



SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community

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Is SADC ready for trade reciprocity with the EU?

by Munetsi Madakufamba

A proposal has been put forward by the European Union (EU) to gradually introduce reciprocal trade between the 15-member group and sub-regions within the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) group of developing nations when the Lomé Convention provisions fall away in February 2000.

The EU has identified six sub-regions in the ACP group with which to create Regional Economic Partnership Agreements (REPAs). Because of its ultimate objective to establish a single economic space, SADC is one such region which has been earmarked for the proposed agreements, which, according to the EU, should be compatible with the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

SADC, along with other ACP countries, are currently enjoying preferential access to the European markets under the Lomé Convention which has been in place since 1975 and will expire next year. Official negotiations for a new framework of agreement commenced in September last year.

SADC, along with other ACP countries, has indicated that it wants the *status quo* maintained or even bettered. On



SADC Council of Ministers Chairman and South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfred Nzo addressing the Council in Lusaka last February. See story below.

the other hand, the EU has shown that it would want the current treaty replaced with something that is WTO - compatible or precisely, an agreement based on reciprocal trade.

To this end, the EU put forward a proposal for gradual introduction of reciprocal trade with sub-regional groupings such as SADC. After a SADC-EU meeting in Brussels last year, the SADC committee of ambas-

sadors called on organisations involved in policy research and related fields to critically examine the implications of such an option.

In response to the appeal by the SADC Committee of Ambassadors, a workshop was convened by the Foundation for Global Dialogue and the South African Trade and Industrial Policy Secretariat (TIPS) in Johannesburg towards the end of February.

The workshop, attended by a select group of people with varying expertise on the Lomé Convention, was also meant to critically review a study report on The Impact of Introducing Reciprocity into The Trade Relations Between the EU and The SADC Region. The study, commissioned by the European Commission, was prepared by Imani Development (International) Ltd.

One of the fundamental recommendations of the workshop was the need for a cross-sectional regional workshop that can put together a comprehensive, SADC-wide response to the secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, as well as the

Information technology to propel SADC into next millennium

The globalisation of world markets has emerged as one of the greatest challenges facing developing countries in the last few decades, as they fear marginalisation through unfair competition. But the information revolution, which came with globalisation, has turned out to be one of the most irresistible outcomes of the new world order.

Technological advances, especially in the information sector, have dramatically lowered costs of communication, and countries that moved fast

in creating a conducive environment are now enjoying the multiplier effect of their investments. Realising this, SADC held its 1999 Consultative Conference in the Zambian capital Lusaka on 12 February under the theme: "SADC in the Next Millennium: Opportunities and Challenges of Information Technology".

The conference was attended by government representatives from all the 14 SADC member states, the

continued on page 8

continued on page 6

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Editorial Committee

Naume Ziyambi, Alice Kwaramba, Tinashé Madava, Caiphás Chimhete, Phyllis Johnson, Luisa Banze, Jean Chimhandamba, Walter Tapfumaneyi

Editorial Advisor

Esther Kanaimba
SADC Public Relations Officer

Editor

Munetsi Madakufamba

Layout/DTP

Juliet Mucheki

Print Coordination

Brighton Kadzambaira

Origination/Printing

Crystal Graphics and Cannon Press, Harare

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Correspondence, letters-to-the-editor and other materials 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
Internet: www.sardc.net



Elections 4



Unemployment 7



SADC in Pictures 10



Peacekeeping 11

- Future SADC - EU trade relations* 1
- Policy Review: 1997/98 SADC Annual Report* 3
- International Women's Day celebrations* 5
- Labour migration* 7
- 1999 SADC Consultative Conference* 9
- Guest Column: Toward a SADC Peacekeeping Force* 11
- Around the Region: Newsbriefs* 12
- Community Building: Culture and sport* 13
- Cooperation between SADC Central Banks* 14
- Book Review: Recent Publications and Acquisitions* 15
- SADC Diary, public holidays, currency checklist* 16

A note to the reader

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Regional economy suffers from internal conflicts, erratic rainfall

SADC had mixed fortunes in the 1997/98 period. Below is an abridged version of the 1997/98 SADC Annual Report.

Political situation

Over the past year, the region continued to enjoy an overall atmosphere of relative peace and political stability and witnessed the consolidation of a democratic culture, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights. This is reflected in developments such as the first municipal elections in Mozambique in June 1998, general elections in Lesotho and Swaziland in May and October respectively, and the change of leadership in Botswana. These elections and smooth transfers of power reflect a step forward in the maturation of democracy in the region.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, the situation in Angola and the DRC is a source for great concern to the region. The military situation in Angola has been deteriorating since March 1998, due to UNITA's non-compliance with the provisions set forth in the Lusaka Protocol.

In the DRC, measures to consolidate peace and stability were marred by the 2 August 1998 uprising, led by rebel forces fighting to overthrow the government of President Laurent Kabila. Although some SADC Member States have provided troops and other military assistance to the DRC government, initiatives are under way to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict. ... It is hoped that these complimentary initiatives will assist in the restoration of peace, security and stability in the DRC.

Economic situation

In 1997, the average growth rate of all SADC economies was estimated at 2.2 percent as compared to 4.1 percent the previous year. However, since this growth rate will not be enough to make a dent in poverty, SADC's objective is to reach a higher sustainable growth rate by the turn of the century. It is for this reason that SADC countries have embarked on implementing reforms aimed

at improving the overall economic situation of the region.

Results from implementing tighter monetary and fiscal policies in the SADC region have borne fruit. In 1997, only one country, (Angola) recorded inflation above 25 percent. In the same year, six economies reflected budget surpluses, with Botswana and Mauritius recording surpluses of 8 percent and 4.5 percent respectively. Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia also recorded surpluses, while Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe recorded deficits.

However, balance of payments did not fare well. Only five countries – Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe – had current account surpluses in 1997. While most SADC economies are experiencing current account deficits, on average, foreign exchange reserves continued to strengthen for most of the countries.

With a population of 190 million and combined GDP of more than US\$160 billion, SADC's intra-trade, as percentage of total SADC trade, is estimated above 20 percent.

Social development

The range of indices for SADC reflects diversity in the level of social development. According to UNDP, Mozambique's human development index is as low as 0.281, while that of Mauritius is high at 0.83. Seven SADC states fall in the category of low human development, but only four rank lower than the average for sub-Saharan Africa.

In 1997, it was estimated that one in 10 adults in southern Africa were living with HIV, reflecting an increase of one-third in a 12-month period. Available data indicate that the percentage of infected adults in SADC countries ranges from 2 percent to 25 percent.

The food situation

Overall, the 1997/98 crop season has been characterised by the prevalence of erratic and below normal rainfall in the southern African countries as well as excessive rains and flooding. Both factors led to reduced crop yields.

The production forecasts indicated an overall SADC maize harvest of 16.1m tonnes, equivalent to almost a

6 percent decline compared to 1997 revised maize output of 17.05m tonnes and also compares unfavourably with the 1995/96 output of 20.34m tonnes.

The output of other cereals such as wheat, millet and sorghum was expected to fall in 1998, while that of rice was forecast to increase. Total cereal production in the 1997/98 season stood at 25.71 million tonnes which is insufficient to meet total requirements of 26.22 million tonnes.

The SADC Programme of Action

An analysis of the SADC Programme of Action, which is an amalgam of the various sectoral programmes in agreed areas of cooperation, shows that at July 1998, there were 404 projects valued at US\$8.05 billion as compared to 407 projects worth US\$8.09 billion recorded in the previous year.

The whole regional programme continues to be dominated by the Transport and Communications Sector which has 174 projects (43.07 percent of total projects) at an estimated cost of US\$6.47 billion (80.39 percent of the total programme).

Cross-sectional issues

The last two years marked a turning phase in the struggle to mainstream gender in SADC activities. It began with the September 1997 Gender and Development Declaration which was signed by the Summit in Malawi. A Gender Unit was then established at the Secretariat in Botswana last year.

Regarding information systems, SADC has made very little progress on the development of statistics and it is important that the momentum gained so far is not lost. Progress has been observed in the area of accounts and national accounts and macro-economic statistics, which has been attained through the UN System of National Accounts Manual.

SADC is presented with a number of challenges and opportunities, one of the most important of which is globalisation. The task is two-fold: to create an investor-friendly economic environment, and also to implement social policies to counter the adverse effects on the vulnerable sections of the population. □

Elections in southern Africa: A test for democracy

Before the millennium dawns, five elections will have taken place in southern Africa. Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia prepare for the events this year, while at least four other SADC countries will hold their elections between the year 2000 and 2001.

The elections will be an indicator of the status of democratic development ten years on. More importantly, the proximity of the events provides space for a region genuinely committed to a shared agenda of integration, to take stock of each member state's commitment to the tenets of democracy and good governance.

The process begins with Malawi on 25 May, a country that produced some of the most highly competitive legislative elections five years ago. South Africa follows on 2 June and will provide a further insight into the workings of the Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system which a growing number of political players in the region are beginning to favour.

In the 1994 elections, President Bakili Muluzi's United Democratic Front (UDF), took 48 percent of the seats with 46 percent of the votes, the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) 32 percent of the seats with 34 votes, and the Alliance For Democracy (AFORD) 20 percent of the seats with 19 percent votes. This translated into 85 seats for UDF, 56 MCP and 36 AFORD.

In South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) is set to dominate the elections as it did in 1994. The issue now is whether the minority-based parties can prevent the ANC from obtaining a two-thirds majority in parliament which will allow it to change the constitution without reference to the opposition.

Under the List-PR electoral system, the smaller parties were able to gain seats in parliament. Seven parties in all were represented based on the percentage vote claimed.

The ANC won 252 seats, the National Party (NP) 82, the Inkhata Freedom Party (IFP) 43, the Freedom Front (FF) nine, the Democratic Party seven, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) five and the African Christian Democratic Party two seats.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who took over at the helm of the ANC after President Nelson Mandela retired as party leader in March 1998, will be looking for a second ANC victory.

President Mandela, who led the ANC to the historic victory in the 1994 first democratic elections, retires from active politics after the elections in June.

In addition to the parties that were in the 1994 elections, more new opposition parties will be contesting the June 1999 elections, notably the United Democratic Front (UDM) of former ANC member Bantu Holomisa and former NP leader Rolf Meyer.

President Festus Mogae, who took over from former president Sir Kethumile Masire in a smooth transfer of power in 1998, will lead the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) into the next elections expected in early October this year. The ruling party has been in power since independence from British rule in 1966.

Namibia, which won its independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990, is looking forward to its second presidential and legislative elections this year. The last elections, won by the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), were held in 1994.

President Sam Nujoma, who got the nod from the Namibian parliament to contest a third term after his two terms

prescribed in the constitution expire this year, will lead SWAPO into the coming elections.

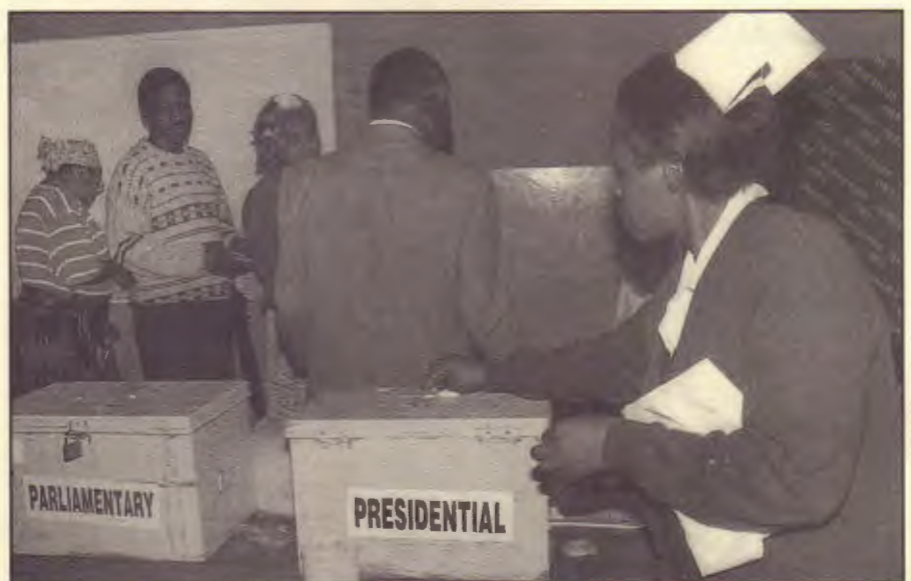
In late October or early November, Mozambique is expected to hold its second general elections after the devastating civil war which ended in 1992. The last elections were held in 1994 and were won by Frelimo.

The ruling party, headed by President Joaquim Chissano, will contest the coming elections against a host of opposition parties led by Renamo, the former rebel force.

Angola was supposed to have gone to polls in 1995, but political instability in the country resulted in an indefinite postponement. With the renewed fighting between government forces and the rebel movement, Unita, it may not be possible to hold immediate elections in Angola.

On assuming power in 1997, after ousting the late dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, President Laurent Kabila had said his country would hold elections by June this year. However, like Angola, the ongoing war between the DRC government and Rwanda/Uganda-backed rebels has put into doubt any immediate elections.

Elections in Mauritius and Tanzania are expected next year, while Zambia's are due in 2001. Zimbabwe will hold its legislative elections in 2000 and presidential elections in 2002. □



Elections are considered a means, and not an end to democracy.

Last International women's day of the millennium celebrated in southern Africa

by Luisa Banze

The International Women's Day the last for this century, was celebrated the world over with various activities lined up to mark the occasion. Most countries in the SADC region commemorated this year's IWD with a special focus on the progress made in the struggle for equal rights for women and for women's full participation in the development process.

In Zimbabwe for instance, the government together with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), UN Agencies and other institutions took this opportunity to press for the observance of women's rights.

The day also constituted an opportunity to take stock of the status of women, identify gaps and celebrate achievements made in the struggle for women's equality and justice.

The Australian High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Denise Fisher, said the new millennium provides an opportunity for women to assess how far they have come in the past century to redress imbalances between women's and men's rights.

Fisher added that the conviction that women were not equipped to function in a competitive world remained a challenge. She was addressing delegates, who converged at the Australian High Commission in Harare to celebrate the day.

In recognition of the importance of women's rights, the United Nations (UN) declared the 10 years from 1975 to 1985 the Decade of Women and selected significant international themes each year to mark the IWD.

These themes have been adopted and adapted by the UN member countries in commemorating the day throughout the decade and after.

This year's international theme is "Women and Health". Health is one of the critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action and also by the region.

Inadequate provision of health care services in the region has resulted in many women losing their lives. Preventable diseases and unequal access to health care still affect mainly women and girls, especially those in the rural areas.

HIV infection among women is on the increase, and countries still lack programmes targeted at HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment among women and girls. The disease is also affecting children and creating a new problem in the region, that of AIDS orphans.

As for the region, the themes for this year varied from country to country. Botswana took the chance to commemorate the endeavours of women in poverty alleviation and economic empowerment.

The central theme in Botswana was "Poverty Alleviation and Women's Economic Empowerment".

According to Helen Mutasa, reporter of the *Botswana Midweek Sun* newspaper, the University of Botswana's Directorate of Research and Development lined up, as part of activities to celebrate the day, the holding of a symposium open to the public, under the theme "Empowerment of Women is a Core Issue For Gender Equality".

South Africa's theme was "The Vertical Transmission of HIV/AIDS", which is in recognition of the escalating incidence of the deadly disease. It is estimated that approximately 30 percent of all pregnant women in South Africa are HIV positive.

For Zimbabwe, the main theme was "Land for Economic and Cultural Development", chosen in light of the current land redistribution process and its implications and impact on women.

The land issue is of great importance to women in Zimbabwe, like elsewhere in the region, as 86 percent of women

not only live in rural areas, but are dependent on the land for food, energy and other economic activities.

This makes land a very important resource for the economic empowerment and socio-cultural development of women.

Zimbabwe also celebrated the day with renewed calls for the reduction of poverty, which has been found as a major blockade to women's advancement among nations. Celebrations included poetry reading and drama presentation by the Women's Land Lobby Group.

A workshop on Building Effective Partnerships and Strengthening Networks for Gender Equality held in Zimbabwe from 8-10 March was also organised to coincide with the day.

The workshop was co-organised by the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) and Gender, Education and Training Networking from South Africa.

In his message to the world read on his behalf, in Harare, by Gita Welch, the Regional Programme Advisor of the United Nations Fund for Women, the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said "We can look

with some pride at the remarkable achievements made so far.

"We entered a century where women had the right to vote in a mere handful of countries; we leave one where the vast majority of countries have universal suffrage".

Annan added that though some progress has been made, much remains to be done. "As we stand on the threshold of the new millennium, we are confronted by challenges both new and old.

At the forefront is the impact on women of globalisation, liberalisation, economic restructuring and privatisation. Poverty among women, especially heads of households and older women appears to be deepening," he said.

Gender Equality has been a burning issue in the SADC region, but its realisation, as Annan said in his speech, is still far from a reality. □

“ Health is one of the critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action... ”

Is SADC ready for trade reciprocity with the EU?

continued from page 1

committee of ambassadors in Brussels. The regional workshop is expected to be held by mid-year.

WTO compatibility

For a region to qualify for a REPA, it has to be a free trade area (FTA). The WTO requires substantial trade liberalisation within the FTA – more than 90 percent of trade should be liberalised within 10 years with a two-year grace period.

Another possibility for establishing a regional arrangement is to have a customs union with a common tariff regime. There can also be consideration under article 24 of the WTO of an interim arrangement leading to the establishment of a FTA or a customs union.

Through its various sectoral protocols, particularly the Trade Protocol signed in 1996, SADC's long-term objective is to establish a fully integrated FTA. However, out of SADC's eight sec-

tor protocols that have been signed to date, only three have been ratified by a two-thirds majority required before implementation can begin. Perhaps most important, the Trade Protocol, the cornerstone of the perceived SADC FTA, has been ratified by only five countries: Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The EU has set a deadline for completion of REPAs between 2000 and 2005. It is almost certain that the SADC Trade Protocol will have been ratified by the required two-thirds majority by the end of this year.

Furthermore, there is no formal indication or intention by SADC for the establishment of a common customs union. However, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) which is within SADC, is indeed a common customs union.

Lobbying for second waiver

Whether SADC will qualify for a REPA or not, the region, just like all

other ACP countries, still needs the *status quo* maintained to allow time for a future with or without Lomé. A WTO waiver is needed for this to happen.

Currently, Lomé provisions exist under a WTO waiver which expires in February 2000, by which time a new agreement should be in place.

The EU wants a waiver of no more than five years. In fact the EU wants negotiations on REPAs to commence in 2000 and the agreements to be sealed by 2005.

On the other hand, the ACP, while recognising that non-reciprocal trade is a short-term solution, is asking for 10 years as a means of transition.

The challenge for SADC and the rest of the ACP group is to lobby for a longer waiver by mobilising support from the EU and other sympathisers in the WTO.

The other challenge is also to lobby for the change of rules that govern time frames for waivers and the establishment of FTAs. After all, WTO rules are not carved in stone. □

Conclusions of Impact study

Following is a summary, extracted from a recent policy brief by the European Centre for Development Policy Management, of main conclusions of an European Commission study report on the Impact of Introducing reciprocal trade between the EU and SADC.

While, in the long run, SADC would be a natural Regional Economic Partnership Agreement (REPA) partner for the EU, institutional, political and economic constraints make it difficult, if not impossible, for SADC to conclude a REPA in the timescale envisaged by the EU.

The 14 SADC members have made uneven progress towards trade liberalisation, and a lot remains to be achieved before a Free Trade Area (FTA), let alone a customs union, could be in place.

The report suggests the following:

First, extend the EU-South Africa free trade agreement to other SACU members (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland).

Then, conclude some form of REPA with the three remaining non-LDCs (Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe), temporarily leaving out six LDCs that are better off outside a REPA. A SADC-wide REPA with the EU might be envisaged beyond 2010. Expected trade creation gains are very small, while trade diversion losses are substantially greater, especially for the Seychelles (2 percent of GDP) and Mauritius (1.7 percent of GDP).

Trade creation gains would arise if inefficient local production in the ACP was displaced by more competitive imports from Europe.

Trade diversion costs would occur if imports from non-EU suppliers

were displaced by European products, although the former are more efficient, because of the preferential treatment given by the ACP to the latter. The agricultural sector would be mostly affected, especially by subsidised European exports.

Estimated losses in government revenues vary, ranging from negligible amounts for the BLNS (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland) to losses of 9 percent and 8 percent for Mauritius and Tanzania, and 30 percent for the Seychelles.

In the longer term, the report sees positive benefits in a SADC-wide REPA since it would "lock" the SADC countries in their own FTA and underpin regional integration.

In the short term, however, the gradual approach proposed above could be rather detrimental to the process of regional integration. □

Labour migration in southern Africa

by Katongo Chisupa

Trends in labour migration in SADC indicate the flow still mainly remains toward South Africa and in some cases Botswana, experts say. As the region prepares to enter the new millennium, the migration pattern which dates back to the 19th century continues to grow despite official attempts to regulate it. The current waves of migration do not only include mine and agricultural workers but also professionals and skilled workers.

The destination of migrants tend to be the relatively richer countries in the region, principally Botswana and South Africa. One of the responses to the flows of migrants has been the tightening of immigration laws and border controls to keep out unskilled workers.

The complex subject of labour migration was the focus of a regional seminar in Lusaka, Zambia, in March. Among other issues, the seminar examined ways of structuring and co-ordinating the movement of labour within the region to the mutual benefit of both sending and receiving countries.



Unemployment is forcing youth in southern Africa to trek down south. Here, unemployed youth queue for recruitment at the police headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia.

The move is also meant to promote the respect of basic human rights of migrant workers in line with international labour standards and relevant national legislation.

The seminar which targeted senior officials of ministries of labour and employment, trade unions and employer's associations was attended by representatives from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The main objective of the seminar was to determine the scope and dimensions of labour migration within the southern African region.

Detailed presentations included topics on regional integration in a globalised economy; an overview of international labour standards; the role of labour in regional integration; and labour migration and labour administration.

According to a report on labour migration to South Africa in the 1990s, published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the 1990's have seen a marked rise in the flow of labour migrations to South Africa from the southern African region. This development has been attributed to the political liberalisation within South Africa and continued deterioration in the economies of many neighbouring countries.

Governments, research institutions, labour organisations and business groupings are attempting to weigh the costs and benefits of labour migration, and to formulate appropriate policy responses. The report warns that the process is however taking place within a politically charged atmosphere characterised by growing hostility towards foreigners in South Africa and heightened expectations of returns from the post-apartheid peace dividend in the

rest of the SADC region.

"Migration to South Africa is currently the subject of intense political debate within the country and the region," the report says. But it is quick to say much of that debate is based on poor understanding of the causes and consequences of labour migration.

Despite the apprehension in South Africa over migrants to that country, the country has gained substantial net benefits from inward labour migration over many decades, but there is less agreement when it comes to the case of the labour-sending countries.

Southern Africa has a long history of organised and informal labour migration between its territories. The ILO report says from the late 19th century, South Africa was a key recipient of labour migrants from Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique. In some leading sectors, notably mining and commercial agriculture, labour migrants played a crucial role in the development of large scale and highly profitable production.

The report notes that without cheap migrant labourers over a sustained period, South Africa's key gold mining industry and white farms would probably not have been developed at all. It adds however that there has been little or no public recognition of this fact. The report in its conclusion says most labour sending countries have realised net benefits at macro-economic, local and individual levels, despite the negative effects from the loss for labour in many local communities.

It stresses that co-ordination and re-defining of labour migration policies by labour sending countries is needed for the optimisation of benefits to migrant labourers and their communities.

At continental level, Dr. Thomas Weiss, head of mission for International Organisation for Migration (IOM) based in Harare says the continued exodus of professionals and experts from Africa represents a crippling loss for the continent, depriving African economies of people who are vitally needed for the process of development.

"Qualified individuals play an important role in raising economic productivity and contribution made by trained and experienced human resources to economic and social development can not be overemphasised," he adds. □

Information technology to propel SADC into next millennium

continued from page 1

organisation's international cooperating partners and representatives of the private sector, the labour movement and non-governmental organisations.

The conference was officially opened by Zambian President Frederick Chiluba who underscored the need for both regional and international cooperation saying it was vital to "promote transfer of science and technology to developing countries."

President Chiluba added that "southern Africa cannot fully benefit from the new information technology if there is no supportive framework for transfer of technology."

SADC Executive Secretary, Kaïre Mbuende, who also addressed the conference said a new approach to development was needed for the region to enter the new millennium without problems such as high child mortality, gender imbalance and poverty.

"We look at information technology, not as an end in itself," Mbuende said, adding, "It is a tool that can be used to advance development in all spheres of life [including] facilitation of trade and investment, education and training which are key to economic growth and development."

Uschi Eid, German Federal Deputy Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development addressed the conference on behalf of the international cooperating partners. She expressed her government's willingness to help Africa. She said Germany, which currently holds the European Union (EU) rotating presidency, was going to launch a debt relief initiative at the just ended World Economic Summit in Cologne.

Regarding the theme of the conference, Eid said "the march of information and communication technology into ever more areas of business and society cannot be stopped. These technologies have become the vehicle and the driving force behind globalisation. There is not a single country or a single region that is exempt from their impact.

"All must face up to the challenges they [information technologies] present. They present opportunities, and these can be drawn on for sustainable development. Yet they also pose risks,



There was a strong presence and participation in the consultative conference by SADC's international cooperating partners.

and these risks must be minimised."

The conference noted that rapid changes had taken place in information and communications systems ranging from satellite dishes to fibre optics, faxes to Internet – the fastest-growing consumer service the world has so far experienced.

"Global information super-highways have been developed and through them, decisions are now being made quicker than ever before," says the conference theme document which was tabled for discussion by South African Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, Jay Naidoo, a firm believer of public-private sector joint ventures in the development of the communications industry.

The impact of communications and information technologies (IT) is promising to be even more dramatic in the next millennium, says the theme document, adding: "IT is changing every aspect of human life, communications, trade, manufacturing, services, culture, entertainment, education, research, national defence and global security."

For southern Africa, the advancement of IT is both an opportunity to eradicate poverty, and a challenge to improve productivity and competitiveness in a world that is fast becoming one village.

SADC has registered positive economic growth in the last few years, averaging 4.1 percent in 1996 and 2.2 percent in 1997. But these positive growth rates have not been high enough to have a significant impact on job creation and

poverty alleviation, some of the greatest challenges that are faced not just by the region, but all other developing countries.

While notable strides have been made in connecting most major urban centres in southern Africa to the Internet and other ITs, a lot still needs to be done, especially in rural areas where limited access has often been cited as a major drawback to increased economic activity in the region.

The Lusaka conference learnt that most countries in southern Africa still rely heavily on transmitting information through faxes and couriers, despite the fact that most of them have established communications networks that provide the backbone for Internet-based communications.

Internet-connectivity in the region is low partly because of low penetration of personal computers and low tele density.

Available statistics show that there is an average of two computers per hundred people in SADC, and only five people for every hundred have access to a telephone.

Internet users are estimated at 930,000 in SADC or one user for every 204 inhabitants, compared to the world average of one user per 40 inhabitants.

With the exception of South Africa, all the other countries have Internet connectivity concentrated only in the capital city or the second largest urban centre. This has resulted in the exclusion of citizens in remote areas, and limited economic growth. □

Opportunities and challenges of Information technology

The SADC Consultative Conference was held in Lusaka from 11 to 12 February 1999. The Conference was attended by representatives from all SADC member states and international cooperating partners... The conference was also attended by representatives of the private sector, non-governmental organisations and civil society.

The conference was convened under the theme "SADC in the New Millennium: Opportunities and Challenges of Information Technology". The theme was chosen in recognition of the fact that as the region enters the next millennium, information technology would be a necessary tool for our regional integration process.

The Conference expressed concern at the ongoing conflicts in both the Peoples Republic of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which are causing great human suffering and threatening to engulf the whole region in political turmoil. In this respect, the Conference noted that economic recovery can only be realised with the restoration of peace and stability. The Conference therefore called upon the international community, including the OAU and the UN to assist in the process of finding a lasting and peaceful solution to the conflicts in Africa as a whole.

Regarding the debt burden, the Conference noted that the external debts of the poorest developing countries, including those of SADC, had become unsustainable with grave consequences for social and economic development. The Conference therefore appealed to the international community to find ways of relieving developing countries of the crippling debt burden in order to ensure their sustainable development.

The conference noted that humanity stands at the threshold of the 21st century, with profound expectations for a future that is accommodating to the aspirations of all the members of the international community. The conference also noted that as the region enters the next millennium, it is still being faced with several challenges, including the provision of quality education and skills on global competitive standards. The Conference further noted that there was a role for international cooperating partners in promoting the

transfer of science and technology to developing countries, but that this was dependent upon SADC creating a supportive framework to facilitate such technology transfer, including the mobilisation of internal resources for development.

Emphasis was placed on the need for technologies to advance the economic performance of most SADC Member States. The conference concurred that information technology should be brought into the SADC regional integration agenda. It is important that Member States find the resources to enable them to do so.

The Conference noted that the world was in the throes of an information revolution and that as SADC stands on the dawn of the next millennium the core

for the public sector alone. The importance of the private sector was emphasised. Such shared responsibility has the potential to develop a climate for sustainable investment in infrastructure that guarantees good returns while at the same time closing the information gap.

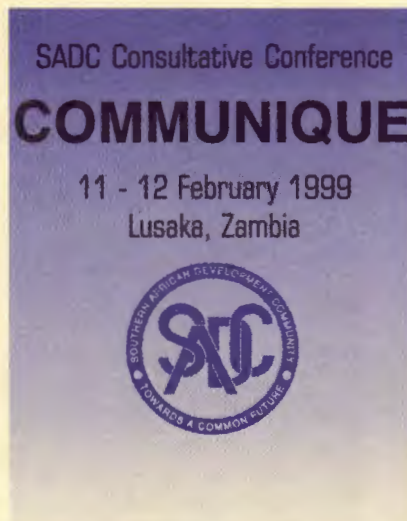
On the millennium bug, YK2 the Conference recognised the devastating consequences that the region faces if urgent action was not taken especially on critical sectors such as electricity, telecommunications, transport, and financial services. The Conference urged SADC Member States to urgently identify critical systems for compliance, draw up contingency plans to minimise the impact and to mobilise resources to establish task forces to assess the compliance as well as to take corrective measures...

The conference endorsed conclusions and recommendations by the working groups including the need to:

- develop an information society in southern Africa;
- improve and broaden equitable access to Information and Communications Technology;
- reduce Costs related to IT;
- develop SADC wide infrastructure;
- encourage the growth of software and hardware development facilities in SADC; and
- improve human resources capacity.

The conference also endorsed the following policy issues:

- the development of a regional policy on IT to assist with the harmonisation of national policies;
- the development of National Information and Communication Infrastructure;
- the Creation of a favorable regulatory environment;
- acceleration of the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector;
- reduction of IT related taxes and tariffs;
- elimination of costly bureaucratic barriers;
- facilitation of shared communication facilities, telecentres and co-operatives;
- build greater human capacity for IT; and
- strengthen educational facilities at all levels of education and training. □



of the world economy was becoming the creation of information, its packaging into services and the distribution of these services to the consumers.

The conference also noted that in the last decade, technological advances had resulted in dramatically lowering costs of electronics, a borderless world as a result of globalisation, increased competition, privatisation and multiplicity of operators as a result of liberalisation and the convergence of broadcasting, telecommunications and information technology.

The conference further noted that the responsibility of ensuring that the benefits of information technology are realised should not be perceived to be



The host, President Frederick Chiluba officially opening the 1999 SADC Consultative Conference



SADC Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr Prega Ramsamy (right) presenting a gift to the outgoing South African High Commissioner to Botswana, William Mokou (left). He left Botswana end of April and was the Chairman of the SADC Committee of Ambassadors. Assisting with presentation is Neo Gwafila of the SADC Secretariat.



The German Deputy Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Uschi Eid giving a statement on behalf of the international cooperating partners during the opening of the conference



Heads of delegations from Member States take a break to pose for a group photo with the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Kaire Mbuende.



ABOVE: Head of the SADC Gender Unit at the Secretariat, Dr Athaliah Molokome (second from left) contributing to a discussion during one of the sectoral working groups sessions.



SADC soldiers at a pre-exercise briefing at the "Exercise Blue Hungwe" at Nyanga, Zimbabwe in 1997. A follow-up exercise dubbed "Exercise Blue Crane" will be held in Lohatla, North Western Province, South Africa in April 1999.

Toward a SADC peacekeeping force

The spotlight on southern Africa's regional collective security initiative recently shifted from Harare to South Africa, hosts to Exercise Blue Crane. The military exercise, a sequel to an earlier one hosted by Zimbabwe in 1997, is being held at the South African National Defence Force (SANDF)'s Army Battle School at Lohathla in North Western Province.

Exercise Blue Hungwe, as the first exercise by Zimbabwe was officially known, was aimed at enhancing regional liaison and cooperation in military skills and interoperability by means of a multinational joint field training exercise (FTX).

The exercise gave effect to a convergence of ideas, which had been taking shape for some time in SADC at the summit, ministerial and technical level, particularly after the establishment of the SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security in June 1996. Its principles were based on the UN Agenda for Peace and Standby Force Arrangements and the OAU's Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, as well as other peacekeeping initiatives sponsored by the US, Britain and France.

Exercise Blue Hungwe was a Zimbabwean initiative, co-funded by the Zimbabwean and British governments. A total of 1,100 troops, contributed by Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania participated in the exercise. The British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) also worked closely with Zimbabwean military experts in designing the exercise, planning its execution and evaluating the results.

In his closing address at the Nyanga Battle School, President Robert Mugabe, in his capacity as Chairman of the SADC Organ, suggested that the Blue Exercise series should rotate among SADC states annually. Subsequently, on the recommendation of the multinational Report Writing Team that was convened to evaluate the exercise, the SADC Interstate Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC), at its Lusaka Ministerial Meeting of November 1997, acknowledged the success of the exercise and approved that the "Blue Series" of FTXs be held at least annually in the SADC member states on a voluntary and rotational basis. It was at that same meeting that South Africa offered to host the sequel to Blue Hungwe, which they later code-named Exercise Blue Crane.

Like Blue Hungwe, Blue Crane aims to enhance the capacity of SADC/ISDSC

military forces in peacekeeping operations. It will be a brigade level exercise, with naval and air support. However, there is a possibility that the naval component might be removed from the exercise.

SANDF consulted widely with all the



Lt Col AW Tapfumaneyi

VIEW ON REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING

participating countries for their input into the exercise's aim and content, based on their own specific experiences and requirements. Subject to the wishes of participating states, the aspects to be exercised might target some specific concerns that may have been raised during the planning stage. South Africa has also campaigned widely for donor support and offers of assistance have come from the US, Britain and France, the Nordic countries and a number of other state and non-state parties.

Zimbabwe has been active in providing assistance to the SANDF at the level of planning and administration for Blue Crane. Although the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) intended to provide personnel assistance at various levels, its current commitments in the DRC will limit the level of participation during the exercise.

In spite of the current constraints, there are however, many compelling rea-

sons for Zimbabwe to participate at significant force levels. First, since it pioneered the Blue Series, its hands-on experience would be indispensable for Blue Crane. Secondly, as the current Chair of the SADC Organ, it is morally and duty bound to take a leading role. The image it has earned and cultivated through its commitments in Somalia, Rwanda and Angola, and the thinking which is informing its current operations in the DRC would suffer greatly if it did not participate in meaningful numbers in Exercise Blue Crane.

Additionally, Zimbabwe is host to the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre which has contributed significantly to the Blue Series. As at 2 March 1999, 200 officers drawn from the defence forces of the SADC member states, had graduated on fortnight-long UN peacekeeping courses that the training centre has hosted biannually since October 1995. Of particular note, with respect to Exercise Blue Crane, is that in October 1998, the centre, by special request from the organisers of the FTX, held a course for 42 SADC officers who were earmarked to hold specific appointments during the exercise.

Almost all SADC countries are expected to participate in the forthcoming Exercise Blue Crane.

This article comes in a two-part series. The second part of the series, to be published in the next issue of SADC Today, will focus on the overall SADC peacekeeping capacity-building initiative in the context of the SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security.

The author, Lt Col AW Tapfumaneyi, is an academic who works in the Ministry of Defence of Zimbabwe. He writes in his personal capacity. □



FLASHBACK: SADC soldiers during Exercise Blue Hungwe at Nyanga, Zimbabwe in 1997.

From liability to asset: Ivory trade resumes

Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe which are resuming trade in ivory and its accessories on an experimental basis, face the challenge of proving to all and sundry that they are capable of fighting off the poaching that might see the trade ban being re-imposed.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) has granted that the three countries resume experimental and limited trade in ivory. They will trade with a certified buyer, Japan. With the auctioning of ivory under the watchful eye of the CITES secretariat, the

three elephant-range states need to be very strict to ensure that there are no last minute slip-ups.

The CITES Standing Committee decided, after "full and careful consideration of a report by the CITES secretariat" that Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe had met the comprehensive set of safeguards demanded by the 10th Conference of the Parties before resumption of trade in ivory.

As a result, the three elephant range states are authorised to sell to Japan an experimental quota for raw ivory not exceeding 25.3 tonnes for Botswana, 13.8 tonnes for Namibia and 20 tonnes for Zimbabwe on or after the 18th of March 1999.

"We believe this is a just decision with potential to support conservation and development in southern African countries. We also believe that this decision comes with a lot of responsibility on Zimbabwe and Namibia," says a recent *SADC Natural Resources Management Programme Bulletin*. □

Caprivi dispute: verdict expected this year

The International Court of Justice in The Hague has revealed that it would announce a verdict on the case of the Kasikili/Sedudu islands, contested by Namibia and Botswana, before the end of the year.

In a statement, the court said; "...judgment will be delivered in the autumn. It will be read at a public hearing on a date to be announced."

The hearing of the case between Namibia and Botswana started on 15 February at the Hague and ended on the fifth of March. The court had been asked by the two countries to settle a territorial dispute over the boundary of the Kasikili/Sedudu islands and the legal status of the islands, which are situated in the Caprivi Strip on the Chobe river.

The disputed islands are home to a lot of bird species and the wetlands are an important tourist attraction in the region.

The two southern African countries have both said they would accept the ruling of the international court as being binding. □

DRC: stalled peace talks

Pace remains elusive in the Democratic Republic of Congo as Uganda and Rwanda, backers of rebels who are fighting the government of President Laurent Kabila, continue to back down on peace initiatives broached by SADC and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The SADC allied forces that include Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe are accusing Uganda and Rwanda of "talking peace while acting war". A number of peace proposals were agreed on by both parties since the war erupted in August 1998, but none have been implemented to date.

One major bone of contention has been a proposal by some parties involved to directly include rebels in the talks. The allied forces have remained adamant that doing so would be tantamount to accepting the legitimacy of the rebels.

Zambia is mediating in the SADC diplomatic effort to end the war. □

Conflict In Angola

Fighting rages on in Angola amid concerted efforts by SADC to seek a lasting solution to the conflict that is threatening to be more fatal than the one that temporarily ended in 1994.

Three Presidents, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Sam Nujoma of Namibia and Nelson Mandela of South Africa met in Pretoria recently to discuss ways of restoring normalcy in the troubled southern African country.

The heads of state agreed that the government of Angola needs to be helped to fight the rebel movement, Unita, whose leader, Jonas Savimbi, was declared "a war criminal" by the SADC states at last year's summit in Mauritius.

Meanwhile, several hundreds of people have been killed since the resumption of the civil war in April last year. Reports say that over 650,000 people have been internally displaced as a result of the fresh fighting and more displacements are expected. Francesco Strippoli, UN's Humanitarian Coordinator was recently quoted as saying that food aid needs for Angolans for 1999 were now estimated at US\$60 million, twice the amount projected in 1998.

Strippoli said that an additional US\$20 million would also be needed to cover the costs of delivering food by air as roads were considered too insecure for relief convoys.

"The war is going to continue and we are expecting new population displacements," Strippoli said, adding, "insufficient aid could lead in months to a new humanitarian catastrophe." □

Copyright legislation under review in SADC

by Tinashe Madava

Original books, music and other artistic products must be made affordable to ordinary citizens in SADC, a recent workshop in Maputo, Mozambique, urged.

Speaking during the SADC Copyright and Neighbouring Rights workshop, Mozambican Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Mateus Katupha expressed hope that the Committee of SADC Culture and Information Ministers would find ways of making original products available cheaply.

Participants, who were mainly from the SADC region, concurred in calling for a greater exchange of original national products between the member countries of the region.

They however, warned that if original works are priced too high, pirates and forgers are the ones who benefit by offering pirated copies at much lower prices. The Mozambican minister

hoped that the exchange of original writings and music between SADC countries "will allow the region to consume a bit more of its own material".

Katupha said this would also give more importance to the authors' societies of the region, and counter the trend whereby royalties "are transferred more to Europe and to the Americas than to the countries of the region".

"The current situation", he added, "not only fails to provide our own creative talents with more resources, but it is also detrimental to our economies in that these transfers are not in our local currencies".

The meeting was convened to discuss the latest developments concerning the protection of copyright in the region, draft recommendations to be submitted to the annual meeting of ministers of the sector, to take place in May. It also sought to gather international experiences in collective management of societies of authors.

The minister said efforts have been made to reformulate legislation in SADC countries to bring it into line with the various international conventions on copyright. However, court cases concerning copyright were long and complicated "showing clearly the need to train the staff who deal directly or indirectly with these questions".

Katupha pointed out that a greater exchange of materials within the region would also allow "greater and better mutual knowledge, thus contributing to the process of regional integration". □

Zimbabwe loses right to host nations cup

by Caiphas Chimhete

Zimbabwe cried foul in March when the executive committee of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) upheld an earlier decision to move the continent's premier soccer showcase from the southern African country in favour of two west African countries.

CAF alleged that Zimbabwe had not made adequate preparations for the 2000 Africa Cup of Nations and awarded the right to host the biennial tournament to Ghana and Nigeria. The two countries are previous hosts, while Zimbabwe has never hosted the tournament before. Ghana hosted the finals in 1963 and 1978, while Nigeria played hosts in 1980 and 1982.

The failure to host the African Cup of Nations finals was not a blow to Zimbabwe alone but to the whole of southern Africa. For Zimbabwe, the continental event was anticipated to

generate a lot of foreign currency as spectators were expected to throng the country to witness the event. For other SADC countries, it was going to be as good as playing at home as their supporters would need to make a short journey to Harare.

Realising the importance of having the tournament staged close to home, South Africa offered financial support to Zimbabwe, hoping to persuade CAF to change their decision. Zambia, another regional soccer powerhouse made a written message of solidarity with Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, all this counted for nothing as CAF upheld their decision.

The co-hosts now qualify automatically as hosts along with Egypt who qualify as holders. Zimbabwe will find solace in having been allowed to participate in the qualifiers. □

All Africa Games soccer qualifiers underway

The seventh All Africa Games soccer qualifiers are currently under way with most southern African countries meeting in the first round stages for the competition which will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September.

Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are pitted in the same group while Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi and Namibia are in another group.

Only one country qualifies from each group and will join the hosts South Africa as well as winners from other zones in Africa.

Meanwhile, most countries in the region are in the process of choosing their athletics teams to compete in the Johannesburg games.

The All Africa games take place once every four years. Zimbabwe hosted the last edition in 1995. □

Co-operation between SADC Central Banks

One of the most exciting activities taking place under the Finance and Investment Sector (FIS) is the co-operation initiatives of the SADC central banks. Since the formation of the Committee of Central Bank Governors, a substantial amount of progress has been made in areas related to central banking activities. Rosalind Mowatt reports on some of the initiatives.



Rosalind Mowatt

Since the formation of the Committee of Central Bank Governors, a substantial amount of progress has been made in areas related to central banking activities. Rosalind Mowatt reports on some of the initiatives.

Monetary integration in Europe resulted in the establishment of the European Central Bank and the adoption of the common currency, the Euro. Europe has taken many years to reach this point. SADC also hopes to reach such a point one day; however at this stage, a common central bank and currency for the SADC region are just distant dreams.

Indeed, southern Africa faces a very different set of economic problems and circumstances. As a result, the Committee of Central Bank Governors, and in fact the FIS as a whole, has started off by focusing on areas of practical co-operation, such as the sharing of information and expertise.

With the increasing emphasis being placed on the financial sector in the global economy, it is imperative that the SADC economies meet international expectations as far as possible in such areas as payment, clearing and settlement systems, banking supervision, and monetary policy.

The Committee of Central Bank Governors meets on a biannual basis to discuss ongoing projects and initiatives, as well as other issues of mutual interest. There are various sub-committees and steering committees under the Committee of Governors, as well as a working group which meets on a regular basis to discuss the progress of projects and to set the agenda for the governors meeting. There is also a small secretariat situated at the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), which performs a full-time co-ordinating function for the committee.

It is important to note that sub-com-

mittees and other substructures of the committee have no authoritative power over the governors and cannot force them to follow a particular path. However, they do exert some influence in the form of moral suasion – there will be pressure to take part in the various initiatives because governors will want to avoid seeming uncommitted to SADC. In fact, the SADC structure may also ease some of the pain of taking politically unpopular but economically sound decisions – the “blame” can often be shifted away from the national government and onto SADC!

On the advice of the SADC Governors’ Information Technology (IT) Forum, the SADC FIS established a statistical database. The database is regularly updated and posted on the Internet on a biannual basis. The IT Forum is driven by a co-ordinating team consisting of representatives from the central banks in South Africa, Mauritius and Mozambique. It has also managed to facilitate the connection of all SADC central banks to the Internet and e-mail, and has created an interactive web page, which serves as a working area for project teams.

Work has commenced on developing a common application architecture for SADC central banks, meaning that all central banks will be using the same application programmes (or software) to perform various functions. In the long run, this initiative will facilitate regional central bank integration, as well as ensuring region-wide adherence to similar high system standards.

A SADC Payments Systems Project has also been initiated. It is the objective of the Payments Systems Project to assist the individual SADC countries in developing their own strategies to facilitate cross-border payments (both regionally and internationally), as well as to come up with a co-ordinated regional plan regarding the latter.

The Sub-committee on Exchange Controls was created in 1997. It is tasked with compiling a report for the Committee of Governors on an annual basis, comparing the degree of exchange control liberalisation in each of the SADC economies and making recommendations for further liberalisation.

The central banks are co-operating in the area of training for central bank officials. Training courses involving all SADC central banks are currently being held in South Africa. A Training and Development Forum was also approved by the Committee recently, as a vehicle for the co-ordination of training within the SADC central banks.

A recent initiative, begun with a workshop in August last year, is a steering committee on the legal and operational frameworks of central banks. The committee is composed of economic and legal experts from the central banks of Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objectives of this project are to summarise the legal and operational structures and frameworks of all SADC central banks, analyse the present differences in these structures, and propose possible steps to reach greater comparability and concurrence between central banks in the region.

Under the auspices of the Committee of Governors, a study is being undertaken by the Economics Department of SARB on the development and operations of money markets in the SADC region. A money market is a market for the issue and trading of short-term securities, both public and private. In many SADC countries, money markets are undeveloped, as are the interbank or secondary markets. The study will focus particularly on the role central banks can play in the enhancement of these markets.

The most recent initiative of the Committee of Central Bank Governors is co-operation between protective services staff in the various central banks. They are looking at issues such as information security, cash in transit, and access control in central bank environment.

The economies of southern Africa still face many daunting challenges. A greater level of regional integration can assist in meeting such challenges, but obstacles to integration itself are also high. The diverse nature of SADC economies (different sizes, legislation, arrangements and structures), as well as political tensions and instability in the region are two factors that pose a threat to further positive integration.

However, it is hoped that the efforts of the central banks in the region may facilitate a greater level of integration in the financial sector, as well as help to promote a sound financial infrastructure in all SADC countries. The tremendous level of commitment to and enthusiasm for the committee, and the large amount of time and resources which central banks thus far have devoted to its aims, augur well for the future.

Rosalind Mowatt is an economist at the SADC Finance and Investment Sector coordinated by South Africa. She is also editor of the Finance and Investment Sector Newsletter. □

Broadcasting and deregulation

Up in the Air? The State of broadcasting in southern Africa: Analysis and Trends in six countries by Aida Opuku-Mensah et al. Published by Panos Southern Africa, P.O. Box 320129, Woodlands, Lusaka, Zambia. Review by Naume Ziyambi.

Up in the Air? The State of broadcasting in southern Africa describes the state of broadcasting in the era of liberalisation and deregulation. A series of case studies of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe by journalists and broadcasting experts, the book looks at key broadcasting policy issues facing decision-makers in the region.

The authors focus on the areas of legislation, regulation, programming and technology with a view to promoting both the independence and diversity of broadcasters and of the information that they broadcast.

This is considered important "be-

cause broadcasting, despite its liberalisation and deregulation, remains a public good that is essential for all in society. How it is opened up to reflect society and who gains access to it, raises fundamental issues in the process of democracy and development."

The book raises the concern that except for South Africa where there is extensive debate by civil society, the process of deregulation in all other countries appears to be driven by international donors and or transnational commercial interests.

It questions the commitment of governments to the process of liberalisation when political expediency turns politicians towards greater control and dominance. As a result, there remains some confusion in the region over what constitutes a public service and a government controlled broadcaster. On the other hand, as governments reduce or cut subsidies to public broadcasters they in-

creasingly find themselves under intense competition from private broadcasters.

"Burdened with inherited bureaucracies, often out-dated technology and a costly public service mission, these public broadcasters tend to find themselves caught between the conflicting demands of commercial necessity and political obligation." □

Girl-child marginalised

The State of the World's Children 1999. Published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for East and Central Africa, P.O. Box 44145, Nairobi, Kenya. Review by Naume Ziyambi.

By the turn of the century, there will be close to 130 million children in the developing world without access to basic education – almost two-thirds of them girls.

Yet in the foreword of the *State of the World's Children 1999*, Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, says, "Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rests the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development".

The right to education has been affirmed in various agreements from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 through the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child to the 1990 Jomtien Conference on Education for All. These call on states to ensure among others, an expanded vision of education that places emphasis on basic education, early childhood care and development especially for the poor; and learning through adolescence and adulthood, with girls' and women's education as a priority.

However, as the report shows, progress on key priorities has been slow, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. In recent years, scarcity of resources and growing indebtedness of the developing world threatens to erode the gains made up to the mid-1980s. Sub-Saharan Africa followed by South Asia is facing the greatest challenges in enrolling and keeping their children in school. In addition to problems faced by boys, girls also face barriers stemming from social discrimination, including early pregnancy and marriage, limited attention from teachers and being channelled into less challenging fields of study. □

Recent Publications and Acquisitions

1999 Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review

—SADC.- 1999

Available from: SADC Secretariat, P.Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana.

SADC Sector Reports on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Culture and Information; Energy; Human Resources Development; Finance and Investment; Industry and Trade; Mining; Employment and Labour; Transport and Communication; Water; and Tourism.

—SADC.-1999

Available from: SADC Secretariat.

SADC Gender Monitor: Monitoring Implementation of the Beijing Commitments by SADC Member States.

—Southern African Research Documentation Centre (SARDC) Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness.- 1999

Available from: SADC Gender Unit, SADC Secretariat or SARDC-WIDSAA, PO Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe.

SADC Regional Human Development Report 1998

—Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies (SARIPS) of SAPEs

Available from: Regional Human Development Report Project Office, P O Box MP 1005, Mt Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe

Gender Mainstreaming at SADC: Policies, Plans & Activities.

—SADC Secretariat

Available from: SADC Secretariat, P Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana.

Beyond Inequalities: Women in Botswana

—Datta, K; Alexander, Elsie and Khan, Banu Arzamund.- 1998

Available from: Ditshwanelo, the Botswana Centre for Human Rights, P.Bag 00416, Gaborone, Botswana and SARDC, Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Beyond Inequalities: Women in Zimbabwe

—Tichagwa, W. - 1998

Available from SARDC and ZWRCN P O Box 2198, Harare. □

SADC diary

1999		Event	Venue
April	14 -15	SADC - US Forum	Botswana
	14-16	ARLAC Conference to mark 10 th Anniversary	Zimbabwe
	16 - 28	Exercise Blue Crane (follow-up to Military Exercise Blue Hungwe)	South Africa
	19 - 21	African Conference on Use of Children as Soldiers	Mozambique
	21-22	SADC 12 th Electricity Sub Committee Meeting	Angola
	22-23	Workshop on NGO Participation at the 25 th session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and Book Fair	Burundi
May	3 -7	First Meeting of the Parties to the International Convention Against the Manufacture and Use of Landmines	Maputo
	25	Malawi elections	Malawi
June	2	South African elections	South Africa

Public Holidays in SADC for the period April to June

Date	Holiday	Country
2 April	Good Friday	SADC(except Mauritius)
4 April	Easter Monday	SADC (except Mauritius)
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
28 April	Public Holiday	South Africa
1 May	Labour/Workers' Day	All SADC countries
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
5 May	Public Holiday	Namibia
8 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland
25 May	Africa Day	Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
26 May	Public Holiday	Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique

Currency Check List

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	_____
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	0.2133
D.R.C.	Congo Franc	_____
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.24
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	43.70
Mauritius	Rupee (100cents)	24.90
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	11 900
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.17
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	_____
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.18
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.23
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	685
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	2360
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	38.15

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd,
7 April 1999.