



SADC TODAY



♦ Southern African Development Community

Vol. 4 No 5 August 2001

Malawi optimistic about hosting historic 21st SADC Summit

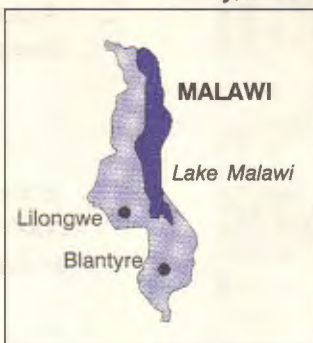
by Anthony Livuza

BLANTYRE, Malawi – The government of Malawi is optimistic the 21st SADC Summit it is to host from 12-14 August in Blantyre, the commercial capital, will be a success despite internal criticism.

Malawi is host for the second time in four years against a background of renewed optimism for the future of the regional grouping.

Pivotal to this upbeat assessment is the decision to restructure SADC to improve its capacity to mobilize resources and streamline its operations.

The restructuring entails the breakdown of the body's 21 sectors to a core of four clusters of programmes and activities co-ordinated from the Secretariat in Gaborone.



This means that member States will no longer host sectoral co-ordinating offices which will move to the head office where they will operate under four directorates, supported by national committees.

The first two directorates, trade, industry, finance and investment and food, agriculture and natural resources will be established before the end of this year when appropriate staff has been identified. The other directorates are infrastructure and services and social and human development and special programmes.

Since its inception 21 years ago, SADC activities and programmes have had positive impact on the lives of ordinary people in its now 14 member states.

"Progress in social, political and economic sectors has been remarkable since



President Bakili Muluzi

the set up of SADC in 1980," says Dr. Bakili Muluzi, President of Malawi and host of the summit in August. He is also deputy-chairperson of the regional body, a mantle he assumed at the last summit in Namibia.

Dr. Muluzi cautions against complacency though. He describes the begin-

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AIDS finally tops world's agenda with big global campaign

by Hugh McCullum

Twenty years after the plague that has killed more than 22 million people world wide was first identified, the UN General Assembly has finally put AIDS at the top of its agenda with its first special session on a health issue calling for billions of dollars for a special fund to combat the pandemic for which there is still no cure.

In the last two decades Africa especially, and more recently southern Africa, has become the epicentre where AIDS is one of the leading cause of death, robbing the region's economies of workers, creating a generation of orphans and fatally damaging already faltering health care systems.

The statistics are repeated endlessly until they are mind-numbing and al-

most meaningless. Drugs which suppress the virus that causes AIDS and allow people to live almost normal lives are beyond the reach of most people in the SADC region. Pharmaceutical companies have been bitterly attacked for keeping the prices too high for the antiretroviral drugs that can keep peo-

ple with HIV/AIDS alive. AIDS awareness programmes have been flashed around the region for years but the disease continues to grow and overwhelm families, businesses, caregivers, health systems and governments.

In this 20th anniversary of one of the world's worst epidemics, at last some concrete steps are being taken.

In Botswana, where 36 percent of its 1.5 million people are infected with HIV – the highest per capita incidence in the world – the government has made global headlines with a programme of political

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African Union inaugurated at Lusaka

The African Union (AU) was born last month in Lusaka, replacing the OAU in order to transform the continent into a stronger alliance to achieve economic development and participate in the mainstream of global economics. The southern African-backed "Millennium Africa Recovery Plan" (MAPS) and one by Senegal were merged into one – the African Initiative – designed to lead Africa into socio-economic recovery. For the full story, turn to the centrespread (pages 8 and 9).

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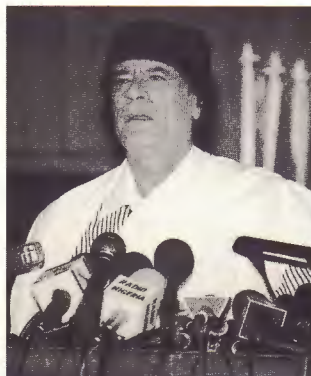
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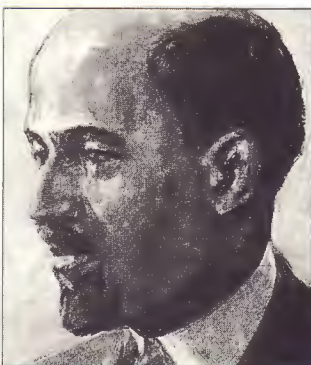
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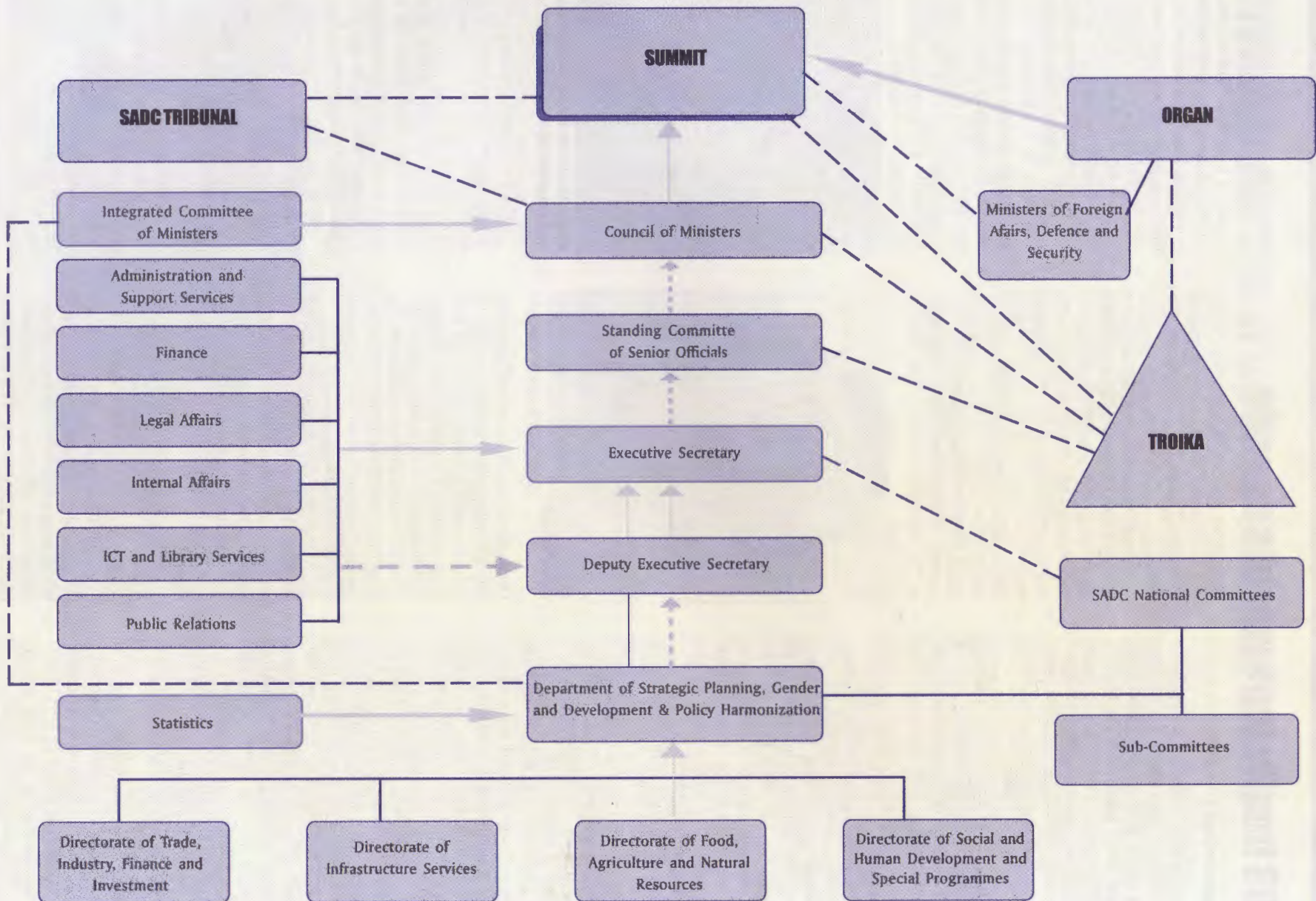
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NEW SADC STRUCTURE



KEY
 — Reporting relationship
 - - Functional Relationship

AIDS finally tops world's agenda

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will and material resources to treat every AIDS sufferer who needs the life-sustaining drugs. With its prosperous economy and small population the government of President Festus Mogae promised that every one of the 300,000 known people with HIV/AIDS would be given the antiretroviral drugs by the end of this year.

"AIDS is my top priority, I almost never make a speech without talking about it and we will beat this disease and save our country from extinction," he says.

Botswana's fabulously wealthy diamond industry is leading the way. Debswana, jointly owned by the government and private business, has begun giving full AIDS treatment to all its employees and their families who need it. A crash upgrade of public health clinics has begun so that a nation-wide programme can reach out to the predominantly rural areas.

If the drug treatment programme works as President Mogae expects, it could be a model for the region with a combination of government will, private industry money and the commitment of civil society and churches.

In South Africa, where activists shamed and embarrassed the multinational drug companies in court earlier this year where they were trying to use patent law to prevent the country from importing cheap generic copies of antiretrovirals, victory was achieved when 39 multinationals withdrew their action. Unfortunately, the next stages of treatment have not been what people living with HIV/AIDS had hoped for and expected.

Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang is resisting pressure from AIDS activists to buy the cheap "copycat" drugs for treatment of the country's 4.2 million people with HIV. She says the cost is still too high and the country lacks clinics and health workers to distribute the drugs safely.

Generic drug companies in India, Brazil and Thailand can offer a three-drug "cocktail" for US\$250-a-year per patient which would cost closer to US\$15,000 using the patented drugs from American and European multinationals.

"But it is \$250 times millions of people times the infrastructure we do not

have times the health workers who are not yet trained times the prevention measures," says Dr. Tshabalala-Msimang.

The government is under pressure from activists and some large companies who want to buy antiretrovirals for their workforces. The Treatment Action Campaign has threatened to take the government to court over its failure to provide drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

In Zimbabwe two international pharmaceutical firms have reduced their prices for anti-AIDS drugs. The Ethical



President Festus Mogae of Botswana; speaking out for health

Drugs Association, an umbrella body of importers and wholesalers, have agreed to lower their prices but have not said by how much. Current prices in Zimbabwe, where more than 2,000 people die of AIDS-related illnesses each week, the three drugs in use cost about US\$250-a-course, far more than either government or patient can afford.

With one in four people testing HIV positive, the country's faltering health system cannot afford the new antiretrovirals while economists say the pandemic is contributing significantly to Zimbabwe's increasingly poor economic performance.

The bleak picture is similar across the region. Zambia says it cannot train teachers fast enough to replace those killed by AIDS. Teachers and other professionals are demanding the government follow the steps of other countries and distribute free antiretrovirals for all who need them. Zambia says it cannot afford them. Despite the mounting international pressure on pharmaceutical companies

to make the medicines available at cost – and several have promised to do so – it is only a first step. Without the public health infrastructure such as Botswana is working frantically towards achieving this year, poor countries cannot distribute the drugs and track the patients.

And, say AIDS experts who were at the UN Special Assembly "drugs cannot be seen as the ultimate solution."

AIDS, as researchers seeking a vaccine attest, is an extremely clever virus which can mutate almost overnight, making the drugs of today, unuseable sometimes within 24 hours. Susceptible strains mutate into drug-resistant strains and health professionals and patients have to start all over again.



SA Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang says drugs not the whole answer

There is another problem with drugs. "People begin to feel better. They see a decrease in their viral load, become confident the drugs work and begin to become more sexually active. When that happens, they may again not practice safe sex," says Rev. Edward Baralemwa, a Ugandan who heads the Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Network.

With the General Assembly's high-level commitment – although organizers bemoan the fact that only 12 heads of state attended the special session – and a global action plan with massive funding of US\$7-10 billion-a-year some progress may at last be made.

If the world gets serious, at all levels of government and society, with prevention, treatment and the discovery of a vaccine, by 2021 AIDS will be killing five million people-a-year. If we don't, say the experts and the people on the front-line, the activists, medical caregivers and researchers, the toll could be 12 million. The worst plague in recent memory is 20-years-old and is far from over. □

EU President puts DRC at top of his six-month agenda

by Hugh McCullum

The sluggish DRC peace process received a psychological and practical shot in the arm in July when Belgium assumed the six-month presidency of the European Union and pledged to put the DRC at the top of its agenda.

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt returned to Brussels to assume the presidency just hours after completing a trip to Kinshasa and Kisangani in Belgium's former Congolese colony.

Comparing the level of commitment of the European nations to peace in the Balkans with that of Congo, Verhofstadt said there was no comparison between the two regions where the EU allies have 40,000 troops in Kosovo and just under 2,000 in DRC, attempting to bring peace and democracy to Africa's third largest country which has been devastated by civil war for almost three years.

Two international surveys agree that at least 2.5 million people, mostly civilians, have died in the 32 months since war broke out in August 1998 between invaders from Uganda and Rwanda, rebels, Congolese forces and their backers, Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The instability and displacement, especially in the eastern DRC, have caused disease and malnutrition in which more people have died than all other wars combined over the same period says the New York-based International Rescue Committee

(IRC) which described the situation as "horrific."

While Ugandan troops are pulling out under minimal UN supervision and Rwandan soldiers are mostly back home, a tangled web of rebel alliances related to Rwanda and Uganda still cannot come to any agreement despite the UN Mission to the Congo's (MUNOC) best efforts.

Meanwhile the SADC allies have submitted their plans for withdrawal to the UN according to the 1999 Lusaka Peace Accords, but feel they cannot im-



President Joseph Kabila, DRC

plement them until the UN is sufficiently strong to ensure that peace can hold.

Originally the UN promised 5,537 military observers of whom 1,915 have been deployed in a country where there are

almost no functioning roads, communications, and other infrastructure.

The political committee on the implementation of the Lusaka Accords has made it clear that the majority of the SADC soldiers cannot be sent home "until the UN takes its role seriously."

Where the UN has failed, the EU may provide the necessary weight to bring about peace and tranquillity within the chaos that is in Congo today. With Belgium in the powerful agenda-setting seat for the rest of the year, Verhofstadt has a mandate to propose solution to improve the situation in central Africa, the DRC and the Great Lakes region.

"I want to draw attention to the development of a co-ordinated action – political, diplomatic and economic – for this region," the prime minister said. "The Balkans and Middle East are important but when it comes to human suffering, no comparisons can be made."

He agreed with most African analysts that the three years of war in DRC constitute Africa's first continental war with "enormous consequences for those who live there."

The Security Council promised, in addition to the 5,500 military observers, a peace-keeping force of yet-to-be determined size. Military analysts point out that tiny Sierra Leone has 17,000 UN troops for its diamond-fuelled civil war while Congo, which is 20 times its size and is called the "cradle of the world's mineral resources", does not even know the size of the peacekeeping army. African diplomats say the UN should be able to at least match Sierra Leone's 15-18,000 troops but that western powers favour something about half that size.

The human tragedy, which had such an impact on Verhofstadt, has reached apocalyptic dimensions which seem to have failed to get the attention of the western governments, preoccupied with the Palestine-Israel and Balkan conflicts. American, British, EU and NATO forces and high-tech equipment are based in former Yugoslavia to try and keep the peace while the non-stop shuttle-diplomacy between Israel and Palestine occupies much of world media's attention.

In contrast the extent of Congo's humanitarian disaster is revealed in all its agony as the invading armies pull out

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SADC allies have pledged complete troop withdrawal once the UN is sufficiently strong to ensure that peace can hold in the DRC

Malawi expresses optimism in hosting historic 21st SADC Summit

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ning of the new century as a critical period when events could threaten or reverse the gains of the last 21 years.

Among problems of serious concern are floods, cross-border crime, unemployment, poverty and HIV/AIDS. These are the issues that Dr. Muluzi has put at the top of the agenda for the August summit, in the belief that these challenges can only be meaningfully addressed through the regional body.

Of these challenges, HIV/AIDS in particular has taken a terrible toll on most SADC countries, seriously hampering economic development in general and depleting the scarce pool of trained people in the region. "Our discussions should largely be focused on how we can overcome this serious problem," says Dr. Muluzi who takes over as chairman at the Blantyre Summit.

Delegates will also focus their discussions on conflicts in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

President Muluzi says there cannot be meaningful development without peace and stability in the region and concerted efforts will be made to find solutions.

"Resolution of the conflict in Angola and the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) should remain central to our quest for peace and stability in the region," says Dr. Muluzi.

"The coming on the scene of His Excellency President Major General Joseph Kabila has given the Lusaka Peace Agreement a new lease of life. The parties to the conflict in the DRC should be commended for accepting a cease-fire and consultations on national reconciliation. This demonstrates the will to have differences resolved through diplomatic and political means."

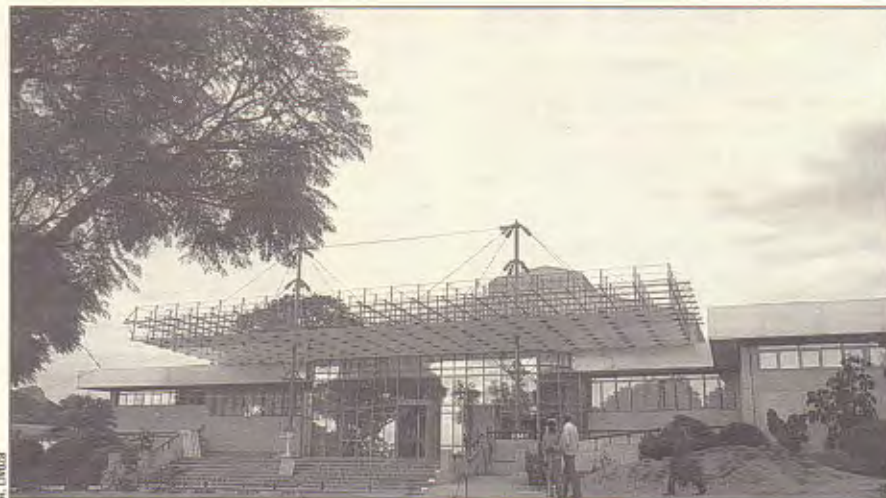
Since taking over in 2001, President Kabila has embarked on a path for peace, courting the various forces fighting against his government to a round table

to hammer out modalities for implementing the Lusaka Peace Accord.

Uganda and Rwanda, which support different factions fighting the Kinshasa government, have begun to pull out troops to pave way for a diplomatic end to the conflict. DRC allies – Angola, Na-

erty rather than use them to fuel bloody conflicts.

The newly created African Union (which has just replaced the Organization of African Unity), is also being championed by leaders within SADC, and will most likely be tabled as well.



GETTING READY: This photo taken in June shows the finishing touches to the new Convention Centre in Blantyre, the venue for the SADC Summit

mibia and Zimbabwe — have also promised to pull out once Uganda and Rwanda are out of the conflict.

In Angola, negotiators are still struggling to bring a settlement after several initiatives brokered by the UN floundered due to intransigence on the part of UNI-

Proponents of continental unity say people and governments in Africa need to work together to realize the continent's full potential. These hold the view that the establishment of the AU, should be seen as a positive step towards continental integration with SADC and other regional bodies such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) as building blocks for the Union and a launch pad for development.

To achieve unity through this channel requires the harmonizing of programmes of the various groups. Some progress has already been made in co-operation between COMESA and SADC. Although the two operate as separate entities, an understanding has been reached to eliminate areas with obvious overlaps.

The protocols that SADC has put in place also provide a legal framework for co-operation in various sectors such as transport, water, trade, tourism, agriculture and crime prevention.

Beyond that, SADC is trying to extend its influence and production capacity to overseas countries, including the European Union and the US.



BEAUTIFUL LAKE MALAWI: One of the country's major tourist attractions

TA in a conflict that has claimed millions of lives.

President Muluzi says it is now time to put the region's vast resources to better economic use for eradication of pov-

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Dr. Prega Ramsamy, SADC's Executive Secretary, says the organization is looking beyond its borders to take advantage of opportunities put in place by overseas institutions for the benefit of economies of the region.

"We want to link the SADC free trade area to the (American Government's) Africa Growth and Opportunity Act to ensure that our member States export goods and services... to the US and European markets," says Dr. Ramsamy.

"We will do this as a region because no country, including South Africa, is big enough to face the challenges of globalization," he adds.

The SADC Trade Protocol is something that Malawi wants to benefit from. Like the other 13 member States, the country has already submitted to the Secretariat letters on how it will implement the specific articles of the free trade protocol. This, says Dr. Ramsamy, shows Malawi's commitment to the protocol.

Dr. Muluzi agrees: "Full implementation of the (free trade protocol and other) instruments would bring our people closer than ever before and ensure that the region develops as a single unit with harmonious approaches."

At the summit, the member States are expected to sign five other protocols on:

- Politics, Defence and Security, Cooperation;
- Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other related Materials in SADC;
- Corruption;
- Fisheries; and
- Culture, Information and Sport.



SADC Chairperson, President Nujoma and Dr Ramsamy with Secretariat staff in Gaborone. More staff will be recruited at the headquarters to carry forward the enlarged mandate of the Secretariat as it now coordinates all sectoral responsibilities

The SADC Treaty will be amended to take into account the current decisions on restructuring.

As Malawi prepares for the summit, it has made it clear that solutions to the many problems buffeting the region re-

quire a multi-sectoral approach. "Government(s) alone cannot adequately tackle all areas of human interest," says Dr. Muluzi.

"Civil society can, if properly guided and supported, make positive contributions in addressing among others, the problems of HIV/AIDS pandemic, peace and security, human rights and govern-

ance, as well as environmental degradation." All SADC heads of state and government have confirmed participation in the summit where they will also interact with the private sector during a business luncheon. □

EU President puts DRC on agenda

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and the aid agencies move in. While, say IRC, some 350,000 people died as a direct result of the internecine fighting, about 2.2 million have died from the results of war—starvation, disease and deprivation.

For much of the war, little was known about the human toll of a war fought largely out of the world's sight. When the first IRC "death census" began to emerge, President Joseph Kabila called it evidence "that this stupid war verges on genocide."

IRC conducted two surveys, one in the rebel-held eastern part of the country and another further away from the worst fighting. Both revealed extremely high mortality rates among adults and extraordinary death rates among children. "Mortality rates this high are common in humanitarian emergencies which

usually last only a few months because intervention takes place and some stability is introduced," says the IRC report.

In DRC, the hugely elevated rates of death have continued for 32 months, across a vast region rendered inaccessible to aid because of fighting and lack of roads.

Children in particular are dying at an "unbelievable rate". Around Lake Tanganyika's western shore almost half the infants were dying before reaching their first birthday. Around Kalima in Maniema province, British medical aid workers documented that two-and-a-half times more deaths than births had occurred among a population that before the war was growing at three percent a year. IRC estimates that wartime deaths are also high because people were afraid to live in their homes and left instead to live in

the dense bush and jungle where help has been impossible.

Aid has been slow in coming anyway. A January appeal from the World Food Programme to more than double its DRC food aid to US\$110 million has been barely one-third funded by rich western countries. UNICEF has received just a 10th of the US\$15 million needed for essential drugs and therapeutic feeding centres.

Despite vows of action from Washington that greeted IRC's first survey, U.S. disaster relief to DRC remains at just US\$13 million, a sum already exhausted.

Ironically, as this story was being prepared, the rich western nations pledged US\$1.6 billion in assistance to Serbia to rebuild following the NATO-led bombing of Serbia. The price was to send former president Slobodan Milosovic to trial at The Hague. □

African Union set to bring - standing goal of a

by Zarina Geloo and Munetsi Madakufamba

African leaders have buried the 38-year old Organization of African Unity (OAU) with honours at July's Summit in Lusaka, which has seen the birth of a transformed, stronger African Union (AU), modelled along the lines of other regional groupings in the Americas, Asia and Europe.

The summit elected former Ivorian Foreign Minister Amara Essy as the new secretary-general, replacing Tanzanian Salim Ahmed Salim whose third term as head of the OAU effectively ends in September. Zambian President Frederick Chiluba takes over as the new chair of the AU until the next summit. OAU headquarters will remain in Addis Ababa.

In a bid to achieve economic development and move the continent into the mainstream of global economics, the summit merged the South African-led Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP) with Senegal's proposal, code-named Omega, into one blueprint called "A New African Initiative".

"These are initiatives intended to forge Africa ahead in its socio-economic recovery," said Chiluba who added that the important decisions made needed to be implemented without delay.

"Africa does not have the luxury of time. We are living in an era where change takes place... in milliseconds," he said.



Incoming Secretary-general, Amara Essy

The AU will provide a more powerful executive council, an elected parliament and, perhaps more importantly, an African central bank, a court of justice and concrete institutions which should ensure that the often touted African economic community, finally takes hold.

The Lagos Plan of Action of 1980, and the subsequent Abuja Treaty of 1991, envisaged the creation of an African Economic Community, built on existing and emerging regional trading blocs such as SADC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Despite the obvious optimism in Lusaka, the creation of the AU faces a long road to successful implementation. The proposed parliament may be weak ini-

tially, but the fact that it will be voted in by national legislatures will present an element of representation the OAU never had. The strength of this continental parliament will come from the pressure of increasingly vocal African NGOs and civil societies.

There is much enthusiasm and excitement about the new treaty but there have been some misgivings – many were wary that Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, the initiator and main funder of the AU, will try to be an overly-dominant force. Gaddafi is alleged to be looking for new allies since his failed Pan-Arabist bid some years ago and, said some delegates at the final meeting of the OAU, the speed



Outgoing Secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim

at which he was pushing African unity raises this suspicion. Others were sceptical that African countries would fail to agree to economic and political convergence, giving examples of current economic groupings, which have a difficult history of economic harmonization.

Then there is the more common argument that the problems which dogged the OAU would simply be transferred to the AU.



Some of the leaders who attended the Lusaka Summit

continent closer to long a common market



Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is the initiator and main funder of the African Union

Outgoing OAU Secretary-General Salim thinks not. Trying hard to downplay his sense of frustration at member

... the AU would facilitate stronger regional groupings. It will provide a more aggressive lobbying and advocacy platform carrying the voice of the entire continent.

states' apparent indifference to the OAU during his tenure, he said in Lusaka that if the OAU had simply faded away, it would have been a sad ending. Salim said that like the failed League of Nations which was set up after World War I, and was replaced by the United Nations after World War II, so the OAU needed "to be updated."

The OAU was founded in 1963, to become the most comprehensive of all the political organizations in Africa. It was the result of independent founding fathers putting their Pan-Africanist ideas into reality. It had the double goal of successfully finishing the liberation struggles and uniting Africa. It was successful in the anti colonial struggles but

constantly battled with its unification agenda.

According to Dr. Tajudeen Abdul Raheem, secretary-general of the Pan-African Movement in Uganda, there were many reasons for these problems. Firstly the charter was a compromise between the desires of the radical Casablanca states led by the late presidents Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Gamel Abdul Nasser of Egypt

(both of whom wanted an immediate continental political union), and the moderate, conservative alliance represented by the Monrovia and Libreville group of states, who found a credible spokesperson in the late Tanzanian leader, Julius Nyerere.

Although Nyerere was not a conservative, he was opposed to Nkrumah's fast track policy and instead argued for "functional unity" – economic unity before political union.

Another restriction on the OAU was the inviolable edict that colonial borders needed to be absolutely respected because of the fear of inter-state wars. This policy tied the OAU's hands and actually caused it to appear a casual observer of African conflicts.

The UN did not have such inhibitions and made an issue of peacekeeping – albeit often concentrating its efforts on western conflicts. Ironically, African countries themselves responded timely

and overwhelmingly to UN demands to instil peace in countries outside Africa.

The Cold War and the emergence of neo-colonialism also limited the OAU's room for manoeuvre. What mattered then was whether regimes were pro-East or pro-West, not their Pan-Africanist credentials. Many of these issues have since fallen away and there is a lot more optimism that the AU will pick up where the OAU has left off, but whether its powers and functions will surpass those of the OAU remains to be seen.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said defining the authority of the AU and absorbing all its regional groupings had to be handled delicately to avoid unnecessary confusion and rendering the AU "useless".

Moi told delegates to the COMESA Free Trade Area launch in October 2000 that the AU should draw lessons from older organizations like the EU and apply their experiences to avoid the same pitfalls. "The pace of globalization will not wait for Africa, we need to gallop ahead," he said.

His words resonated with Erastus Mwencha, COMESA chief Executive, who said the AU would facilitate stronger regional groupings. "It will provide a more aggressive lobbying and advoca-

cy platform carrying the voice of the entire continent," he told journalists recently. Mwencha sees a great boom in trade between countries and dissolution of red tape in immigration and trade laws.

He said economic integration and co-operation would become more of a reality because "what is needed is to pull the continent out of its quagmire.

"Not that Salim was doing a bad job at the OAU, he did well given the limitations of member States, but I think our focus has changed and we need a fresh impetus to get Africa into the economic powerhouse it can become." □



UN Secretary-general Kofi Annan delivers a speech at the Lusaka Summit

Water a vehicle for regional integration, ministers say

by Tinashe Madava

Water can serve as a good vehicle for advancing regional co-operation and economic integration if the resource is managed and developed in an equitable and reasonable manner. Sustainable development and sound environmental protection will result; SADC sectoral committee of ministers of water has reaffirmed.

Participating at the sixth annual meeting of the SADC Sectoral Committee of Ministers of Water held in Harare, on 15 June, the ministers noted in particular that the Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses in the SADC region signed in August 2000 has been ratified by only two member states. In view of the importance of this Protocol to regional integration and conflict prevention, ministers urged member States that have not ratified to speed up the process in order that the Protocol is ratified by at least a two-thirds majority by August 2001.

The Harare meeting was attended by all but three SADC member States, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius and Seychelles.

Opening the meeting, Zimbabwe's Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Resettlement Joseph Made, noted progress made on the Revised Protocol on Shared

Watercourses in the SADC Region, and on the implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (RSAP).

Commenting on the restructuring process currently underway in SADC institutions, Made commended the Water Sector Coordinating Unit (WSCU) for the proactive work done in adjusting to the new structure.



Water needs to be carefully managed for enjoyment of future generations

The chairperson of the committee, M. Moleleki of Lesotho said the region was facing serious challenges from globalization, inadequate water supply and sanitation coverage and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. He also highlighted the extreme spatial and temporal variations of the region's water resources and the cycle of

floods and droughts which have been occurring with increasing frequency and intensity over the past decade.

The ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress on the implementation of the RSAP. In view of the fact that it is now moving towards implementation, member states were urged to ensure that adequate budgetary provisions for the 10 percent counterpart contribution are made. They approved in principle, 14

projects for implementation pending incorporation of comments from member States.

The meeting also noted that the funding agreement for the implementation of the project concerning the development of the Water Resources Development and Management Strategy for the Zambezi River Basin had been signed. They urged the Zambezi riparian states to make adequate preparations for

the implementation of this project and also for the resumption of the negotiations on the establishment of the Zambezi River Basin Commission (ZAMCOM).

The ministers also noted that arrangements for the implementation of the desk study for the Utilization of the Water Resources of the Congo River Basin was at an advanced stage and that consultants had already been appointed. The Strategy for Floods and Droughts Management in the SADC Region was approved at the meeting and it was noted that this will form an important building block for the Regional Multi-Sectoral Disaster Strategy currently being developed by the Secretariat.

Ministers noted that the World Commission on Dams (WCD) has produced a set of 27 guidelines that may be applied to check appropriateness and feasibility of future dams. They underscored the need for the formulation of a regional position on the WCD. □

Southern Africa maize output to decline

Southern Africa expects a 22 percent decline in maize output from the 2000/01 crop season and might have to import from outside the region to meet domestic requirements, the regional food security unit said recently.

"Regional maize production is estimated to have fallen by 22 percent to 16.075 million tonnes from the 1999/2000 harvest of 20.50 million tonnes," says SADC'S Regional Early Warning Unit.

Reflecting the marked decline in production, maize is assessed as showing a regional deficit of 1.78 million

tonnes...compared to last year when a regional surplus of 2.11 million tonnes was assessed.

Only South Africa and Malawi are expected to have national surpluses—of 225 000 and 356 000 tonnes respectively—with the aid of carry-over stocks from the previous season.

"Maize import requirements amounting to 1.78 million tonnes may have to be covered through extra-regional trade," according to the food security unit. □

Zambia braces for tense general elections

by Zarina Geloo

Zambians go to the polls this year to choose a president and 150 elective members of parliament. The vagaries of the campaigns and the results will certainly attract the attention of its 13 SADC neighbours in a region where recent elections have been widely accepted as free and fair.

Unlike previous elections, voters will choose a president and members of parliament from a wide variety of parties that includes the ruling Movement for Multi Party Democracy (MMD), the United National Independence party (UNIP), the newly formed Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) and several other opposition parties.

As elections draw closer, internal problems have beset the ruling party stemming from differences over a controversial push for President Frederick Chiluba, contrary to the constitution, to run for a third term. The divisions brought on unprecedented open dissent by more than 60 MPs, among them serving senior cabinet ministers and 10 deputy ministers.

President Chiluba finally stated firmly that he would not seek a third term and seemed to put an end to the debate which threatened violence among citizens. But he first fired 22 of his ministers, including Vice-President Christon Tembo, and the legal affairs minister. The president then constituted a new cabinet which analysts said was made up of politicians whose images were largely untainted by the third term controversy.

While President Chiluba was busy suturing together the MMD, the opposition took full advantage of the political ruckus and convinced people the ruling party was no longer a viable movement. The 22 expelled MPs and ministers teamed up to form the FDD which has attracted prominent ex-politicians and civic leaders.

However, while the split in the MMD has given its opponents cannon fodder, the opposition cannot really be certain of victory.

For a start they are in competition with each other and do not seem interested in coalition politics which would curtail vote-splitting.

Of the 24 registered parties, only three are of any note. The most promising is the United Party for National Development (UPND) which is being de-campaigned as a tribal party because its leader hails from the southern province.

Southerners, who say their clansmen have been marginalized in the current government, are agitating for a president from their own neck of the woods. Conscious of these sentiments, its leader, Anderson Mazoka, has included people from the other eight provinces in the executive committee.

UNIP, the former ruling party, now without its founding leader former President Kenneth Kaunda, is a shell of what it once was. It has fallen on hard times both financially and in leadership quality. Currently at the helm is Kaunda's fourth son Tilyenji, a political novice who lives in Zimbabwe and has very little support among the party stalwarts. His family name and a leadership vacuum, rather than ability or popularity, are what have propelled him to the top. UNIP does not stand much of a chance in the presidential elections but still has support at grassroots levels for its parliamentary candidates.

Further afield, the Zambia Republic Party (ZRP) is a new entity, headed by a former MMD defence minister and Chiluba's uncle, Benjamin Mwila. Chiluba sacked him from the cabinet a year ago, ostensibly for openly opposing his leadership. The party is a merger of the tottering Zambia Alliance Party (ZAP) and the National Lima Party. Having been in

government, Mwila, a wealthy businessman, finds it difficult to absolve himself of any wrong the current government may be accused of today. While he has a strong following in the country's Northern province, he is having some difficulty, analysts say, convincing people that he can deliver.

Zambians seem wary about whom to vote for. Some are resigned to voting in the MMD again, no matter who leads the party, because there have seen improvements in their lives since the party swept the polls in 1991.

"We don't have to queue for essentials any more, we have new buildings, there is food in the shops," said one marketeer.

But Zambia Independent Monitoring Team leader Alfred Zulu after visiting rural areas said he was nervous that people would not vote because of the political system's failure to yield results.

"People are indifferent because they feel that their elected representatives

never do anything to change their lives." He says there is a lot of work to be done to encourage people to vote.

Director of Women for Change, Emily Joy Sikawe said people need to be taught how to make their representatives more accountable. "If people feel that elections do not make a difference in their lives, of course they should not be forced to vote. Teach them how to lobby and agitate for change, then they will give their votes."

She says even the concept of choosing MPs from different political parties is new to many. "People must be made aware that they can choose the people they want from various parties, not just one, and then leave it up to the president to form his coalition government, if that is what is necessary." □



President Frederick Chiluba

News agencies seek more positive coverage of the region

by Chris Anold Msipa

After defeating colonization and apartheid, there is yet another struggle for SADC. This time it is an end to poverty and achieving economic prosperity.

Yet the majority of its people remain in the dark, unaware of new corridors of opportunity at home and across borders, which remain obscure due to lack of adequate information. Most governments find people receiving information from far-flung channels that often focus on matters that do not relate to their day-to-day life. Leaders of the struggle for independence have been labelled dictators, thieves, villains and monsters, who have to be removed from office.

The situation has prompted the SADC committee of ministers responsible for culture, information and sport to decide to end biased news coverage by the Western media.

Dr. Renato Matusse, co-ordinator of the SADC culture, information and sport sector, says the region did not take globalization seriously and its components such as the information super highway when first introduced in the 1980s. The concepts were seen as fashions, which would wane and go with time. But he says like colonization, globalization "is ruthless, recognizes no sovereignty, identifies with no ethics," and is "a push for control and influence of mar-

kets" by the developed world. SADC only realized this danger in the 1990s.

Through satellite broadcasting and successful advances in digital technology, Western media had by then reached most citizens. The effects of cultural erosion and misinformation alarmed the 14-member group. Something had to be done quickly.

The ministerial committee met in June 1995 in Pretoria, South Africa, and directed the Secretariat to call for a meeting of editors of news agencies in SADC. They were to discuss and agree on a framework for closer collaboration in their various fields.

The editors gathered in November 1996 in Windhoek, Namibia, where they agreed to set up a regional network that would respond to this urgent call for better publicity. A task group was

met again, this time in Maputo to decide on how the proposed regional news organization should work. And the Southern African News Agencies Pool (SANAPPOOL) was born.

Delegates to the Maputo meeting recommended a plan by which national news agencies would release their news to the pool. The stories would then be collated and sold to user clients. National agencies would also exchange news through the facility.

The programme called for equipping a regional pool centre, which has since been provisionally set up under the care of AIM, ahead of a general assembly still to be decided on.

In order to avoid the problems that hampered similar initiatives in Africa, the Maputo meeting decided SANAPPOOL should operate on a commercial basis, with a vigorous marketing strategy and competent staff recruited.

The decision was also made after delegates realized national news agencies had failed to emphasize their authority due to lack of funding, a situation that allowed international media to use their financial muscle to take over more and more ground.

The Maputo meeting agreed that the success of SANAPPOOL hinged on its members' editorial autonomy, and should provide the strength to enable member agencies to regain their lost territory. While the task would be a difficult one, delegates decided news agencies in SADC could use the opportunities offered by Information Technologies, (ITs) to revive news exchange at the touch of a button. They also agreed to start the process before their progress report could be considered at this year's meeting of the SADC committee of ministers. And the exchange

is already being implemented by AIM, NAMP, SABA NEWS, ZANA and ZIANA.

The taskforce has also asked the

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Some of the participants who attended the workshop in Maputo



Renato Matusse (centre) of Mozambique leads one of the working group discussions

formed, comprising editors of AIM (Mozambique), NAMP (Namibia), ZANA (Zambia), ZIANA (Zimbabwe) and the Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA NEWS).

It was in March 2001 that this team

International conference on racism and xenophobia

by Jabulani Sithole

William E.B. Dubois (1868-1963), a Pan-Africanist and a renowned African-American educationist, once prophesied in his book *Black Folk, Then and Now*, that racism or the 'colour bar' – a legacy of colonialism and apartheid – would be the problem of the century.

Although Africa has by and large managed to overcome colonialism and apartheid, an even more difficult legacy is still manifested in both clear and hidden forms of racism. The first ever international conference on racism will soon be held in Durban, South Africa, a country that suffered one of the worst forms of institutionalized racial discrimination through apartheid. The "World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" is to provide a global setting for a search for lasting solutions to the problem. The conference will run from 31 August to 7 September.

Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland now the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights said the Durban meeting should provide "a serious and honest addressing of the past reali-



William Edward Burghardt Dubois

ties of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, while also providing a reinvigorated commitment to address contemporary scourges."

Preparations ahead of this historic conference are intensifying with different groups and individuals interested in the subject meeting and presenting issues to be tabled before the conference. African ministers, NGOs and churches have deliberated on the crucial issues of race and xenophobia and made their rec-

ommendations ahead of the conference.

The ministers met in Dakar in January and passed a declaration on African regional perspectives on the issue of racism. The highlight of the declaration was a proposal for the Durban conference to discuss reparations to Africa for the hideous slave trade and colonialism.

The NGOs meeting held in January in Botswana also reaffirmed the enormous damages created by enslavement of the African people from 1400-1900 and beyond. They equally called for compensatory measures to be developed and implemented, coming as forms of reparations. Perhaps the most complex form of racism has been discrimination in control over resources, especially land. In southern Africa, ownership and access to land have been a hotly contested issue, particularly in Zimbabwe and lately Namibia and other parts of southern Africa where blacks are battling to gain more land from white commercial farmers.

Given its growing relevance, the issue of land redistribution is most likely to feature prominently during the Durban conference.

In addition to the different themes of the conference, the status and discrimination of women and girls, characteristic of many societies in the world, is also expected to feature prominently. The conference organizers hope discussing the problem will aid in legal reforms and a change of attitude to uplift the status of women and the girl-child.

The protection of minorities and other vulnerable groups is also expected to be one of the major themes of the conference. Expectations on the deliberations are to help prevent discrimination against, and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic and religious minorities.

Among the minority groups are refugees and migrants who are all over southern Africa as a result of the economic disparities and the wars in the region.

The conference is expected to be one of the most expensive gatherings in recent years, with costs estimated to reach US\$11 million. South Africa is expected to provide US\$1.2 million as the host country. But the problem at hand is much bigger for anyone to worry about the budget. □

News agencies seek more positive coverage

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SADC Secretariat to make news material available regularly and on time. What now remains is political commitment by governments, which should provide necessary resources and an enabling environment.

SANAPOL also aims to support and expand in-service training in news agency journalism and management, and improve the technical capabilities of news agencies in southern Africa.

It is expected to have all news agencies in the region as members, with its organs comprising a General Assembly, an Executive Committee and a Secretariat. The General Assembly will meet each year.

SANAPOL, in its mission state-

ment, has pledged to collect, collate and disseminate news about and to the SADC region and to foreign nations through collaborative efforts of its member agencies, and build a comprehensive database.

In the same line, to ensure quality reports, the Sector is to launch the SADC Media Award, which is expected to commence next year. Contestants would be expected to submit entries in the form of audio-visual and print, focusing on regional integration.

Political and economic commentators, as well as other experts in different fields, have commended the formation of SANAPOL as an effective way to end poverty and correct the often distorted regional image. □

Trade ministers reach agreement on textiles

SADC ministers of industry and trade meeting in Maputo recently reached consensus on a special arrangement that will allow four countries limited duty-free access into the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) for exports of textiles and clothing.

The development is in line with the implementation of the Trade Protocol, which came into force in September last year, paving the way for the creation of a free trade area in SADC over an eight-year period.

Meeting in Maputo July 2 to deliberate on outstanding issues on negotiations on the Trade Protocol, the ministers agreed that Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia (tagged the MMTZ countries) will export duty-free quotas of their textiles on the basis of what is termed a "single stage transformation" rule of origin. This rule is used to ensure that member states at least add a certain minimum value of local content to imported products before they can

re-export to other SADC countries.

The actual quotas will vary on the basis of current production capacity and the arrangement will be in place for a period of five years commencing August 1.

Similarly, Mauritius and Zimbabwe, which are considered to be at a higher level of development than the MMTZ countries, were granted an accelerated tariff reduction for their exports to SACU but on a more strict "double stage transformation" rule of origin with no quotas. In other words, the two countries are expected to have more substantial transformation of their products than the

MMTZ before they can export to the SACU market.

SACU comprises Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa.

The ministers also decided that further consultations on wheat flour should take place before a final decision can be made.

With regard to the forthcoming World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference, a separate meeting was set for South Africa where the ministers will map out a common SADC position on the issues to be discussed. The WTO meeting will be held in November 2001 in Doha, Qatar. □

SADC, COMESA chiefs discuss co-operation framework

Dr. Prega Ramsamy, SADC Executive Secretary, and Erastus Mwencha, his Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) counterpart, met recently to discuss a framework of co-operation between the two regional groupings.

The meeting was held in Lusaka during the OAU summit as a follow-up to the meeting in May between then COMESA chairperson Sir Anerood Jugnauth, prime minister of Mauritius, and SADC chairperson, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia. The earlier meeting agreed to establish a task force at the secretariat level, on areas of joint co-operation and activities.

The task force is intended to meet twice-a-year alternating between Lusaka and Gaborone. It is also expected to carry out an audit of all projects and programmes being implemented by the two institutions.

Mwencha and Ramsamy agreed at their Lusaka meeting on the composition of the task force and the way forward. They also decided how the audit would be done and that it should be completed by end of September.

The next meeting in Gaborone in October would concentrate on trade and customs co-operation between the two economic bodies. (*The Post*) □

Southern Africa gets ready for Trans-Frontier Park

In an effort to re-create a huge environmental region in southern Africa, plans are steaming ahead to "uproot fences" bordering Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe in preparation for the launch of a massive cross-border conservation area.

The Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou (GKG) Transfrontier Park brings together Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou National Park, South Africa's Kruger National Park and Mozambique's Coutada 16, into a single conservation and wildlife area that stretches across three international borders.

The transfrontier park aims to re-establish ancient animal migration routes, disrupted by fences set up to enforce human political divisions in Africa.

The plan is for all three countries to manage the GKG park together, as a single ecological system. The natural system will hopefully strengthen the wildlife of the area and provide basis for tourism, jobs and revenue for the poor rural people that live on the borders of the three national parks. (*Mmegi*) □

Lesotho: Women suffer from discriminatory legislation

Lesotho's Queen Mother, Mamohato Bereng Seeiso, says that despite the seemingly dominant role women play in day to day lives, they continue to suffer from discriminatory legislation, biased customary laws and male-oriented cultural prejudices.

Speaking at a recent seminar on the gender aspects of HIV/AIDS, the Queen Mother said married women still hold minority status in law in Lesotho and may not enter any contractual agreements without the consent of their husbands.

"When we look at both public and private employment, we realize that women are largely marginalized. There are disproportionately fewer women than men

in senior positions and policy-making positions across all sectors of our economy," she said, adding that the situation has tended to deny equal opportunities to women's participation in national development.

"Our greatest concern, is the great disparity in the distribution of economic benefits, and the preponderance of women in deprivation.

It is my conviction that all of us here can bear testimony to the distinguishing feature of Basotho women and one of which we are justly proud, that women in Lesotho play major roles in both social and economic activities." (*Mopheme/The Survivor*) □

New report urges "deep integration" as key to promoting human development

SADC Regional Human Development Report 2000: challenges and opportunities for regional integration. Published by UNDP and SAPES Trust, Harare, 2001

Southern Africa has enormous potential for promoting human development through deep integration of its economies. This is the main conclusion of a recently published *SADC Regional Human Development Report 2000*.

The report recalls that the 14 SADC member states have a combined population of 193.5 million people, likely to rise to 267.8 million by 2015. The region makes up some 31 percent of the total African land mass, with a wealth of natural and mineral resources.

The estimates are that less than 20 percent of the region's arable land is under cultivation and that only 10 percent of the water available is used for irrigation. There is enormous potential to increase the area that is under agricultural production. It is estimated that only seven percent of the region's hydroelectric potential of 142,000 megawatts is being exploited.

The region also has extensive mineral resources, although most of them are

currently exported in raw form.

For several years after the establishment of SADC, intra-regional trade was less than five percent of the total trade in the region. During the late 1980s and 1990s, intra-regional trade steadily increased, not least due to the entry into SADC of five new members - Namibia, South Africa, Mauritius, Seychelles and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Total intra-SADC trade nearly doubled between 1990 and 1997, and there is wide scope for further increases, especially between South Africa and other member countries.

A second area of opportunity is that of improving infrastructure. The report singles out information and communications technologies as a key potential sector for creating new economic opportunities, providing information more cheaply and raising productivity.

So far, the report points out, many SADC countries have failed to benefit from the new information technologies because of generally low levels of investment, inadequate skills, a pattern of small-scale firms based in the rural areas and few businesses engaged in the information and communications sectors.

The report also underlines the importance of the various "spatial develop-

ment initiatives" in the region, whether designed to benefit individual countries, bilateral ventures or development initiatives involving a number of countries such as the Lobito Development Corridor (Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia); the Okavango-Upper Zambezi Tourism Initiative (Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe); and the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiatives (Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland).

The final area of opportunity identified in the *SADC Regional Human Development Report 2000* is that of monetary co-operation and harmonization that can create a favourable environment for the integration of national economies. Opinions differ as to whether the goal should be full monetary union, or the more limited options of limited currency convertibility or a fixed exchange rate union, but experts agree on the need for harmonization of monetary and fiscal policies. The report cautions however that for SADC to seize the various opportunities, there is need to replace shallow integration with deep integration. Shallow integration refers to eliminating border restrictions such as tariffs and quotas, leaving internal barriers intact. (Review by SAPES) □

Recent publications and acquisitions

The E-Commerce Debate: South Africa Department of Communications
—Southern Africa Department of Communications.- 1999
Available from: <http://www.ecomm-debate.co.za>

Informal Cross-Border Trade; Salient Features and Impact on Welfare: Case studies of Beitbridge and Chirundu Border Posts and Selected Households in Chitungwiza
—Trade and Development Studies Centre-Trust (TRADES Centre).- 2000
Available from: TRADES Centre PO Box 2459 Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: mtekere@africaonline.co.zw or trades@africaonline.co.zw and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung PO Box 4720, Harare, Zimbabwe Email: feszim@africaonline

Land Reform and Resettlement Programme - Phase II: Project Document
—Government of Zimbabwe.- 1998
Available from: Government of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, P Bag 7701 Causeway, Harare

Land Reform and Resettlement Programme: Revised Phase II
—Government of Zimbabwe.- 2001
Available from: Ministry of Lands, Agriculture

Mozambique and the Great Floods of 2000
—Christie, Frances and Hanlon, Joseph.- 2001
Available from: James Currey, 73 Botley Road Oxford OX2 0BS or Indiana University Press 601 North Morton Street Bloomington, Indiana 47404, North America

The New ACP-EU [Cotonou] Agreement: A User Guide Part 1, 2 & 3 The Financial and Technical Cooperation Provisions of the New Agreement
—Trade and Development Studies Centre-Trust (TRADES Centre).- 2000
Available from: TRADES Centre PO Box 2459 Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: mtekere@africaonline.co.zw or trades@africaonline.co.zw and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung or PO Box 4720, Harare, Zimbabwe Email: feszim@africaonline

Occasional Research Report: The Rise and Fall of Zimbabwe Exports Comparative Advantages; ESAP Through to ZIPREST
—Madzvova, Sylvester and Tekere, Moses.- 2000
Available from: TRADES Centre

Public Sector Restructuring in Namibia-Commercialisation, Privatisation and Out Sourcing: Implications for Organised Labour
—Labour Resources and Research Institute (LaRRI).- 2000
Available from: Labour Resources and Research Institute (LaRRI), PO Box 62423, Katutura, Windhoek Namibia Email: larri@mweb.com.na

Strategic Planning Workshop For The Plant Protection Sub-Committee, 25 - 26 September 2000. Vol. I and II: Workshop Proceedings.
— SADC Crop Sector.- 2000
Available from: SADC Crop Sector PO Box 4046, Harare, Zimbabwe

SADC diary

2001		Event	Venue
JULY	3	Pan African Women's Day	all
	9-11	OAU summit	Zambia
	9-20	United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects	USA
	11	World Population Day	all
	20-23	G8 Summit	Italy
	22-25	2001 Business and Economics Society International Conference	France
	30/07-3/08	African Computing and Telecommunications Summit Theme: "Driving Africa's Digital Revolution"	South Africa
AUG	5	SADC Summit: Finance Sub-Committee	Malawi
	6-10	Zimbabwe International Bookfair	Zimbabwe
	6-7	SADC Summit: Standing Committee of Senior Officials	Malawi
	9	SADC Summit: Finance Committee	Malawi
	9-11	SADC Summit: Council of Ministers Meeting	Malawi
	12-14	2001 SADC Summit Heads of State and Government	Malawi
	12	International Youth Day	all
	17	SADC Day	all
	31/08-7/09	World conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance	South Africa
SEPT	11	UN General Assembly, fifty-sixth session	UN, New York
	9-13	3 rd Conference on Global Strategies for the Prevention of HIV Transmission from Mothers to Infants	Uganda
	3-7	SADC Dance Festival	Zimbabwe
	19-21	Special Session of the UN General Assembly, on Children	USA

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.80
DRC	Congo Franc	-
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	8.27
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	72.10
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	29.25
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	21,100
Namibia	Dollar 100 cents)	8.27
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	9.78
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	8.27
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	8.27
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	883.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 Cents)	3,680.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	55.00

Source: Standard Chartered Bank, Zimbabwe Ltd, 13 July 2001

Public Holidays in SADC for the period July - Sept 2001

Date	Holiday	Country
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
2 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
3 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
16 July	President's Day	Botswana
17 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
6 August	Farmers' Day	Zambia
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
11 August	Heroes' Day	Zimbabwe
12 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
13 August	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe
6 September	Somhlolo Day/ Independence Day	Swaziland
7 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Independence Day	Botswana