbying;
- monitoring and observing electoral processes from a gender perspective;
- increased budgets for HIV/AIDS programmes and activities;
- sharing of information and experiences; and
- peace building and conflict prevention and resolution processes.

Athaliah Molokomme, SADC Senior Programme Officer (Gender) who attended the launch said "The RWPC would be an autonomous lobbying and advocacy structure within the SADC PF, with strategic links to its Engendering Parliaments Project, Standing Committee on Democracy, Gender and Conflict Resolution, SADC Gender Unit and national parliaments."

The Engendering Parliaments Project, which the SADC PF is implementing in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), with the SADC Gender Unit as a key strategic partner, facilitates and provides gender capacity building and training for about 1,800 female and male MPs in SADC. The project augments ongoing efforts at the national and regional levels.

Whilst the Forum's emphasis is on gender capacity building and training for both female and male MPs, the project pays particular attention to the practical needs and interests of women MPs. Thus the RWPC seeks to create space for strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of women MPs. □

SADC-COMESA collaboration strengthens

Collaboration between SADC and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) is set to strengthen as the two bodies continue to find ways to harmonise their programmes.

The heads of the two organisations, SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy and COMESA's Erastus Mwencha, met recently in Lusaka, Zambia, to review progress on agreed areas of collaboration. The meeting was in line with the Cairo Agreement reached last year by the then chairpersons of the two organisations, which established a joint task force to explore and harmonise areas of common interest.

The two chiefs said in a joint statement that they have made significant progress on issues related to the development of similar customs documentation, carrying out of joint economic impact assessment studies and collaboration in regional statistical training. The meeting also reviewed progress on infrastructure development, food

shortages, HIV/AIDS and a project on third party insurance scheme.

The task force identified further areas of collaboration which include:

- harmonisation of customs procedures and legislation, as well as to develop a regional code of ethics for customs officers and a regional customs bond guarantee scheme;
- convening of a joint technical meeting on non-tariff barriers with a view of developing a coordinated programme for their elimination;
- developing a regional legal framework for mutual recognition and implementation of standards, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology;
- designing a regional programme on the harmonisation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- cooperating in the preparation of an infrastructure master plan for eastern and southern Africa; and
- setting up a joint CNS/ATM system implementation task force to audit the work so far done by COMESA



Dr. Prega Ramsamy

SADC

and SADC and make recommendations.

The task force exchanged views on current developments regarding cooperation with multilateral institutions and negotiations such as under the World Trade Organisation, ACP-EU and provisions of the U.S. Africa Growth and Opportunities Act, as well as cooperation under the African Union and NEPAD.

The next meeting of the task force will be held in Gaborone, Botswana, on 25 October 2002. □

Durban summit to woo international investors

by Washington Midzi

The premier annual gathering of leaders of business, politics and civil society, the Southern Africa Economic Summit, will mark its 12th edition in Durban, South Africa on 5-7 June.

The World Economic Forum, which organises the meeting with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), says the annual summit thrives to create a platform for efficient outcome-oriented dialogue and high-level networking between business and political leaders.

Themes for the forthcoming summit will primarily focus on:

- the role of Africa: good governance, stability for development and investment;
- the response of Africa's international partners: market access, debt relief and development aid;
- bridging the digital divide; and
- the global health initiative.

This year's summit will be held in association with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

steering committee. The basis of NEPAD, which is a project of the African Union, is to win yearly investments of US\$64 billion for Africa, and support annual economic growth of seven percent.

The Durban summit will take place at a critical moment in economic and political history. The post 11 September trade growth forecasts are grim, and the current world recession could take a heavy toll on the economies of southern Africa.

One of the key issues likely to feature at the summit is how to ensure that development in Africa is not ignored as the West focuses on fighting terrorism. Other issues to be discussed will be a follow-up of the launch of the Millennium Africa Programme, a preparatory document for NEPAD, at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting in 2001 in Davos, Switzerland.

Durban will also provide a platform for mutual partnership between Africa and its international partners, business and civil society. Key outcomes from the summit will inform the discussions on NEPAD at the G-8 Summit in Canada, a fortnight after Durban. □

Southern Africa suffers grain shortage, appeals for food aid

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Harare-based SADC Regional Early Warning Unit (REWU) says less severe deficits are also expected in other countries. In an assessment that covers 12 SADC countries (excluding Democratic Republic of Congo and Seychelles), South Africa is the only country projected to record a maize surplus, and this is greatly reduced from previous years.

Following reports of emerging food crises, the SADC Disaster Response Task Force convened a meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, on 11-12 April. The meeting was attended by senior officials responsible for policy, planning and early warning activities in members states, as well as those responsible for transport and logistics and their counterparts from disaster management agencies, the World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

A statement from the Secretariat said the meeting sought to "get first hand accounts from the affected countries, ascertain what was being done, determine what still needed to be done in terms of resource mobilization, transport logistics, coordinating requirements and also to explore possible non-food requirements."

The SADC Disaster Response Task Force meeting made several recommendations which include:

- use of regional mechanisms to launch an appeal for a response from the international community;
- a regional resource mobilization;
- revival of the Logistics Advisory Centre which worked well during the 1992/3 drought; and
- initiating studies that look at national policies that may be adversely impacting on the food security situation at the national and regional levels.

The task force also made the following medium to long-term strategies:

- that SADC initiates various studies including a review of livestock products that can be incorporated in food security assessments to complement the current cereal balance sheets;
- a regional position on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) be established;
- countries should embark on irrigation development to minimise the over dependence on rain-fed production.

It was noted that the short term and long term strategies that were adopted by FANR ministers last year to deal with the cereal deficit at that time, remain relevant and should be put in place by all member states.

At their meetings in August 2001 in Zimbabwe and September in Mauritius, SADC ministers of agriculture had anticipated a cereal shortage and approved measures to ameliorate the situation, which included import requirements for affected countries.

"...there is an emerging predictable 10-year drought cycle in southern Africa."

The meetings recommended the amount of grain that needed to be imported for each country, as well as identifying possible sources.

However, several factors, the Gaborone meeting noted, prevented this from happening. It cited transport bottlenecks especially derailments of freight trains, congestion of routes with competing demands on freight services and high transit costs as some of the factors that prevented countries from fulfilling their import programmes.

REWU, which is an arm of the SADC Food Security Programme, attributes the current grain shortages to prolonged dry spells, flooding and policy dynamics.

A recent book, *State of the Environment Zambezi Basin 2000*, says there is an emerging predictable 10-year drought cycle in southern Africa. "Since the turn of the 20th century, eight spells of more or less than nine years have alternated with similar periods of rainfall that is below normal," says the book published in partnership by SADC, IUCN, Zambezi River Authority and SARDC.

The last severe drought to affect southern Africa was in 1992.

Flooding, which has also been recurring in the region, affected Malawi and to a lesser extent some parts of Mozambique and Zambia. In Malawi, the flooding damaged more than 6,000 ha of crops.

REWU also says shortages or high cost of inputs and the impact of land reforms in Zimbabwe also manifested themselves through a decline in crop production.

In Angola, satisfactory rains in the main cereal producing regions did not translate into good crop production due to the current civil war, which has displaced about four million people, REWU says. Although the country bettered its 2000/2001 maize output, the harvest remains short of national requirements.

On the whole, the 2001/2002 SADC maize harvest increased marginally to between 16.17 million tonnes and 16.72 million tonnes when compared to the 2000/2001 output of 15.88 million tonnes.

The marginal increase is however not enough to offset the deficit in other countries, leaving a cumulative shortfall of about 3.22 million tonnes.

Preliminary indications are that the current deficit is set to persist into the coming 2002/2003 marketing year during which an import requirement of about 2 million tonnes will be needed. □

After poll win ZANU-PF says it's time to complete land redistribution, rebuild nation

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) whose candidate President Robert Mugabe was re-elected in the March 2002 presidential election has appealed to its adversaries to bury the hatchet and join hands in rebuilding the country's flagging economy.

Since his inauguration last March after clinching victory in a closely contested election, President Mugabe has on a number of occasions appealed to the main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), to accept the election result and work with government towards revamping an economy that has suffered from a combination of factors, including lack of donor aid.

President Mugabe repeated his inauguration message at celebrations to mark the country's 22nd Independence Anniversary on 18 April when he said: "Let us walk together regardless of our differences..."

But the opposition MDC remains adamant it will not work with a government it says won a rigged election. President Mugabe who collected 56 percent of the total valid votes cast, defeated his main challenger and leader of the MDC, Morgan Tsvangirai, who garnered 42 percent in the 9-11 March poll endorsed by African observer missions including SADC, but rejected by western representatives and the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

The MDC, along with the European Union and other western observer groups that rejected the election outcome, cite pre-election violence and what they say was a rapid overhaul of electoral laws in the months leading to the poll. They argue that the electoral transformation was done by a partisan bureaucracy with the aim of tilting the vote in favour of the ruling party.



ZANU-PF supporters celebrate victory in the March 2002 presidential election

Perhaps for the first time in the history of election observation in Africa, observer groups from the continent were at variance with their European and American counterparts in the way they saw the electoral process in Zimbabwe. African observer groups came out united in endorsing the election result, signalling what may well be the emergence of an independent African voice in election observation.

On the back of an unequivocal African support, the ruling party wants MDC to accept the poll result and stop its international campaign to discredit the current government. But the MDC wants a re-run of the March presidential poll, a move the ruling party has flatly rejected.

Despite the two parties being seemingly worlds apart in terms of policy direction, recent inter-party talks have offered a glimmer of hope that common ground might eventually be found for the good of the nation.

Both parties are well aware the

ongoing socio-political situation in Zimbabwe has weighed heavily on what is southern Africa's second largest economy after South Africa.

Year-on-year inflation is currently at above 100 percent, and is largely a result of the ever-rising cost of production and forex shortages. Official figures put unemployment at above 60 percent while the Zimbabwe dollar trades at 1:55 with the US dollar at the official rate while on the parallel market it is trading at one to over 300 against the greenback.

With foreign aid not forthcoming, the government has been forced to rely heavily on domestic resources. It is with this realisation that top priority has been placed on agriculture and thus government has sought to empower its people through land redistribution.

The government claims the current programme has met with successes having allocated land to 264,000 fam-

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Council of ministers meeting set for Gaborone

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The SADC Council of Ministers meets on 10-14 June in Gaborone, Botswana, to deliberate on a wide range of issues that include progress on the implementation of the restructuring of the organisation's institutions.

The meeting is the second of the four meetings that Council now have to convene in a year following a decision reached when the ministers met last February in Zanzibar.

In addition to reviewing progress on the restructuring exercise, the ministers will deal with an assortment of housing-keeping matters, as well as consider reports on the food security situation in the region; meeting of ministers responsible for gender/women's affairs; illicit drug trafficking and abuse; and proposal for the development of a SADC Programme against corruption. The meeting will also discuss preparations for the 2002 Consultative Conference scheduled for October in Botswana under the theme "SADC Institutional Reform for Poverty Reduction Through Regional Integration".

Two memoranda of understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters, and Macroeconomic Convergence will be tabled for approval by the ministers.

Other issues to be discussed include SADC-EU relations, SADC-German cooperation under the Berlin Initiative, and negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in the context of the Cotonou Agreement.

Following a decision taken at the last meeting in Zanzibar in February,



Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume welcomes SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy while Lillian Patel, Malawian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers looks on.

Council will now meet four times a year, while the Summit meets twice over the same period.

Speaking in Zanzibar, Lillian Patel, Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers and Malawian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, said that the resolution was important in quickening the pace of regional integration as important decisions can now be taken faster than before when Council only met twice a year.

The SADC Summit will meet in September in Luanda, Angola, while the November Council meeting will be hosted by Mozambique.

The latest development to double SADC meetings is in line with an earlier decision taken by the Summit in March 2001 within the wider framework of restructuring the organisation's institutions.

At the Zanzibar meeting, the council also agreed that the remaining directorates on Social and Human Development and Special Programmes, and Infrastructure

and Services will be established by August and December, respectively. The other two directorates on Industry, Trade, Finance and Investment, and Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources were put in place last year.

As part of the restructuring exercise, which dominated the three-day agenda on the island of Zanzibar, member states are required to constitute national committees whose primary responsibility is to oversee the implementation of

SADC decisions at national level.

Regarding the various SADC projects currently scattered around the region, Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy said decisions on these will await the outcome of an audit of assets and programmes which is currently under way. The other studies such as the one on job evaluations at SADC institutions will be complete in time for the Summit in Angola.

Council also adopted a new system for membership contributions based on each country's gross domestic product. The contributions will range from five to 20 percent of GDP. □



Delegates take a break at Bwawani Hotel in Zanzibar, during the council meeting in February.

Zanzibaris jubilant at hosting SADC council meeting

by Ramadhani Kabale

Zanzibaris, witnessing for the first time a key meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) when the Council of Ministers held its 2002 session on the island last February, were overjoyed by the occasion which they described as a great honour.

In a random interview conducted on the streets of Stone Town in Zanzibar at the time of the meeting, most people said the organisation's rotational policy in hosting key meetings makes ordinary women and men understand the organisation better and feel part of it.

Hussein Jamal Hussein, a hotel attendant at Darajani in central Zanzibar said since the SADC was formed 22 years ago, he had only heard about it over the radio. He was delighted at seeing the organisation at work for the first time.

Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous component of the United Republic of Tanzania

"I never had a chance before to see and get a feel of what is SADC... However this meeting has given me a chance to see how the body works," he said, clearly excited at the historic occasion.

The middle-aged man, a father of four who has worked in the hotel industry for over 10 years, was of the opinion that since SADC was formed to promote regional economic integration, it is most appropriate to have a system in which various SADC forums are rotated among member states.

Commenting on the Council meeting, a young lady Maimuna Shaaban Rashid spoke on behalf of many islanders when she said for SADC to

be a more people-centred organisation, it is time the public is allowed to attend some of the sessions as is the case with other inter-governmental organisations.

She was unhappy that Bwawani Hotel, the venue of the meeting, was cordoned off by police.

"Unfortunately police seemed to use extra force unnecessarily, warning people never to come close to the area..." she complained, adding "this made most Zanzibaris regard delegates as elites who are not close to ordinary people."

However, she expressed her appreciation to SADC member states for their decision to ask Zanzibar to host the forum.

"I am thankful to fellow SADC member states for according the Spice Islands such a prominent honour in our history," she said.

Although mainland Tanzania has hosted a number of SADC meetings, the islands of Zanzibar have never had that opportunity. Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous component of the United Republic of Tanzania brought into being in April 1964 under the guidance of the first leader of Tanganyika, the charismatic Julius Kambarage Nyerere, and President Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, who led the Zanzibar revolution.

The archipelago is famous for its spices (there are over 50 different spices and fruit). It is also known for its history of seafarers and explorers, of riches and tragedy and the dark era of slavery. It comprises the main island of Unguja (also known as Zanzibar which is about 35km off the coast of mainland Tanzania), the fertile island of Pemba located about



The narrow streets of Stone Town in Zanzibar

50km north of Unguja, and a number of other smaller islands.

Zanzibar Town on Unguja is the capital and seat of government. Stone Town, the oldest part of the capital has about 15,000 permanent inhabitants and a floating population of more than 100,000, of which 90 percent are civil servants.

Zanzibar's legacy of colourful multi-cultural history, many agree, lies in its wealth of archaeological treasures which range from the ruined palaces and bathhouses, to the narrow and twisting streets of Stone Town. And coupled with the white palm-fringed beaches, Zanzibar enjoys one of the highest tourist arrivals in SADC.

Notwithstanding the job opportunities offered by the thriving tourist industry, the life of most islanders remains humble, subsisting on production of coconuts, fruit and spices, on family-owned smallholdings. □

Economic outlook brighter as Angola, DRC peace processes take shape

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to the current peace deal, which if sustainable could unlock the economic potential of the southern African country so richly endowed with untapped agricultural and mineral resources, and a well-developed petroleum industry.

The protracted civil war has displaced about a third of Angola's 12 million people, and has knocked down just about every social indicator, leaving the country among the poorest in the world, despite its oil wealth. Transport and telecommunications infrastructure has collapsed, making it impossible for humanitarian aid to reach the needy.

Reports from Luanda say the current deal has prompted companies from the SADC region to rush in with food products and other basic consumer items, an initial indication of growing investor confidence.

Medium to long term investment opportunities abound especially in agriculture and diamonds, as well as in the oil industry which American companies have for years profited from during the chaos of the civil war. Unmoved by the rattling guns on the mainland, western oil companies have continued offshore oil exploitation, supplying five percent of domestic demand of the United States.

For the SADC region, Angola provides important trade corridors that link the south and the east to its equally rich but war weary northern neighbour, DRC. If revived, the Benguela

railway corridor could do for Zambia and DRC what Beira and Maputo corridors have done for Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. It could be another cornerstone for regional integration.

Meanwhile, the eight-week Inter-Congolese dialogue which ended in Sun City, South Africa on 19 April sal-

the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. It has called for further negotiations, which the government has rejected but says the door is still open for the RCD to sign on to the agreement.

The negotiations are a culmination of a process that began with a 1999 ceasefire agreement, which was signed by government, rebels and their

foreign backers, to end the war which broke out in August 1998. Rwanda and Uganda are on the rebel side, while Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe back the government.

Peace in the DRC is of critical importance not only because of the complex interlocking political interests but the clear economic potential that the vast African country has.

With its bedrock of countless natural resources which are largely under-exploited, the DRC offers enor-

mous investment opportunities to regional and international investors alike. And with a hydropower capacity of 100,000 megawatts, the central African country has the potential to supply the entire SADC region.

However, this potential remains largely untapped because its neighbour, Angola, which if at peace would provide the vital link to the rest of southern Africa, has until now been battling to end its protracted conflict.

It thus comes as no surprise that the business community in the region and beyond is warily but expectantly eyeing the peace dividend as the two countries, richly endowed with natural resources and other business opportunities, begin to rebuild after devastating civil wars. □



Both Angola and DRC have vast investment potential in mining

Thompson Publications

vaged a power-sharing deal between the government and the Uganda-backed Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC). The accord, which was endorsed by most of the smaller parties, was however, rejected by the Rwanda-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD).

Under the terms of the agreement, a transitional government is to be formed under President Joseph Kabila as head of state while MLC leader Jean-Pierre Bemba becomes prime minister. The 30-month transitional process will lead to multi-party elections, which if held would be the first for the country since independence from Belgium in 1960.

RCD says the power-sharing deal was struck outside the framework of

Multi-million dollar marine fisheries project launched ...US\$38.7 million to assist Angola, Namibia and South Africa

The governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa will benefit from a multi-million dollar joint initiative which was recently launched to facilitate the sustainable management and utilization of the globally and regionally important Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME).

A recent statement from the SADC Secretariat said the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is contributing US\$15.2 million through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the regional initiative, complementing an investment of approximately US\$16 million by the three countries and over US\$7 million from other sources such as the Benguela Environmental Fisheries Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT).

The Benguela current runs parallel to the coastline of south west Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope in the south to northern Angola, and comprises one of four major coastal upwelling systems globally. The BCLME is one of the world's most productive marine environments, supporting a rich marine life, including numerous fish, sea birds and marine mammals. It maintains one of the most important fisheries in the world.

In 2000 for instance, the total catch of the BCLME was 1,166,000 metric tonnes. Main species caught are horse mackerel, tuna and crab (Angola and Namibia), hake and pilchard (Namibia and South Africa), sardines, shrimp and seabreams (Angola), lobster

(Namibia) and anchovy (South Africa). The fishing industry, accounting for 10 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in Namibia, four percent in Angola and 0.37 percent in South Africa, has become an economic mainstay in the region, particularly



Sea breams are also found in the Benguela region

for Namibia and Angola. While the industry is relatively smaller in South Africa, it nonetheless provides an important source of livelihood.

The Benguela region is also rich in other natural resources. The continental shelf contains petroleum, natural gas and mineral deposits, notably diamonds, for which prospecting and development activities are underway, while tourism heralds potential, capitalizing on the area's exceptional natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural attributes.

While the integrity of the BCLME is still largely intact relative to other coastal environments, the ecosystem faces accelerating threats which, if left unchecked, would threaten vital economic and ecological values. The primary threats to the ecosystem include habitat loss and pollution, particularly

in areas adjacent to urban centres; increasing exploitation of straddling fish stocks coupled with the absence of a coordinated regional management framework; and the introduction of alien invasive species, including algae, from ship ballast water, an issue which is being addressed in South African waters through a separately funded UNDP-GEF demonstration project.

Speaking on behalf of the SADC region, the Minister for Fisheries in Namibia, Dr Abraham Iyambo, emphasised the importance of the initiative for securing long term sustainable development in the region, founded on the optimal harvesting and management of living natural resources, tourism, and carefully regulated mining and petroleum extraction. He pointed out that the project will serve as a prototype for other regional activities identified by SADC, including sustainable management of the Agulhas Current Large Marine Ecosystem on Africa's east coast.

"By linking environmental protection with sustainable development, this project is an outstanding example of the kind of initiative that needs to be showcased in Johannesburg at the World Summit for Sustainable Development," said Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of UNDP.

A "Johannesburg Plan of Action" will be rolled out and endorsed at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, which will be held from 26 August to 4 September in Johannesburg, South Africa. □

Lesotho goes to polls under new electoral system

by Munetsi Madakufamba

On 25 May Basotho went to the polls under a new electoral system that allows for greater representation in the enlarged 120-member parliament and looks set to avert the traumatic events of 1998 which left the country on the brink of a civil war.

The general election, in which 19 political parties contested, is to fill the post of head of government, currently held by Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, and choose 120 members of parliament. The post of head of state, currently held by King Letsie III, is not contestable.

The new electoral system is a combination of first-past-the-post (FPTP) and proportional representation (PR) systems. Eighty seats are now contestable on the FPTP system while 40 are to be won under the PR system, giving hope that the voice of a significant population of voters who disputed the 1998 poll can now be heard.

In 1998 the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) garnered 60 percent of the vote and, under the FPTP electoral system in place at the time, took 79 seats in what was then a smaller 80-member National Assembly. The smaller Basotho National Party (BNP), Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) and Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP) which together had 40 percent of the vote, won just one seat.

The three opposition parties formed an alliance and mobilized their supporters to demonstrate against the election outcome and mutinous troops sympathetic to the opposition, joined in prompting government to ask for intervention from SADC.

South Africa and Botswana responded by sending troops to restore law and order but after a lot of damage had been done not only to the country's democracy but to its economy.

An Interim Political Authority (IPA) was established with representa-



Daily News

About 900,000 Basotho were expected to vote.

tives from all political parties. Although its initial mandate was to last for 18 months within which it was to prepare for fresh elections, it has remained in place as more of a parallel parliament four years on.

Issues dominating the election ranged from policies that can revamp the economy and create more jobs, to HIV/AIDS, which has devastated the southern African region.

In his 2002-2003 budget speech, the Finance Minister outlined areas that need to be addressed to strengthen

the country's economy and reduce poverty. Unemployment, he said, is as high as 40 percent and UNDP says half of Lesotho's two million people live below the poverty line. Inflation, worsened by the rising price of food products currently in short supply due to drought and the fall in the rand, has been on the rise of late.

Lesotho had experienced an economic upsurge before the disastrous 1998 riots. Textiles, the main engine of its economic growth was enjoying a rapid increase in export earnings, and so was the construction industry mainly driven by the massive Highlands Water Project, which exports water and electricity to South Africa.

However, these economic drivers have suffered structural problems in recent years and together with the loss of remittances from the country's huge army of migrant mine workers in South African gold mines, which are currently facing a global fall in gold prices, Lesotho has seen its first economic downturn in more than two decades.

Thus many Basotho hope there will not be a repeat of 1998 so that who ever wins the election will have enough space to deal with the urgent task of economic reconstruction. □

Zimbabwe rebuilding after polls

continued from page 7

ilies since 1998. It has set August 2002 as the deadline for completion of its fast-track resettlement programme.

In dealing with the short term problem of drought which has severely affected Zimbabwe and some parts of southern Africa this year, the government has set aside 100,000 ha of land to grow irrigated winter maize. The programme, says the government, is expected to produce 400,000 tonnes of maize by August this year, and create

several jobs along the way.

Zimbabwe, which requires two million tonnes of maize each year faces an import requirement of up to 1.3 million tonnes to see it through to the next harvest.

President Mugabe has already declared a state of disaster across the country, a move which gives the government powers to take extraordinary measures to bring relief to millions of people facing critical food shortages. □

International day stresses importance of indigenous languages

by Jabulani Sithole

As the world commemorated the International Mother Language Day (21 February), African publishers were urged to publish more materials in the indigenous languages to save them from extinction.

"Books are a repository of culture of which language is its vehicle, and therefore African publishers have a mandate to publish more in local languages to help save them from dying," said Akin Fasemore, Executive Secretary of African Publishers Network (APNET).

According to UNESCO, the Mother Language Day is an effort to promote linguistic as well as cultural diversity and multilingualism. "In celebrating mother tongues, UNESCO member states wish to recall that languages are not only an essential part of humanity's cultural heritage but the

irreducible expression of human creativity and of its great diversity," said UNESCO Director-General, Koichiro Matsuura.

African publishers have concentrated on publishing educational materials that support official languages, such as English, French and Portuguese and other national languages that enjoy a higher status. This has left a number of the indigenous languages spoken by minority groups susceptible to extinction.

"The Pan-African institution [APNET] recognizes and underscored a need for national language policies that focus on the development of local languages, many of which still need to be developed to have orthographic transcriptions," said Fasemore.

Most of the minority languages facing extinction are spoken by minority groups and do not have a standard spelling system, or a recording of the language by the use of a system of let-

ters, posing a serious problem for publishers to publish them.

Africa is the linguistically least-known continent with many governments encouraging the use of colonial languages, and a few major African languages such as Kiswahili. A number of languages face extinction including Khoi-San languages, Chikunda and Dema, spoken in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe to mention a few.

APNET through its advocacy programme has lobbied national governments to support the development of national language policies that enhance development of minority languages through research and their codification.

"Promoting research on African languages is vital for their development, while the advancement of African research and documentation will be best served by the use of African languages," said Fasemore. □

Afro-jazz maestro Ray Phiri sings of HIV/AIDS

by Jabulani Sithole

The world over, the arts, music, dance and theatre has been embraced as critical communication and advocacy tools in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In southern Africa, the region worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, artists have risen to the occasion. Among the champions of this initiative is the world acclaimed music composer and guitarist Ray Phiri of South Africa.

Phiri uses some of his famous tunes such as *Look, Listen and Decide*, *Zwakala* and *Where did We Go Wrong* to get AIDS messages to his audiences.

"I sing songs that many people are familiar with, to spread the message quickly. Using familiar songs gives me an opportunity to introduce the audi-

ence to new lyrics with messages related to AIDS awareness," said Phiri during his recent tour of Zimbabwe.

Phiri has participated in the Mozambique-South Africa AIDS programmes, through workshops at different schools and community centers in Maputo.

He has helped the Mpumalanga Provincial AIDS Council in South Africa to develop projects that help promote and advocate HIV/AIDS awareness and fundraising.

The musician has also teamed up



Ray Phiri

with a Zimbabwean theatre company, Rooftops Promotions in their 'Ray of Hope' project, an artists/entertainers against AIDS campaign. The Harare tour was part of the project. □

Mozambique-South Africa in bilateral treaties

The Mozambican and South African governments on 10 May signed two cooperation agreements on air transport and rescue and relief operations.

Under the first agreement, five air traffic entry points will be established in each country. Consequently, in addition to Maputo and Beira, Mozambique will open three entry points in Nampula and Pemba, in the north, and Vilankulo, in the southern province of Inhambane.

For its part, South Africa is to establish four entry points in Durban, Cape Town, Nelspruit and Lanseria (Pretoria). To date, the only port of entry has been Johannesburg.

The second agreement establishes request mechanisms, procedures, and the coordination and use of air and water transport in relief operations in the event of accidents.

Signing the agreements were Mozambican Transport Minister Tomaz Salomão, and his South African counterpart, Dullah Omar.

Speaking after the signing, Salomão said that the opening of the new entry points in both countries "is a message in order to establish greater closeness between the two countries, enabling larger scale movement of people and goods, and increasing the volume of business".

He said that the two governments must continue working in order to

resolve the "constraints that still exist at the borders". In his view, the agreements would transmit a message to the region as well as the continent that "the facilitation of the movement of people and goods is certainly a fundamental element that will greatly contribute to boosting the development of our economies, and to improving the quality of life of our citizens". (AIM) □

G-8 Summit to focus on Africa

Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada says he is sure Group of Eight Summit in June will reach a deal to help develop and stabilise Africa.

He says it is the responsibility of the world to bring Africa into the mainstream of the global economy.

Chretien's country will host the meeting of the most powerful nations of the world. Canada is one of the coun-

tries that have shown tremendous interest in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

NEPAD is meant to develop Africa by focusing on private sector investments rather than donor driven development.

The Canadian Prime Minister made his comments after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and South Africa President Thabo Mbeki in London. (SABANEWS) □

Madagascar: Ravalomanana declared winner

A Madagascan court has named challenger, Marc Ravalomanana, the winner of disputed polls but President Didier Ratsiraka's contests raising fears of more violence.

Following a four-month leadership crisis sparked by allegations of rigging in the December elections, the High Constitutional Court said a recount showed Ravalomanana had won an outright majority and was officially declared president.

Ratsiraka, who agreed to the recount earlier this month, said that the court was biased and that he would disregard the ruling, prompting warnings that the crisis on the Indian Ocean island could lead to further bloodshed. Up to 60 people have been killed in violence between the two camps

since the polls. Ravalomanana, the popular mayor of Antananarivo, say Ratsiraka rigged the vote count to try and prolong his 23-year rule.

Ravalomanana, a self-made millionaire, initially tried to secure a recount by

organizing strikes and mass protests.

When that failed he declared himself president, saying it as the will of the people. He has not so far been recognised by the international community. (Daily Trust) □

UN calls for world fit for children

UN summit of world leaders on improving children's lot in the world concluded with a broad agreement despite tense negotiations between the US and other nations on issues including abortion and the death penalty.

More than 180 nations attending the General Assembly special session on children adopted by consensus a final

document entitled "A World Fit For Children". The summit was a follow up on progress since the world summit on children ten years ago.

The document focuses on four primary areas: Promoting healthy lives, access to and completion of quality education, protection of children against abuse, violence and exploitation, and fighting HIV/AIDS. (IPS) □

An analysis of electoral patterns in southern Africa

Electoral Territoriality in Southern Africa by Stephen Rule.- Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000.- *The Making of Modern Africa Series*. Review by Chipo Muvezwa, SARDC.

Electoral Territoriality in Southern Africa presents a comprehensive comparison of voting patterns in seven countries of Southern Africa. The modern democratic electoral histories of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are placed within the contexts of their pre-colonial and colonial societies. The extent to which urbanization and the regional distribution of language, ethnicity and race impact on the electoral geography of the sub-continent is demonstrated statistically and tabulated.

The book offers a comparative sur-

vey of elections and electioneering in southern Africa, and provides a compelling case for spatial considerations to be measured alongside more conventional demographic variables in the interpretation of voting behaviour.

The study draws upon several theories as a basis for interpreting regional variations in political affiliation in the Anglophone southern African countries. Drawing from, and critiquing the theories of Marx, Nairn and other scholars, Stephen Rule examines the geographical variations of human socio-economic characteristics as a means of explaining political processes.

Different national and community based case studies are contextualised in detailed understandings of institutional and social history and serve as a useful introduction to the region as well as supplies fresh information and

argument to support the hypothesis that political affiliation exists at the sub national level.

Rule asserts that clear correlations exist between ethnic and political affiliations in southern Africa.

The analysis is complemented by anecdotal evidence gathered during personal interviews and discussions with voters, politicians, government officials and academics. Election monitoring institutions and students of politics are most likely to benefit from the wide range of historical and contemporary election data that form the core of this text.

Stephen Rule is Manager of Public Opinion Analysis Programme at Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in South Africa and initially compiled the study as a PhD thesis. □

Recent Publications and Acquisitions

SADC Mining Sector Strategic Development Plan

4 August 2001

Available from: SADC Secretariat, P Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana
Website: www.sadc.int

Communities and Reconstruction in Angola: the prospects for reconstruction in Angola from the community perspective

Robson Paul [ed.], 2001

Available From: Development Workshop, PO Box 1834, Guelph, Canada. Email: devworks@web.net. Original research was coordinated in collaboration with Accao para o Desenvolvimento Rural e Ambiente (ADRA), Paraceta Farinha Leitao 27, CP 3788, Luanda, Angola. Email dg.adra@angonet.org and Alternatives, reseau d'action et de communication pour le developpement international, 3720Parc Avenue, #300, Montreal, Quebec,

H2X 2J1 Email: alternatives@alternatives.ca

Land Reform in Zimbabwe: Constraints and Prospects

Bowyer-Bower, T.A.S. Dr. and Stoneman, Colin, [eds] 2000

Available from: Ashgate Publishing Group, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3HR, UK. Website: www.ashgate.com

Malawi at the Thresholds: Resources, Conflict and Ingenuity in a Newly Democratic State

Cammack, Diana, Nov 2001

Available from: Anthony Baird, American Academy of Arts And Sciences, 136 St, Cambridge MA 02138 Email: abaird@amacad.org
Website: www.amacad.org

The New ACP-EU (Cotonou) Agreement: a User's Guide Part IV- Political Dimensions of the New ACP-

EU Cotonou Agreement

Tekere M, June 2001

Available from: Trades Centre, 3 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare
Email: trades@africaonline.co.zw
Website: www.tradescentre.org.zw

The Regulation of Agricultural Trade under World Trade Organization (WTO): a User's Guide

Masiwa M, January 2002

Available from: Trades Centre, 3 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare
Email: trades@africaonline.co.zw
Website: www.tradescentre.org.zw

WTO Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS): a users guide

Masiwa M, January 2002

Available from: Trades Centre, 3 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare
Email: trades@africaonline.co.zw
Website: www.tradescentre.org.zw

SADC diary

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JUNE	5	World Environment Day	all SADC
	5-7	Southern Africa Economic Summit	South Africa
	7	SADC Finance Sub-committee Meeting	Botswana
	9-10	Standing Committee of Senior Officials	Botswana
	10-13	Customs Advisory Working Group	South Africa
	11-12	SADC Finance Committee Meeting	Botswana
	13-14	SADC Council of Ministers Meeting	Botswana
	16	Day of the African Child	all SADC
	16-29	Training Workshop on Monitoring & Evaluation on the Implementation of Gender Equality Commitments	Botswana
	17	World Day to Combat Desertification	all SADC
JULY	11	World Population Day	all SADC
	15-19	Customs Advisory Working Group	South Africa
	29-31	Sub-Committee on Customs Co-operation	Angola
August	17	SADC Day	all SADC
	26/08-2/09	World Summit on Sustainable Development	South Africa

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	39.92
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	6.25
DRC	Congo Franc	714.06
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	10.08
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	74.77
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	30.05
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	23,005
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	10.16
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.62
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	10.16
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	10.08
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	987
Zambia	Kwacha (100 cents)	4,130
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	55.00

Source: Standard Chartered Bank, Zimbabwe Ltd, 16 May 2002

Public Holidays in SADC for the period May – Aug 2002

Date	Holiday	Country
1 May	Labour/ Workers Day	All SADC
4 May	Kassinga Day	Namibia
9 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Swaziland
25 May	Africa Day	All SADC
25 May	Africa Freedom Day	Zambia
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
25 June	National Day	Mozambique
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
1 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
2 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Republic Day	Malawi
15 July	President's Day	Botswana
16 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
5 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
11 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
12 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia