



SADC

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TODAY

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Summit delays restructuring exercise, calls for debt cancellation, measures to quell AIDS pandemic

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The annual summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) ended in the Namibian capital Windhoek on 7 August 2000 with a unanimous appeal for debt cancellation while adopting a multi-pronged plan to deal with the AIDS pandemic.

"The debt servicing obligations in some of our member states are way too high and are often at the expense of investment in social sectors, such as education, health and water supply," said Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano.

Five SADC countries – Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia – are experiencing acute debt problems, while the situation in Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe is of concern.

In Mozambique, the worst affected country in the region, external debt per head is seven times the gross national product (GNP) per capita, while in An-



Herero women were one of the cultural groups that entertained delegates at the SADC Summit

gola the ratio is almost four times. Zambia has been spending 30 percent of its national budget on debt repayments each year since 1990 while only 10 percent was spent on social services.

"We believe this is a dire situation which deserves attention from the creditor nations and international financial institutions," said Chissano who hand-

ed over the SADC Chairmanship to Namibian President Sam Nujoma at the same summit.

The summit noted that while some developed countries were canceling bilateral debt, it is the multilateral one that is of grave concern. "Accordingly the cancellation of bilateral debt has not been

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Mauritius: Massive win for opposition peacefully accepted

by Hugh McCullum

As the SADC Parliamentary Forum noted in its press statement following the landslide victory of the opposition alliance on 11 September, "we recognize the fact that this is a country accustomed to regular, democratic change of government."

After a 30-day campaign, shortest in Mauritian history, some 81 percent of 790,000 registered voters dumped the ruling Labour Party overwhelmingly, leaving them with only six seats on the 70-seat House of Assembly.



High voter turnout marked the election

Navin Ramgoolam, 55, who headed the government since 1995, smoothly turned over power to veteran politician and former prime minister Sir Anerood

Jugnauth, 73, after a few days of confirming results. He tendered his resignation to President Cassim Uteem, the ceremonial head of state, who then formally requested Jugnauth and his partner in an old-new alliance, deputy prime minister and finance minister-elect Paul Berenger, 56, to form the new government. They won 54 seats.

The remaining 10 MPs consist of two from the offshore island of Rodrigues whose local parties usually join the winning alliance in the House and a maximum of eight "best losers" determined statistically by the independent Electoral Commissioner and ratified by Electoral

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Acting ES statement on launch of SADC Free Trade Area

Following are excerpts from a statement to the media by the SADC Acting Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy on 5 September following the launch of the Free Trade Area on 1 September 2000.

... As you know the SADC Protocol on Trade was signed in 1996 in Maseru, Lesotho and came into force on 25 January 2000. Since then there have been negotiations on the operationalisation of the protocol. The negotiations centred on tariff reduction schedules, rules of origin, dispute settlement mechanism, special trade agreement on sugar, elimination of non-tariff barriers and harmonisation of customs and trade documentation and clearance procedures. Agreement was generally achieved on all these issues hence the launch of the Free Trade Area on 1 September 2000.

One may ask what exactly does this mean? The launching of the Free Trade Area by SADC does not mean that a Free Trade Area has been achieved in the region. We are just starting to reduce our tariffs and eliminating non-tariff barriers to facilitate increased trade among SADC countries. The actual Free Trade Area will be achieved after eight years when 85 percent of all trade in the region will be traded at zero tariff/duty. The launching of the SADC Free Trade Area is therefore just a beginning of a process that will take us about eight years to accomplish.

The reduction of tariffs under the protocol will be carried out on the basis of three categories. Goods which fall under category A, will have their current duties reduced to zero immediately after tariff schedules are gazetted by each member state. On average, as the coverage varies from country to country, 47 percent of goods traded in the region will be at zero duty levels.

There are goods, which fall under category B, which are subjected to gradual tariff reduction over the eight-year period. For these goods, in some member states tariff reduction starts in year 2000 while for some they start in year 2001 or 2004. This takes into account

the level of development for each country. However, it is expected that by 2008, 85 percent of all goods traded in SADC will have achieved the zero duty level.

Category C, has goods classified as sensitive products, which mostly fall, in the area of security, health and safety considerations and to some extent infant industry. These goods constitute 15 percent and tariffs would be eliminat-

markets such as that provided for under the EU-ACP Agreements and the US General Systems of Preferences (GSP). For our region, we have agreed that initially, sugar producers should have access to the large SACU market including the SACU producers themselves. A market growth share has been agreed upon which will see a steady increase in sugar tonnage exports into the SACU market until 2012 when total liberalization of the SADC market is expected to take place subject to the developments on the world market. Market access is based on a country's exposure to the world market on trade in sugar, and not to preferential markets....

The area of clothing and textiles is yet another area where opportunities are being opened up under this new trade regime. As you may be aware, trade in clothing and textiles will be based on a two-stage substantial transformation rule of origin. However, for countries like Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, the SACU group agreed to allow these countries to access the SACU Market under a one-stage transformation rule subject to quotas. The quotas are based on current production capacity.

This dispensation will be in force for a period of five years during which these countries are expected to graduate to the two-stage transformation rule of origin where there are no limits on market access, that is there are no quotas. Import duties in this sector are being reduced gradually. There is a clothing and textiles committee, which will continuously monitor trade in the output of the sector and take corrective measures as necessary.

A Dispute Settlement Mechanism was also adopted at the last Summit in Windhoek, Namibia as part of the amendment to the SADC Protocol on Trade. The mechanism provides for complaints by member states in terms of implementing the trade protocol against another member state to be launched with the Trade Implementation Unit which would facilitate the resolution of such disputes through consultations, good offices and

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Motor industry is one of the outstanding issues in the negotiations

ed by year 2012. I should however point out that those goods, which fall under article 9 and 10 of the protocol, as exclusion would not be part of the goods to benefit from preferences. Summit also adopted an amendment to the protocol to the effect that the SADC Protocol on Trade preferences do not cover trade in second hand goods. This means that if second hand goods are traded, import duties at existing levels prior to tariff reductions will prevail.

I also want to explain that trade in sugar had originally been classified as sensitive subject to a special agreement. There have been negotiations on trade in sugar, which as you know is a sensitive product even world wide hence its market price remains distorted. The open market price for sugar is lower than the price exporters obtain from preferential

Diplomatic setbacks raise new worries in DRC war

by Hugh McCullum

Regional diplomats say they fear a return to open combat in Congo where increasingly belligerent and contradictory messages are coming from authorities in Kinshasa.

On the one hand, one of President Laurent Kabila's officials, Leonard Ntuaremba, said that with immediate effect the DRC would allow UN peacekeepers to deploy freely. Authorization for this long-awaited move came in a letter handed to the UN Organization Mission in the DRC (MONUC).

Ntuaremba said this confirmed "the will of the government to see the 5,500 UN forces deployed in the DRC." Up to now only a handful of personnel have been in the country, the main force of 500 military observers and 5,000 support

troops have been unable to deploy across the entire country, in part because of UN delays and demands for free movement, and also Kabila's refusal to allow them to operate in areas of Congo under the government's control.



ALLIES: Presidents Dos Santos, Nujoma and Mugabe

However, on the same day the head of the UN mission, Kamel Morjane, was informed of Kabila's decision, another Congolese minister told diplomats in Kinshasa that the government was suspending implementation of the 1999 Lusaka Peace Accord.

The ceasefire between rebels backed by Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi who have been fighting Kabila's government since 1998 and control parts of the east and north of the huge country, remains tenuous.

SADC allies Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe are backing the DRC government militarily. The ceasefire agreed to in Lusaka in July 1999 and reinforced recently at a second Lusaka meeting on the DRC conflict has allegedly been ignored by all parties. Veiled threats of using regional sanctions against Kabila were made by some countries but have not yet been put in place.

During the just-ended UN Millennium Summit in New York, South African President Thabo Mbeki was guarded about major progress towards peace in the immediate future. "The issues are very complex," he said.

Instead of implementing the Lusaka Accord, Congo's human rights minister told diplomats the country wanted to hold fresh, direct talks with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

Clarification is being sought about the apparently contradictory statements by the two ministers as Kabila comes under increasing pressure from his SADC allies to live up to the commitments made at Lusaka.

He has also been severely criticized by the UN Security Council for establishing a new transitional parliament in what some have described as a violation of the Lusaka Accord which calls for full participation by all factions in the country's political structures.

The 300 deputies were all hand-picked by Kabila from the country's 11 provinces including zones held by Rwanda- and Uganda-backed rebels.

The transitional parliament, said Kabila, "would share legislative responsibility with the president." For the past three years, Kabila has ruled by decree.

The suspension of the Lusaka Accords, threats of sanctions and what some see as Kabila's growing isolation has raised concerns that the 19-month-old conflict could become prolonged and serve to further destabilize central and southern Africa. □

Acting ES statement on launch of free trade area

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panel of experts. The ruling by Panel of Experts once adopted by the Committee of Ministers of Trade is final. Disputing member states are expected to implement the decision. ...

The commencement of the implementation process does not imply that negotiations have been finalised. The nature of trade agreements is such that you continue negotiating to improve the trade regime. In our case we still have the area of automobile industry outstanding.

We envisage to come up with a development oriented agreement, which would ensure that all member states that are currently producing motor vehicles do benefit. The trade Negotiating Forum will soon be working on trade in services with a view to open up that for regional trade.

The ministers responsible for trade have agreed to meet every month in order to have hands on monitoring of the implementation of the protocol on trade. The ministers will be able to take decisions and resolve any problems that may arise. They will also be taking cognisance of the developments at the WTO and the world trading system in general.

In order to assist in the implementation of the protocol, ... Council at its meeting in Windhoek, ... established a Trade Implementation Unit at the secretariat. The TIU will initially be staffed by experts seconded by member states while the normal recruitment procedures are being undertaken. ... □

Hubbing and webbing in the spirit of smart partnership

by Munetsi Madakufamba

Southern African countries seek to emulate Malaysia and its south-east Asian neighbours that successfully rode the currency tide of 1997/98 through radical home-grown economic recovery programmes.

Through the four-year old smart partnership concept — revisited at a recent summit in the Mozambican capital Maputo — government, private sector and labour representatives use this Malaysia-borrowed model to nurture development ideas. The concept is based on the premise that the three — government, private sector and labour — are indispensable partners in national development.

After a severe economic shock from the financial turmoil of 1997/98 that hit the entire south-east Asian region, Malaysia rejected assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and used local initiatives to put the economy back on a recovery path. Today Malaysia is the envy of many including southern African countries.

The southeast Asian country's gross domestic product (GDP) stands at US\$4,500 per capita, according to World Bank figures. Its savings at 40 percent of GDP are among the highest in the world. With exports outweighing imports, the country maintains a healthy forex surplus rare among developing nations.

Malaysia's remarkable record of national resilience dates back to its years of independence. In 1969 the country faced devastating race riots. Malaysia is made up of different races that believe in different religions — the indigenous Malays (most of whom are Muslims), the Chinese who are Buddhists, and the Indian Hindus. Events in other parts of Asia and the Middle East have shown that these religions are often incompatible.

And to make matters worse, the distribution of wealth in Malaysia, like many parts of southern Africa, is linked to racial origins.

The indigenous Malays, who form the majority, were (and are still among) the poorest, while the second largest group made up of the Chinese and Indians owned a third of the economy, the rest being with the British and other expatriates.

This domination of ownership of the economy by people of foreign origin sparked race riots of 1969, which led to deaths, and massive destruction of property. The government acted promptly by introducing affirmative action to bring indigenous Malays into the mainstream of the economy, and invited more Chinese and Indians, previously in opposition parties, to join government.

The scheme worked so well that racial tensions were practically eliminated, paving the way for decades of political stability that propelled Malaysia's economic prosperity that it is enjoying today.

Impressed by the resilience and inventiveness of the Malaysian people, four southern African leaders who had attended the 1996 Langkawi International Dialogue, Malaysia's version of the smart partnership dialogue — decided to bring the idea to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The leaders — Presidents Bakili Muluzi of Malawi, Sam Nujoma of Namibia, Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe and former President Sir Ketumile Masire of Botswana — eventually became patrons of the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID).



President Chissano addressing delegates in Maputo

And Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, a strong critic of IMF policies, capitalised on the racial harmony and creativity of the Malaysian people to withstand the currency instability and rebuild the economy.

Addressing delegates at SAID 2000 in Maputo, Dr Mahathir criticised proponents of the IMF ideology. He said "in nation building, when caution is not exercised and care is not taken; when interest of people and nations are gambled upon on the basis of an 'ideology', when decisions are not grounded in reality and the facts are ignored, there will be calamity. The promoters of the ideologies are of course to blame. But we who make the decision to convert cannot be totally blameless."

The meeting has been held annually since 1997. This year's edition was attended by about 400 delegates from SADC, Africa and the rest of the world who descended on the Villa Repinga, a sandy recreation park overlooking Mozambique's Maputo Bay.

Six marquees were erected, transforming Maputo's traditional jogging park into a dialogue village, albeit temporarily.

Host President Joaquim Chissano summed up the purpose of the conference. "The smart partnership dialogue is an ideas factory," he told delegates. He said the dialogue is intended to generate ideas and agree on actions that can

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Hubbing and webbing in the spirit of smart partnership

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be implemented independently by countries or formal organisations as they see fit.

Under the theme, Global Trends and Emerging Economies, the dialogue was hoped to "give a fresh impetus to the efforts of ... organisations [such as SADC] to achieve sustainable economic growth and regional integration," said Chissano.

"When tackling natural disasters such as those suffered by my country earlier this year [the cyclone-induced floods], or devastation caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and malaria, we must be able to benefit from the pooling of our brains, skills, experience and energy," he said.

President Mugabe dismissed claims that SAID was a mere talk shop. He cited the Chirundu Bridge linking Zimbabwe and Zambia, and the Kruger-Gonarezhou-Gaza Transfrontier Conservation Park, as examples of projects developed out of the smart partnership framework.

Smart partnership dialogues accord political, business and labour representatives an opportunity to interact in an informal atmosphere. No agreements are signed, although the meeting may provide the initial threads the loose ends of which can be tied up later at more formal meetings.

Clad in casual dressing, delegates break up in small discussion groups where they exchange ideas on specific topics. Team leaders report back to the plenary, and the process is repeated daily throughout the duration of the meeting.

The discussion sessions are closed to media to "encourage delegates to express their views freely," said President Chissano. Although media is mentioned as a fourth partner in the smart partnership framework, many felt it was given a peripheral role at SAID 2000.

However, the media, as admitted at SAID '99 in Zimbabwe's resort town of Victoria Falls, is a key partner in development. Journalists inform the public about decisions taken by leaders, while at the same time informing leaders about problems faced by their people.

It is on the basis of this symbiotic relationship that practising journalists at



SMART PARTNERS: SA deputy president Jacob Zuma, Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe and Lesotho's Prime Minister, Pakalitha Mosisili share a joke during SAID 2000 in Maputo

SAID 2000 wanted to know why they were being represented by non-practising journalists, most of whom have since assumed different hats in government or business.

But Chissano gave two reasons. He said for the meeting to be fruitful, it would not be possible to have everyone attend – it could only be attended by a limited number of people. Secondly, he said, if ordinary journalists were allowed in the sessions, naturally they would want to make stories from what are supposed to be informal discussions.

He however, conceded that it was necessary to "engage government officials and business leaders, labour and media in a much more effective manner."

There was a significant departure



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni

from the 1999 meeting where there was a special dialogue between heads of state and government, and the media. SAID 2000 had a separate session on media-related issues which was attended by a select group of mainly non-practising journalists.

As a way forward, the conference agreed to "establish an electronic system for accessing news direct from source, rather than from the wire services" which Chissano said often gave unbalanced perspectives.

A number of hubs have been established at the national level, such as national economic forums that are now functional in several SADC countries. SAID 2000 resolved that national hubs needed to be connected to the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM), the London-based Secretariat of the International Dialogue.

This is necessary, said the conference in a final communiqué, for "exchange of experiences, data and information i.e. webbing for efficient information flow at national, regional and international levels."

CPTM said it would be willing to assist governments engage in electronic communication among various hubs, as well as in the compilation of a data bank of business partners and information on business environment in each "smart partnership member country".

The 2001 edition of the Southern Africa International Dialogue will be hosted by Uganda. □

Tanzania prepares for general elections in October

by David Martin

When Tanzania's estimated 11 million eligible voters go to the polls on Sunday 29 October 2000, they will be confronted by a bewildering array of choices. Mainland Tanzanians will vote for three separate candidates: Zanzibar islanders for five.

On the mainland the electorate will vote separately in presidential, parliamentary and local government elections.

On Zanzibar, they will vote for the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the President of Zanzibar, their member in the mainland parliament as well as the Zanzibar House of Representatives, and finally for their local government candidate.

Unlike in the country's first multi-party elections five years ago, the electorate will have to complete this exercise in one day instead of two and the elections on Zanzibar will this time not be held a week earlier than those on the mainland. Results are expected late on Monday 30 October 2000.

In all a total of 231 constituency seats are at stake in the united republic parliament. A further 30 seats are reserved for women and these are subsequently awarded on a proportional basis to the parties whose candidates are returned. The elected President nominates a further ten members while the Tanzanian attorney general automatically takes a seat.

Despite so many choices facing the electorate, one thing is already certain. The present incumbent of the Tanzanian presidency and choice of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party, Benjamin William Mkapa, will be returned to office for a second term.

In his first election in 1995, he won just over 62 percent of the vote. This time, observers predict, he will increase his majority.

In 1995, his main opponent was Augustine Mrema, a former CCM cabinet minister who led the presidential challenge for the National Council for Construction and Reform (NCCR) party. This

time Mrema, after public divisions within the NCCR, has switched allegiance to the moribund Tanzania Labour Party (TLP) which observers believe is likely to be relegated to third place in the race.

Mrema, a Chagga from the Kilimanjaro region, appealed to and won that ethnic vote in 1995. The end result was that for the first time since independence in 1961, there was not a Chagga Minister in government. The industrious Chagga took to referring to Mkapa as "*shemeji*", the Swahili word for brother-in-law, because of his Chagga wife.

Another candidate who in 1995 tried unsuccessfully to play the Sukuma ethnic card was John Cheyo of the United

to and win the votes of some fellow Muslims, particularly those along the coast in centres like Kilwa and Pangani.

In Mkapa's first term he has laid the foundations for his second — and for his successors — and he has built on the national unity created by his late mentor, Julius Nyerere, who as Tanzania's first president is known as "*Baba ya Taifa*", the "Father of the Nation".

In a nominal sense, and until his death late in 1999, Nyerere, despite having formally retired as the country's president 14 years earlier, was in all but name the president of Tanzania to whom the people (including Mkapa) looked for guidance.

While the future of Mkapa and mainland Tanzania is fairly predictable, that of Zanzibar remains uncertain and nowhere in the united republic does the ghost of Nyerere cast such a historic long shadow.

It was Nyerere, who with the island's first African leader, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, created the United Republic of Tanzania in 1964 bringing together the two sovereign states of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

What followed is often referred to as a form of disproportional representation that has not always been comfortable. Such an argument, while superficially true, ignores the two countries equal sovereignty.

Now Karume's son, Amani, a minister of the CCM Zanzibar government, is running against the CUF leader, Seif Shariff Hamad, for the islands' presidency and control of the House of Representatives.

Dynastic politics will have little to do with the outcome, most of the Zanzibar electorate being "born frees" not knowing their own history and the Arab-African divide which led to the 1964 revolution. The outcome is now too close to call.

In the disputed 1995 election, which led to a three-year CUF boycott of the House of Representatives, CUF won all of the constituencies on the northern island of Pemba and made inroads into the constituencies on the main island of Unguja. Were CUF to win in 2000, it would

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President Benjamin Mkapa

Democratic Party (UDP). But, unlike other countries in the region, such factionalism among Tanzania's 120 plus ethnic groups is generally frowned upon and Cheyo seems likely to prop up the list of presidential aspirants.

The person most likely to come second in the presidential race is Dr Ibrahim Lipumba, the candidate of the Civic United Front (CUF). He is a Muslim (Mkapa is a Catholic) and former professor of economics. Lipumba is likely to appeal

Mauritius: Massive win for opposition

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al Supervisory Commission (ESC). The "best losers" cannot change the election outcome in any configuration but are allocated to minorities on party lists to redress imbalances in Mauritius' complex ethnic and political mix.

Alliance politics and block-voting have been part of Mauritius political history since long before it gained independence from Britain - having been colonized earlier by the Dutch and French. Block-voting means that three candidates must be voted for in each of 20 main island constituencies and two on Rodrigues. Ballots are invalid if more or less than three are marked.

The new ruling alliance known popularly as MMM/MSM is an equal partnership formed from Jugnauth's Militant Socialist Movement and Berenger's Militant Mauritian Movement. Ideologically both are similar, and both have been in alliance with each other — and with other political formations as well — before.

Indeed the same alliance brought Jugnauth to power in 1991 when he served as prime minister for 13 years until 1995, but without Berenger who split early on and went into opposition. In another irony, Berenger joined with the Labour Party in 1995 to wipe out completely his old colleague and partner, and swept the

main island's 60 seats but within months Ramgoolam and Berenger were squabbling and the MMM leader was soon back in his accustomed role as leader of the opposition.

Indeed the burning political issue and subject of intense scrutiny and debate among pundits since the latest victory and alliance, is whether Jugnauth and Berenger can keep it together. Days after parliament was dissolved on August 10, their two parties signed up for another alliance whereby Jugnauth would become prime minister, the most powerful position in government, for three years. In that time the ceremonial presidency would be changed by constitutional amendments to add certain powers, including the power to dissolve parliament, and extend Uteem's term by one year. By that time Jugnauth would retire as prime minister, to be elected president by the House of Assembly, and Berenger would at last hold the job he has coveted most in more than 30 years in politics, and become prime minister for the remaining two years of the government's life.

But Berenger has split at least three alliances in the past. "If he does it this time, he's finished even though he's very popular. The electorate will never trust him again and Jugnauth's finished too. He's too old to wait out his five-year term and take up the presidency because without Berenger they can't make the constitutional amendments," says former

Supreme Court justice and legal consultant Vinod Boolell.

Mauritians really had no other issues to debate except the personalities of the two alliances. Its economy is strong and predicted to reach eight percent growth in GDP this year, its per capita income is more than US\$3,500, inflation and unemployment are low, around five percent. There is little crime and although petty corruption charges against two cabinet ministers (who immediately resigned) precipitated the snap election call, few people believe corruption in government is serious.

The country of 1.2 million is a passionate ethnic mix of the descendents of African slaves, Asian indentured labour, a multitude of varying religions and languages (although English is official, Creole is common and widely used by all). It has no army and no armed uniform police, only a small, usually unarmed, Rapid Response Force, a kind of mini-SWAT squad.

A loyal member of SADC - the current Acting Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, is a Mauritian. The Parliamentary Forum had the singular job of being the first official mission to ever observe a Mauritian election. It was a bit from the sidelines since the electoral laws here have not been amended to allow anyone but electoral officials, police, party agents and, of course, voters to come within 200 m of the voting centres.

SADC-PF said there were many lessons to be learned. The massive turnout of voters after huge peaceful political rallies was encouraging.

"The exuberance of the crowds was self-evident. Security (unarmed) was tight but not intimidatory. The political climate was charged but without violence. An air of maturity and tolerance permeated the country," a press statement said.

Perhaps the main downside to the election was the lack of participation of women. Only 33 candidates ran from among more than 40 parties and independents. Only four were elected, all from the winning alliance, a drop of two from the last parliament.

"In the prevailing situation, the target set by SADC governments in their Gender Declaration to achieve 30 percent women representation in parliament and other decision-making processes by 2005 will prove difficult to achieve," said the SADC-PF. □

Tanzania general elections

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put Mkapa in a difficult position as the United Republic of Tanzania president. CUF could secede returning Zanzibar to its former sovereignty in the forlorn belief that the Arab world would prop up its battered economy.

Alternatively Mkapa could confront the unenviable task of ruling a union as the CCM president with two opposing, elected political parties and a CUF president on Zanzibar.

It is an option he will hope to avoid with Amani Karume winning on the day by retaining the Unguja constituencies and making inroads into Pemba.

In Mkapa, aged 62, Tanzania has east, central and southern Africa's first

third generation President. In many ways he is far from the traditional political leader. He was persuaded by his friends and supporters to run for the post in the first place because "it was my national duty" and he has no ambitions of remaining in office after his second term.

He is a committed democrat and party man. His background includes periods in the civil service, journalism, diplomacy and politics and he is clearly moulded by Nyerere's principles and tutelage.

But now, without his mentor, Mkapa stands alone ready, one senses, to more vigorously pursue their shared agenda for Tanzania, as he faces his second and constitutionally final term on his own. □

Region urged to be cautious of biotechnology

by Tinashe Madava

B iotechnology can increase efficiency in farming and ensure food security, but some scientists in the region have urged caution when implementing policies governing its use.

Biotechnology is the use of biological processes to develop various products using a wide range of techniques involving the use and manipulation of living organisms. These products can then be commercially exploited.

It includes genetic engineering where genes are transferred and isolated to give certain super varieties of the end-product. Some of the most common techniques are tissue or cell culture, cloning and fermentation methods, cell fusion and embryo transfer as well as gene technology (genetic engineering). Biotechnology is also used in producing antibiotics and fast-maturing varieties of crops.

Scientists attending a recent symposium on "Food Biotechnology: Facts, and the Future" in Midrand, South Africa, organised by Africabio, a non-governmental organisation, pointed out that there is need to put in place bio-safety systems at national and international levels. The scientists agreed that well-functioning safety systems are composed of guidelines, which involve peoples' concerns, have a review process and provide feedback.

Since most countries in the region have not started bio-safety programmes, the symposium agreed that guidelines should also be scientific, transparent and flexible. There is a need to build competence and confidence in the people involved.

Addressing the symposium, Dr John Kilama, president of the Global Biodiversity Institute based in the US said Africa must be involved in the scientific evaluation of biotechnology because if it is not, the continent may miss the benefits that may come with the technology.

Africans can, and should, influence the biotechnology debate by first getting involved in the technology, participants noted. Many countries and institutions use the guidelines developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and recent advances in biotech-

nology to implement bio-prospecting programmes that benefit the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. Kilama cited the pharmaceutical industry, which has benefited from biodiversity through drugs developed from natural compounds while agricultural industry improves crops by breeding them with wild relatives.

Dianne Terblanche of the Consumer Institute of South Africa said that if biotechnology is to be harnessed in the region as a way to increase food security, any danger to the consumer must be addressed first before biotech products are released for consumption.

She stressed people's right to choose, be informed, and to be protected. Terblanche pointed out that for the benefit of the consumer, education and information campaigns should precede such technology.

Terblanche raised the emotions of the supporters of biotechnology when she stressed that even in the developed world, scientists are arguing on both sides of the debate. She called for a re-

think about the immediate release of biotech foods in the region until more research and education campaigns can be held in developing countries.

Florence Wambugu, director of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications based in Nairobi, argued that the anticipated increase in agricultural productivity must be achieved without adverse effects to the environment, depletion of natural resources and within sustainable agricultural development.

"Biotechnology is expected to impact [the agricultural] sector by enabling the development of crops resistant to pests and diseases, enhanced food value and control of post harvest losses, thus increasing and improving agricultural productivity." Wambugu also said that this would contribute to reduced use of toxic chemical pesticides and a safer environment. Amid an intense debate, some scientists voiced the need for education and ecological monitoring in southern Africa. □

Belgium funds SADC crop sector

The Belgian government has donated US\$1 million to the SADC Crop Sector Co-ordinating Unit to promote crop production as a way of ensuring food security in the region.

The agreement to release the funds was signed in Harare by the Zimbabwean Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Resettlement, Dr Joseph Made, as chairperson of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Alexis de Crombrughe, Charge de Affaires at the Belgian Embassy in Zimbabwe.

The agreement is a joint partnership with the government of Zimbabwe which is responsible for the enhancement of cooperation through the development of policies and programmes related to the crop production, protection, trade, storage, processing and use.

Under the agreement to be implemented over three years, Belgium will provide resources amounting to 952,000 euros, covering capacity building, regional workshops and seminars as well as travel. Zimbabwe is expected to meet

some of the operational costs of the unit.

Dr Made said development of coherent crop sector policies and programmes at the regional level required that the Government set up a strong Crop Sector Coordinating Unit (CSCU) with resources and capacity to develop projects and co-ordinate activities across the region.

De Crombrughe said his government's co-operation with SADC was aimed at steering and enhancing sustainable development, community building and regional integration among member states.

"Belgium prioritised the cooperation with SADC because we believe that this is the best way to create peace, stability and economic progress in the region and in the member states," said de Crombrughe.

He noted that the SADC region has the advantage of its immense natural and human resources, but is set back by diverging laws, regulations and statistics, market distortions and a low level of institutionalised dialogue. □



Some of the First Ladies who attended the SADC Summit in Windhoek



Cultural dancers entertaining delegates to the SADC summit as they arrived at Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek



Acting SADC Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, outgoing chairperson of SADC council of ministers and Mozambican Foreign Affairs Minister Leornodo Simão, incoming chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers, and Namibian Minister of Trade and Economic Development, Hidipo Hamutenya, Minister of Industry and Trade addressing a press conference during the summit



Laying the first bricks at a home for Mozambique's flood victims in Maputo is Grace Mugabe (crouching) and behind her is Marcelina Chissano



Former presidents Kenneth Kaunda and Nelson Mandela at the SADC Summit in Windhoek



Simão, second from right autographing *State of The Environment Zambezi Basin 2000*, soon after launching the book in Windhoek

Free trade: Prospects, expectations, issues of concern

The trade protocol, which seeks to establish a free trade area over a period of eight years for goods produced within the SADC region, has now reached its implementation stage. In this regard, it is important to note that the main principles of "fairness and equitability" enshrined in the SADC Treaty and the dynamic principles of market competitiveness which take into account the comparative advantages of the member states' economies, are fully recognised and these constitute the basis on which the main issues of the trade protocol were negotiated.

The protocol is essentially about the creation of a free trade zone for goods produced in SADC and for this to happen there ought to be an agreement among the member states on how to achieve this. This means therefore that the Trade Protocol signed in 1996 was a framework agreement which left the key elements for the free trade area (FTA) to be negotiated.

The implementation of the Trade Protocol has already been inaugurated by the SADC Summit effective 1 September 2000. The understanding is that the implementation will be applicable only to those aspects of the Trade Protocol where agreement has been secured. Negotiations on the remaining areas will continue. The outstanding issues include: Although rules of origin have been negotiated and agreed for nearly all the traded products, a few group of products remain.

Textiles and Clothing: At issue is the need for the least developed countries i.e. Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia (MMTZ) to be granted derogation on the rules of origin for some textiles and clothing products in order to facilitate access into the SACU market.

These countries are of the view that they cannot meet the current stringent rules of origin on the textiles products and would therefore prefer what is normally called "single transformation" which is much simpler than the stringent rules which are normally referred to as "double transformation" rules of origin.

Agreement has already been secured between Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the less developed countries on the derogation of using the single transformation rules of origin for the MMTZ textile exports to the SACU market.

What has not been agreed include the administration and regulations which will govern the derogation agreement for

the initial period of 5 years. At the same time Mauritius and Zimbabwe feel strongly that they are facing a similar problem of stringent rules of origin for a number of synthetic and man-made textile products whose inputs are not available in the SADC region at competitive prices. These countries therefore are of the view that they should be incorporated into the derogation arrangement. The issue is thus unresolved and remains outstanding for future negotiations.

Motor vehicles: The main issue is that the member states are of the view that the motor vehicle sector should be dealt with in a special agreement to address both the market access and the



A.T. Pallangyo

View on Trade

developmental aspects of the sector. For this to happen, it is also necessary to negotiate appropriate rules of origin which will address the concerns of the motor vehicle sector.

Member states have so far agreed in principle that in order to address these concerns the matter will now be dealt with by a technical committee of the sector which will consist of all the member states. The work of the committee is yet another outstanding issue to be addressed in future.

The implementation of trade protocol will no doubt result in varying impact on each of the member states and the magnitude will correspond to the cur-

rent and immediate future trade balances among the member states. In general terms, reduced or zero import duties for products now being imported from within SADC will result in lower consumer prices to the public for the member states. This will happen on the assumption that the businessmen i.e. the importers will pass on the lower costs/prices to the consumers.

On the other hand, the impact of the removal of import duties to the governments, as a result of the creation of the FTA, could immediately mean a fall in the tax revenue. For SACU countries as a group this loss will be insignificant and accounts for less than one percent of the total revenue on import duties collected by SACU mainly because of the equally small proportion of the share of SACU imports from the rest of SADC.

For the non-SACU member states the impact of the full removal of import duties for SADC imports is also small but of a higher proportion than in the case of SACU. On average these countries will, in the short term, lose five percent of their total import duty revenue as a result of the creation of the SADC FTA.

The loss of the import duty revenue however can only be true in the short term, since on long term basis the dynamic impact of a larger SADC market will attract new investments in the region which should be capable of raising more revenue to governments to outweigh the short-term revenue losses.

The impact of the elimination of import duties may also affect negatively those manufacturers in SADC countries who are currently protected by the proportionately high import duties.

The products which feature prominently in nearly all the member states and which will thus be less protected because of the FTA include motor vehicles, petroleum oils, food and beverages, textile products, tyres, furniture, paper and paper products. The details on the exact list of products will vary from country to country. □

The author, A.T. Pallangyo, is an advisor to the SADC Industry and Trade Coordination Division (SITCD) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Summit delays restructuring

continued from page 1

very effective in reducing the burden," reads the final communiqué in part.

Regarding HIV/AIDS, the summit expressed concern on the increasing prevalence of the disease, which is affecting mainly the economically active population. A Multi-Sectoral SADC HIV/AIDS Technical Committee was established and the summit endorsed the development of a SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework and Programme of Action for the period 2000-2004.

Principles to guide negotiations with pharmaceutical companies on the provision of drugs for treatment of AIDS-related conditions were approved by the summit.

"The principles include, *inter alia*, recognition of the critical role that poverty and malnutrition play in the epidemic, provision of equipment, maintaining the continuum of care, and supplies of appropriate drugs to ensure sustainability, equitability, affordability and accessibility," says the communiqué.

Former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who attended the Summit along with fellow ex-presidents Ketumile Masire of Botswana and Nelson Mandela of South Africa, urged leaders to "break the silence on HIV/AIDS".

"There will be no easy solutions, no short cuts ... We have to move together. Reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in one or two countries will not solve this problem, because of our geographical proximity," said Kaunda.

Kaunda lost his son to this deadly disease in 1986, and was among the first African leaders to publicly announce the cause of the death. He informed the summit of the establishment of the Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation for HIV/AIDS.

In a first for the SADC Summit, first ladies convened a parallel meeting in which they discussed the issue of HIV/AIDS and the need to better the lives of rural women. In a separate declaration, the first ladies noted that conflicts as well as lack of meaningful development in rural areas were the main problems facing women in rural communities.

"We appeal to the heads of state and government of our region to highlight, promote and defend the roles of rural

women, at all available fora, as indispensable partners for the development in the region and the continent," reads part of their declaration.

The summit issued a separate statement in support of the need for speedy land redistribution in Zimbabwe, and condemned the "Zimbabwe Democracy Act of 2000" which was passed by the US senate on 23 June. The Bill, which is the first of its kind by the US against an African country, is meant to force Zimbabwe to reverse its land reform programme, which the US says is undemocratic.

"This punitive piece of legislation is counter-productive and unjust ... We find it regrettable that this Bill is being proposed at a time when Zimbabwe is involved in a challenging economic recovery programme and when we in SADC are trying to deepen the integration process in our region. The Bill will mark a major setback in our community building efforts.

"We therefore, urge the US Congress to reconsider its policy and withdraw the Bill before it is passed into law. In this regard, we direct the Foreign Ministers of the SADC *Troika* (Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa) and Zimbabwe as well as our ambassadors in Washington DC and the SADC Secretariat to make representations to the American Congress projecting the SADC common position on this matter," says the statement.

Discussions on the DRC issue were deferred to a separate meeting on 14 August in Lusaka, Zambia.

The summit endorsed former president Masire, who was rejected by Kabila, as facilitator of negotiations involving the government and the rebel movements. Kabila accuses Masire of partiality and has refused to talk to him.

On the Angola conflict, the summit continued its condemnation of Jonas Savimbi whose disregard for the Lusaka Accord is frustrating efforts to secure peace in the war weary southern African country.

"Savimbi is harmful to the people of Angola, so he should be isolated," said Chissano. Savimbi's actions in Angola and the war in the DRC are of major concern to SADC as these two conflicts are not only endangering civilians, but are

also driving away investors from the rest of the region.

On a positive note, relations between SADC and the private sector were strengthened with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the 14-member organisation and the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry. This came as a major boost ahead of the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area on 1 September. The SADC leaders adopted an amended Trade Protocol which now gives trade ministers authority to amend its annexes as they see fit.

The summit signed new protocols on Culture, Information and Sport, Legal Affairs, and SADC Tribunal and the Rules of Procedure. A revised version of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems was also signed. This brings to 14 the number of protocols signed by SADC since 1995. Of these, eight are in force having been ratified by the requisite two-thirds majority.

There was however, no concrete decision on the exercise to restructure SADC institutions including the eagerly awaited restructuring of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security currently chaired by Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe.

The summit last year directed the Council of Ministers to review the operations of all SADC institutions, but the ministers felt the exercise needed more time.

As a result of the delay in finalizing the restructuring exercise, the summit could not appoint a substantive executive secretary. SADC is currently headed by Mauritian Prega Ramsamy, who is in an acting capacity.

At the same summit, Mandela was awarded the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal in recognition of his contribution to the region both as president of South Africa and chairperson of SADC from 1996 to 1999.

He becomes the fifth recipient of the medal introduced in 1985 in Arusha, Tanzania, in honour of Sir Seretse Khama, the first president of Botswana and a founding father of the SADC.

Previous recipients are Augustino Neto, former president of Angola who received it post-humously, late Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and former President Masire. □

AIDS theme of 2000 SADC schools essay competition

by Renato Pinto

The fight against AIDS has to begin at an early age if people are to lead a healthy and cautious life. The SADC 2000 Secondary Schools Essay Competition, the winners of which were announced at the Summit in Windhoek in August, was one way of driving the message home.

Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, South African Minister of Health, who announced the winners of this year's competition during the Summit, said that the quality of the essays was very high, revealing the students' deep understanding of the pandemic.

"The complex interaction between HIV/AIDS, poverty and other socio-economic factors was well articulated by students. The impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, family, the community and countries as a whole was explored and novel ideas were suggested for curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS. We even had bold suggestions for governments and policy-makers," said Tshabalala-Msimang.

The topic for this year's competition was: "HIV/AIDS: How does it affect you, what can you do to contain its spread and what do you propose for the SADC region."

The annual competition is run in stages, first at the national and then the regional levels. This year 32 students representing eleven SADC member states, reached the regional stage. Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Seychelles did not enter the competition.

The first prize of US\$1000 went to Sibanesezwe Malunga of Hamilton High School in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; the second of US\$750, to Yohane Kadalinga of Mtakatika Secondary School, Mtakatika, Malawi and the third of US\$500, to Ashveen Kutowaroo of Sir Leckraz Teelock Secondary School in Mauritius.

In his poignant essay, Sibanesezwe gives an account of his saddest feelings when he sees his best friend dying of AIDS. He is also incisive in his words to those regional leaders involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"If the spread of AIDS is to be dealt with effectively, the leadership of the SADC region must show more concern and commitment and

their stand on the whole issue should be crystal clear to the public. They can do this by making funds available as fast as possible. A lot of bureaucracy and red tape should be avoided."



THE WINNER: Sibanesezwe Malunga

Southern Africa film festival

The fifth edition of the Southern African Film Festival (SAFF) opens this month to celebrate a decade of its existence. The festival runs in the two cities of Zimbabwe, Harare and Bulawayo, from the 22-28 September and from 29 September to 5 October respectively.

"The major objective of the festival is to bring to contact African films and the audiences," said Isaac Mabhikwa, SAFF director. The festival as a premier film showcase in the region, urges film-

The Malawian student, Yohane Kadalinga, in his essay focuses more on the social consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in his country. He shows concern about the orphans that end up begging on the streets and bus terminals and those who engage into prostitution. Families have suffered the burden of caring for AIDS patients.

He is also concerned with the consequences to the national economy since the government has invested in young people to be economically productive, but are already infected with HIV and according to the statistics will be dying during the next decade. He suggests that there should be a call for behavioral change to address the root causes of HIV/AIDS.

"As an individual I can help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by knowing the basic facts about the disease and applying them to my own life. While the knowledge itself cannot protect one from the HIV/AIDS scourge, it will help me in making decisions," writes Kadalinga.

Covering examples from different southern African countries, Ashveen explains how HIV/AIDS is threatening regional economic growth. □

makers to seize the opportunity to market their products through the growing event.

The decade of existence of the festival has been marked by intense lobbying through government officials and government structures and sector meetings for the enactment of laws and structures that promote the production and consumption of African films in Africa.

Despite its constant growth, SAFF faces a major problem of funding for its activities. This according to event organisers is due to lack of government support.

Mabhikwa urged for a closer cooperation between SAFF and SADC in the future. He expressed appreciation of the existing relationship and hopes they will improve to assist the industry that is awakening. "SAFF hopes the proposed SADC Culture and Information Protocol will boost the industry and drive it to greater heights," said Mabhikwa. □

Zimbabwe lifts COSAFA Cup

Zimbabwe captured the Council of Southern African Football Associations (Cosa-fa) Castle Cup in Bulawayo recently with a 3-0 defeat of Lesotho, to win 6-0 on aggregate.

Playing the second leg at home, the Zimbabwean Warriors were expected to secure their first silverware in the annual southern African championship after winning 3-0 in Maseru in the first leg early August.

Previous winners are Zambia in 1997 and 1998, and Angola in 1999.

SADC formalises relations with business forum

Efforts to promote private sector participation in regional economic development received a major boost with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between SADC and the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCCI). The signing took place in August in Windhoek, Namibia, during the 14-member organisation's annual summit.

Formed in Mauritius, on 21 October 1999, the association is constituted by a network of national business representative bodies.

The ASCCI aims to foster policy development and ensure deeper regional integration through trade development. It acts as a link between various chambers of commerce and SADC as well as facilitating the efficient flow of information among its members.

The ASCCI is the latest of many institutions that have been created to bring SADC closer to the people of the region. Efforts to strengthen democracy and governance at a regional level have already seen the creation of institutions such as the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the SADC Electoral Commissions Forum.

The new business forum adds another voice, this time from the private sector, a key partner in regional development.

Tanzania wins gold medals at Expo 2000

Tanzania has won two gold medals in two projects among others at the on-going Expo 2000 in Hannover, Germany, with the theme of 'human-kind-nature-technology'. The East Usambara Forests, a component of the East Usambara Catchment Area Management Program (EUCAMP) won the medal.

The second gold medal was won by the Zanzibar Chumbe Island coral park. Corodius Sawe, representative of the EUCAMP programme said that over 3,000 projects for the exposition had been submitted from 124 countries including seven projects from Tanzania.

Sawe who is the conservator of Aman Nature Reserve in Muheza District in Tanga region, northeast of Tanzania, said that Expo 2000 has several advantages to Tanzania including promotion of eco-tourism and establishing links with other international organiza-

"The formalisation of this relationship is very exciting news and was long overdue considering the importance of trade and investment issues in the region at the moment," said Dr Nhlanhla Masuku, former President of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) who is also Vice President of the new regional association.

"The agreement will foster cooperation in promoting regional integration and ensure the achievement of economic growth and development objectives.

Trade and investment summit for Windhoek

Raising the investment profile of the SADC region remains the backbone of development and integration endeavours by national and regional leaders.

The need to showcase the region's economic potential forms the basis of the forthcoming *International Herald Tribune's* sixth annual Southern Africa Trade and Investment Summit 2000 in Windhoek, Namibia.

Running from 9 to 11 October 2000, this high level gathering brings together key government, financial and business leaders from southern Africa and beyond. Expected to grace the summit are host President Sam Nujoma, who is also the current chairman of SADC, Pres-

This will be done through consultation, discussion and collaboration on policy matters, as well as exchange of information on matters of interest," he added.

With its secretariat in Mauritius, the ASCCI is currently headed by Cader Sayed-Hossen, leader of the Mauritius of Commerce and Industry, who is its President. The secretariat and presidency rotates among member states and will be moving to Zimbabwe at the end of 2001 when Masuku will take over the chair. □

idents Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Festus Mogae of Botswana and Bakili Muluzi of Malawi, as well as Prime Ministers Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini of Swaziland and Pascoal Mocumbi of Mozambique.

The main issues to be discussed include telecommunications and internet revolution in southern Africa, prospects for investment in the region, investment and financing options as well as analysis of new trading partnerships.

Also under spotlight are issues relating to energy, job creation, tourism, infrastructure, mining and water. □

Angolan refugees in Namibia willing to return

Some 13,000 Angolan refugees in Namibia's Cavango region have formally asked the Angolan consulate at Rundu to take them home.

The Angolan Consul in Cavango region, Joao Pempela, was quoted by the national news agency as saying that some 15,000 Angolans in the region were all willing to go home.

He said 13,000 have formally written a petition to this effect. But Angolan social welfare Minister Albino Malungo said that there were no adequate conditions at home for the return of refugees at the moment.

He added that the situation would be discussed at a meeting with his colleagues of defence, Kundi Payhama, and interior, Fernando da Piedade. □

tions working on nature conservation. The Expo 2000 opened on June 1 and is expected to end on October 11, this year. (IPS) □

First for Namibia

The arid Namibian coastal port of Walvis Bay is set to become the first location in sub-Saharan Africa to have a large-scale plant providing desalinated sea water for domestic consumption.

Officials of the US water company, Ionics, which won the tender for construction of the plant, and its South African partner, Keyplan, said the initial capacity of the plant would be for 13,000 megalitres of drinking water per day for people living in Walvis Bay and other nearby Namib Desert towns situated in one of the driest areas of the African continent. (IRIN) □

Cross-border election coverage

Reporting elections in Southern Africa: a media handbook by Kondwani Chirambo and Hugh McCullum 227pp.

Reporting Elections in Southern Africa: A Media Handbook is a product of the experiences of a team of journalists who covered five elections in SADC in 1999.

Written, edited and compiled with the input of 45 senior journalists and trainers, the handbook provides background, historical and current information about elections in the SADC region with special emphasis for journalists who must cover elections at home and throughout the region.

The handbook was produced by SARDC's Sustainable Democracy department, a regional information programme on democracy and governance

which aims to collect and disseminate information, and to share regional expertise within the 14-member SADC, with the vision of strengthening sustainable democratic development, based on the perspective that: "Democracy is more than just an election. It is a culture that cannot be imposed but must be developed from within."

Multiparty Elections are in some ways a new activity in many countries. In 1999 five of the SADC countries — Malawi, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique — held elections for president, legislatures and, in some cases, local government. In 2000, several more countries have had or are going to polls — Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mauritius and Tanzania.

The handbook is an essential resource pack on regional electoral per-

spectives. It introduces the reader to parliamentary and electoral formations in the region that point to future political integration; it explains the electoral systems in use in southern Africa, their merits and demerits and the arguments surrounding them; provides country profiles, including political histories, tips on election coverage techniques, ethics and role of media in elections as seen through the public and professional's eye.

The handbook crystallizes the experiences of twelve senior journalists who covered elections in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa, under a USAID Regional Centre for Southern Africa (RCSA)-supported project titled: Cross-border Media Coverage of Elections and Election Issues Within the SADC region. □

Recent publications and acquisitions

African Development Indicators 2000
—World Bank.- 2000

Available from The World Bank or Academic and Baobab Books (Pvt) Ltd. PO Box 567, Harare, Zimbabwe

Annual Progress Report, November 1999: Agroforestry for Sustainable Rural Development in the Zambezi River Basin, Southern Africa Region
SADC-ICRAF Agroforestry Programme.- 1999

Available from Food and Agriculture and Natural Resources Sector

Botswana Elections Observer Mission Report.

—Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries.-1999

Available from SADC Secretariat P Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana

Cities of Gold, Townships of Coal: Essays on South Africa's New Urban Crisis

—Bond, Patrick.- Africa World Press, Inc.- 2000

Available from Africa World Press, Inc. PO Box 1892, Trenton, NJ08607 or PO Box 48 Asmara, Eritrea

Effects of Structural Adjustment in Southern Africa: The Case of Zimbabwe's Manufacturing Sector During Phase 1 of ESAP: 1991 - 1995

—Kadenge, Phineas G; Chipika, Jesimen T and Chibanda, Stanford.- SARIPS of SAPHES Trust Regional Office.- 2000
Available from SARIPS of SAPHES Trust Regional Office, PO Box MP 111, Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe

Global Economic Prospects and Developing Countries 2000

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Integracao Economica Africana: viabilidade da SADC.

—Magalhaes, C.C.- 1999.

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Our Continent Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment

—Mkandawire, Thandika and Soludo, Charles C.- Council for the Development Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) or Africa World Press, Inc., International Development Research Centre.- 1999

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Past, Roles and Development of Theatre Arts in SADC.

—SADC Culture & Information Sector.- 1999

Available from the Culture, Information and Sports Sector, 780 O Mugumbwe Maputo, Mozambique

The Politics of Patronage in Africa: Parastatals, Privatization and Private Enterprise

—Tangri, Roger.- James Currey, Fountain Publishers and Africa World Press.- 1999

Available from Fountain Publishers PO Box 488, Kampala Uganda or James Currey, 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 OBS, United Kingdom

Proceedings of the 2000 Annual Organizational Meeting (Lusaka, Zambia 21- 25 February, 2000).

—SADC Regional Early Warning System for Food Security

Available from Food Agriculture and natural Resources Sector, PO Box 4046 Harare, Zimbabwe.

SADC diary

2000	Event	Venue
September 29 - 2/10	African Caravan for Peace and Solidarity; Meeting on Women's Reality in Africa	Cameroon
October 2-7	SADC Trade Exhibition	South Africa
5 - 7	Global Women Summit 2000	South Africa
9-11	International Herald Tribune Southern Africa Trade and Investment Summit	Namibia
10-13	Investment for Mines 2000	Zambia
14	SADC Performers and Creators Day	All SADC
18-19	SADC Librarians Workshop on "Marketing Information Services for SADC Institutions"	Malawi
24	United Nations Day	
29	Tanzania Elections	Tanzania
November 18-22	Langkawi International Dialogue 2000	Malaysia
25-10/12	International Day of No Violence Against Women & Annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence	All SADC
29-30	SADC/EU Ministerial Conference	Botswana

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.23
D.R.C	Congo Franc	-
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	7.14
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	65.26
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	26.40
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	15,736
Namibia	Namibia (100 cents)	7.14
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.80
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	7.14
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.14
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	799
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	3,323
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	52.45

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, 15 Sept. 2000

Public Holidays in SADC for the period Oct - Dec 2000

Date	Holiday	Country
2 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
11 October	Mothers' Day	Malawi
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
26 October	Divali	Mauritius
1 November	All Saints Day	Seychelles
2 November	Departed Day	Angola
11 November	Independence Day	Angola
8 December	Immaculate Day	Seychelles
9 December	Republic Day	Tanzania
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC
26 December	Boxing Day	All SADC
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Public holiday	Zimbabwe
27 December	Eid-UI-Ftr	Mauritius
28 December	Eid-UI-Ftr	Mauritius