



SADC set to ratify all sectoral protocols by mid-year

by Munetsi Madakufamba in Maputo

The Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, late January urged member states to ratify the organisation's protocols by June this year "so that implementation can begin".

Efforts toward closer regional integration are hampered by delays in ratifying relevant protocols. Sectoral protocols form not only the legal basis for regional cooperation and integration, but also provide a common policy framework within which individual citizens would be able to operate across borders with minimum obstacles.

However, of the eight protocols signed so far, only one on Immunities and Privileges has been ratified by the requisite two-thirds of total membership to take effect. Out of the 12 member states, only one, Botswana, has ratified all the protocols.

Officially opening the meeting, Mozambican Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi singled out the Protocol on

Trade as of particular importance as it will ensure "increasing commercial exchanges among our countries and guarantee the production of goods and services on the basis of comparative advantage".

"We believe that implementing this protocol will enable market inefficiencies and distortions to

be removed and will facilitate the efficient allocation of resources," said Mocumbi.

The Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems, which provides a framework for integrated water resource management on international rivers and aims at fair sharing of water use among countries that share the same river, has been ratified by



Mozambican Prime Minister, Pascoal Mocumbi, officially opening the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Maputo.

six countries since its signing in August 1995.

According to Lenka Thamae of the Water Sector Coordinating Unit in Lesotho, a monitoring unit will be set up outside the sector, and below it will be commissions covering each major river basin comprising representatives

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Exclusive Interview with Masire

In this issue we run an exclusive interview with outgoing President of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Masire who chaired SADC for 16 years from 1980. He speaks about some of SADC's major achievements including progress made so far in bringing closer cooperation between countries of the region. Masire hopes to see SADC develop into a strong regional economic grouping that would serve as a model for similar organisations on the continent and beyond. Read the interview on pages 10-11.

Region expects near normal harvest

by Tinashe Madava

The regional distribution of rainfall has been reported to be satisfactory in southern Africa which received good rains up to February, although a slight drop in crop production has been predicted for some countries.

The heavy rains which fell across the region in January and February left farmers confident that there will be a near normal harvest, but delayed rains may have slightly reduced yields in some countries.

With normal to above normal rainfall in Angola, Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia, early planted crops in these countries are reported to have done well. The four countries are expected to have increased harvests this season.

Preliminary maize production forecasts suggest that Angola will have a 26 percent increase in harvest to 462 000 tonnes from about 370 000 tonnes. Malawi's is expected to be up by 1.84 million tonnes.

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A note to the reader

We would like to notify you that *SADC Today* is now available through an annual subscription fee. For six issues a year, the fee is US\$30 for outside Africa and US\$15 for Africa. Your subscription will also 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 more details on subscriptions, please contact the Editor.

Challenges and opportunities for regional trade integration in SADC

The following is a summary of a paper by SADC Chief Economist, Prega Ramsamy, February 1998.

Between 1993 and 1996, SADC member states negotiated a Trade Protocol which provides the legal framework for the establishment of a Free Trade Area in Southern Africa. The protocol was signed in August 1996 at the Summit in Maseru, Lesotho and forms an integral part of the SADC Treaty of 1992.

The objectives of the Trade Protocol are, *inter alia*, to establish conditions for realising economies of scale through the creation of a large regional market, to increase productivity and competitiveness of production processes in the region, to boost cross-border trade and to mobilise investment.

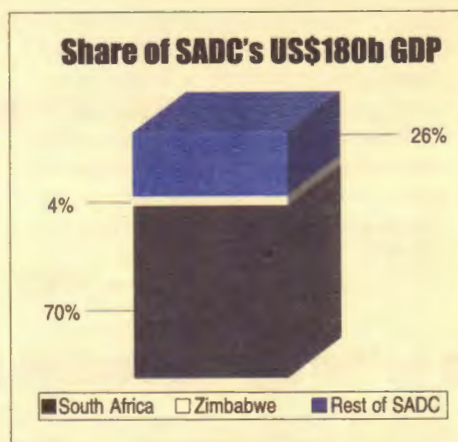
To achieve these objectives, SADC Member States have agreed to liberalise intra-SADC trade within a period of eight years after the ratification of the protocol by a two-thirds-majority of SADC Member States and to establish a SADC Free Trade Area. To date, the Protocol has been ratified by three Member States, ie Tanzania, Mauritius and Botswana, and other Member States are in the process of ratifying the Protocol.

The Trade Protocol represents a framework agreement establishing the objective of intra-SADC trade integration and establishing the broad principles for this process. Technical details regarding the pace of tariff reduction, the product coverage and special arrangement regarding tariff liberalisation for certain sensitive products were left for negotiations among Member States.

In August 1997, SADC Ministers of Trade adopted the linear tariff liberalisation method because of its simplicity, transparency and predictability. It was also decided that intra-SADC tariff liberalisation should be brought about in three different schedules according to product categories: a category A immediate liberalisation for products where intra-SADC trade is already taking place at low or zero tariffs; a category B gradual liberalisation for higher tariff products and, finally, a category C for particularly sensitive products for which liberalisation will take place more to-

wards the end of the eight year period.

During discussions on the modalities of intra-SADC trade liberalisation, South Africa accepted the principle of asymmetrical trade liberalisation, according to which it will liberalise tariffs and markets access for imports from other SADC partners at a faster pace than the other SADC member states would be expected or able to adopt for tariffs on imports from South Africa. South Africa also gave assurance that tariff liberalisation vis-avis imports originating in



SADC partner states would always go beyond any tariff concessions which South Africa would extend to non-SADC Member States, for instance in the context of a free-trade agreement with the European Union. However, the modalities for implementing the asymmetrical trade liberalisation scheme, agreed upon in principle, are yet to be determined.

There exists numerous preferential bilateral agreements between SADC Member States. The danger of such agreements is that the more powerful partner has usually relatively more influence on the negotiated concessions than the weaker partner and can use its bargaining power for different concessions to different partners, which does not result in the rationalisation of production structures according to economic efficiency criteria, provided for by a SADC multilateral preferential trade agreement in the form of a PTA or a Customs Union. In addition, preferences according to the various trade

agreements covering intra-SADC trade are diverse in terms of product coverage, tariff structures and free trade quota, so, from that point of view, they run counter to the multilateral SADC free-trade-arrangement objective of rationalising and harmonising intra-SADC trade concessions.

Notwithstanding the above, trade arrangements within SADC are quite dynamic and provide for progressive trade liberalisation over time, bringing Member States gradually closer to a SADC free-trade area as trade barriers are effectively being dismantled.

It is this reason why, in the SADC Trade Protocol, new and existing preferential trade agreements within SADC are accepted.

Intra-SADC trade represents a small part of SADC countries' global trade though tariff liberalisation of intra-SADC trade, largely implemented through the structural adjustment programmes, has already gone a long way, and only a small proportion of intra-SADC trade continues to be subject to higher tariffs.

These facts are encouraging insofar as they indicate that the short to medium-term negative impacts of the creation of a SADC Free Trade Area on customs revenues and employment are likely to be relatively small, while the potential for (long-term) trade creation should be substantial.

On the basis of detailed country-specific studies, this general expectation has to be analysed with a view to allay Member States' fears of serious negative budgetary and employment consequences of the creation of a SADC FTA. Such studies are essential for speeding up SADC negotiations on the implementation of the Trade Protocol.

A necessary condition for overcoming the difficulties in regional trade liberalisation is the ratification of the SADC Trade Protocol by all Member States. It is important to stress the need for all Member States to ratify the Trade Protocol to provide for the necessary pre-conditions for effective intra-SADC trade integration.

It should be noted, that ratification alone is not a sufficient condition for a successful implementation of the Trade Protocol. It has to be combined with an acceptable agreement on a phased tariff liberalisation programme. □

Permanent secretaries and senior officials of education ministries from southern Africa have laid a foundation for the action plan necessary to operationalise the SADC Initiative in Education Policy Development, Planning, Implementation and Management.

This was disclosed at the end of the second meeting of permanent secretaries which took place recently in Lusaka, Zambia, to review a draft report on Education Policy Development in the SADC region prepared by a team of consultants. The meeting was attended by officials from SADC, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as well as the consultants who drew up the report.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the findings of the needs assessment study and approve a final text of the report, and reach a consensus on the focus, priorities, strategies, modalities and mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Participants, however, resolved that, notwithstanding the limitations of the draft report in identifying existing national capacities and needs, the consult-

SADC permanent secretaries lay foundation for education policy

by Mildred Mulenga in Lusaka

ants assisted by the SADC secretariat finalise the draft report on time for the next SADC/donor meeting scheduled for April/May in Zambia.

The Lusaka meeting was a follow up to the first meeting which took place in Harare, Zimbabwe last October, where the permanent secretaries launched the SADC initiative.

The initiative seeks to address the capacity problem at both the regional and country levels in critical areas of education policy analysis, policy development, planning and management. Realising that many good policies were being formulated but not implemented, participants proposed that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms be established for the purpose of assessing the success of ongoing policy review and ensuring successful implementation of educational policies.

The meeting noted that there was need for affirmative action for training of key policy makers and implementers in education policy formulation, development, planning, implementation and management.

Such training should provide policy makers and implementers with an insight into what should be the main issues to be highlighted in a National Education Policy document.

According to the draft report, SADC countries had various strategies for improving education and major areas of education policy processes they were trying to address were those of access, quality, equity, relevance and capacity.

The report says that implementation experiences varied from country to country. Constraints which were experienced by most of the countries in the region included limited physical, financial and human resources. □

Productivity sensitisation gathering momentum in Africa

When SADC held its consultative conference in Namibia last year adopting productivity as its key theme, it became the first regional organisation in Africa to discuss this crucial development issue at such a high level.

The conference recommended that each member state should form an independent National Productivity Organisation (NPO) with tripartite representation from government, private sector and labour.

One year on, only two NPOs are functional, in Botswana, South Africa and South Africa. *Industry Focus*, a magazine published in Mauritius, says a number of countries in the region are on the verge of setting up such centres.

A strategy document was done with the assistance of National Productivity Institute of South Africa and tabled for consideration by SADC Council of Ministers who, while appreciating the effort, felt more work on it was needed.

At continental level, the Pan-African Productivity Assembly (PAPA), which has observer status at the Organi-

sation of African Unity (OAU), has managed to sensitise African leadership. "More and more African countries are taking note of the importance of productivity and are contemplating setting up national productivity organisations," says a recent issue of *Industry Focus*.

During the course of 1998, various events have been lined up by different organisations but all with the purpose of

productivity sensitisation. The Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the OAU is holding its 21st Ordinary Session in South Africa from 13 to 18 April and reports say PAPA, Organisation of African Trade Union Unity and OAU have agreed to set aside a full day for productivity awareness. Later on in the year, the International Productivity Service (IPS) VIII will hold their biennial conference in Pretoria on 5-7 October. □

Stock exchange meeting

A number of stock exchanges in southern Africa are meeting in Namibia in April as a follow up to last year's conference held in the Indian Ocean republic of Mauritius. Chief executive of the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange says his country together with Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia are looking for ways to harmonise their listing requirements.

Tony Barfoot says the five countries are also examining possibilities to set up a central depository system. He says during the Mauritius meeting, officials studied the stock exchange systems of the host republic and Zambia.

He says the Mauritian and Zambian arrangements are expected to be applied under a single exchange system for the southern Africa sub-region. Stock exchange is a highly-organised market where financial certificates, like bonds and shares are traded. □

Region urged to share resources sustainably

by Tinashe Madava

As southern Africa strives to maintain sustainable use of its ecosystems, equitable utilisation of transboundary natural resources has proved to be an important factor in regional cooperation.

Most countries in the region share watercourse systems. The Okavango Delta is shared by Angola, Botswana and Namibia while the Zambezi River Basin, which stretches from Angola to the Indian Ocean, is shared by Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Region expects near normal harvest

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In Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, countries widely expected to be hit by drought, there was abundant rain which came late in January and continued into mid-February. However, the rains were not enough to produce a bumper harvest and some farmers had reduced hectareage for fear of drought.

Zimbabwe is this year forecast to harvest 1.7 million tonnes of maize, about 20 percent less than last year's output. Agricultural experts say most crops throughout the country are doing well.

However, Zimbabwe is assured of adequate water supplies for animal and human consumption throughout the year as most dams are above 70 percent full.

In South Africa, which is one of the leading maize growers in southern Africa, maize harvest for this season is forecast to be at 7.3 million tonnes, a drop of 19 percent compared to last year's harvest of nine million tonnes.

Flooding following incessant rains in Tanzania may reduce yields by about 15 percent. The private sector is expected to handle the maize shortfall in most countries.

Mozambique and Tanzania suffered severe floods which destroyed infrastructure and left people destitute. There was an outbreak of cholera in low-lying areas of Mozambique and Tanzania as sewage systems faltered due to flooding.

Press reports in Tanzania say widespread rains have continued hampering

Delays in ratifying the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems are threatening the region's plans on sustainable use of the environment. So far, only six member states have ratified the Protocol, which is two fewer than the two thirds majority needed before the protocol can take effect. The countries which have ratified the protocol are Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mauritius.

However, the announcement by the then Botswana's Vice-President and Minister of Finance and Development, Festus Mogae, now President, that his country will cooperate with its neighbours in the spirit of the Protocol on

shared watercourse systems since the fields are waterlogged. Current dry conditions are good for drying the crop and harvesting. In Mozambique, there will be a reduction of about 50 percent in agricultural production mainly in southern and central regions this season, as a result of the influence of El Nino.

The Early Warning Unit of Mozambique's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has said that Manica province has lost about 75 percent of grain crops due to drought.

Southern Africa was widely forecast to suffer from severe food shortage this season due to El Nino, a warming of Pacific waters often associated with extreme weather conditions. Farmers heeded the warnings and planted early maturing crops or drought resistant varieties while in some cases they reduced hectareage altogether.

Weather experts say El Nino climatic phenomenon is reaching its peak and this can result in above-average temperatures and meagre rainfall in South Africa until the end of April.

However, the widely publicised El Nino-related drought in southern Africa was not as severe as was originally portrayed.

Although the harvest may not be as good as in normal seasons, partly because farmers panicked and planted late, it will certainly not be the "worst season in the history of the region". □

Shared Watercourse Systems signed by member states in 1995 augurs well for the region's programmes of sustainable utilisation and regional integration.

Four years ago, Botswana, Angola and Namibia signed the Okavango River-Basin Commission agreeing to the fair use of their shared water system.

The Okavango Delta is the largest wetland included in the international Ramsar Convention which Botswana recently signed.

And while Namibia proposes to extract only a small percentage of the Okavango River's total flow, Botswana fears that this could result in serious impact on the delta's ecosystem.

On similar plans by Zimbabwe to draw water from the Zambezi River to the province of Matabeleland, the Zambian authorities are studying a copy of the EIA report of the scheme before they can give their views about it.

Zimbabwe plans to establish a pipeline from the Zambezi River in a project worth about Z\$6.7 billion. The two countries established a joint permanent commission to look into issues relating to projects involving natural resources they are sharing.

Meanwhile, Mozambique's head of International Rivers, Luis de Almeida, has called on Zambia and Zimbabwe to shelve plans to build the Batoka hydroelectric plant along the Zambezi saying it will impact negatively on the ecosystem of the Zambezi River.

Almeida added that any building or drawing of water from the Zambezi River will affect power generation on the Kariba Dam, jointly owned by Zambia-Zimbabwe, and Mozambique's Cahora Bassa. Concern has been expressed within the region that the water level in the Zambezi River is very low and that mass diversion of water from the river should be avoided.

Speaking at a water development conference in Livingstone, Zambia, recently, Almeida appealed to SADC member-countries to consult each other on any water project to be carried out on the Zambezi River basin.

A Water Roundtable meeting is planned for October to discuss policy issues on water resources management in preparation for the Regional Development Plan. □

SADC states tackling drug trafficking

by Caiphos Chimhete

Southern African countries have pledged to increase regional policy coordination in a move to reduce illicit drug trafficking which has become a major problem in the region.

During the SADC/European Commission Drug Control Conference held in Botswana recently, member states called for cooperation, harmonisation and tightening of laws in the region to reduce illicit drug trafficking.

The conference, attended by SADC member states and International Cooperating Partners (ICP) such as the EC and International Labour Organisation (ILO), noted that the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, as well as the UN Conventions, "are the region's highest priority".

The ICPs expressed concern that "not all SADC member states have ratified the drug protocol nor acceded to the UN Conventions and are urged to do so as soon as possible".

A report from the conference says so far "four member states Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius and Zimbabwe have already ratified the SADC protocol, and six others were confident that they would be able to submit their instruments of ratification before the of June 1998, which would establish the necessary two-thirds majority".

The conference also reviewed the SADC Regional Drug Control Programme (SRDCP) for submission to the SADC Council of Ministers and Summit in September 1998 for final approval.

The SRDCP is a five-year programme, whose main tasks would be regional coordination, capacity building, development of a legal framework and supply reduction to control drug trafficking in the region.

They also agreed on the establishment of a SADC Drug Control Committee (SDCC), strengthening of the SADC Secretariat and establishment of a mechanism for regional exchange of drug control related information.

There is now growing realisation within the SADC region that urgent steps are needed to prevent international drug

cartels from exerting influence over state officials. Corruption and bribery of state officials such as immigration and customs personnel is evident and has to be rooted out.

All ICPs expressed willingness in supporting various parts of the SRDCP, with the EC indicating a strong interest in supporting policy development, institution and capacity building as well as demand reduction interventions.

The United States said it would help in intelligence gathering while the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) expressed interest in becoming an active partner in the implementation of most of the activities of the SRDCP.

A study carried out by the UNDCP shows that the problem of drug abuse is far greater than visible. The UNDCP says unemployment, shortages in housing, education, health and other social services, and lack of recreational facilities contribute to the rising trend of drug abuse in most countries.

Cooperation is key and will correct the current state of affairs where lack of

teamwork among government departments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) lead to duplication of efforts and dilution of resources.

There was concern among all participants regarding the seriousness of the adverse effects of illicit drugs on the economy and social development of the region. It was noted that drug trafficking impedes economic development and leads to social decadence.

Participants at the Gaborone meeting called for the establishment of a database of information regarding national contact points and the drug control situation in SADC member states, and said regional drug control projects should be established at the Secretariat.

The issue of illicit drug trafficking has been on the SADC agenda since 1996, when the drug protocol was signed by SADC heads of state and government. Since then, a number of mechanisms have been put in place to ensure a drug-free southern Africa.

Against a background of increasing drug trafficking, SADC countries need to put into practice the recommendations from the several workshops and conferences that have been held to work towards a drug-free region. □

USAID and SADC sign three agreements

The United States government through its aid agency, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), have signed three agreements valued at nearly US\$15 million aimed at promoting development in the region.

The agreements which will focus on the improvement of regional infrastructures of customs, rail transport and trade, were signed by US Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, USAID Administrator Brian Atwood and Executive Secretary of SADC, Kaire Mbuende in Gaborone at the end of March.

The first agreement, valued at US\$7 million, is on installation of the Rolling Stock Information Systems (RSIS) to link eight SADC member states with computerised equipment, for timely and informed decision making.

According to Slater, the system will provide quality regional rail transport through efficient information service.

In the second, over US\$6 million will be used to fund Regional Activity to Promote Integration through Dialogue and Policy Management (RAPID).

According to Atwood, US\$2.7 million will be spent on promoting a more integrated regional market while the remainder will be targeted at the promotion of sound environmental and agricultural practices.

The final agreement focuses on implementing policies supporting Regional Economic integration, through the provision of technical assistance in specialised fields.

Over US\$2 million will be spent on improving customs procedures in the region. It will also be used in the development of regional data bases and information networks, allowing the involvement of stakeholders in the activities of SADC.

Dr Mbuende expressed the region's appreciation for assistance the US continues to make through various projects and activities of the USAID. □

Region acts on violence against women, children

by Caiphas Chimhete & Barbara Lopi

Southern African countries are making concerted efforts to prevent and eradicate violence against women and children, a common problem in the region, to ensure gender equity and true democracy.

During the commemoration of this year's International Women's Day (IWD), two high-powered conferences were held from 5-8 March in Durban, South Africa and in Harare, Zimbabwe, to seek the way forward in the prevention and eradication of any form of violence against women and children in the region.

This year's IWD focused on violence against women, women in armed conflict, the girl child and human rights.

The two conferences produced separate draft declarations. There is a possibility that the two might be merged into one. The draft declarations encourage SADC countries to adopt measures in the legal, social, economic, cultural and political spheres to prevent and eradicate violence against women and children.

Participants to the SADC Parliamentary Dialogue on Gender Equality and Personal Security conference in Harare included women parliamentarians from SADC countries and 10 European countries, as well as parliamentarians from other African states such as Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, and representatives of women's NGOs from around the region.

The European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) sponsored the Harare conference which was hosted by the Parliament of Zimbabwe, while the Durban one was sponsored by the Norwegian government and hosted by South Africa's Ministry of Justice.

Officially opening the Harare conference, Zimbabwe's Speaker of Parliament, Cyril Ndebele said, there is need to involve women in every sphere of life, "because without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspectives at all levels of decision making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved".

Deliberations at the Harare meeting focused on gender equality and personal security while the Durban conference focused on sensitising players in the justice delivery system to the implications of violence against women and the need for the judicial system to be more responsive, accessible and fair to victims or survivors of gender violence.

Experience has shown that justice delivery officers sometimes used their discretion when dealing with domestic and sexual violence cases, especially in the absence of policy guidelines.

"Often, women with disabilities are forgotten and we would like mechanisms to be put in place which should include among others, wheelchair-friendly police stations, sign language interpreters, trained advocates to assist women with intellectual, psychiatric or speech disabilities in laying charges and testifying in court," says Hendrietta Bogopane, a programme coordinator for the Disabled People of South Africa.

Phetsile Dlamini the Minister for Health and Social Welfare in Swaziland said present investigation processes by police, health institutions and prosecutors were cumbersome and emotionally traumatic for the victim. Dlamini urged them to be more friendly to the victims in order not to induce fear.

"There are no places of protection for the abused and they often return to the abusive environment ... more still the perpetrators do not receive a sentence long enough," Dr Dlamini added.

Mauritius last year enacted a law that recognises domestic violence as a serious crime punishable by law, while

South Africa is working towards enacting a similar one scheduled to be presented to parliament sometime this year.

A legal advisor in the Ministry of Women, Family Welfare and Child Development in Mauritius, Lam Hung, said a lot of education campaigns had to be done on the national radio and television before and after the bill was enacted.

South Africa has also adopted a policy document on how to handle sexual offenses.

Facts and figures on gender violence from selected countries

South Africa	One in 36 rape cases is reported, 37 000 cases reported annually, a woman raped every 18 minutes
Seychelles	Out of 1 200 criminal cases referred to probation section in 1997, 50% involved domestic violence
Tanzania	445 cases of defilement were reported in 1997
Namibia	125 rape cases on adult women and 114 on girls under 18 years were reported in 1997
Lesotho	1 080 rape cases were reported in 1997
Zimbabwe	One in every three females is physically assaulted, one in two is psychologically abused
Zambia	2 in 5 women experience domestic violence
SADC	Women constitute 30% of formal sector employment

Source: *Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness Programme (WIDSAA)*

The document which was launched last September was produced by an interdepartmental team in consultation with NGO specialists on sexual offences in collaboration with the ministry of justice after realising that victims of sexual violence were subjected to secondary victimisation by service providers, particularly in the criminal justice system.

"The guideline provides detailed guidance and step-by-step information to be used by service providers on evidence gathering, counselling, trauma treatment and care of sexual-offence victims, victim assistance during prosecution, parole conditions to sexual offenders, and abuser counselling," said South Africa's Deputy Minister of Justice, Msimango Tshabalala. □

SADC set to ratify all sectoral protocols by mid-year

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from each country in the basin. For instance, the Zambezi River Basin would include representatives from the eight SADC countries that feed into the river.

On education, it was recommended that all children in the region should attain at least nine years of basic schooling to ensure that when they leave school, they are literate enough and have sufficient skills to cope with life.

A Protocol on Education and Training was signed by heads of state last year in Malawi. The protocol seeks to, among other things, standardise and harmonise education systems throughout

the region. Only one member state has ratified the protocol so far.

However, some sectors, for instance energy, have already started implementing projects in their protocols before ratification is completed. "The Protocol on Energy has been ratified by only six member states but we are already taking steps to implement it," said Antonio Pinto of the energy sector in Angola. He explained that in some member states ratification procedures are very complicated and time-consuming.

The last day of the meetings was reserved for consultations with international cooperating partners. These con-

sultations were held to appraise cooperating partners on developments in the region and within the organisation as the traditional Annual Consultative Conference will now be held every two years.

Explaining the new move, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary Lengolo Monyake, who chaired the main plenary session of the consultations, said: "This was to allow time for reflection on past conferences and examine the practical implications and implementation possibilities of some of the recommendations arising from previous conference themes."

The SADC Council of Ministers will meet again in September this year in Mauritius, ahead of the 1998 SADC Summit to be held on 14 September at the same venue. □

Private sector involvement in protocol implementation

by Hilda Akekelwa

Without the liberalisation of trade, SADC cannot hope to achieve its goals of regional economic integration and development.

Officially opening the Lesotho SADC National Seminar recently, Acting Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Lira Motete said there is need to involve all stakeholders if the region is to achieve economic integration.

Motete lamented the slow ratification of the trade protocol and pledged his country's intention to speed up the process of ratifying all outstanding ones. He expressed satisfaction at the achieved progress in the building of SADC through signatures and ratification of the other several protocols.

The seminar was aimed at seeking ways in which the country's economic actors can be empowered to be competitive and more actively involved in the implementation of the trade protocol.

The managing director of Baffle and Associates (PAY) Limited, Frank Baffle, said that with "the absence of developed enterprise in Lesotho, paternalistic capitalism will remain an easy prey to national bureaucrats, international organisations and foreign investment."

Baffle said the market opportunities in Lesotho, as in other southern African countries, were unsatisfactory and called for the creation, generation, storage and accessibility of information on markets to the private sector.

He said development of trade through the provisions of the Protocol will create new opportunities for a dynamic business sector. Baffle challenged the business community in all southern African countries to revisit the idea of national and regional business councils, as cooperating partners to government at all levels.

Speaking at the same seminar, the Deputy Executive Secretary of SADC, L.B. Monyake said "regional cooperation is expected to concern itself with the betterment of people's lives and to provide opportunities for people themselves to determine the agenda and priorities for such co-operation."

The seminar recommended priority activities to be undertaken by the media, parliament and NGOs to promote popular awareness of SADC. To ensure efficient media promotion of the region, it was recommended that SADC National Media Co-ordinators be appointed in consultation with national media associations, through the SADC Public Relations Office budget at the Secretariat.

It was noted that the National Media Co-ordinators, in all member countries, despite having been appointed several years ago, were not fully functional. The seminar also urged the SADC co-ordinator in Lesotho to hold regular consultations with NGOs on matters of the organisation.

The seminar noted with concern the lack of awareness and interest of some parliamentarians on SADC issues as evidenced by a very few number of MPs who attended the seminar. It recommended the establishment of a select committee of parliament on SADC affairs and the activation of the Lesotho Chapter of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. The committee will be responsible for briefing parliament on SADC issues.

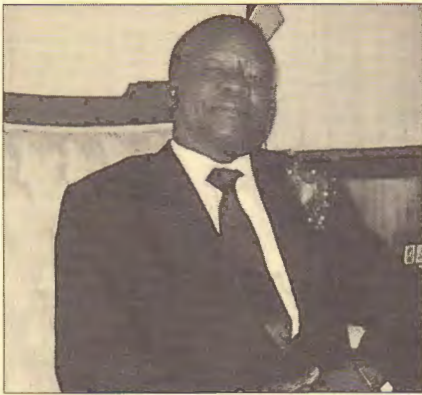
As a way of enhancing private participation in implementation of the trade-protocol, the seminar recommended that:-

- The Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) be mandated to play a co-ordinating role between government and the private sector.
- Government through the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and in collaboration with LCCI, should spearhead the establishment of a national business forum to enhance the involvement of the private sector in the negotiations leading to the ratification of the protocol.

The seminar also recommended that the government, through the MTI and LCCI, convenes a forum to set a time frame and workplan for the ratification of the protocol. It also noted that the eight-year period for rationalisation of the list of sensitive products was too short, "in view of the radical changes the ratification of the protocol demands".

However, it is hoped that with private sector participation in economic matters, SADC might soon realise its dream of regional economic integration. □

Exclusive interview with President Ketumile Masire



SADC

His Excellency Sir Ketumile Masire, President of the Republic of Botswana and former Chairman of SADC.

Following is an exclusive interview with outgoing President of Botswana Sir Ketumile Masire by Editor of SADC Today Munetsi Madakufamba.

You were at the helm of SADC as chairman for 12 years when it was a Coordination Conference, and for another four years when it changed to a Community. What were some of your major achievements during that period?

The following are just some of the achievements of SADC:

- mobilisation of international pressure leading to the demise of apartheid;
- mobilisation of financial and technical resources for the implementation of various projects across the region. In a number of countries it would not have been possible to raise the resources bilaterally;
- development of spirit of oneness and commonality of interests amongst the member states as exemplified by speaking with one voice at international fora on various subjects. Generally SADC citizens appreciate their common interest and destiny;
- development of cooperation arrangements in a number of sectors outside those provided for in the various agreements/protocols, eg cooperation between universities, businessmen, stock exchanges, etc;

- movement towards policy harmonisation as provided for in the various Protocols; and
- resolution of conflicts between member states.

Concerns have been raised from various quarters in the region regarding the slow pace in ratifying SADC protocols which is seen as lack of political will to implement the protocols. What are your comments?

Regional cooperation is a long-term process. As such, delays in ratifying some protocols should not be interpreted as lack of political will. It should be understood that integration also involves some loss of sovereignty over some policies. That is why countries tread cautiously in order to strike a balance between the benefits of integration and loss of sovereignty. Countries must be given enough time to convince their citizens of the benefits of integration. The fact that difficult protocols such as the one on trade have been generally agreed upon is a major milestone in the regional integration process.

We should continue to urge those who are lagging behind to speed up the ratification process, but without undue pressure.

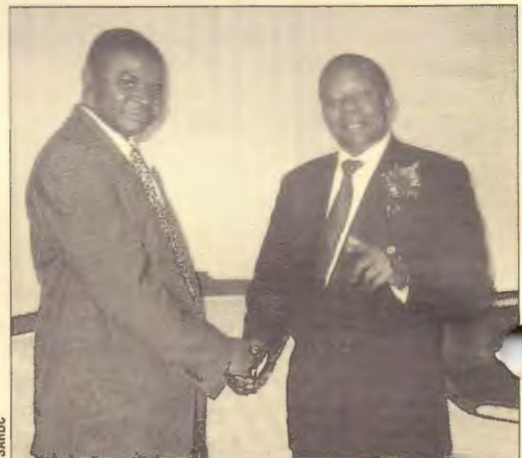
SADC was founded in 1980 by nine member states and has since grown to 14 members. What do you consider the overriding factors and advantages for expanding SADC?

The growth in the number of countries to 14 means that the market for our goods and services has been enlarged. This would enable our firms to expand their production to firstly supply the region and ultimately to penetrate other markets. This would lead to increased job opportunities, amongst others. The increased size also means that we are able to benefit from access to resources which are abundant in the new members, for example hydroelectric resources in

the DRC.

Regional organisations such as SADC are the building blocks for the African Economic Community. As a result, it would be easier to merge relatively bigger blocks as opposed to smaller ones scattered over the continent when the time is ripe. Notwithstanding the above advantages, we believe that the current membership of SADC should not be further expanded in the meantime in order to consolidate what has been achieved and to avoid the organisation from becoming unwieldy and thus less effective.

SADC countries are members of other regional organisations such as SACU and COMESA. This dual membership has sometimes led to conflict of interest, rivalries and duplication of efforts. What are your views? The summit agreed last year that SADC and COMESA should co-exist on the clear understanding that they should as much as possible avoid duplication of



President Masire with SADC Today Editor.

efforts. To this end, the Secretariats of the two organisations are expected to work closely together and coordinate their efforts.

What do you think needs to be done to further consolidate democracy in southern Africa?

Air Botswana



Going Your Way

Festus Gontebanye Mogae

President of Botswana, Past Chairman SADC Council of Ministers



The former chairman of SADC Council of Ministers, Festus Gontebanye Mogae, is the president of the Republic of Botswana following Sir Ketumile Masire's retirement effective 31 March 1998. Mogae served as chairman of the Council from 1989 to 1996.

He was born on 21 August 1939 in Serowe, Botswana, graduated with a BA honours degree in Economics at Oxford University in Britain in 1968 and a Masters degree in Development Economics at the University of Sussex in 1970.

He rose from the post of Planning Officer in the Ministry of Finance and Development in 1968 to Minister of Finance and Development Planning in 1989.

Mogae held various local and international positions including: Director of Economic Affairs in Botswana (1972-74), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Chairman of Botswana Development Corporation (1975-76), Governor of the Bank of Botswana (1980-81).

He was the Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for Anglophone Africa in Washington DC

from 1976 to 1978 and Executive Director from 1978 to 1980.

Mogae has been at the forefront in Botswana's economic success as its Minister of Finance and Development, a position he held concurrently with the vice-presidency and Leader of the House in the National Assembly.

He becomes president until the next election in 1999 when he will lead his Botswana Democratic Party into the contest.

Mogae, who has extensive experience in SADC as Chairman of Council, is set to contribute significantly to the organisation together with his counterparts in the region. □

Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki

Executive Deputy President of South Africa and ANC President



Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, recently elected African National Congress (ANC) President taking over from Nelson Mandela, has a long history of dedicated service to his country's liberation from apartheid rule, dating back to 1956 when he joined the ANC Youth League.

Mbeki was involved in mobilising the students and youth support of the

ANC call for a stay-at-home in protest against the creation of a Republic in 1961. He was elected Secretary of the African Students Association in December of that year.

He obtained his Master of Economics degree at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, in 1966. He continued with political activities in the UK, mobilising the international student community against apartheid.

Mbeki worked for the ANC office in London from 1967 to 1970 and went for military training in the then Soviet Union during this period. In 1971, he served as Assistant Secretary to the Revolutionary Council of the ANC in Lusaka. He was sent to Botswana in 1973 and helped to establish the ANC office in that country until he left in 1974 for Swaziland.

Mbeki, who became a member of ANC's National Executive Council (NEC) in 1975, was elected chairperson of the ANC in 1993 succeeding the late President and Chairperson of the ANC, Oliver Tambo.

In a structure where Mandela is gradually shedding power in preparation for his retirement, Mbeki has been active in the country's economic affairs while the president concentrated more on the political front.

Mbeki, now President of the ruling party, is set to lead it into next year's general elections. □

Interview with Masire

continued from page 10

The demise of apartheid has significantly contributed to the democratisation process in the region by, *inter alia*, eliminating the threat of destabilisation. The multiparty system has been embraced by almost all countries in the region except in Swaziland. Even there, it is only a question of time before they join the rest of the region. It is necessary to assure the monarchists that a change will be to everyone's benefit.

In Angola, the situation is promising given that Savimbi has agreed to disarm his rebels and to return to Luanda. Once these problems are overcome, the region should be able to enjoy peace and stability which augurs well for the consolidation of democracy.

Do you think the SADC Organ on politics, defence and security has done as much as it should to promote cooperation in politics and defence as well as conflict resolution and prevention in the region?

The Organ is relatively new. However, it played a major role in restoring to power the democratically elected government in Lesotho a few years back. Once the Organ's operational modalities are in place and the structures are agreed upon, it should be able to deliver more.

What is your vision for SADC in the next century?

I would like to see SADC develop into a strong regional economic grouping that would serve as a model for others in the continent and beyond. It would therefore be in the forefront in the globalisation game and be able to reap significant benefits for all its citizens re-

sulting in continuous improvements in their quality and standard of life.

As one of the founding fathers of SADC, what role do you see for yourself in regional affairs after retirement as President of Botswana at the end of March?

I would be available to assist in regional matters as long as my past experience can be reasonably expected to have a significant bearing on the issues at hand. Although I would like to enjoy my retirement, it is likely that other duties that I was not able to perform previously may claim a sizeable amount of my time, thus limiting my general availability. □

The Editor would like to express many thanks to Air Botswana General Manager Joshua Galeforolwe and his team for generously sponsoring a return ticket from Harare to Gaborone to conduct the interview with President Masire.

Enhancing private sector involvement in SADC with emphasis on the Trade Protocol

The coming into operation of the SADC Trade Protocol is going to provide big opportunities and challenges to Lesotho, especially the private sector. One of the opportunities is that Lesotho will gain access to a larger market for its export products. The challenge is: Does the private sector in Lesotho have the capacity to take advantage of this opportunity?

In terms of the objectives of the Trade Protocol, member countries are to be provided with various opportunities to develop themselves within the SADC free trade area framework. Among the key opportunities likely to arise are: free access to a larger regional market; traders and consumers could gain from lower prices and greater variety of goods; and increased economic activity could reduce unemployment.

The opportunities listed above will not come without pain and challenges. In connection with access to a large and free market the main question is: Can Lesotho afford to take advantage of the SADC export market?

According to the 1996 annual report of the Central Bank of Lesotho, exports from Lesotho to SADC countries were a mere 1.2 percent of total exports to the rest of Africa. Exports to its traditional market SACU, in particular South Africa, were 98.8 percent of the total. This shows that Lesotho's export market is highly concentrated and dangerously dependent on the vagaries of South African economy.

It can be argued therefore that the SADC free trade area could provide the private sector in Lesotho with an opportunity to diversify its export market.

For Basotho traders to be able to source cheaper merchandise imports from the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) would depend among other things, on the ability of Lesotho to buy the currencies of other member states. Just as Lesotho has strong trade ties with South Africa because it can buy rand through miners' remittance income and customs revenue, the only avenue through which it can buy other members' currencies is through exports. Without an export push, consumers may not benefit from cheaper and greater variety of goods and services.

To attract direct foreign investment (DFI), cross-border investment and technological know-how, Lesotho would need to follow sound macroeconomic policies as capital will flow to only those countries which promise better returns. In a SADC FTA, competition for DFI is expected to be quite high as most member states are just as underdeveloped as Lesotho.

Indigenous private sector in Lesotho is mainly small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) owned by Basotho. The coming into operation of the SADC Trade Protocol will not have fulfilled its mandate if this sector will not feel its positive effects. This sector is the seedbed of Lesotho's entrepreneurial development.

From a
paper
by
Peete Molapo

VIEW
ON
TRADE

Interaction with SADC can only be developed through the promotion of tradeable goods and services. While the SADC Trade Protocol could provide access to cheaper imports from other SADC countries, for example textiles, it is uncertain that the SMMEs in Lesotho have the capacity to export to the region.

The Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has a very important role to play in the development of the private sector in Lesotho. It has to be an umbrella body that coordinates the needs and develops long term strategies of the sector. In its present form the LCCI is not well prepared to make any meaningful impact and provide direction on the challenges imposed by the SADC Trade Protocol. The LCCI should rationalise its structures and broaden its membership to all local business. In the immediate term it must formulate a strategy towards enhancing private sector involvement in the larger SADC market.

While the SADC Trade Protocol aims at promoting inter-regional trade, it makes no mention on how exchange is going to take place. Trade and money are two sides of the same coin. They can never be separated. Currencies of many SADC member countries are not convertible thus making it inconceivable how trade is going to be conducted.

The SADC Trade Protocol is going to open many opportunities for the private sector in Lesotho. The challenge is, does the private sector have a muscle to exploit these opportunities. The answer is that the private sector in Lesotho is still very weak. A number of proposals are suggested to enhance this sector such that it can be a force to reckon with in the SADC market.

The main suggestions are to expand the sector's manufacturing capacity and to strengthen indigenous small and medium enterprises.

Manufacturing capacity can be expanded by improving the competitiveness of the industry through, lowering cost of utilities, maintaining a stable workforce, promoting forward and backward linkages between big and small businesses, and promoting production of fruits and vegetables in which Lesotho has a comparative advantage.

Promotion of export-oriented indigenous private sector can be achieved by establishing or rationalising already existing advisory and information centres, provide SMME-focused training, establish industrial estates for small businesses to improve accessibility of their products to the market, provide marketing facilities that will facilitate the creation of alliances and networks between local and regional producers, and create favourable conditions for SMMEs to access bank financing.

In addition to strengthening the manufacturing industry and indigenous private businesses in Lesotho, a privatisation programme that is more suitable to local conditions is needed as well as developing the tourism sector. □

Peete Molapo, is an economist at the Lesotho Bank. He presented this paper during the Lesotho National Seminar on SADC in February 1998.

SADC bids farewell to Masire

SADC heads of state and government met on 18 March to honour the President of Botswana and former chairman of SADC, Sir Ketumile Masire.

Masire left office at the end of March, having been in public office for 33 years, first as Botswana's Vice-President and Minister of Finance and Development planning, and then as President for over 17 years. He is the longest serving chairman of SADC after having been at the helm of the organisation, then called Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), in 1980 until 1996 when South African president Nelson Mandela took over.

At the time that Masire assumed chairmanship of SADC, the region was unstable both economically and politically due to destabilisation by apartheid South Africa. But now, as SADC Executive Secretary Kaire Mbuende pointed out, the region is considered "the most progressive and powerful economic bloc in sub-Saharan Africa" with a combined GDP of US\$180 billion and annual growth rate of about 4.5 percent.

During the farewell dinner hosted by Masire's counterparts from the region, the leaders acknowledged his efforts, hard work, dedication and service since the inception of the organisation.

For his contribution, Masire will be

bestowed the Sir Seretse Khama award later this year in Mauritius during the 1998 SADC summit. This was announced by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, who was acting chairman during the dinner as President Nelson Mandela was unable to attend.

Masire, thanked his colleagues for their show of neighbourliness, adding: "I believe I have done my best to contribute to nation-building and the socio-economic development of Botswana".

His successor is Vice-President and Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Festus Mogae, whom Masire describes as a "man of formidable intellectual capacity and a proven track record in the management of public affairs". □

Angola drags closer to peace

The government of Angola declared in early March that it now legally recognises activities of former rebel movement UNITA, but a major sticking point remains regarding the status of its leader, Jonas Savimbi.

"The government of reconciliation and national unity declares before national and international opinion that from March 11, 1998, the ban on party political activity by Unita has been lifted," said a government statement in a major step towards sealing a long-delayed truce in the war-ravaged oil and diamond-rich country.

But UNITA has refused to accept this gesture unless the issue of status of their leader is made clear. "The leadership ... rejects categorically and angrily this pseudo-legalisation of the party which leaves its president on the sidelines," UNITA responded in a statement.

Savimbi has insisted he can only move to the capital Luanda from his central highland stronghold with 400 armed bodyguards, but the government is holding out for no more than 50 of the highly trained men at any one location.

A senior government official was recently quoted by *Reuters* as saying: "UNITA is using the issue of Savimbi's status as a pretext to delay implementation of the peace process. So we believe that the Angolan government must move quickly to remove this pretension by UNITA and allow the process to go ahead".

Some political analysts warn that a deal without Savimbi cannot work as, despite his weakened capacity to start a full-scale war, he still has destabilising potential in the country.

Reliable reports say UNITA still has a considerable number of trained military personnel who have been demobilised and then re-armed. Savimbi con-

trols a significant part of the diamond-rich area, enjoying an annual turnover of over US\$400 million.

Demobilisation and demilitarisation have been seriously delayed, and the UN mandate in Angola has been extended several times. UN peace-keeping troops have begun returning home as the peace process winds up. □

Harmonising clearing and settlement systems

There is a growing consensus among SADC countries that in terms of Stock Exchanges, the region presents a diversity of security markets. While some countries have bigger, more advanced and sophisticated trading mechanisms, others are still at initial stages of development.

To palliate this disparity with a view to achieving better efficiency in such fields as trading, clearing and settlement, central securities depository and market information dissemination, the countries are working towards efforts to harmonise their operational systems.

In this context, two workshops, one on SADC Exchanges on Clearing and Settlement and another on SADC Exchanges on Harmonisation of Listing Requirements were organised in Mauritius in February by the Stock Exchange of Mauritius in collaboration with Committee of Stock Exchanges in SADC. The workshops were attended

by representatives of various stock exchanges of SADC including South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Malawi.

In his speech, the Mauritius Finance Minister Dr. Vasant Bunwaree stressed the need for an "interaction between the SADC Stock Exchanges and other committees set up to promote finance and investment in the region". This type of interaction could be beneficial to the common interest of the region, he said, adding that it could also usher in a "new era of closer collaboration between all parties in countries in the region to lift Africa onto a higher development path".

The minister, who quoted the recent World Economic Forum held in Davos, spoke about the strong desire of many African countries to undertake reform programmes to attract foreign investment and enhance development as well as alleviating poverty. □

Africa Nations Cup: South Africa settles for silver

Although defending champions South Africa went down 2-0 to Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations finals in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, on 28 February, southern Africa emerged as a footballing region after South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) secured second and third positions respectively.

South Africa's Bafana Bafana, hoping to defend the championship which they won at first attempt two years ago, cruised to the finals as favourites, only

to be humbled by the stylish Pharaohs of Egypt in the battle of continental soccer supremacy. Even after the defeat, caretaker coach Jomo Sono still had his head high considering the short stint he had with the team.

"I tried to do the job South Africans asked me in such a short time and I think I did them proud and wherever they are, they are proud of such an achievement," he said after the tournament.

Although the team and fans back home rallied behind Sono to continue

as coach, he decided to step down making way for Frenchman Phillip Troussier who had earlier been appointed by South African football authorities to lead the team to the World Cup in June this year.

But the man who will be remembered most for Bafana Bafana's glory this year is wonderboy Benedict McCarthy, who ended joint top goal scorer with Egypt's veteran Hossam Hassan on seven goals each. The 20-year old mercurial striker who plies his trade with Ajax Amsterdam, was also crowned the best player of the tournament.

The DRC, who came into the continental tournament as dark horse, made it to the semis where they were beaten 2-1 by South Africa. They however managed to secure third place after beating Burkina Faso 8-5 on penalty shootouts.

Debutantes Namibia, whose team was chosen from the country's total 1.7 million people, made a real impact at the tournament stretching Cote d'Ivoire 3-4, drawing 3-3 with Angola before bowing out 4-1 to South Africa.

The other southern African countries which took part in the two-week tourney are Mozambique and Zambia, who disappointed many with their below par performance. The Zambians were knocked out 0-4 by Egypt in the first round, prompting the suspension of their German coach, Burkhardt Ziese.

The Egyptians won the title for the fourth time, equalling a previous record by Ghana since the biennial tournament began in 1957.

Meanwhile, the race for a place in the 2000 African Cup of Nations soccer finals to be held in Zimbabwe commences in July and 34 teams are going to take part in the preliminary round.

The draw made in Burkina Faso puts the countries into seven groups with the top two in each group qualifying for the finals. For the teams which failed to qualify in Burkina Faso this year, it time for them to start preparing for the 2000 tournament.

Southern African countries are expected to perform much better this time round considering the proximity and support they are likely to enjoy from their millions of fans who will have little or no difficulty travelling to neighbouring Zimbabwe for the tournament. □

Angolan musicians cry out for peace

by Pedro Santa Maria

Musicians and non-governmental organisations in Angola have joined hands to unite the people and promote the peace process using music as a motivating tool.

"This move is a very important one because it represents the brick that the Angolan musicians have put in the building of peace and reconciliation in Angola," says one of the musicians Eduardo Paim.

The Centre for Common Ground, an American non-governmental organisation has recently promoted a production of a long-play entitled "*A paz e o que o povo chama*" (The People's Cry Out for Peace) as a way of supporting peace, national unity and harmonisation processes in Angola.

Written by Filipe Mukenga, Bonga and Filipe Zau, and sung by more than 30 Angolan musicians living in Angola, Portugal and Brazil, the song was recorded in Lisbon and was officially presented at the Government of National

Unity and Reconciliation during its inauguration ceremony.

According to Abel Duere, an Angolan musician living in Brazil, "peace must be sung around all corners. There is no time for fear and uncertainties."

Another musician, Lourdes Vandunen, has been invited by the Red Cross International Committee to join a group of African musicians such as Papa Wemba of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Jabu Khanyile of South Africa, Youssou N'dour of Senegal and Lagbadja of Nigeria to sing for peace and tolerance in Africa.

Composed by Wally Badarou from Benin, the song is called "So Why". It aims to sensitize international public opinion on the need to join efforts in order to minimise the African people's suffering due to civil wars and other natural disasters.

Music is a vital part of a country's harmony and wellbeing. By bonding people together, music opens up feelings of love, friendship and solidarity, even among people of different backgrounds. □

SADC visual arts and crafts exhibition postponed

The SADC Visual Arts and Craft Exhibition which was scheduled to take place in Windhoek, Namibia between 1-10 April this has been postponed indefinitely due to financial constraints.

It is not the first time the event has been pushed forward. The exhibition was supposed to have been held in September last year but was postponed for the same reason.

The Namibia National Organising Committee confirmed that the event was pushed forward last year "because funding had not been secured."

Some members countries were anticipating serious financial constraints if they had to participate in two festivals, namely the Theatre Festival which took in June 1997 and the Visual Arts and Craft Exhibition which was scheduled the same year. □

Who Shapes Your Country's Future? A Guide to Influencing the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategies, published by the Development Bank Watchers' Project (BWP) of Bread for the World Institute, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1000, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA: January 1998

Review by *Munetsi Madakufamba*

This book attempts to demystify operations of international financial institutions which offer either credit or aid to developing countries. The document identifies flaws in the current system whereby donors impose development strategies on recipient countries.

In what is called a Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) document, the World Bank identifies and sets out the justification for its lending goals and priorities. The CAS may or may not differ from the investment priorities of the borrowing country's government and citizenry.

CASs, which at the moment are confidential documents that belong to the World Bank, should be prepared in close consultation with representatives of civil society organisations, especially low-income groups, indigenous people, and women, says the document.

"This type of broad-based involvement is needed to help ensure that the World Bank's investments support domestic priorities, especially those investments which can reduce hunger and poverty in environmentally sound ways," stresses the publication.

The document suggests rules of engagement that can help ensure that the World Bank is supportive of, rather than intrusive in the affairs of borrowing countries.

"As a general rule, donors and creditors such as the World Bank should not act as the centre or hub of a wheel with direct lines of communication with a range of domestic actors. This model can disrupt the relationship of such actors with their own government. Rather, they should be on the sidelines as investors in the national development strategies of borrower countries," the document explains.

To participate meaningfully in the

formulation of CASs, it is important to assess how much power the World Bank wields in any one country. The Bank has two lending facilities, namely hard loan and soft or concessionary loan windows.

Middle-income countries such as China borrow from the hard loan window offered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

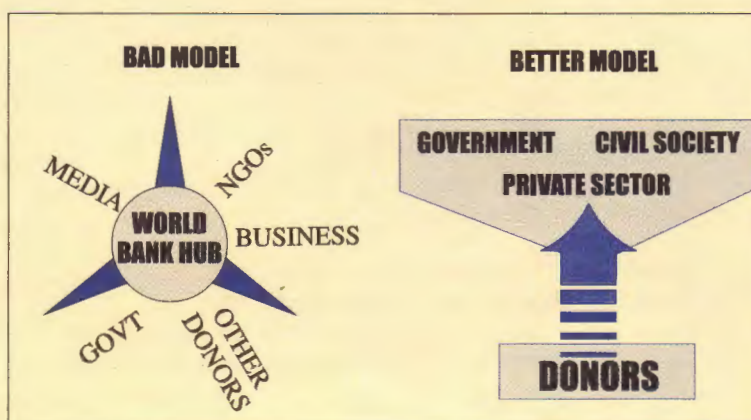
(IDA). A government that borrows from both windows is called a "blend" country.

The Bank has limited influence over IBRD borrowers precisely because they have many sources of credit including commercial banks while the opposite is true for IDA borrowers which are highly dependent on the Bank, says the document.

As an example, the document says: "Because the World Bank needs China as a borrower, China has more leverage over the World Bank than the World Bank has over China".

However, any borrowing country eventually raises public revenues to service its debts to the World Bank, regardless of what window it borrows from. As a result,

Bank policies and projects should be of concern to citizens of all borrowing countries. □



(IBRD), while poorer countries such as Mozambique borrow from the concessionary loan window offered by the International Development Association

Recent publications and acquisitions

SME policies and policy formulation in SADC countries: papers presented to the workshop of the SEPAC working group "Policy issues", Gaborone, September 11-12, 1997. -SADC.-1997. Available from SADC Secretariat, P Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana

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Workshop on "Post-Lome IV Opportunities for SADC Agriculture" Post Lome Opportunities of SADC Agriculture, Harare, Zimbabwe, 9 - 10 April 1997. - 1997. Available from Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Annual Consultative Conference Reports: Southern African Development Community 1998 SADC Consultative Conference, Maputo, Mozambique, 1998 January 29-30 SADC.- 1998 Available from SADC Secretariat

Productivity - Key to Sustainable Development in SADC: Proceedings of the SADC Consultative Conference held in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia 8-10 February 1997. -SADC.- 1997. Available from SADC Secretariat.

Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review. . -SADC.-1998 Available from SADC Secretariat

Prodder's Development Directory 1997/98. -Barnard, David.- 1997 Available from Programme for Development Research (PRODDER) of the Human Sciences Research Council, P.O. Box 32410, 2017 Braamfontein, South Africa

SADC diary

1998	Event	Venue	
April	05-07	Mining Policy and Environment Meeting	Zambia
	06-09	OAU Meeting of African Ministers of Trade to discuss the WTO	Zimbabwe
	13-18	21st Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the Organisation of African Unity	South Africa
	20-22	Early Warning and Convention to Combat Desertification Workshop	Zimbabwe
	27-30	SADC Railways Chief Executives Committee	Mozambique
May	04-07	Trade Liberalisation Seminar hosted by Industry and Trade Sector	Tanzania
	11-13	Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural and Natural Resources and Research Training (SACCAR) Meeting	Mozambique
	14-28	SADC Ministers of Culture and Information Meeting	Zimbabwe
	17-19	Southern Africa Economic Summit	Namibia
	26-29	Workshop on Small to Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs)	Swaziland
	26-29	Workshop on SADC Management	Swaziland
June	10-12	SADC Road Contracting Industry Workshop	South Africa
	16-19	Southern Africa Investors' International Forum	Maputo
	23-26	International Conference on Women in Rural Environment	Namibia
	22-27	Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Ministers' Meeting	Zambia

Public holidays in SADC for the period April- June 1998

Date	Holiday	Country
07 April	Women's Day	Mozambique
10 April	Good Friday	SADC (except Mauritius)
11 April	Public Holiday	Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe
13 April	Easter Monday	SADC (except Mauritius)
18 April	Independence Day	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
01 May	Labour/Workers Day	SADC
04 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
21 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland
25 May	Africa Day	Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
01 June	International Child Day	Angola
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique

Currency checklist

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 Lewi)	259752.00
Botswana	Pula (100 Thebe)	3.72
DRC	Nouveau Zaire	--
Lesotho	Maloti (100 Lisente)	4.98
Malawi	Kwacha (100 Tambala)	24.15
Mauritius	Rupee (100 Cents)	22.90
Mozambique	Metical (100 Centavos)	11081.73
Namibia	Dollar (100 Cents)	4.98
Seychelles	Rupee	5.20
South Africa	Rand (100 Cents)	4.98
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 Cents)	4.98
Tanzania	Shilling (100 Cents)	654.90
Zambia	Kwacha (100 Ngwee)	1589.97
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	16.12

Source: *Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, March 1998*