



# SADC TODAY

♦ Southern African Development Community

Vol. 4 No 4 April 2001

## SADC puts on a new face as restructuring starts

**H**eads of State of the Southern African Development Community have approved a radical restructuring of SADC institutions to "squarely face the daunting regional and global challenges".

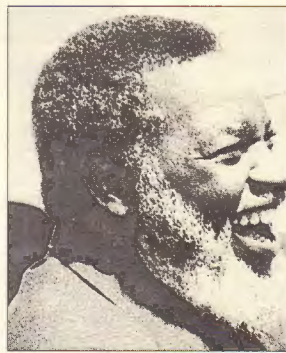
Consultations over the past year at ministerial level proposed the restructuring and centralization of SADC functions, from 21 sectors based in 12 countries and dealing with a diverse range of development issues from health, environment and mining to trade, tourism and investment into four clusters to be located at the SADC headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana.

The proposal was adopted by Heads of State with little change, setting SADC on course to streamline itself rapidly into four Directorates, as follows: Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment; Infrastructure and Services; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR); Social and Human Development and Spe-

cial Programmes. These changes are to be implemented over the next two years, beginning with the trade, industry, finance and investment directorate to be established by August this year, and FANR Directorate by year-end.

The SADC Chairperson, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, said the restructuring exercise will be tested against results in terms of "greater unity, increased and meaningful economic integration as well as economic competitiveness in the global market place. These will be the yardsticks that will measure our successes or failures."

The summit also agreed to create the Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Development and Policy Har-



President Sam Nujoma



Prega Ramsamy

monization, to strengthen the Secretariat in executing these functions and to serve as a think tank for community-building, regional integration and development.

Functions of the Council of Ministers remain as outlined in the Windhoek (Related stories on pp. 3,4,8)

*continued on page 9*

## Patient rights priority over pharmaceutical profits

by Hugh McCullum

**I**n a humiliating backdown, 39 of the world's pharmaceutical companies dropped their lawsuits against South Africa, which will allow Pretoria to buy anti-AIDS medicines at generic drug prices.

The ramifications go far beyond South Africa's borders and the cheap treatments needed for people with HIV/AIDS. By withdrawing their objections to South African legislation in the face of enormous international pressures and adverse publicity, the way is now open for other southern African countries to enact similar laws.

The case has also focused on the issue of patent rights and highlighted the concerns of many NGOs, churches and governments that international

trade agreements are seriously skewed in favour of the developed world.

One of the most serious myths exploded by the dismissal of the case and a matter of great importance in the future, is that major transnational corpora-



South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki

tions are impervious to unified social pressure even when governments are themselves afraid to respond to people's demands because of the sanctions which can be imposed unilaterally or by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Not only has South Africa scored a major victory in the struggle against its burgeoning HIV/AIDS pandemic, but the powerful and secretive pharmaceutical industry, in an effort to counteract their bad publicity, has struck a deal with the European Union that will allow millions more people each year to be saved from death from preventable diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumonia and malaria which kill 10 million people-a-year.

When the withdrawal of the court action by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA) was an-

*continued on page 5*



# SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community  
Vol. 4 No. 4 April 2001

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, 2001

### Editorial Advisors

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

### Editor

Munetsi Madakufamba

### Editorial Committee

Tinashe Madava,  
Hugh McCullum, Jabulani Sithole,  
Nomalanga Moyo, Chipso Muvezwa,  
Phyllis Johnson

### Design & Layout/DTP

Juliet Mucheki

### Print Coordination

Brighton Kadzambaira

### Origination/Printing

Crystal Graphics and Cannon Press, Harare

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.

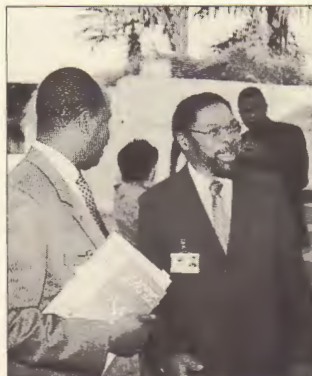
Correspondence should be addressed to:

**SADC TODAY**  
Southern African Research and  
Documentation Centre (SARDC)  
13 Bath Road, Belgravia,  
P.O. Box 5690,  
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263-4-738 694/5/6  
Fax: 263-4-738 693  
Email: sardc@sardc.net  
Website: www.sardc.net



**Restructuring 9**



**SADC in pictures 10**



**Health and Culture 12**



**Culture and Sport 13**

- Policy review: Technical officers meet on restructuring* **3**
- Southern African leaders meet world financial leaders* **5**
- Disaster management in southern Africa* **6**
- NGOs urge governments to enact laws that protect citizens from transnationals* **7**
- Extra-ordinary Summit Communiqué* **8**
- Around the region: News briefs* **14**
- Book review, recent publications and acquisitions* **15**
- SADC diary, public holidays, currency checklist* **16**



## SADC officials discuss restructuring implementation

Technical officers charged with the restructuring of SADC institutions met 26-27 April in Gaborone to discuss the implementation plan of the two-year process that gives the organization a major facelift.

The two-day meeting that was attended by SADC national contact points, sector co-ordinators, commissions and the secretariat, was convened by the SADC Review Committee. The Committee, charged with overseeing the implementation consists of members from Namibia (chair), Malawi (deputy chair), Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The meeting's two objectives were to explain and clarify decisions taken by the March 2001 extraordinary Summit on review and restructuring and to map out a comprehensive implementation plan.

Questions raised were:

- the operations of the Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM), directorates and national committees;

- the nature and process of the formulation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP); and
- the arrangements for transition.

The review committee will attend annual sectoral meetings to explain and clarify Summit decisions on restructuring, a process which is expected to be completed in the next 18 months.

The meeting underscored the importance of involving all member states and participants in the implementation of the restructuring exercise.

The implementation plan envisages several tasks to have been undertaken by the time of the next SADC Council of Ministers and Summit meetings to be held in Blantyre, Malawi from 6-14 August 2001. Among these are the:

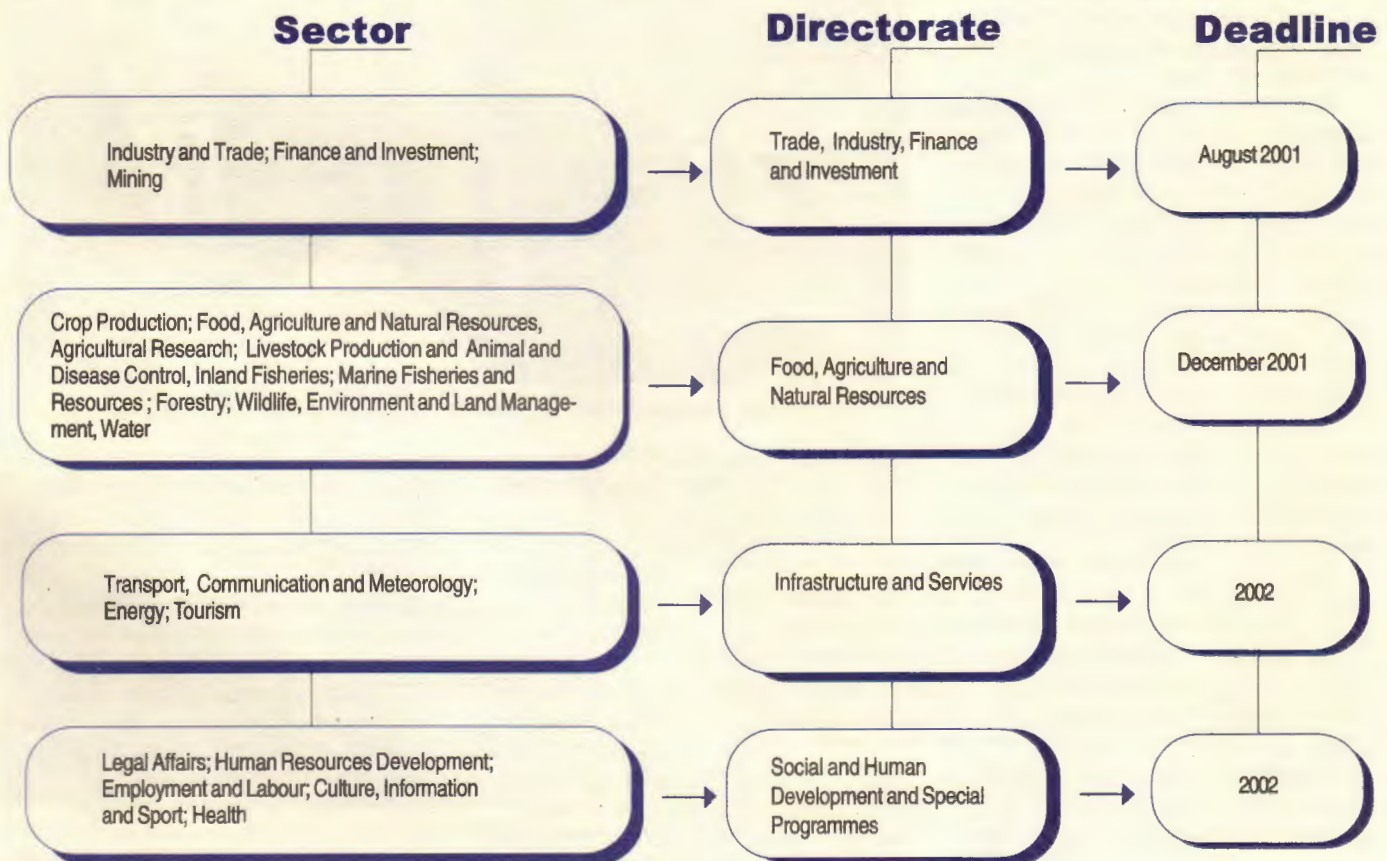
- amendment of the SADC Treaty and subsidiary instruments such as protocols;
- realignment of Objectives with the SADC Programme of Action priori-

ties to accommodate some changes with legal implications;

- development of a five-year RISDP;
- undertaking job evaluation to determine staff level grading and salary scale of the new structure;
- determination of financial resources for the new structure;
- establishment of SADC National Committees; and
- undertake a study to investigate the creation of a Regional Development Fund, including proposals on formulae for membership contribution as well as mechanisms for the sustainability of the fund.

However, the establishment of directorates and the secondment, recruitment and redeployment of staff; and the phasing out of the Commissions and Sector Coordinating Units will be spread out through the entire reform period, that is until end of 2002. □

### The current sectors, how they are clustered and the date by which the directorates should be established





## Ramsamy confident of new structure at SADC House

The newly appointed executive secretary of SADC is confident the recently approved management structure will make the organization's operations more effective.

"I have no doubt the new structure will put the organisation on a strong footing to meet the global and regional challenges we are facing, particularly those relating to poverty alleviation," said Prega Ramsamy who was appointed as executive secretary of SADC at the March extra-ordinary summit in Namibia.

Ramsamy, 51, a Mauritian economist, has acted in the post since January 2000.

Ramsamy will bring to the position a new perspective, his actions untainted by political ambition.

"I want to bring SADC to the people," he says, "and let them see what we can do for them."

The poverty of many southern Africans is very much in the forefront of Ramsamy's thinking and there is never a briefing or meeting that he does not mention his concern.

As an economist he is ideally suited to steer development along a path which will result in maximum benefit to the thousands of people in the region living below the poverty line.

In November he chided journalists for questioning SADC chairman President Sam Nujoma of Namibia exclusively on the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwean issues. "What about the plight of our poor, do you not want to know about them?" he said.

The new structure centralizes control of SADC in the Gaborone secretariat. It is the end of "sectoral responsibilities" allocated among member states.

Within two years the 21 sectors controlled from the member states will be phased out and their responsibilities taken over by four directorates based in the Gaborone secretariat.

The directorates will deal with: trade, industry, finance and investment (to be established by August 2001); food, agriculture and natural resources (by December 2001); infrastructure and services (to be established

during 2002); and social and human development and special programmes, which will also be established during 2002.

Changes at the top will be more frequent meetings of controlling bodies, formalization of a troika system of control at heads of state and council of ministers and senior officials levels and the extension of the system to bring the organisation's Organ on Defence, Security and Politics into the mainstream of SADC.

The new structure will embrace the previously annual heads of state summit which will now be twice-a-year, the council of ministers which will now meet four-times-a-year and the standing committee of senior officials.

The chairmanship of the organ was,

"I have no doubt the new structure will put the organisation on a strong footing

on an annual basis."

A troika system of control has been in operation within SADC itself for some time.

"The troika will normally consist of the previous, incumbent and incoming chairpersons of the relevant institution," Ramsamy said.

"We have been using this approach since last year but now we have formalized it."

Ramsamy is hunting for a deputy, a chief director and heads of the directorates.

Commenting on progress towards the southern Africa free trade area, Ramsamy said that only three of the member states had still to start to implement the SADC Trade Protocol.

The unit to assist members in the im-



SADC Chairperson, President Nujoma (left) and the new Executive Secretary, Ramsamy

at its implementation in 1996, vested in Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, which led to differences of opinion by some members of SADC, who wanted the organ to report to the SADC chair.

"The organ will now be integrated into the SADC structures and co-ordinated on a troika basis which will report to the chairperson of SADC," Ramsamy said. "Its leadership will rotate on an annual basis."

plementation of the protocol was in place at the secretariat with three staff members seconded by Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Others were being recruited.

Under the protocol, tariffs will be abolished on 85 percent of trade between member states by 2008, and the rest by 2012. Later, a timetable for the elimination of non-tariff barriers to regional trade such as export subsidies is to be agreed. □



## Debt, poverty and health were the key issues in talks with world financial leaders in Dar es Salaam

**W**hen eight southern African leaders met the heads of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund leaders at Dar es Salaam in February their discussions centred on the critical issues of debt, poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Outside the meeting the same issues were being raised by about 20 demonstrators from civil society organizations who attempted to influence the high level talks but were kept at a distance by Tanzanian police.

At the meeting, the SADC leaders told James Wolfensohn of the World Bank and Horst Kohler of the IMF that their institutions should be considering the particularities of the regions and states and their economies when developing co-operation arrangements. The leaders of Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda also joined the eight SADC leaders.

The SADC countries also called for a balanced and transparent flow of resources to southern Africa, which are presently skewed towards Europe and Latin America.

"We wanted them to explain why conditions of facilities extended to us in Africa are different from those extended to Europe and Latin America," Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe told journalists.

The regional leaders told the twin institutions to go beyond accounting and look at the fundamental issues of development which are often the victims of economic reform prescriptions. They also called for more investment in social concerns. They said that debt was choking development and told the bankers that debt must be cancelled as a matter of urgency in order to tap into Africa's enormous potential.

The two world financiers, who were on a week-long trip to Africa as a follow-up to their commitment at their 2000 annual meeting to put the continent at the center of their priorities, had not even put debt on their agenda. African countries owe a staggering US\$41.6 billion to the IMF and World Bank.

The other most immediate concern for southern Africa is the devastation

caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has decimated societies and economies. It is urgent and help is long overdue. Africa has 70 percent of the 36 million people known to be living with the disease worldwide.

The leaders agreed the meeting had gone some distance in defining key roles and developed some trust in the sub-region.

"For the first time we have African leaders taking ownership of what they want to do in Africa," said Callisto Madavo, World Bank vice-president for Africa. "A new partnership is emerging in which African leaders are telling us what they want to do. And, in turn, they are asking the Bank and the Fund as their external partners to provide support."

His IMF counterpart, Goodall Gondwe agreed. "This time there was a very clear understanding of what the problems are as well as enthusiasm in taking responsibilities for what has to be done."

Outside the venue, the demonstra-

*continued on page 6*

## Patient rights priority over pharmaceutical profits

*continued from page 1*

nounced in late April, the Pretoria courtroom erupted as lawyers, government officials and activists cheered the decision to withdraw the action to have the Medical Schemes Control Amendment Act declared unconstitutional.

Even while South Africa was elated by the dismissal, it was well aware that the health issue is squarely in their jurisdiction because the government now has the tools to implement major improvements in the health care system, especially for people living with HIV/AIDS.

South Africa will be able to shop around for generic anti-retroviral drugs especially in Thailand, India and Brazil where they are available at much lower prices but the unanswered question is when will the drugs become available in a country where more than 5,000 people are dying every week of AIDS?

The drug industry says ending the court action will not affect their offers for the free and reduced drugs they have

offered developing countries and that they intend to work more closely with governments and civil society to help the poor get access to medicines.

But access is a battle yet to be won. The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) which co-ordinated much of the awareness campaign around the court case, says that fight, first at home and in southern Africa, and then tying into international aid agencies will continue.

Activists point out that as long ago as 1928 when penicillin, the first modern wonder drug, was invented it was never patented because it was considered such a great benefit to the whole world that no one should have a monopoly on its manufacture.

Today's drugs industry takes a diametrically opposite view claiming that protection of intellectual property takes precedence, even if it means that poor countries in Africa cannot manufacture or buy cheap copies of drugs they urgently need. □



Cheaper drugs will save the lives of thousands of HIV infected children in southern Africa



## Need to review disaster management in southern Africa

by Tinashe Madava

As southern Africa has experienced another devastating round of floods, questions are being raised about disaster management strategies being used and whether they ought to be overhauled.

Coming hard on the heels of two serious floods in the past successive seasons in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the current season has left additional hundreds of thousands homeless and in need of food aid and shelter.

For the coming years, many in southern Africa will require assistance to restock their food and livestock while rebuilding their homesteads. This is in a region where the majority of the population is already languishing in poverty.

Complaints have been raised already that some people ignore early warnings by civil protection authorities, hoping

to sit out the floods caused by rising waters resulting from incessant rains in already waterlogged areas.

In Mozambique's recent floods, some peasants refused to relocate to higher ground from the Zambezi basin when helicopters were despatched to the area to evacuate them.

Critics, however, attribute this to the lack of trust by the local people in their meteorological stations, which have often been accused of inaccuracies in their forecasts.

The announcement by the Zimbabwe meteorological office in early March that some parts of the country were going to experience torrential rains, with possible flooding in a period of 10 days is one such example. These rains did not come to the extent that had been predicted.

However, the issuance of an early warning was made necessary by the occurrence of a cyclone in the Mozambique Channel.



Many rivers burst their banks due to excessive rains, endangering downstream communities

### Key issues in talks with world financial leaders

*continued from page 5*

tors were showing their support for the African leaders position by raising placards which said, "End debt slavery" and "Why do IMF and World Bank rob the poor to pay the rich?"

The Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) had also purchased an advertisement in major newspapers the day of the meetings which emphasized the issues and called on Tanzanians

to protest. It said that the economy of Tanzania had failed to grow after the country embraced structural adjustment advanced by the two institutions that TGNP blamed for increasing poverty.

For their pains, some demonstrators were arrested, as was Demere Kitunga, TGNP chairperson, when she went to bail out her colleagues.

They were later released and Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa apologized for the arrests, saying that they were unnecessary. □

Despite a revision of the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems, rivers have proven to be tricky in disaster management. Mozambique has become a victim of its neighbours' actions. Each time Zambia and Zimbabwe open the floodgates of the Kariba dam along the Zambezi River, Mozambique's Tete province has suffered as the river swells and burst its banks causing flooding. At the start of the season, weather experts at the Southern Africa Region Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) in Botswana predicted normal to above normal rainfall for most parts of the SADC region for the period October 2000 to March 2001.

True to SARCOF's prediction, there was below normal rainfall in northern Tanzania; above normal rainfall in Angola, central Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, central and southern Mozambique, much of Botswana and Namibia, Malawi, Lesotho, Mauritius, Swaziland and southern Tanzania.

Following two wet seasons and unprecedented flooding in the affected SADC countries, flooding was experienced again in low-lying areas where the water tables were still high and soil already saturated.

The Regional Early Warning Unit predicts that only Malawi, South Africa and Zambia will have an overall cereal surplus during the 2000/2001 marketing year. The rest of the countries face overall cereal deficits ranging from 109,000 tonnes in Swaziland to about 1.17 million tonnes in Tanzania.

Hit by recurrent floods, southern Africa needs to reorganise its disaster management and early warning institutions and mechanisms to effectively deal with the disasters ravaging the region.

A harmonization of mechanisms by countries sharing watercourses is necessary to curb flooding which can be averted by joint water management.

The need to foster trust in national weather services is urgent and governments can best work on it through intensive public awareness programmes and community involvement in discussions on disaster management. Weather services need to be fully equipped with up to date technology in order that they give accurate predictions which will help them gain the trust of people in the region. □



## Who benefits from foreign direct investment?

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is regarded in contemporary economics as the universal remedy to under-development. Some analysts are however, asking whether this assertion has been proven anywhere in the world?

For many, it has become taboo to question the efficacy of laissez faire economics, and therefore the role of FDI, much as President Thabo Mbeki's divergent views on AIDS earned him the dissident label. But just as Mbeki challenged medical experts to explain the link between AIDS and poverty, neo-liberal economists should explain the link between rising poverty and FDI in recipient countries.

A snap survey of the impact of FDI in the southern Africa region raises more questions than answers. Zambia for instance, which was pressured by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to privatize its parastatals has incurred huge losses. Large copper mines were sold for a song, mainly to foreign-owned companies. Zambia today feels cheated.

A regional seminar, bringing together representatives of NGOs and trade unions which was recently held in Windhoek, Namibia, criticized the emphasis SADC governments are placing on FDI as a tool for economic development. Participants pointed out that "SADC governments are trying very hard to create the 'right climate' for investment on the advice of so-called experts from the World Bank and IMF".

"However, governments are not putting the right policies in place to ensure that such investments serve a national development agenda," reads a statement produced after the seminar.

The statement says governments often engage in a 'race to the bottom' as they compete with one another to attract FDI by lowering corporate taxes, relaxing environment and labour standards, and allowing repatriation of profits, something that in many instances has worked in reverse.

In 1993, Zimbabwe gave Australian mining giant Broken Hills Properties (BHP) major incentives when the company moved in to mine platinum in what was then touted as the biggest mining venture in the country. Among other incentives, the company was granted a five-year tax holiday, 100 percent profit

repatriation, relaxed labour laws and was the only mining company that was allowed to export directly without going through the Zimbabwe Minerals Marketing Corporation.

What did Zimbabwe get in return? After about five years of mineral exploitation, the platinum mining company pulled out citing viability problems, leaving hundreds of workers out of jobs.

As in the case of Zambia, South Africa privatized water provision in some of its municipalities. Profit-hungry transnational corporations that bought the rights to provide water hiked tariffs, resulting in many low-income families failing to access clean water. This move was blamed for the recent cholera outbreak in the country.

of Uruguay Agreements from which developing countries were excluded.

Thus to explain the role of FDI, it is important to first understand global dynamics. The global economy is, on one hand, a battle for power interests that is among peoples, social classes and nations as they scramble to control the world's resources. On the other hand it is a battle for emancipation from poverty and exploitation.

It is equally important to mention that development policies, as propounded by the West, originate from theories that are defined in Western universities and often blindly replicated in institutions of higher learning in the South.

"This is done through peer group certification of knowledge that is admis-



Too much emphasis has been placed on transnationals at the expense of indigenous entrepreneurs

Against this background, the seminar concluded that southern African governments should set minimum requirements for foreign investors that stipulate that they cannot invest in certain sectors and that they cannot undermine the rights of workers and women or damage the environment.

"They (governments) should look at ways of ensuring that foreign investors develop the local economy, spread technology to local companies, and employ and transfer skills to local workers and managers."

But do developing countries really need every form of FDI? For southern Africa, as the rest of the developing world, pressure is intense to conform to the tenets of the World Trade Organization (WTO), an institution that came out

sible in scientific discourse and publishable in books and journals that carry mainstream ideas that support the 'real' material processes of globalization and centralization of capital," says Prof Yash Tandon, a Harare-based anti-globalization activist.

He says any expression of thought that is contrary to this dominant paradigm, or that supports a liberation process is quickly dismissed as "going back to the old days of outdated and defeated Soviet thought".

"By this dual process of reaffirmation of the dominant paradigm and the rejection of the liberatory theories, the process of centralization of capital proceeds unabated," he adds.

*continued on page 12*



## 2001 SADC extra-ordinary summit communiqué

The Extra-Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), was held in Windhoek, Namibia, on 9 March, 2001, and was chaired by His Excellency, Dr. Sam Nujoma President of the Republic of Namibia.

... In his address to the opening session of the Summit, the SADC Chairperson and host of the Extra-ordinary Summit, HE Dr Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia, welcomed all delegations to the Summit. The Chairperson indicated that the objective of the Extra-ordinary Summit was to finalize the restructuring of SADC Institutions including outstanding issues on the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

President Nujoma expressed the hope that an attitude of compromise, consensus and a spirit of give and take would underline the discussions on the Restructuring. He stressed the need for SADC to address the concerns of smaller SADC member States to ensure that their aspirations and interests were fully considered and their ownership of SADC would not be reduced or minimised. President Nujoma further expressed the hope that the new streamlined and strengthened structure of SADC would enable the organisation to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

In his remarks, the Acting Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Prega Ramsamy paid tribute to the Chairperson of SADC and President of Namibia and the Government and people of Namibia for hosting the historic Extra-ordinary Summit. He pointed out that extensive consultations were undertaken on the restructuring exercise and consensus was reached. He also indicated that the new structure will place the organisation on a strong footing to enable it to squarely face the daunting regional and global challenges particularly those associated with poverty eradication.

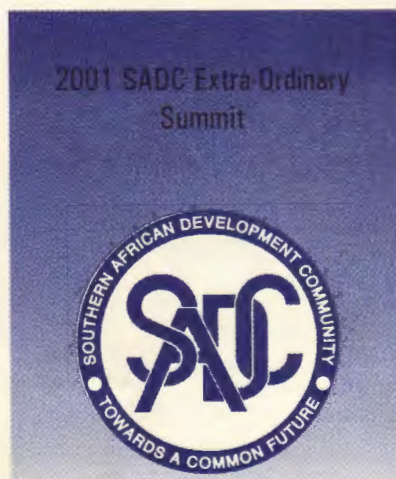
Summit welcomed His Excellency President Joseph Kabila to the SADC family of Heads of State and Government. Summit assured President Kabila of SADC's continued support to the people of the Congo in their search for lasting peace.

Summit unanimously adopted the Report on the Review of the Operations

of SADC Institutions including the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. Consequently, the SADC Treaty shall be amended accordingly.

Summit agreed on a Common Agenda with the following priorities:

- the promotion of sustainable and equitable economic growth and socioeconomic development that will ensure poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective of its eradication;
- promotion of common political values, which are transmitted through institutions which are democratic, legitimate and effective; and



- the consolidation and maintenance of democracy, peace and security.

In order to address the strategic priorities, the Summit directed the Review Committee assisted by the Secretariat to prepare a Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

With respect to the Policy Organs, the Summit agreed that the functions of Summit remain as outlined in the Treaty and approved that the Troika system be formalised and provided for in the Treaty. The Troika system will operate at the level of the Summit, the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, Council and Standing Committee of Officials.

The Summit considered the restructuring of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security and agreed that the struc-

ture, operations and functions of the Organ shall be regulated by the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. The Organ will now be integrated into the SADC structures and will be coordinated at Summit level on a Troika basis reporting to the Chairperson of Summit. The Chairpersonship of the Organ shall be on a rotational basis for a period of one year.

While the functions of the Council of Ministers remain as outlined in the Treaty, the Summit established an Integrated Committee of Ministers. The Integrated Committee of Ministers will oversee the activities of the core areas of integration including the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

With regard to the Tribunal, the Summit agreed that its functions remain provided for in the Treaty and that its establishment be expedited.

The Summit also agreed to create the Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Development and Policy Harmonization, which would strengthen the Secretariat in executing its functions, particularly strategic planning, gender mainstreaming, management and harmonization of policies. The department will also serve as a Think-Tank for Community building, regional integration and development.

Summit agreed to create four Directorates at the SADC Headquarters under which all the existing sectors will be clustered according to their cross sectoral linkages. These would be: Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment; Infrastructure and Services; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR); Social and Human Development and Special Programmes. The phasing out of existing Commissions and sectors would be undertaken within two years ...

Summit further agreed to ensure the sustainability of SADC through the provision of adequate financial and human resources which could be supplemented by other sources. Summit directed the

*continued on page 9*



## SADC puts on a new face

*continued from page 1*

Treaty of 1992, but Summit also established an Integrated Committee of Ministers to oversee activities of the core areas of integration, including implementation of a Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

The Summit agreed that its own functions will remain as outlined in the Treaty and that the Troika system must be "formalized and provided for in the Treaty." This system is already operating in practice and facilitates consultation and leadership by the present, past and next SADC Chairpersons, currently Presidents Sam Nujoma of Namibia, Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Bakili Muluzi of Malawi.

Another item settled for public consumption after some backroom bargaining was the status of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security, launched at an Extraordinary Summit in Botswana on 28 June 1996, as a separate consultative structure to "allow more flexibility and timely response, at the highest level, to sensitive and potentially explosive situations."

As such, the Organ took over the security mandate of the old Front Line States (FLS) grouping established in the 1970s to deal with political and security issues associated with support for the liberation struggle in southern Africa. It

consults at summit, ministerial and technical levels, the most active component being the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC).

SADC leaders agreed at their annual summit in Lesotho, a few months after launching the Organ, that it "would become the foremost institution of SADC mandated to address issues relating to political stability, conflict prevention, management and resolution, democracy and human rights, as well as issues pertaining to peace."

The Organ has been administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe since its inception, and headed by President Robert Mugabe, who was elected by his colleagues at the inaugural summit.

There has been a reluctance by a number of member states to begin the rotation of leadership before formal agreement on the mandate and functions of the Organ, after disagreement over whether it should become an integral part of the SADC structure.

The Organ "will now be integrated in the SADC structures" but coordinated at Summit level on a Troika basis reporting to the Chairperson of Summit. Leadership of the Organ will begin to rotate

later this year as previously agreed, when SADC leaders meet in Malawi for their annual summit. The structure, operations and functions of the Organ will be regulated by a new Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The Summit appointed Prega Ramsamy to the post of Executive Secretary of SADC, beating four other candidates.

The former Chief Economist and Deputy, Ramsamy has been acting Executive Secretary since Kaire Mbuende's departure in August 1999. An economist from Mauritius with some 19 years experience in the field, Ramsamy is a technocrat focused firmly on trade.

The face that attracted the most interest as SADC leaders lined up



President Joseph Kabila, DRC

for their photo call at this Extraordinary Summit was also the newest and youngest, that of General Joseph Kabila, the 29-year-old son of assassinated DRC leader, Laurent Kabila.

Well-turned-out in a natty, wide-lapelled suit, Kabila the younger was a dignified presence both on the platform and off, during a moment of silence in remembrance of his father and during top-level bilateral meetings about the future of his country. □

## 2001 SADC extra-ordinary summit communiqué

*continued from page 8*

Council of Ministers to finalise an equitable formula for member States' contributions.

Summit expressed grave concern on the problem of the illicit manufacturing, stockpiling of, trafficking in, possession and use of firearms and, especially those used in the commission of violent crimes and their contribution to the high level of instability, prolonged conflict, and social dislocation that is evident in Southern Africa and the African continent as a whole. Accordingly Summit signed a Declaration on Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials as the initial stage towards the development of a regional protocol.

Summit expressed satisfaction with the developments in the DRC and congratulated His Excellency President Joseph Kabila for extending a hand of friendship to the opposition and opening the way for the Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Political Dialogue to resume his work. Summit also welcomed the undertaking by the United Nations and the international community in general to deploy UN observers and peacekeepers in line with the provisions of the Lusaka Agreement. ...

Summit reaffirmed its moral and material support to the people of Angola against continued UNITA rebel activities, which have resulted in loss of lives, massive destruction to infrastructure and the displacement of tens of thousands

of people. Summit urged all SADC member States to tighten the UN Sanctions against UNITA, particularly illicit diamond trading.

Summit also noted with satisfaction the political developments in Lesotho, particularly the successful amendment of the constitution to facilitate the holding of elections in that country.

Summit appointed Dr. Prega Ramsamy as the Executive Secretary of SADC for a period of four years. Dr. Ramsamy is a citizen of Mauritius and an Economist by profession. Summit congratulated Dr. Ramsamy for his appointment to the high office of SADC Executive Secretary and thanked him for steering the organisation efficiently as acting Executive Secretary since January 2000. ... □





Hon. Hidipo Hamutenya (right), Chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers and Namibia's Minister of Trade and Industry chatting with Mozambique's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Leonardo Simão during the SADC Council of Ministers Meeting held at Midrand (Johannesburg), South Africa in February 2001.



All pictures by SADC

SADC Ministers and SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Prega Ramsamy (centre with Hamutenya) posing for a group photograph during the Midrand meeting.



During the Midrand meeting, SADC Sector Coordinators had an opportunity to brief the media on their work. From left: Lindie (Finance and Investment), Shepard Nyaruwuta (Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa), Fowdar (Tourism), Eric Msolomba (Director-SATCC), and Pinto (Chairperson-SATCC).



From left: Leonard Chitambo (Employment and Labour), Dr. Renato Matusse (Culture, Information and Sport Sector) and Dr. Thuthula Balfour (Health Sector).



Part of the large media contingent that covered the Council of Ministers meeting held at Midrand in Johannesburg, South Africa in February 2001.





The Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim (centre) was on a state visit to Botswana in February 2001. SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Prega Ramsamy (second right) and Mrs. Ramsamy (left) hosted a dinner in Dr. Salim's honour and were joined by former President of Botswana and Facilitator of Inter-Congolese Dialogue, Sir Ketumile Masire (second left) and the Namibian High Commissioner to Botswana, H.E. Joshua Hoabeb (with his back to the camera).

SADC



President's office, Zimbabwe

DRC President Joseph Kabila (centre) joins President Robert Mugabe and his wife at a dinner hosted in his honour during a recent visit to Zimbabwe



SADC

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Ramsamy (left), Isaac Kaulinge (Secretary to the Namibian Presidency) and Justice Johan Strijdom of Namibia finalising documentation for Dr. Ramsamy's letter of appointment immediately after he was sworn in as the fourth Executive Secretary of SADC in Windhoek in March 2001.

**SADC FORUM HOUSE**



SADC

President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, who is also the Chairperson of SADC, flanked by officials at the opening of the SADC Parliamentary Forum House in Windhoek, Namibia in March 2001. Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Dr Kasuka Mutukwa, is at right.



## A cultural approach to AIDS in southern Africa

by Jabulani Sithole

As the HIV/AIDS scourge continues to cause havoc within southern Africa, voices are growing for serious consideration of a cultural approach to the prevention and awareness of the infection. UNAIDS, in conjunction with UNESCO, organized an international conference on the cultural approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

The conference held in Nairobi, urged the world to approach the disease from a cultural perspective as well as medical. The conference put forward a methodological handbook with guidelines and strategies.

A cultural approach to HIV/AIDS entails tackling the problem from a position of values, norms, traditions and other cultural institutions as platforms to discuss and communicate about the virus and the disease.

This approach hopes to entrench every action of tradition, beliefs and value systems for ethical and practical reasons. It also mobilizes cultural resources including, knowledge, modes of economic and social organization and creativity and self-confidence.

Sub-Saharan Africa carries the greatest burden of the disease, with more than 23.3 million people already affected, representing 70 percent of the global infections. UNAIDS estimates of 1999 indicate that Botswana has a staggering infection rate of 35.5 percent followed by Swaziland with 25.25 percent, Zimbabwe 25.06 percent, Zambia 19.95 percent,

South Africa 19.94 percent and Namibia with 19.54.

The increase in the pandemic has been linked to the breakdown of family patterns, gender, relations, traditions, moral values and behavioural patterns, caused by a shift of people from rural to urban environments.

Cultural practices singled out as contributors to the pandemic include male circumcision, female genital mutilation, cosmetic tattooing or administration of charms, widow inheritance and death-cleansing.



Cultural practices that discourage premarital sex need to be encouraged

Sexual practises and behaviour are culturally imposed in some societies. An individual's concept and expression of sexuality is deeply entwined in the social norms of the community.

In Swaziland, the multiplicity of sexual partners for men is supported by Swazi culture. A man who engages in

multiple sexual encounters is called *In-gwanwa* which is positive, and widely accepted. The female equivalent is the *Ingwandla* a derogatory term.

Widow inheritance, still prevalent in some southern African countries, entails the younger brother or a relative of the deceased husband "remarrying" the surviving woman. It is also widely believed that if this is not observed the spirit of the dead man will be visiting those living to make demands.

The practise is innocent as it aims at providing means and support for the

widow and her children in the absence of her husband. However, now this practice encourages the spread of the pandemic.

In countries like South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe pervasive polygamy is practised in some areas. This involves parents giving away their innocent young daughters in marriage to older men with several wives for monetary gains. Transactions of this nature happen

without the girl's knowledge and consent. Early marriages and early sex of this nature expose young girls to high risks of contracting HIV/AIDS, especially where multiple partners are involved.

Nevertheless not all cultural practises and institutions contribute to the rise of the epidemic. The use of initiation ceremonies for men and women aimed at discussing sexuality and sexual activities can be used to communicate issues related to HIV/AIDS. Originally such forums would teach girls what womanhood is about. To the boys the forum teaches them aspects of manhood.

Virginitly is still practised in the region. It encourages girls and boys not to engage in sex at a tender age. In Swaziland the 'Reed Dance for Maidens' has supported and maintained virginitly and abstinence. While a ceremony of picking *Lusekwana* (the holy tree) serves a similar purpose for boys. □

## Who benefits from foreign direct investment?

continued from page 7

FDIs are another form of capital, often referred to as factors of production ie land and other natural resources, labour, machinery, management and technology. So it is the control over these that big powers seek to protect.

Thus trans-national corporations, which bring FDI, seek to maximize profitability by lowering cost of production through means such as depressing wages, bringing into production cheaper resources and conquering new markets.

It comes as no surprise that the WTO, which is controlled by the rich nations, is advocating for *laissez faire*, ie removal of state hand from the market. The logic is simple, the state interferes with the trans-nationals' quest to control the resources and conquer markets.

So when institutions such as the Bank, IMF and WTO — which are answerable to the big powers of world economy and their multi-nationals — say Africa needs foreign direct investment, in whose interest do they say this? □



# Indigenous languages face extinction

by Jabulani Sithole

Indigenous languages in southern Africa face extinction if urgent and serious efforts are not made to develop them and raise their status.

A report, tabled recently at an international conference in Kenya, warned that thousands of indigenous languages in the world might disappear in the next century. The conference was sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Languages are arbitrary oral symbols by which a social group interacts, communicates and self-expresses. It enshrines the culture, customs and secrets of the people.

The report estimates that up to 90 percent of the world's languages could die this century, with the valuable knowledge, culture and customs embedded in them gone forever.

The traditional knowledge at threat includes secrets of how to manage habitats and the land in environmentally sustainable ways passed down by word of mouth over many generations.

Studies carried out estimate that there are 5,000 to 7,000 spoken languages in the world, of which 4,000 to 5,000 are classified as minority languages.

More than 2,500 of these are in immediate danger of extinction and many more are already losing their natural link, 32 percent of these being African.

While 234 have already suffered this fate among which are the Khoi-San languages that were spoken in southern Africa in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In addition to the Khoi-San languages, Chikunda and Dema in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia are also in danger of extinction.

Globalization has been singled out as the major catalyst in their disappearance. The process of turning the world into a village is promoting the use of English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and other European languages at the expense of indigenous languages.

"Nature's secrets, locked away in the different indigenous languages may be lost forever as a result of growing globalization," says the report.

European languages are not new to Africa as they are the languages of the

former colonial masters. They have been used widely as languages for social mobility and economic interaction, while they are spoken by less than 20 percent of the indigenous population.

In addition to the colonial reason, African states have opted to retain the use of these languages as a unifying force among their diverse language groups.

However, another alternative has emerged in east Africa where Swahili is the *lingua franca* drawing roots from a number of other languages, and is now the seventh most spoken language in the world.

While the disappearance of the languages is imminent, language experts have called for regional governments to put in place policies that ensure the development and constant use of minority languages.

"For a language to survive it must be used for a wide range of functions otherwise it begins to wither and die. Thus, where we have allowed higher status functions to be limited to English, French and Portuguese only, other languages then begin to wither and die," said Nkosana Sibuyi, Senior Communications Officer of the Pan South African Language Board.

Most African countries are multilingual with many minority languages and dialects spoken — the DRC has more than 200 languages, Tanzania 120, Angola 63, Mozambique 25 while Botswana



Languages are arbitrary oral symbols by which a social group interacts

and Zimbabwe have about 20 languages each. However, most of the southern African countries have not put in place deliberate policies that promote and elevate minority languages to protect them from their imminent extinction.

South Africa is one SADC country that adopted in 1996 a multilingual policy, that elevated nine African languages to official languages namely Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho Siswati, Seswana, Xitsonga and Tshivenda.

Other countries have through their education acts attempted to elevate indigenous languages to a status recognizable for their development.

Zimbabwe adopted an education policy that stipulates that the first three years of education should use indigenous languages as a medium of instruction while English is being introduced to the student. Seven languages — Shona, Ndebele, Kalanga, Tonga, Venda, Shangani and Nambya enjoy this status. □

## Africa to host 2010 World Cup

The world soccer governing body, FIFA, has finally decided to let an African country host the 2010 World Cup soccer championships.

Africa lost the bid to host the 2006 World Cup when FIFA voted to award the quadriennial tournament to Germany. Morocco and South Africa were bidding for the 2006 edition.

South Africa has indicated that it will bid for the 2010 finals.



## Zimbabwe currency speculators burn fingers

**B**usinessmen speculating over the state of the Zimbabwean dollar are facing huge losses as the government continues to hold out against demands to devalue the currency.

Those speculating have in recent months taken advantage of low interest rates to borrow and buy foreign currency from the formal and informal market in anticipation of a devaluation of the dollar.

## Mozambique acts against racism

**T**he Mozambican authorities have taken measures to end racist practices by foreign tourist operators (mostly South African) in some of the country's resorts, Tourism Minister Fernando Sumbana announced recently.

Speaking in the Mozambican parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, in response to a question from deputies of the ruling Frelimo Party, Sumbana said that his ministry had ordered the removal of one particularly offensive sign that a South African tourist operator had placed on a Mozambican beach - which

read, in English, "Local children not allowed."

For some time now, Zimbabwe's tobacco farmers and manufacturers have been demanding a devaluation. But the government has ruled out devaluation, leaving speculators with large amounts of foreign currency they may be forced to sell back at a loss.

The Zimbabwe government devalued the dollar in April 2000 after tobacco farmers threatened to withhold their crop from the market. (PANA) □

His ministry was also demanding that all hotels and other tourist accommodation must accept reservations from Mozambicans — they cannot reserve their facilities solely for visiting South Africans.

Nor was it acceptable for signposts and other tourist information to be written only in English. Sumbana said that the country's official language, Portuguese, must be used, with an English translation where appropriate. (AIM)

## South Africa acquires more shares in ADB

**S**outh Africa will increase its shareholding in the African Development Bank from 0.88 percent to 4.1 percent of the bank's total shares.

The board of directors of the Abidjan-based bank approved requests by South Africa and other shareholders to increase their holdings in the ADB. Following the decision, South Africa will become the fifth largest shareholder in the ADB after Nigeria, U.S., Japan and Egypt. (PANA) □

## Mauritian firm to upgrade Tanzania sugar plant

**A** Mauritian company and a consortium led by Barclays Bank have agreed to finance the rehabilitation of a sugarcane plantation and its factory in northern Tanzania.

Under a financing agreement, signed recently in Port Louis between Consolidated Investment Enterprise Ltd (CIEL) and the bank consortium, the Tanganyika Planting Company, located in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, will be rehabilitated at a cost of US\$15 million. CIEL officials said the sugar company was

## Regional media awards launched

**A**nual media awards starting this year have been introduced by SADC for journalists excelling in reporting regional issues.

The competition is co-ordinated by the SADC Culture, Information and Sport Sector and is open to journalists practising within the region.

Themes of the entries relate to such SADC activities as regional integration efforts.

"Entries for the awards should have been published in a recognized media agency between June of the previous year and the end of February of the year of the awards," says the Zambian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services, who have already started running adverts for the awards in their country.

Prizes at stake are: US\$5,000 for the first prize; US\$3,000 for second; and

## Namibia to import cereal

**N**amibia will have to import 208,500 tonnes of cereal this year after late rains cut crop production in the country.

In its latest bulletin, the Namibia Early Warning and Food Information System (NEWFIS) forecasts domestic cereal supply at a mere 90,700 tonnes this year due to late rains in the commercial cereal-producing area commonly known as the "Maize Triangle" (Grootfontein, Otavi and Tsumeb).

Namibia has a domestic cereal utilization requirement of 299,200 tonnes. Cereal-producing areas received above normal rainfall in October, but the subsequent three months were marked by below normal rainfall.

In February, the rainfall pattern changed for the better when the areas recorded normal rain and the favourable conditions continued up to the middle of March.

NEWFIS said that as a result of the late rainfall, planting of crops in December was below average and in several places no planting took place at all. (The Namibian) □

bought in September 2000 by the Sucrerie des Mascareignes Ltd whose main shareholders are Mauritian sugar company Deep River Beau Champ (60 percent) and Quartier Francais (40 percent) from nearby Reunion.

Production at Tanganyika Planting Company, one of the main sugar plants in Tanzania, would be around 40,000 tonnes this year, but the target is to produce 72,000 tonnes a year as from 2006. It was nationalized by Tanzania in 1979 and privatised in 2000. (PANA)

US\$2,000 for the third, and a certificate.

Member states have to set up national adjudication committees, to receive entries from their respective countries and verify eligibility.

The committees will then send submitted works to the regional adjudication committee for final selection. Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony to take place during the SADC Summit in Malawi on 6-14 August 2001. □



## Book chronicles Mozambique floods of 2000

*Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000* by Frances Christie and Joseph Hanlon, published by the International African Institute in association with James Currey (Oxford) and Indiana University Press (Bloomington), 2001.

Mozambique has in recent years been regarded as one of the great comeback stories of southern Africa. On the back of its buoyant economy, it successfully recovered from the prolonged civil war, and now has a stable government and increased growth.

But disaster struck in the early months of 2000. Devastating floods struck the country between January and March, claiming more than 1,000 lives and leaving some 500,000 people homeless.

In their recent book, *Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000*, Frances Christie and Joseph Hanlon, both long-time chroniclers of Mozambique recall the horror that befell the southern African country.

The book narrates how heavy rains and flooding were predicted from September 1999 and how the Mozambique Red Cross ran retraining programmes for its volunteers. The National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) ran publicity campaigns and was in contact with the South African Airforce about rescue needs. Despite this dialogue, no one was fully prepared for the magnitude of the floods.

The local Mozambican relief agencies handled all the initial flood problems with their staff and volunteers and created the basis for the regional and international aid agencies which later flew in.

Local preparation, regional support and international solidarity prevented the Mozambique floods from becoming a catastrophe. Forty-five thousand people were rescued; there were no major outbreaks of disease and no serious malnutrition in the accommodation centres. The interesting well-written book emphasizes how the integration of foreign aid workers into the government-coordinated system proved essential and effective.

The international response was media-driven, often larger than needed, causing confusion. Order was quickly restored and there were massive and well-coordinated efforts to feed and accommodate the displaced. The UN organized huge material aid and worked in collaboration with INGC.

The authors assert that by the time that international aid arrived, local communities had provided initial support in the form of schools, churches which provided shelter and local government coordination. Accommodation centres served as focal points for assistance.

The little-known contribution of the Mozambique navy, the Red Cross and countless fishing and small boat owners saved more people than the more dramatic helicopters.

The world-famous picture of baby Rosita and her mother being rescued from a tree by a South African helicopter became an icon of the Mozambican floods and provoked an outpouring of international support. The flood led electronic and print news for days and it was the impact of pictures on viewers that led to aid pouring into Mozambique.

The book outlines problems encountered in administering donor funds, and how some donors preferred channeling their funds through familiar ministries and organizations rather than pooling their money.

Thousands of displaced people had to be resettled and reconstruction was essential but the influence of donors too often led to funds being directed to their special areas of interest and not necessarily the most deserving cases.

The authors recommend that Mozambique should have mechanisms to handle such catastrophes because in future it might not get such massive international assistance.

Christie, a journalist, has lived in Mozambique since 1975 while Hanlon, a UK-based economist, is an author of 10 other books, four on Mozambique.

Pascoal Mocumbi, Prime Minister of Mozambique, and Emmanuel Dierckx de Casterlé, UN Resident Coordinator wrote the Prefaces.

(Review by Chipu Muvezwa, SARDC) □

### Recent publications and acquisitions

*SADC Human Development Report 2000: Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Integration*

—SAPES Books.- 2000

Available from: SAPES Trust, P.O. Box MP111, Mount Pleasant, Harare.

Email: administrator@sarips.co.zw

*2000 A Better World for All: Indicators of the International Development Goals*

—International Monetary Fund.- 2000

Available from: www.paris21.org/betterworld

*Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?: Overview*

—The World Bank.- 2000

Available from: The World Bank PO Box

960, Herndon, VA 29172-0960 USA.

Email: books@worldbank.org. Internet: www.worldbank.org/publications

*Democratic Governance in Mozambique: Priorities for the Second Generation 2002-2006*

—UNDP-Mozambique.- 2000

Available from: UNDP Mozambique, PO Box 4595, Maputo.

Email: registry.mz@undp.org

*Revitalizing African Libraries: The Challenge of a Quiet Crisis*

—Marton, Betty A.- 2000

Available from: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 437 Madison Avenue, New York City, NY 10022. Internet:

www.carnegie.org

*Sharing Innovative Experiences Volume 4:*

*Examples of Good Practices in Social Policies, Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge, and Appropriate Technology in South*

—Special Unit for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries.- 2000

Available from: Special Unit for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries. United Nation Development Programme, 304 East 45th Street (12th floor). New York 10017, USA and Third World Network, 228 Macalister Road, 10400 Penang, Malaysia.

*The State of the World's Children 2001*

—UNICEF.- 2001

Available from: UNICEF, UNICEF House, 3 UN Plaza, New York NY 10017, USA. Email: pubdoc@unicef.org.



**SADC diary**

2001		Event	Venue
MAY	1	World Day of Cultural Development	All
	3	Launch of the SADC Human Development Report 2000	Namibia
	1-6	Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA)	Zimbabwe
	8	World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day	All
	14-20	Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries	Belgium
	17-19	International Association of Investors in the Social Economy (INAISE)	Ireland
	18 - 19	Southern Africa Conference on Gender Information, Theme: Information as a Tool for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality - Towards 2005	Mozambique
	21-25	SADC Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs	Mozambique
	28-30	SADC Ministers Responsible for Culture, Information and Sport	Mauritius
JUNE	10-12	Information Technology in Sub-Saharan Africa: Second Annual Global Information Technology Management Conference	USA
	25-27	UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS	UN, New York
	26	International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking	All

**Currency checklist**

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.85
DRC	Congo Franc	-
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	7.98
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	79.03
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	29.97
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	20,348
Namibia	Dollar 100 cents)	7.98
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.83
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	7.98
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.98
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	932
Zambia	Kwacha (100 Cents)	3,408
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	55.00

Source: Standard Chartered Bank, Zimbabwe Ltd, 14 May 2001

**Public Holidays in SADC for the period May - July 2001**

Date	Holiday	Country
1 May	Workers Labour Day	all SADC
4 May	Kassinga Day	Namibia
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	Independence Day	Mozambique
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
2 July	Heroes' Day	Zambia
3 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi