



Emerging political hotbeds and currency instability among highlights of 18th SADC summit in Mauritius

by Munetsi Madakufamba

Political developments in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Lesotho, the constitutional process in Swaziland, currency slump in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and progress on protocol ratification are among some of the major issues to dominate the 1998 summit to be held in Mauritius on 14 September.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, which joined SADC last year, a Tutsi-led rebellion is fighting the government of President Laurent Desire Kabila. Across the border in Angola, stalled peace talks have seen renewed fighting between the government and the Jonas Savimbi-led opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

Further down south in Lesotho, supporters of opposition parties are calling for the annulment of results of the 23 May national elections which they claim were rigged. The elections were won by the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) which appointed former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili, as the new Prime Minister.

The recent local elections in Mozambique will also be reviewed during the summit, as will the constitutional process in Swaziland, where the Monarchy has committed itself to an exercise of re-writing the constitution.

In an interview in the run-up to the summit, SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende, said the overall political situation in the region is positive, admitting

continued on page 8



SADC Heads of State and Government resolve to end conflict in DRC

SADC Heads of State and Government have committed themselves to resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and reaffirmed their recognition of the Government of President Laurent Kabila.

Meeting in Pretoria on 23 August, the SADC leaders, together with those of Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya, said: "The DRC has a Government in place which the Summit recognises and which is headed by President Kabila."

They agreed on the basic principles which should inform a solution to the conflict, including the role of the people

of DRC in carrying "the principal responsibility to realise its end".

They called for "an immediate ceasefire, a troop standstill and the initiation of a peaceful process of political dialogue aimed at finding a solution to all the relevant problems"; and they "undertook to do everything possible, both as a Summit and as individual components which constitute it, to ensure that a ceasefire is enforced and maintained."

They agreed to consult with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on

continued on page 9

Smart partnership concept gains momentum

Cooperation between governments and the private sector in southern Africa is taking a major leap forward as most countries increasingly view the concept of smart partnership as one of the best ways for the region to make its mark on the international market.

Since adopting the concept from Malaysia which started it three years ago,

continued on page 7

SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community
Vol. 2 No. 3, August 1998

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, 1998

Editorial Committee

Naume Ziyambi, Alice Kwaramba,
Tinasha Madava, Caiphos Chimhete,
Phyllis Johnson, Barbara Lopi,
Luisa Banze, Tendayi Kureya

Editorial Advisor

K.G. Moesi
SADC Information Officer

Editor

Munetsi Madakufamba

Layout/DTP

Anderson S. Mwale

Print Coordination

Brighton Kadzambaira

Origination/Printing

Crystal Graphics and Strand Multiprint, 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, 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: sadctoday@sardc.net
Internet: <http://www.sardc.net>



Policy review 3



Agriculture 4



Exclusive interview 6



SADC in pictures 12

- Preview of SADC Summit* 1
- State of the environment reporting in the Zambezi river basin* 5
- Rand fall exposes regional economies* 7
- Communique from a SADC Summit meeting on DRC* 9
- Guest Column: Focus on Telecommunications* 10
- SADC in pictures* 12
- Community building: Sports and culture* 13
- News from around the region* 14
- Book review, recent publications and acquisitions* 15
- SADC Diary, public holidays, currency checklist* 16

A note to the reader

SADC Today is now available through an annual subscription. For six issues a year, the fee is US\$30 for outside Africa and US\$15 for Africa. Your subscription will enable you to receive *SADC Today* by airmail and electronically via e-mail and internet should you choose to do so. We would like to thank you for your comments and support throughout the past year and would also like to remind you that we welcome your contributions to the newsletter. For all subscriptions enquiries please contact the Chief Documentalist on email subs@sardc.net.

Three protocols ratified by two-thirds majority

"Protocols are an important first step towards achieving the goal of regional integration as they create a legal framework for our cooperation," – SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende.

A giant step toward this goal has been made with three protocols – on Energy; Shared Watercourse Systems; and Transport, Communications and Meteorology – having been ratified by the required two-thirds majority.

Water is perhaps the second most crucial natural resource after land, while energy, whether renewable or non-renewable, is what keeps industries moving. Similarly, sound infrastructure in transport, communications and meteorology is among the primary and principal considerations of any one investor.

Implementation of the protocols is set to lay important groundwork for SADC's overall goal for regional integration.

Shared watercourse systems protocol

The protocol will facilitate the formation of river basin management institutions whose main objectives will be to:

- Develop a monitoring policy for shared watercourse systems;
- Promote the equitable utilisation of shared watercourse systems; and
- Monitor the execution of integrated water resource development plans in shared watercourse systems.

The institutions include a Monitoring Unit based at the SADC Water Sector Coordinating Unit (WSCU), River Basin Commissions and River Authorities or Boards in respect of each drainage basin.



Ministry of Information (Zimbabwe)

Highways to make region more accessible.

Some of the major tasks of the River Basin Management institutions are to:

- Harmonise national water resource policies and legislation;
- Conduct research and disseminate information within river basins;
- Monitor the establishment of hydroelectric power installations; and
- Promote measures for the protection of the environment.

Transport, communications and meteorology protocol

The general objective of this protocol is to establish transport, communications and meteorology systems which provide efficient, cost-effective and fully integrated infrastructure and operations.

To achieve an integrated transport service, member states shall undertake to support the establishment of major regional development corridors and facilitate travels between their territories. The Trans-Kalahari Highway, which links the east coast off the Indian Ocean with the western coast off the Atlantic, is one such an example. The Trans-Caprivi project, which will link the south to the north, is underway.

The protocol will facilitate co-operation in the construction of infrastructure in the specific transport areas of road, rail-

way, maritime and inland waterway, and civil aviation.

In view of the dynamic telecommunications technology, member states aim to ensure adequate high quality and efficient services responsive to the diverse needs of commerce and industry.

Under the protocol, SADC is going to improve existing meteorological infrastructure and acquire new equipment. The region will also establish an integrated network of observation, data processing and communications systems within the broad framework of the World Meteorological Organisation.

Energy protocol

The main objectives of the Protocol on Energy are to:

- Harmonise national and regional energy policies, strategies and programmes on matters of common interest based on equity, balance and mutual benefit;
- Cooperate in the development and utilisation of energy and energy pooling to ensure security and reliability of energy supply at minimum cost;
- Ensure the provision of reliable, continued and sustainable energy in the most efficient and cost effective manner;
- Promote joint development of human resources and organisation capacity building in the energy sector;
- Cooperate in the research, development, dissemination and transfer of low cost energy technologies; and
- Strive to achieve standardisation in appropriate energy development and application including the use of common methods and other techniques. □



Namibia Review

Fishing in Owamboland in Namibia.

Farmers urged to grow drought resistant crops

by Tinashe Madava

As southern Africa is grappling to recover from the devastating droughts of recent years, farmers in the region have been urged to grow drought resistant crops in a move that should curtail the region from food shortages toward a more reliable food resource base.



Maize, the region's staple food is not so drought resistant.

Some of the drought resistant crops such as sorghum and millet are staple food crops of communities in the semi-arid areas of southern Africa. These semi-arid areas which include some of the poorest segments of the population in the region, cover approximately 6.8 million sq km and about 35 million in population.

To counter the recurrent droughts of recent years, especially the El Nino induced droughts of 1992/3 and 1997/8 seasons, the Sorghum and Millet Improvement Programme of SADC and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) say millet and sorghum should be part of the grain market system.

The two institutes point out that most families in the drought-prone regions of southern Africa have depended on sorghum and pearl millet to provide reliable harvests and adequate food supplies. They say if commercialised, these drought resistant crops could boost the food security of the region while providing income to rural communities.

However, of major concern is that sorghum and millet are still grown at sub-

sistence level despite their potential to sell on a commercial basis, as is the case with wheat and maize.

Stakeholders in the sorghum and pearl millet production in the region recently meeting in Harare lobbied for the commercialisation of these drought resistant crops. There were representatives of millet research and development scientists and extensionists from SADC countries, private firms, non-governmental organisations and representatives from advanced research laboratories.

"Successful commercialisation will present a major challenge but the potential benefits are enormous. It will increase trade and incomes while creating the much needed employment in the region."

Meanwhile, World Vision Southern

Africa's Food Security Coordinator, Negusse Micael revealed in *Local Seed Systems News*, that the organisation distributes seed packages of drought tolerant and short season varieties to smallholder farmers in Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"Such an approach would indeed protect smallholder farmer asset base, as well as promoting food security initiatives. Hence, drought tolerant crops, apart from mitigating drought risk, play an important role in promoting smallholder seed production," says Micael.

To achieve food security requires going beyond having sufficient food or income to purchase food today. Rather, smallholders need a buffer to resist shocks whether from droughts, price fluctuations, floods or pests. Micael calls on all stakeholders to invest in drought tolerant crops saying, "the ability to invest provides the opportunity to diversify livelihood options and avoid dependence on a single season's harvest".

Most participants at the Harare workshop made it clear that serious consideration must be given by SADC members to harmonize their research and development efforts so as to exploit the productive capacities of all sectors of their farming communities. □

Mines and energy ministers meet in Maputo

by Afonso J.S. de Campos

SADC Ministers of Mineral Resources and Energy met in Maputo, Mozambique, recently to discuss issues relating to the sector and identify new areas for cooperation.

The sector has been facing financial difficulties, according to Mozambican Mineral Resources Minister, John Kachamila, who added that many projects in the sector had no funds for implementation.

"Some of the projects are at a standstill due to lack of funds," said Kachamila adding that SADC was trying to attract local and foreign investors in mining. Minerals constitute 60 percent of SADC's total exports.

SADC's main efforts are to make the sector more attractive but Kachamila acknowledged that the difference in regulations for

the sector in the region undermined the potential of the industry.

There was a need to do away with these differences so as to attract more investors, said the minister. The ministers decided that it was imperative that the regulations are harmonised in all countries.

Zambian Minister of Mines and Mineral Development, Syamukayumbu Syamujaye said that the meeting in Maputo looked at how SADC Countries can work together as a region in developing and exploiting the existing minerals. Syamujaye also concurred with Kachamila saying lack of funding was a major handicap for the region. He said another problem was lack of qualified personnel in the mineral resources sector in SADC.

The main mineral resources in SADC are gold, diamonds, gas, oil and coal. □

Need for cooperation in management of Zambezi basin

by Tinashe Madava

Shared watercourses are a potential source of conflict between or among the basin countries, usually over water usage. However, if managed well, shared watercourses are a potential source of regional integration.

Regional environmental experts attending a workshop at Mazvikadei, Zimbabwe, late July this year reiterated the need to safeguard the Zambezi River basin by adopting an integrated approach in the management of the basin.

The workshop was organised by the India Musokotwane Environment Research Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA), a programme of SARDC under the State of the Environment Reporting Programme in the Zambezi Basin (SOEPROZ).

The SOEPROZ project is being implemented through a partnership involving SADC's Environment and Land Management Sector (ELMS) and the Water Sector Coordination Unit (WSCU), the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), and IUCN's Regional Office in Southern Africa and IMERCSA. It is funded by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

Drawing together government and non-governmental water experts and environmentalists from all over the region, the workshop focused on the various activities done within the basin. Its express aim was to discuss how best to improve the management of the environment and water resources of the Zambezi River basin.

The project will culminate into the production of a book on the state of the environment of the Zambezi basin and the workshop focused on issues that should take prevalence in the book.

Draining an area of about 1.3 million sq km, the Zambezi River flows over a distance of more than 2 800 km from the source in north-west Zambia to its delta in the Indian Ocean.

The total geographical area of the Zambezi's riparian countries is estimated at 5.8 million sq km, of which the basin is approximately 26 percent. The total population of the riparian countries is estimated at 102.9 million and about 31.7 million live within the basin where some

of the major urban areas are Luena in Angola, Kasane in Botswana, all those in Malawi, Tete in Mozambique, Katima Mulilo in Namibia, virtually all in Zambia and most of those in Zimbabwe including the capital, Harare.

Speaking at the official opening of the workshop, the Zimbabwean Minister of Mines, Environment and Tourism, Simon Khaya Moyo said that environmentally sound management of the basin was a prerequisite for its sustainable utilisation.

"Beyond its outstanding value as an ecosystem and natural resource, the Zambezi drainage basin may also provide numerous examples of unsustainable and destructive land and water use patterns, which in due course may threaten the very lifeline it currently represents in the region," said Moyo.

Among the economic activities in the basin is fishing. "The fisheries of the area are based on natural production processes and are therefore highly dependent on environmental conditions affecting the productivity of the water bodies," said Shaibu Mapila, Malawi's Deputy Director of Fisheries.

Most workshop participants expressed the view that mining and mineral processing in the Zambezi basin produces waste products and ecological

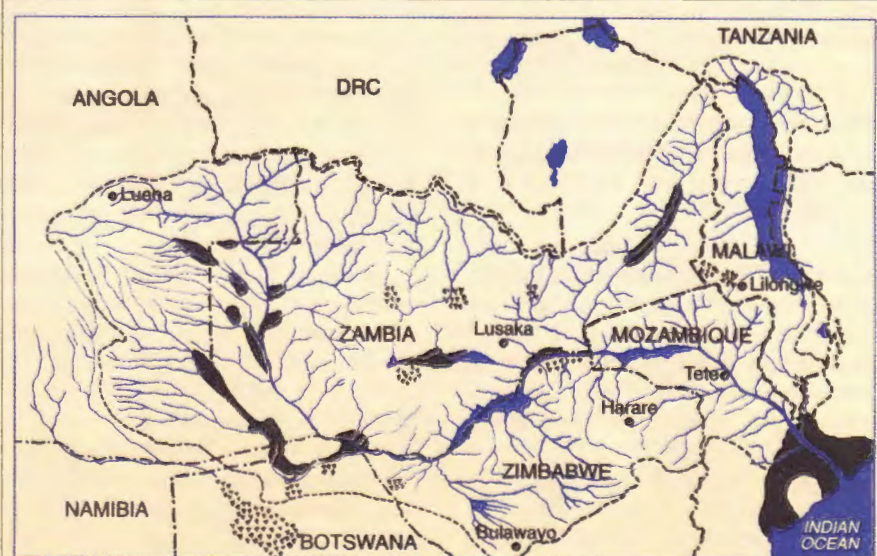
disruption, which may generate potential environmental hazards at each stage of the mineral production process.

"Major rivers feeding the Zambezi are being fed by tributaries passing through the site of extensive minerals... the major ones being the Kafue river which drains the entire copper mining region of Zambia and the Mazowe River which drains most of the mining operations in the Shamva region of Zimbabwe," said Edward Zulu, Programme Manager of Mining and Environment in the SADC Mining Sector Coordinating unit.

Meanwhile tourism to the Zambezi basin is reported to have increased, economically benefiting people living in the basin. Of particular importance is the community-based management of wildlife. This has allowed the local people to manage wildlife in their areas by imposing a fee for sport hunting, which is usually done by tourists. The programme has been hailed as a success.

Despite the economic benefits it brings, conservationists have pointed out that tourism in the Zambezi River is a threat to the survival of wildlife and landscapes. This economic development versus environment debate has extended beyond tourism highlighting the need for engaging in sustainable utilisation of resources. □

The Zambezi River Basin



Source: IMERCSA SOEPROZ

Cooperation needed to clear landmines in the region

Following is an exclusive interview with João Machatine Ndlovu, SADC Demining Project Manager. Interview by Caiphaz Chimhete.



SADC member states last year produced a declaration on anti-personnel mines which, among other things, prohibits the use of mines. Does SADC have mechanisms to ensure member countries adhere to the declaration?

A declaration is a strong statement of commitment. It does not require institutionalized mechanisms to enforce it.

The SADC security situation is complex by virtue of its history. Therefore, the same principles that govern cooperation among and between SADC member states apply to the declaration on Anti-Personnel Landmines (APL). I believe that there is in the SADC region a strong commitment to the principle of "good faith" in the conduct of international affairs. More so if the issue represents a very serious impediment to SADC's end goals. So yes, SADC has *de facto* mechanisms to ensure that member states keep their word. These mechanisms are enshrined in the principles stated in the SADC Treaty.

The member states have also pledged to make the region a mine-free zone by the year 2000. Do you think the target is attainable?

All activities have to be placed on a time continuum. The establishment of the year 2000 is a normative statement in that it says what SADC member states' wishes are. The year 2000 is a benchmark for an overall evaluation of the mine clearance actions in the region. The hope is that where peace prevails, at least the identification of minefields should be completed and safety corridors clarified.

The other dimension of "Southern Africa: A Landmine-free Zone" is the

importation and production. This means that the region has to be concerned about the mines already in the field and in stocks. ...

Yes, by the year 2000, SADC member states will have destroyed their APL stockpiles and will have assessed the impact of this in their military needs to ensure that no importation and production is carried out. However, more time will be needed to actually clear and destroy the mines in the identified mine fields. The condition to achieve this objective is that peace must prevail. If we could precisely tell when armed conflicts could be over in the region, we could predict how long mine clearance actions could take.

It has to be noted nevertheless, that to make sure that stated objectives are achieved, SADC Council of Ministers established in 1997 a Steering Committee of Experts and Officials on Mine Clearance.

And in cooperation with the European Union, SADC has a project intended to assess the situation in the region and recommend the course of action. Although this project is to last only two years, the intention is that in the end SADC would know exactly its needs and, hopefully, will have a purely SADC demining programme in place.

It is over six months after the international community, including SADC member states, signed the Ottawa Treaty in Canada, but only four SADC countries have ratified it. What is SADC doing to ensure speedy ratification of the treaty?

To bring the landmine issue up front in the agendas of the member states, SADC has established, with the financial assistance of the EU, a Technical Assistance Demining Project Manager position to coordinate the mine actions at the regional level. This will boost the national efforts and convey to the international community the concerns and needs of the affected SADC member states. The ratification process is underway and in the agendas of the relevant national institutions. What is important at the moment is that member states do not import nor manufacture landmines. The ratification of the protocol creates the legal framework for verification.

There are varying estimates about the number of landmines planted in southern Africa. From your research on the subject, what would you put the figure at?

The number of landmines in the SADC region varies between 12 to 14 million combining conservative estimates of 9 to 10 million landmines in Angola, 2 to 2.5 million in Mozambique and less than a million in Namibia and Zimbabwe. The critical difficulty in mine clearance actions is the identification of mine fields. If that could be done, the second step would be to figure out how many mines in each minefield.

This has not been possible due to lack of resources. This is why SADC has put in place a demining project to not only coordinate the current activities, but also identify other cooperating partners for mine actions.

One has to realise that mines are military equipment. Unless there is a clearance from defense institutions to have access to documentation related to arms supply, it would be almost impossible to have reliable figures of landmines in the region... Having access to information on arms imports would mean accessing the military archives of each nation. That is not the mission of demining operations. We will have to wait until those documents become declassified and researchers can study them.

Does SADC have specific programmes on mine clearance and assistance of landmine victims? If yes, what are the successes?

Yes, SADC, as an organisation, is in the process of setting up a regional demining programme building from the current EU-funded project. One of the components of this project is to undertake a study to assess the situation of the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of mine victims.

SADC member states have their national programmes to assist landmine victims. The assessment intends to identify the best way to complement or improve those efforts through regional cooperation. ... Landmines affect all the SADC member states, so let's all work together at all levels to ensure our region is free from the scourge of APLs. □

Rand fall exposes regional economies

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The recent depreciation of the South African rand by more than 20 percent against the US dollar since May is likely to have a spin-off effect on its sister states given the country's dominant economic role in the region, say economists.

Rosalind Mowatt, an economist with the SADC Finance and Investment Sector which South Africa coordinates, told *SADC Today* that the worst exposed are Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland — whose currencies are directly linked to the rand or partly linked in the case of Botswana.

"These countries will suffer the same consequences (lower growth, higher inflation and higher interest rates) as South Africa, including higher import prices and more competitive exports," said Mowatt.

As for non-SACU countries such as Zambia and Zimbabwe, which trade heav-

ily with South Africa, the impact will be on the trade sector, as they will find it more difficult to sell their exports in the SACU market.

Mowatt's view are shared by many including Tony Hawkins, a professor of business studies at the University of Zimbabwe who was quoted by Reuters as saying there will be some offsetting effects in the form of increased domestic currency earnings for SACU exports outside the rand monetary area.

"But the net effects are likely to be adverse since commodity exporters have little to gain from devaluing at a time of globally depressed commodity prices, other than the direct bottom-line benefit to the exporters themselves who will earn more in domestic currencies.

"In contrast, countries like Zambia and Zimbabwe stand to benefit from reduced import prices, but suffer on the export side," said Prof. Hawkins.

Sadly for Zimbabwe, the reality was the exact opposite as the dollar took a beating on the back of increased import

pressure after importers had entered into forward contracts to take advantage of the weaker rand. South Africa is Zimbabwe's biggest trading partner accounting for 40 percent of the country's imports.

Prof. Hawkins and Mowatt agree that in the long term, the rand fall will suppress currencies in non-SACU countries due to their inflation differentials with South Africa.

The decline in the value of the rand, which fell from about US\$1/R4.90 in early January to a low of US\$1/R6.75 early August, is blamed on a number of factors including speculation and the Asian contagion which is affecting financial markets worldwide.

South African authorities are however, confident the currency will stabilise. "I think the market will settle down now," said South African Reserve Bank governor Chris Stals who will give way to former labour minister Tito Mboweni in August 1999.

"Once you know you have to face the after-effects of a depreciation of 20 percent, you can start with strategy and planning again," he added. □

Smart partnership concept gains momentum

continued from page 1

southern Africa has so far convened two dialogues, the first one of which was held in Kasane, Botswana last year. Late July this year, the second Southern Africa International Dialogue on Smart Partnership was held in Swakopmund, Namibia.

Smart partnership, which brings together governments, the private sector and individuals, is an innovative concept that leads to practice based on the "prosperity-neighbour" and "win-win" philosophy. The long-term objective is to have mutual gains so that all stakeholders involved — individuals, companies or nations — can prosper.

The concept is a departure from practices of the past whereby one out of two parties in competition would always be expected to emerge the winner while the other had to accept being a loser, in accordance with the principle of "winner takes all", an attitude that has proved to be retrogressive in development.

"Smart partnerships present us with a paradigm to shift to recognise that the interests of the various sections of our society are not irreconcilable, that they are, in fact, bound together," explained Namibian President Sam Nujoma, who hosted the 1998 conference.

Through open dialogue, the forum encourages informal but business-like interactive discussions between governments and business leaders, a format that underlines the concept of cooperative competitiveness. Members of the media are not admitted during the interactive sessions where participants engage in free discussions with no papers or recording of statements.

The international dialogues, which bring together governments and business leaders from across the region and beyond, are nurtured by the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management Ltd (CPTM).

In a message of support to the Swakopmund Dialogue, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, expressed confidence in the dialogue saying it would continue the process of developing a dynamic smart partnership hub in SADC.

He said this was necessary to "promote the region's competitiveness in global markets through cooperation within and amongst countries in the southern African region and between this region and the wider Commonwealth".

The Swakopmund Dialogue noted the vast opportunities that exist in the region and explored ways through which countries could complement each other's efforts as well as engaging in cooperative competitiveness.

Particular attention was drawn to the great potential that exists in the tourism sector which participants agreed presents the best opportunity for countries to market themselves as one package.

Participants also noted that there is great scope for cooperation in the generation of hydroelectricity with particular focus on the Democratic Republic Congo (DRC) which has untapped capacity to supply the whole region.

A regional power pool, which connects a number of countries in southern Africa, is already in place. □

18th SADC summit set for Mauritius

continued from page 1

however, that the "Angolan situation has always been complex".

"Obviously there have been setbacks such as the rebellion in the DRC, but on the whole, I see the overall political situation in the region as a success story," he said.



MBUENDE: "We have more in common as a region, much stronger ties and there is much more that binds us together than what divides us."

Mbuende dismissed reports that SADC may split due to personality clashes at the heads of state level regarding the running of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

"I don't think there is much to those reports. Even though there may be differences of opinion in terms of the Organ's operational modalities and calls for the rationalisation of its activities, the Organ has been operating and all heads of state have been working together in addressing specific issues.

"We have more in common as a region, much stronger ties and there is much more that binds us together than what divides us," stressed the executive secretary.

On the economic situation, the 18th SADC summit is expected to deliberate on the events leading to the recent currency instability in the region, with particular focus on the South African rand which has lost more than 20 percent in value against the US dollar, as well as the Zimbabwe dollar, which at one point depreciated by almost 100 percent during the period November 1997 to date.

The heads of state and government

are also expected to take stock of progress on the ratification of protocols. A major leap forward has been made with three protocols on energy; shared watercourse systems; and transport, communications and meteorology having been ratified by the required two-thirds majority.

The required majority has not ratified the key protocol on trade partly because there is still outstanding work related to the submission of the List of sensitive Products to determine the Tariff Reduction Schedules.

On what major successes had been achieved in the region since the last summit in Malawi, Mbuende cited the just completed Trans-Kalahari Highway. "It is indeed a historic project because we can now link the eastern coast of the region with its western counterpart as well as other SADC Development Corridors in the north and south," he explained.

Mbuende said the creation of a Gender Unit at the SADC Secretariat staffed by a team of two regional experts in gender matters was another important step forward. He stressed that taking the gender issue to the broader community required preparedness to take bold decisions and decisive action, particularly on violence against women and children.

"We hope the summit will issue a strong statement on Violence Against Women and Children," he added.

The summit is also set to take a stand on the issue of refugees and corruption in the region. According to the SADC executive secretary: "The summit is expected to sign a statement on the situation of refugees in the region and possibly sign a Declaration on Corruption – calling for strengthening of institutions to fight against corruption in the region."

Discussions will also centre on the fundamental problem of external debt as well as looking at mechanisms and approaches to address the problem.

Among the highly indebted poor SADC countries are Mozambique with a total external debt of US\$5.5 billion which translates to 327 percent of its annual GDP, and Zambia whose total debt of US\$7 billion is 195 percent of its GDP. Tanzania pays up to 45 percent of annual budget in servicing its staggering external debt of US\$8 billion.

In view of negotiations on the successor to Lome convention which begin in September, the summit is expected to reiterate the SADC stance, which is for continued preferential market access on non-reciprocal basis.

"If the question of reciprocity is to be introduced, then we would like to see an accemmetrical relationship in that reciprocity," said Mbuende of the convention, which expires in February 2000.

The SADC Summit scheduled for 14 September in Port Luis, Mauritius, will be preceded by the Council of Ministers meeting set for 10 and 11 September at the same venue. □

Profiles of new SADC member states

	SEYCHELLES	D.R.C.
Head of State:	France Albert René	Laurent Kabila
Capital City:	Victoria	Kinshasa
National Day:	18 June (1976)	30 June (1960)
Language:	Creole, English, French	French, various local languages
Currency:	Seychelles Rupee (SR)	Congo Franc
Area:	455.3 sq km	2 435 409 sq km
Population:	0.1 million	48 million
GDP:	US\$0.5 billion	US\$5.5 billion (1997)
GDP per capita:	US\$6 426	US\$119 (1997)
Imports:	US\$0.24 billion	US\$0.88 billion (1997)
Exports:	US\$0.04 billion	US\$1.3 billion (1997)
Literacy:	66%	76.4%
Life Expectancy:	72 years	52.2 years
Natural Resources:	sea and marine resources fauna, flora	gold, diamonds, base metals, coal oil and gas, wildlife, water, coffee, sugar, rubber, cotton, fish

Communique of the SADC summit meeting on DRC

A summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government together with those of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda took place in Pretoria, South Africa on 23 August 1998.

The summit was convened by the Chairperson of the SADC, President N R Mandela and attended by the following Presidents: Mogae of Botswana, Nujoma of Namibia, Chissano of Mozambique, Chiluba of Zambia, Muluzi of Malawi, Moi of Kenya, Museveni of Uganda, Bizimungu of Rwanda; Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland; Prime Minister Ramgoolam of Mauritius; Foreign Ministers Tabane of Lesotho and Kikwete of Tanzania; Minister of Justice of the DRC – Kongolo; Executive Secretary of SADC Mbuende and High Commissioner Moyo of Zimbabwe.

The Summit deliberated on the current situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and ruled:

- That the DRC is afflicted with military conflict which the Summit considers to be an unacceptable way of addressing any problems which occasioned the conflict.
- The Summit committed itself to seek an end to the military conflict immediately.
- The summit resolved that the following are the basic principles and objectives which should inform this solution:
- The DRC has a Government in place which the Summit recognises and which is headed by President Kabila.

- The Summit accepted that, regardless of the contribution that African Governments might make towards the accomplishment of this aim, the principal responsibility to realise this end rests with the people of the DRC themselves.
- The Summit called for an immediate cease-fire, a troop stand-still and the initiation of a peace process of political dialogue aimed at finding a solution to all the relevant problems and undertook to do everything possible, both as a Summit and as individual components which constitute it, to ensure that a cease-fire is enforced and maintained. Furthermore, the countries directly affected by the situation in the Congo undertook to desist from any hostile propaganda against one another and any other activities which might result in increasing tensions among themselves and elsewhere.
- The summit mandated the chairperson of SADC to create, in consultation with the Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity, the mechanisms for the implementation of this decision, as well as instituting measures to regularly consult the countries represented at this meeting and harmonising this initiative with the Victoria Falls initiative.
- The Summit agreed that the reconstruction of the DRC as an independent, sovereign, united, democratic, peaceful, stable and prosperous country is critical to the achievement of the same objectives in our own countries and in the rest of our Continent.
- The Summit recognised that the independ-

ence and security of all the countries in the respective regions is an important objective which all agreed to pursue. To this end the summit committed itself to do everything in its power to ensure the achievement of this goal.

- The Summit noted with appreciation the commitment of the DRC government to the holding of democratic elections to enable the people of that country to elect a government of their choice.
- The Summit urged that such elections should take place within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the realities of the DRC.
- The summit committed itself to assisting in ensuring that this aim is achieved, including the contribution of material resources and the mobilisation of the rest of the international community to support this effort.
- The Summit expressed its support for the approach of the Government of the DRC which seeks to ensure that all the Congolese people are represented in the mechanisms for the preparation of the elections in a manner which will result in an acceptance of the outcome of elections which must be truly democratic, free and fair.

The Summit reaffirmed that, consistent with the Charter of the OAU, all ethnic groups and nationalities whose people and territory constituted what became Congo (now DRC) at independence, should enjoy equal rights and protection under the law, as citizens. □

Leaders resolve to end conflict in DRC

continued from page 1

the creation of mechanisms for the implementation of this decision, and to institute measures to regularly consult the countries represented at the meeting.

Among the countries represented by their leaders were the non-SADC members of Uganda and Rwanda, which have troops and military equipment in the DRC, whose withdrawal has been demanded by President Kabila.

The summit also agreed on "harmonising this initiative with the Victoria Falls initiative". The Victoria Falls initiative results from a meeting of SADC Heads of State and Government in Zimbabwe in early August, which dispatched a verification mission to ascertain whether the DRC had been invaded by outside forces or whether there was an internal rebellion.

The verification mission made up of the Foreign Ministers of Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe visited DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and met with the Presidents of all three countries. They confirmed the presence of troops from Uganda and Rwanda in DRC. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda told the mission that he had sent two battalions of troops into DRC, which borders on Uganda.

A meeting of SADC Defence Ministers was underway in Harare when the verification mission reported, and decided to respond to President Kabila's request for military assistance, with individual countries determining their own involvement and means of support.

Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe immediately sent troops to the DRC to protect Kinshasa and halted the rebel ad-

vance on the capital from the west. DRC and allied forces from Angola re-took key towns from the rebel force, including the airport at Kitona which was being used for re-supply.

The summit a few days later in Pretoria said "the reconstruction of the DRC as an independent, sovereign, united, democratic, peaceful, stable and prosperous country is critical to the achievement of the same objectives in our own countries and in the rest of our Continent."

They noted "with appreciation the commitment of the Government of the DRC to the holding of democratic elections to enable the people of that country to elect a Government of their choice."

The summit also "recognised that the independence and security of all the countries in the respective regions is an important objective." □

Telecommunications regulations within SADC: Some analytic thoughts on attitude change

Telecommunications in a developing country is a good vehicle to disseminate information of immediate importance on a national scale. It is also a channel for education, strengthening the social fabric, and for enriching national culture. Rural area telephony is particularly essential in the development of national infrastructure.

In a paper presented to the World Communications Year Seminar in San José in August 1983, Professor Nicolas Jéquier of the University of Lausanne suggested that the impact of investment in telecommunications in low income rural areas on the level of employment was far greater than had been supposed hitherto.

This truism still applies today.

International and regional cooperation

Over 22 years ago, African governments decided that it was necessary to set up a pan-African telecommunications network. Varied efforts were made towards that objective. The results vary from one sub-region to another, but have not met expectations. The real problems were lack of human resources, and most importantly, lack of political will.

In May 1996 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, the African Regional Telecommunications Development Conference (AF-RTD-96) approved 'The African Green Paper: Telecommunication Policies for Africa'.

An important recommendation in the green paper was that sub-regional organisations should take necessary steps to define a policy, a regulatory framework and criteria of convergence at both sub-regional and national levels.

One of the basic assumptions of the African Green Paper is that the African countries would benefit considerably if they were to join forces in approaching the subject at continental and sub-regional levels so as to promote to the greatest extent possible, the integration of their telecommunication networks and services, and hence, of their economies. The integration of economies is the nemesis of development in Africa.

There have been other numerous attempts at regional co-operation in telecommunications development, without providing proper institutional frameworks at national and regional levels. This, coupled with lack of clear political commitment, means that the countries, individually and collectively, will in future pay heavily for lack of effective participation in building a new world, a world shaped, *inter alia*, by telecommunications, and where co-operation will be as important as competitiveness.

Every country in the sub-Saharan region is a member of at least six organisations in which telecommunications is either the main or a related activity. This multiplicity of structures for co-operation and even aid to telecommunications development admittedly bears witness to the importance of the sector, but it also leads to waste of energy since all these initiatives are not co-ordinated.

Article
by
Amos Vilakazi

VIEW
ON
TELECOMS

SADC countries have taken a quantum leap and accepted not only the important role of telecommunications in development, but also the need for almost cathartic change in national policies and the regulation of telecommunications.

Namibia

At independence the new government of Namibia inherited the infrastructure that had been developed over time by apartheid South Africa. The development of that infrastructure had followed a pattern that was no way different to the pattern internal to South Africa. In those areas that were inhabited by Africans, teledensity levels were below one, whereas the urban areas enjoyed much higher levels. These imbalances dogged the provision of telecommunications

services to rural areas in Namibia.

Namibia has also created the Namibia Communication Commission and has partially privatised its telecommunications. The establishment of a detached commission to oversee telecommunications development means that capacity can now be enhanced, research undertaken and sound policies developed that will lead to an improvement in standard and quality of life.

What seems sorely missing still, is a commitment to a competitive environment, coupled with universal service obligations.

Such a set up would catalyse the network expansion and ensure the provision of services to those areas not previously served, which are still likely to remain the Cinderella of telecommunications development.

Zambia

In 1994, the Zambian government decided to dismantle its Posts and Telecommunications Corporation, which was divided up into the Postal Services Corporation and the Zambian Telecommunications Company.

Also introduced in the same year was cellular telephony and a domestic satellite service. The satellite service reaches remote corners of the country. Wireless local loop was also introduced to service the far flung areas.

The Zambian Communications Authority provides and maintains the regulatory framework and oversees interconnection agreements between the various role players.

The market is slowly being opened up, which will ensure benefits for the end-user.

Botswana

Botswana has vastly improved its telecommunications infrastructure. It operates a fully digital network at an estimated teledensity of four. This improvement was achieved without privatisation.

The cellular market in Botswana is competitive with two companies so far which are in the process of building and

expanding their networks, already functional in certain parts of the country.

It is hoped that the government's policy will be supported by a deliberate effort at mentoring and skills transfer to enable it to rely fully on internal human resources capacity.

The Botswana Telecommunications Authority, established in 1996, should oversee the modular development of telecommunications policies to prepare the country to claim its place in the global village.

There are still areas which are not covered by the existing networks at all. However, at this stage, given the geographic and population size of the country, it should stand proud of its achievements in the industry.

Mauritius

The government owns a majority shareholding in Mauritius Telkom. The company operates within a protected environment and enjoys a monopoly over the international gateway, basic telephony, text, data, internet and other interactive services. Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd, a subsidiary of Mauritius Telkom, operates cellular mobile, in competition with Emtel Ltd.

Between March 1995 and October 1997, extensive growth occurred in domestic fixed and mobile telephone networks. This growth is attributed to the competition that is allowed in this sector. The teledensity ratio is estimated at 1.25 although it appears to be fast increasing towards two.

Mauritius has demonstrated great political will to regulate the telecommunications industry more openly and fairly. The jurisdiction of the Mauritius Telecom Authority is under review as the government wants to expand its powers and authority.

The idea is to promote competition and interconnection between the various players. There is an expressed commitment to open the industry up to international competition by the year 2004.

Already, local telecommunications players are working in strategic partnerships with foreign entities such as France Telecom and Millicom Corporation. These partnerships are exploited for their foreign investment value; to consolidate the competitive ability of local service providers to enable them to operate on a wider scale; and for their capacity building.

South Africa

Until recently, telecommunications services were provided solely by Telkom SA Ltd, which was established by statute. Frequencies were theoretically allocated by the department responsible for posts, telecommunications and broadcasting. In reality, Telkom was allowed to pluck frequencies out of the air as and when it needed them.

In 1997, the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority was established to regulate and license telecommunications services and service providers.

Meanwhile the government has sold a 30 percent stake to SBC Communications and Telecom Malaysia. The deal was arguably the most profitable telecoms privatisation arrangements in Africa. The main benefit of this deal for the country has been the fast-tracking of infrastructural development. The other benefit is the advancement of universal service and access.

The government has also given Telkom a statutory monopoly over the provision of certain forms of telecommunications, such as basic telephony. This monopoly expires in 2003. What this monopoly really covers is open to question.

Recommendations

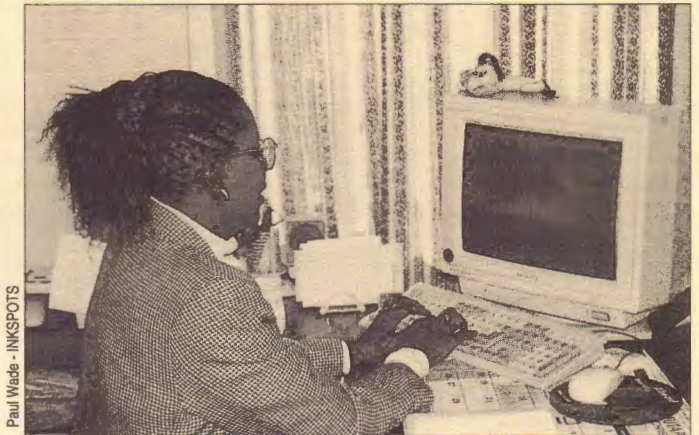
Whereas this contribution does not proclaim to be a blueprint on policy and regulation of telecommunications in all countries within SADC, we believe it fair to deduce that a measure of openness to competition within the sector has been achieved. There are still some countries, which take two steps forward and three backward in this regard.

No country can and should develop policies that aim only at satisfying national imperatives. The world has become a global village, and the classical

attitude of relying on principles of national and territorial sovereignty when faced with issues of foreign policy must give way to the greater claim of a lane on the information superhighway.

If the SADC region is to take advantage of international co-operation in the telecommunications sector, there is an urgent need to:

- stop political rhetoric and demonstrate serious commitment towards telecommunications development;
- review its regional co-operation instruments. In this regard SATCC needs to be more streamlined, focused and proactive;
- build and develop human resources capacity and skills that can be interchanged within the region;
- engage international agencies to devise and codify a mechanism for their input to telecommunications development in the region;



Surfing the net... SADC needs to join the information superhighway.

- create, at regional and national levels, an environment that is favourable to the transfer of information flows; and
- follow the example of regions which have similar conditions but have done better in the telecommunications field.

Within the SADC region itself, there is an urgent need to change attitudes towards business in information, loosen up and encourage information flows and create competition within the sector. The ultimate beneficiary can only be the citizen, the consumer, the end-user. □

Amos Monkie Vilakazi is a practising communications, media and corporate lawyer. He is also the managing director of Communications & Broadcast Consulting CC based in Pretoria.



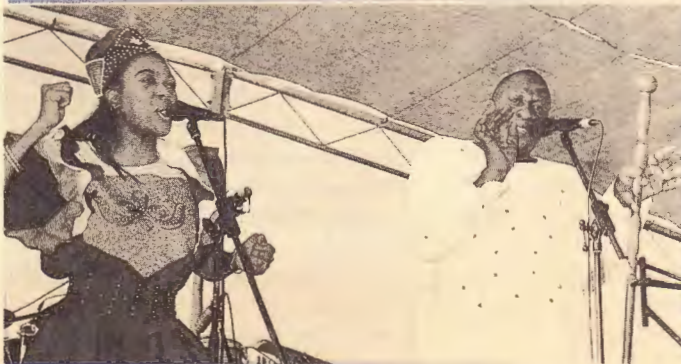
Farewell group photo at Boipuso Hall in Gaborone. **Sitting (L-R)** President Mugabe (Zimbabwe), King Mswati III (Swaziland), President Masire (Botswana), President Chissano (Mozambique), King Letsie III (Lesotho), President Chiluba (Zambia), **Standing (L-R)**: SADC Executive Secretary Dr Mbuende, High Commissioner Kundasamy (Mauritius), Speaker of Parliament Hon. de Almada (Angola), President Muluzi (Malawi), President Mkapa (Tanzania), Deputy President Mbeki (South Africa), Prime Minister Geingob (Namibia) and Vice President Mogae (Botswana).



Farewell hug. President Chissano bids farewell to Sir Ketumile.



President Robert Mugabe (centre) explains a point flanked by Presidents J. Chissano (left) and S. Nujoma during the 1998 Smart Partnership conference in Swakopmund, Namibia.



Members of the SADC Cultural Ensemble group perform during commemorations to mark SADC Day in Gaborone, Botswana.



King Mswati III flanked by SADC Executive Secretary Dr Mbuende and Deputy Executive Secretary Mr Monyake poses for a group photo with members of the SADC Secretariat staff.

SADC Day: A message by President Mandela

Following is a message by the Chairman of SADC, President Nelson Mandela to the 1998 SADC Day, 17 August.



Presidential Photo Unit (Zimbabwe)

In this first ever SADC Day message to be delivered by the organisation's Chairman, we recall with pride the founding of our Community on 17 August 1992.

When the region's leaders signed the declaration and treaty on that day, they laid the foundation of a community that shall truly become a common home for all southern Africans.

This day has been set aside for all SADC citizens to rededicate themselves to that ideal.

As each of our countries celebrates the day with sports events, cultural dances and other activities, across the world SADC committees of Ambassadors have organised events to popularise our region as an investment destination.

Our community cannot be built overnight.

Neither can it be done by government officials and political leaders attending a few meetings a year.

It requires every citizen of SADC to put shoulder to the wheel to make this a region of high economic growth and social development, a region where unemployment and poverty are things of the past.

We want southern Africa to emerge as a powerful force in the rebirth of our continent and a region of choice for the international investor.

We want our citizens to be the principal actors in shaping the region's economic development, in partnership with international investors.

No longer should we be content to be a subject of international conferences on poverty and political crisis.

We also need to do more to consolidate the historical ties among our peoples, through cultural exchanges and the active participation of all our countries in regional sporting and cultural activities.

We take pride in the speed with which a democratic culture has taken root in a region in the few years since we eliminated one-party and apartheid rule.

But we do need to support and urge those countries, few as they may be, still undergoing constitutional evolution and reform, to speed up those processes so that ours is a region whose commitment to democracy, human rights and good governance is unqualified.

It is deeply distressing that even as we celebrate the progress we are making, one country of our region, Angola, has been brought again to the brink of civil war through the renewal of hostili-

ties by one of the parties to the peace process there.

It is of the greatest importance that the Lusaka Peace Protocol should be complied with, and SADC therefore urges that the sanctions which the UN Security Council has called for should be rigorously imposed.

As we celebrate this day, let us remember all those in southern Africa still suffering disease and poverty.

And let us commit ourselves to working harder so that SADC becomes a prosperous region for the benefit of all its citizens. □



The SADC Cultural Ensemble performs to mark SADC Day in Gaborone, Botswana.

COSAFA tournament resumes

The Confederation of Southern African Football Association (COSAFA) mini-league resumed with a 1-1 stalemate between Namibia and Zambia in Lusaka recently, diminishing the hopes of pre-tournament favourites Zambia of retaining the championship, reports *Caiphas Chimhete*.

Zimbabwe's Warriors, who went into the tournament as underdogs after last year's humiliating 1-2 defeat by Namibia in the preliminary round, are only three points away from winning the southern African soccer title. Zimbabwe still leads the five-team mini-league after the winter break with six points from two matches. A win or a draw against Zambia will ensure that the crown goes to Harare.

The Warriors lost 2-1 to Angola on 30 August in Luanda. They play at home against Zambia in September.

At the time of going to press, Angola were in second place with six points after four matches, while Zambia were in third place with five points after three matches.

The five teams in the southern African soccer competition are Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The winners of the regional tournament will walk away with about US\$200 000. □

Tanzania: US embassy bombing



Luxury hotels downtown and those out by Oyster Bay on the Indian Ocean are like armed barracks fol-

lowing the bomb blast here on 7 August which wrecked the US Embassy, killing 12 Tanzanians and injuring up to 60.

The city is slowly moving back to normality except for the presence of hundreds of US Marines filling every upscale hotel to capacity. Rumours abound about the bombers. A water truck arrived at the embassy just minutes before the explosion and the driver was killed instantly. His assistant is still being sought because police believe the truck could have carried the bomb.

A Pakistani national was picked up in Karachi by police who say he has confessed to planning the bombings of the US Embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. A second suspect, also a Pakistani national, was flown by a US Military Aircraft from Dubai to Nairobi blindfolded, where he was taken into custody by American and Kenyan security.

In Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, Mohammed Sadik Howaida, 32, is alleged to have been in Nairobi shortly before the bombings, and was on his way to Afghanistan when police nabbed him at the airport a week later. Tanzanian sources confirm the arrest and say the suspect identified others implicated in the bombings who are from Pakistan.

The attention of Tanzanian police, the

FBI and the Kenyan Criminal Investigation Department is now focused on Pakistan and Afghanistan as investigators begin looking into a Nairobi-based construction company owned by a wealthy Saudi Arabian fundamentalist, Osama bin Laden, who lives in Afghanistan.

Serious damage was incurred to buildings nearby the embassy, with roofs blown off, windows broken and many houses rendered uninhabitable. The US Embassy has been temporarily moved to quarters on Toure Drive but will offer only emergency consular services, limited to American citizens.

US officials have confirmed that the badly damaged embassy, situated along diplomatic row in the plush Oyster Bay area on Ali Hassan Mwinyi Drive at the corner of Laibon Street, would eventually be demolished when investigations are complete. □

Maputo Corridor takes off



The highway that leads from Maputo to Johannesburg is seething with traffic from Gauteng Province in South Africa, the region's economic

powerhouse, as if pumping valuable blood into Mozambique's economy.

The highway, together with a railway line, are known as the Maputo Development Corridor, linking Southern Africa's most powerful industrial centre with one of South Africa's poorest neighbours.

The Maputo Corridor is just what Mozambique needs as it seeks to increase its international credit ratings and attract investors.

Already the port of Maputo, once grounded into inertia by a 17-year civil

war, is chugging cargo in and out at the rate of three million tonnes a year, albeit a far cry from the 15 million it could be handling in three years time.

The Maputo Development Corridor is the most advanced international development corridor in Africa. It is also an example of the type of partnership that can exist within the region.

Gauteng is a tiny 18 000 sq km area which controls 40 percent of South Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a figure higher than the combined GDPs of the rest of southern Africa.

Mozambique has been touted by the World Bank as a success story – one of the few to make the transition from war to peace, to elections, reform and growth.

It was able to reduce inflation from 70 percent in 1994 to about 17 percent two years later, and the government has privatised about 700 companies. □ (IPS)

Namibian fishing companies in major clean-up



Three major fishing companies in Namibia are cleaning up their

act as they head for a more environmental friendly approach to the 21st century.

United Fishing, Tunacor-Namib Fisheries and Karibib Fisheries are involved in a Danish-driven clean technology programme, aimed at using less fresh water and reducing the amount of sea water pollution.

A recent training course was held at a whitefish company, Karibib Fisheries, to introduce some 200 employees to the principles of a clean technology programme, which has been slowly gaining ground in the Namibian fishing industry over the past year.

Existing technology at the factories is being changed and adapted to bring the use of fresh water down to more acceptable levels and to lessen the negative impacts of "used water" when it is discharged back into the sea as effluent.

The project, which has full Government support and is backed by the Danish Agency for the Environment and Development (Danced), will hopefully spread to other fishing companies in Namibia. □ (The Namibian)

Malawi devalues kwacha



The Malawian Central Bank has adjusted the country's currency by nearly 60 percent to reflect depreciations in other regional currencies and improve export earnings,

the bank said recently.

"We have adjusted the Malawian kwacha from around 26 to the dollar to

around 42 to the dollar," Tobias Chinkwangwa, deputy general manager of economics services at the central bank.

"This adjustment was made to be in line with what is happening to the South African rand and the Zimbabwean dollar. And also to counter a drop of about US\$80 million in tobacco export earnings. With that drop there was no money to support the kwacha," he said. □

Decentralisation and Municipal Administration

Decentralisation and Municipal Administration, published by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and Ministry of State Administration, Mozambique. Review by Kondwani Chirambo

A journey into the complexities of municipalisation and traditional authority, this product makes commendable efforts to simplify the workings of Mozambique's municipal governments past and present and carries comparative analyses of experiences from at least six other SADC countries and two European systems. More importantly, it lifts discussion on traditional authority from the backroom to the conference table.

Mozambique moved from a highly political system established by FRELIMO in 1975 where local authorities operated without independence, to ground-breaking constitutional amendments in 1996 that saw a decentralisation process begin to take root. With that, grew the realisation of the admirable dynamics of the African way.

The evolution of this process is carefully illustrated by a coterie of authoritative experts, beginning with Mozambique's own experiences running right through from South Africa, Botswana, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and the models of Germany and Switzerland.

"There are similarities in African experiences. All the countries concerned were colonies and after independence they attempted to introduce systems of governance following the world models in fashion, with greater or lesser success and more or fewer problems," the introduction reads.

Europe on the other hand, created systems that were people-driven. The book offers reasons for local government reform, its structures and place in governance "and to what extent political power is delegated downstream..."

The contents are drawn from a first international conference on "Experiences in Municipal Administration: Some African/European models" organised in Maputo in 1995, funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and documents the legislative metamorphosis, leading to today.

The essence of local authorities, their autonomy, and place in democratic set-

ups serves as a reminder to governments on the continent that pragmatism is what will engage the general populace into a participatory decision-making process and enhance the newly founded systems.

It is worth noting, as the book itself emphasises, that a study of traditional authority reveals that the system is not centralised in Mozambique.

The decentralisation of power is not new in other words. It was systematically dislocated by colonial impositions and influences. But can two authorities — traditional and municipal — born of different political structures reconcile?

"They can only function within the principles common to just one of them, namely those of the modern state," the authors hold.

However up to this day, the debate on the inter-relationship and possible meshing of the two continues. Democracy has certainly laid ground for the re-examination of the traditional norm and goaded African intellectuals, and the media, to begin to look more closely at where they are coming from.

Decentralisation and Municipal Administration points to the importance of the preservation of the old order while embracing tenets of the new. The book stimulates further discussion, acknowledging that 15 years ago such talk was considered taboo.

An indication, perhaps, of the opening up of more avenues for greater freedoms of expression.

This book is just one of them. □

Recent publications and acquisitions

SADC and Sub-regional Security: Unde venis et quo vadis?

—Malan, Mark.- 1998.

Available from South Africa: Institute for Security Studies, PO Box 4167, 1685 Halfway House, South Africa

Kenneth David Kaunda: Founder President of the Republic of Zambia, Perspective on His Exit from Office

—Kabwe Chisanga Tiyaonse ed.- 1997

Available from SAPES Books PO Box MP 111, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe

Economic Impact of the Lanchenalia Research Programme

—Moshi, A ...[et al].- 1997

Available Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agriculture and Research (SACCAR), P.Bag 00108, Gaborone Botswana

The Reality of Aid 1997/8: An Independent Review of Development Cooperation

—Randel J and German, T eds. - 199-

Available from Earthscan Publications Ltd., 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN UK.

My Brother's Keeper: The Lesotho Crisis in Perspective

—Nkiwane, Tandeka C.- (Occasional Paper Series Vol. No. 3. 1997)

Available from AAPS, PO Box MP 1100, Mt Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe

Annual Report 1998

—Southern African Transport and Communication Commission (SATCC).- 1998

Available from SATCC, Caixa Postal 2677, Maputo, Mozambique

The Catalyst for Economic Development in Southern Africa, Vol. 1, 2, 3 & 4

—SATCC, Maputo.- 1998

Available from SADC Secretariat

Aspects of the Botswana Economy: Selected Papers

—Salkin, JS ...[et al].- 1997

Available from David Philip Publishers (Pty) Ltd. PO Box 23408, Claremont 7735, Cape Town, South Africa

Uneven Zimbabwe: A Study of Finance, Development and Underdevelopment

—Bond Patrick.- 1998

Available from Africa World Press, P.O. 1892, Trenton, NJ 08607, USA

SADC diary

1998	Event	Venue
August	01 - 08	Zimbabwe International Book Fair
	09 - 28	Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy and Peace-building in Southern Africa
	10 - 15	Environmental Ministers Meeting
September	02 - 03	Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit
	07 - 09	SADC-ELMS Land Husbandry Course
	07 - 11	Population, Food and Environment in Southern Africa meeting
	10 - 11	SADC Council of Ministers Meeting
	14	SADC Summit
	22 - 24	Capacity Building for Quality Teaching and Learning in Further and Higher Education
	28 - 02/10	EU-SADC Conference on Transport
October	12 - 14	SADC/EU Parliamentary Meeting
November	2 - 3	SADC/EU Joint Steering Committee and the Joint Committee of Senior Officials
	4 - 5	SADC/EU Ministerial Conference (Foreign Affairs)

Currency Checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	259 752
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.07
DRC	Congo Franc	82 500
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.78
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	43.95
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	24.67
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	11 996.79
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.78
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.30
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.78
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.78
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	685.79
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	2047.33
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	27.85

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, 31 August 1998

Public Holidays in SADC for the period September - December

Date	Holiday	Country
07 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Botswana Day	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
12 October	Mothers Day	Malawi
19 October	Divali	Mauritius
24 October	Independence day	Zambia
2 November	All Saints Day	Angola
11 November	Independence Day	Angola
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	SADC
26 December	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania & Zambia
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe