



Summit gives fresh impetus to regional peace and stability

by Frank Phiri in Blantyre

SADC heads of state and government met in Blantyre, Malawi, on 13 and 14 January to try and revive efforts towards conflict resolution in some parts of the region.

The meeting, attended by all 14 SADC countries (represented mostly at head of state and government levels) as well as President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Rwanda Foreign Affairs Minister Andre Bumaya, was a milestone in finding African solutions to African problems. It discussed the conflicts in Angola and the DRC, as well as the current socio-political situation in Zimbabwe.

The DRC rebel leaders, Aldophe Onusumba and Jean Pierre Bemba of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD)

Goma, and the Kisangani-based Movement for Congolese Liberation (MLC) respectively were granted separate meetings with a number of the

SADC leaders.

Mozambique's President Joachim Chissano, chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, who met

continued on page 11



Historic Zanzibar: Clockwise from top left, intricately-carved doors in old stone city; merchant shipping key part of islands' economy; Zanzibari woman; spice market on the Spice Islands; and Zanzibar's tourist industry draws many visitors.

Tanzania's sustained key role in SADC has historical significance

by Shumbana Karume

Tanzania, which hosts the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers meeting on the Islands of Zanzibar from 13-15 February, is a country whose leading role in the liberation of southern Africa from white minority rule is unchallenged.

The choice of Tanzania is also historically significant in view of its role in the formation of the Frontline States (FLS), an informal grouping that led to the creation of SADC.

The late founding President of Tanzania, Julius Kambarege Nyerere,

along with other leaders such as Botswana's Sir Seretse Khama and Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda broached the idea of the formation of the FLS in the 1970s to help liberate countries in southern Africa.

After Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe gained their independence,

Zambia elections

Following long delays in announcing the results of the third multi-party elections in Zambia, the SADC Parliamentary Forum has called for an overhaul of the election management system "to ensure that the integrity of the process is not compromised."

continued on page 6

the FLS leaders initiated the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980 which was transformed into SADC in 1992.

To complement what the leaders of the region had achieved in the political front, SADC provided the much-needed forum to bring about economic development co-operation and integration in the region.

The determination and vigour Tanzania continues to display today in pursuit of economic and political development in the region was started by the late Mwalimu Nyerere. He clearly saw the benefits of working together as

continued on page 4

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Zambia's President 7



2001 in retrospect 8



Gender 10



Essay competition 13

- Policy review: SADC's contribution to African Union, Zanzibar agenda* **3**
- Tanzania's key role in SADC has historical significance* **4**
- Textile producers urged to utilize EU and U.S. markets* **5**
- Mozambique's race against third year of floods* **12**
- Around the region: News briefs* **14**
- Book review, recent publications and acquisitions* **15**
- SADC diary, public holidays, currency checklist* **16**

New SADC structure could be replicated by African Union

SADC says its current restructuring exercise, under which it is clustering 21 sectors into four directorates for centralized management at the secretariat in Botswana, is an approach that can be replicated by the African Union as it transforms itself from the old structures of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

"We have put a lot of thought into the clustering process in the recent past," Prega Ramsamy, Executive Secretary of SADC said recently briefing journalists about the outcome of an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers in Blantyre, in January. The meeting, which preceded the extraordinary summit of SADC heads of state and government, discussed, the operational aspects of the AU.

The new continental body was approved in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001 during the last meeting of the OAU. Its programme of action, the New



Sandton City, business centre of Johannesburg: SADC wants to host AU's finance institutions

Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), encourages countries to pool their resources and enhance regional co-operation and economic integration on the continent.

SADC, one of the five regional

economic groupings in Africa, has just completed the initial phase of a two-year programme of institutional reform, designed to deepen economic integration.

According to Ramsamy, the current SADC restructuring exercise is part of a deliberate effort to align the 14-member grouping with the new AU, which is also currently transforming its institutions in line with its new mandate of poverty alleviation and making Africa a key global player.

"We are confident about the appropriateness of the SADC approach," said Ramsamy.

Priority AU institutions that have been identified include the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Commission and the Permanent Representative Committee.

These, said the executive secretary, have to operate within a set of rules of procedure. The SADC Council of Ministers made its own recommendations to the AU, which will feed into deliberations at the continental level.

The Council of Ministers further recommended the establishment of the following AU commissions:

- Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment – responsible for monetary and financial affairs;
- Infrastructure and Services – responsible for transport, communications, energy and tourism;

Zanzibar Council of Ministers Agenda

The SADC Council of Ministers meets for three days from 13-15 February on the Zanzibar islands off the coast of Tanzania. This is preceded by committee meetings that run from 8-12 February, preparing the agenda.

According to a statement by SADC Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, the Council is expected to deliberate on housekeeping matters of the organization for the past 12 months as well as planning for the year ahead.

Other issues to feature include the restructuring of SADC institutions, status of membership contributions, the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, World Trade Organization matters, relationship between SADC and the Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA), and SADC's participation in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

He said the Council will also review its decisions since the August 2001 and January 2002 meetings, both in Blantyre, Malawi.

Some of the progress includes the successful launch last year of the Directorate of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment which now has nine seconded officers. Candidates for secondment to the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources which was also established last year, are in the process of joining the Secretariat. Two more directorates on Infrastructure and Services, and Social and Human Development and Special Programmes will be set up this year.

Work has also commenced on the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) which seeks to give a strategic direction to the organization as well as putting into effect its spirit of a common agenda.

The Executive Secretary also announced that a mini-donor conference is going to be held on 18 February in Botswana to drum up support for SADC's restructuring exercise.

continued on page 12

Tanzania's key role in SADC has historical significance

continued from page 1

a region and the importance of securing a climate of trust among member countries.

The union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar into the United Republic of Tanzania in 1964 stands as a beacon for African unity.

With Nyerere's visionary ideals, Tanzania played a pivotal role in the initiation of SADC when it hosted the preliminary meeting in Arusha in July 1979 that decided on the formation of the regional grouping which then became a reality at the Lusaka summit the following year.

Tanzania's political role and its historical contributions in southern Africa began with the liberation struggles of many SADC countries. With Nyerere in the front lines, the country provided political, material and moral support to several movements that were fighting to achieve political liberation.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) which becomes the African Union (AU) later this year, was established by countries which had succeeded in breaking loose from the chains of colonial suppression as early as 1963. The main apparatus for expanding this was through the OAU Liberation Committee, hosted by Tanzania.

The two significant aims of the OAU that served this purpose were centred on defending sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of African states, and eradicating all forms of colonialism from the continent.

Other political accomplishments particularly in the area of securing military security and territorial independence were numerous. And Tanzania led by Nyerere's indefatigable vision continued to play the leading role.

Its most recent economic and political contributions are diverse. An example of Tanzania's sustained delivery of political leadership in the region is President Benjamin Mkapa's new role as deputy chairperson of the "Troika" that leads the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

Most recently, considerable attention has been directed to the restoration of the East African Community (Kenya, Tanzania and



David Mering photo

President Benjamin Mkapa

Uganda). Like SADC, the re-establishment of this regional agreement was influenced by the need to harmonize economic policy and facilitate trade between its closest neighbours. Priority areas for co-operation include, transport and communications, trade and industry, immigration and promotion of investment in the region.

Such regional developments have helped to support Tanzania's rapidly growing economy. And, since it has recently qualified under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative to have its long-standing external debt reduced, the economy stands to benefit from this in the long term.

Economic prospects for the 30 million plus Tanzanians are good with recent discoveries of gold reserves, copper and diamonds which have helped rekindle the interest of foreign investors in the country's evolving mining industry.

But local communities want a better share of the mineral proceeds than is currently the case. They want mining companies to pay more tax to the government or plough back some of their profits.

The tourism sector, another major contributor to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to be an essential investment destination, despite the slowdown caused a year ago by the political unrest in Zanzibar. The easing of tensions on the islands and the increased consumer confidence however, promise to revive the industry.

Zanzibar is regaining its image that was damaged by the political impasse between the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party and the Civic United Front (CUF). This led to some western aid donors cutting their economic support for the islands.

The choice of Zanzibar as the venue of the SADC Council meeting is a fitting tribute to a country that has remained pivotal in regional affairs from the days of Nyerere to Mkapa. □

Tanzania Facts and Figures

Basic Facts:

Head of State	President Benjamin William Mkapa
Land Area	945,200 sq. km
Capital City	Dodoma (political) and Dar es Salaam (administrative, commercial)
Languages	KiSwahili, English and various local languages
Currency	Tanzanian Shilling = 100 cents

Basic Data (2000):

Population	34 million
GDP	US\$9.028 billion
GDP per capita	US\$268
Urbanisation	30%

Life Expectancy	47 years
Literacy	84%
Female primary enrolment	
% of total	48%

Finance:

Foreign Debt	US\$8.2bn
Forex reserves	US\$982.9m

Trade:

Total exports	US\$665.7m
Total imports	US\$1,339.8m
Main exports	Coffee, cotton, cloves, sisal, cashew nuts, tea, tobacco, minerals, wildlife
Main suppliers	South Africa 11.5
(% market share)	Japan 9.3
	Britain 7.0
	Australia 6.2

Source: SADC Secretariat and *Africa Analysis*, No.387, 14 December 2001

Textile producers under-utilize EU and U.S. markets

by Munetsi Madakufamba

Textile and clothing producers in southern Africa have a chance to expand their share of the American and European markets if they can take advantage of temporary preferential treatment currently being offered by the two regions under different arrangements, a recent study has revealed.

In the study which was commissioned by SADC researchers Peter Coughlin, Musa Rubin and L. Amedée Darga, says that although not known to some exporters, the EU has long been tariff and quota-free for textile and related products from sub-Saharan African countries, including SADC, with the exception of South Africa.

However, with the SA-EU Trade and Development Agreement coming into effect, South Africa can now benefit, "as will those SADC countries that would like to use inputs purchased from it to make products for export to Europe."

The study says that the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which eliminated tariff and quota barriers for some sub-Saharan African countries also offers access to the American market.

The researchers are, however, quick to assert that these preferential options in both markets are only offered for a limited period. The agreement with the EU expires in 2005 while provisions under AGOA fall away in 2008. If the agreements are not extended, SADC countries, along with other sub-Saharan African countries, would have to compete with the rest of the world for the same markets.

"It is thus imperative for SADC to take advantage of this short period of significant preferences to build a large and technologically robust textile and clothing sector," says the study entitled "The SADC Textile and Garment Industries, Constraints and Opportunities – Myopia or Global Vision?" Which was released recently.

The report recognizes the fact that SADC produces plenty of cotton which

is often exported in its raw form, fetching low prices. The researchers recommend that local firms should invest in adding value to the raw product and thus make yarn, fabric and clothing, which have a higher value on the world market.

Many SADC countries have enough capacity to process cotton into more finished products for the export market. They either enjoy moderately priced electricity or cheap labour, which other regions of the world do not have.

"The region can support the entire pipeline from cotton fibre to finished garments and has many existing world-class producers of textiles and garments," says the report. It says the leading exporters are Mauritius and South Africa while Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia have hugely untapped potential.

However, the region faces major

that they face constraints ranging from stiff international competition, prohibitive marketing costs, to high inland transport costs. The report says high transport costs can be greatly reduced if the cotton is processed locally.

"Approximately 10 percent of ginned cotton fibre is normally lost as waste when spun into yarn," says the report, adding that the same proportion is lost at each successive stage from weaving to garment making.

"Thus, it is important to minimize the transportation costs between spinners and weavers and between weavers and garment manufacturers," say the researchers.

The study contends that since the region currently imports nearly half the fabric it uses for garment production, it could be self-sufficient if barriers such as duties charged by the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the restrictive rules of origin under the SADC

"The agreement with the EU expires in 2005 while provisions under AGOA fall away in 2008."



The region currently imports nearly half the fabric it uses for garment making

weaknesses such as:

- shortages of experienced staff and adequate training facilities;
- poor intra-regional transport infrastructure;
- intra-SADC barriers to trade that make it difficult for firms in different countries to create efficient regional supply pipelines; and
- insufficient range and supply of synthetic fibre and yarn as well as fabric made from these materials.

A survey of regional firms also reveal

Trade Protocol were relaxed.

However, SADC ministers of industry and trade meeting in Maputo last year agreed on a special arrangement that allows Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia limited duty-free access into SACU for exports of textiles and clothing.

This is in line with the implementation of the Trade Protocol, which was launched in September 2000, paving the way for the creation of a free trade area in SADC over an eight-year period. □

SADC-PF urges revamping of Zambian electoral commission

continued from page 1



Hugh McCullum photo

Crowds wait tensely for Zambia's election results as counting and announcements were delayed.

The parliamentary forum said this in an interim statement issued after the 27 December election whose final results took more than a week to announce. The statement was signed by Ntlhoi Motsamai, leader of the mission and Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho and Elia Kalyamo, deputy team leader and a member of the National Assembly of Namibia.

SADC-PF issued 11 recommendations following its observations of the campaign, voting and counting in Zambia beginning 10 December 2001.

While it acknowledged the Electoral Commission of Zambia's (ECZ) useful work in advance of election day, the observers said the process was compromised by logistical and administrative problems causing polling stations to open late or, in some cases not at all on election day. This was caused by late arrival of election materials and this delayed the counting and announcement process.

The interim statement also noted that while Zambians demonstrated "remarkable patience, tolerance, political maturity and determination to cast their votes even late into the early hours of the next day," they had many obstacles placed in their way.

SADC-PF was critical of the role played by the state and private media

both in relation to coverage of issues and access to the state media.

"Political parties, other than the ruling party, had either limited or no access to the public media." The statement also noted that the media in Zambia was "highly polarized and generally partisan". The SADC observers called for public media to give all political parties equal access

The election date, 27 December, set by out-going President Frederick Chiluba, by right, was questioned due to its close proximity to the Christmas festivities and in the middle of the heavy rainy season.

"We acknowledge that setting the date is the prerogative of the president, as it is in most Westminster style constitutions, however the mission feels that some voters may have been disenfranchised by this date." Ideally election dates should be set during a period "most convenient to the electorate."

Other concerns expressed by the interim statement included: election day should always be a public holiday in order to provide a conducive atmosphere for voters. "The congestion and long queues that were experienced can be partly attributed to the fact that some people could only find time to vote after working hours."

Holding more than one election on

the same day – in Zambia's case for president, parliament and local government — contributed to the confusion, especially since all ballot boxes looked the same. The mission recommended that transparent ballot boxes of different colours be used to save time and reduce the possibility of ballots being placed in the wrong box. Voter education, especially in rural areas, was also criticized because it was left to NGOs.

"The ECZ should make voter education one of its primary responsibilities. Political parties and NGO efforts should be complementary". The low number of registered voters at 2.6 million was just 56 percent of eligible Zambians of voting age, a percentage the observers found to be "too low."

Many of those who did register had not collected their voting cards until the eve of the election. "A national registration card is less cumbersome...but the mission welcomes the decision by the ECZ that voter registration will now be carried out on a continuous basis"; and announcement of results must be expedited.

The statement commended the ECZ for employing "a significant number of women among its electoral officers". The mission also noted the participation of two women in the presidential race and a number of parliamentary and local government candidates.

The mission had Members of Parliament from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The objectives of SADC-PF include the understanding that elections are not one-day events but a process comprising a series of closely-related activities including registration, nominations, campaigning and media coverage, voting, counting and tabulation of votes, announcement and declaration of results.

Since 10 December, members of the mission held consultations with a wide cross-section of Zambian electoral stakeholders including political parties, candidates, the ECZ, civic organizations, academics, media, religious groups and government. □

Zambia's third president: Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, a profile

by Hugh McCullum

The 53-year-old lawyer who has become Zambia's third president following the 27 December poll is ready to face the challenges that come with his new role as president of the republic.

Having been personally chosen by former president Frederick Chiluba to be his successor as the Movement for Multiparty Democracy's (MMD) candidate for Zambia's highest elective office, Mwanawasa will have to carry his predecessor's legacy into State House and MMD.

It is a tricky mission. He campaigned to change Zambia dramatically. Chiluba campaigned equally vigorously for Mwanawasa on his record for the past



President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa

decade. The question for Mwanawasa, say his critics, is how can he change Zambia without abandoning the principles on which his party has run the country since 1991?

"I agree that mistakes have been made, but I also believe that MMD has the capacity to correct these mistakes," he says.

During the campaign, Mwanawasa stressed his belief in the rule of law. "There will not be two sets of laws, one for the leadership and one for the citizens. If a leader transgresses the law, he will be punished."

Mwanawasa may have been referring to the scandal-ridden second term of MMD's rule or even Chiluba's

abortive attempt to seek an unconstitutional third term in office which ultimately was rejected by a massive outcry in civil society and a split in the MMD.

Mwanawasa was not in the party leadership when these events occurred.

In 1991, when MMD was formed, he had little political experience or influence but was quickly spotted as a bright new face by Chiluba and given the position of vice-president. Three years later in 1994, he quit both party leadership and the vice-presidency on a matter of principle following a row with then minister-without-portfolio Michael Sata. Mwanawasa did not wish to be a figurehead leader.

Integrity and honesty are words that even opposition critics do not use against the new president. Nevers Mumba, leader of the National Citizens Coalition (NCC), a televangelist turned politician and a candidate for the presidency who acted as spokesperson for the opposition attempt to overturn the election results, says there is no dirt on the new president.

"Levy is highly respected for the integrity he has shown in public life."

After his resignation from the vice-presidency, Mwanawasa returned to his increasingly successful law practice and stayed away from public view until Chiluba anointed him his successor last year.

Although he belongs to a small ethnic group in central Zambia called the Lenje, he was born, brought up and educated in the Copperbelt province. He earned a bachelor of laws degree from the University of Zambia in 1973 and has been practicing with distinction ever since. He was the first Zambian lawyer to be appointed an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales.

Ironically, one of the many cases he took up which few other defence lawyers would touch, was a treason trial in 1989 against Lt.-General Christon Tembo who was charged, along with others, with plotting to overthrow then President Kenneth Kaunda. Tembo retired and went on to join MMD, became its vice-president, the same job as Mwanawasa had held, and then split during the third term controversy, to form the Forum for



Hugh McCullum photos

MMD supporters watch as Mwanawasa is inaugurated at the Supreme Court

Democracy and Development (FDD).

Tembo was seen as a potential winner although in the end, he trailed to third place in the presidential campaign.

Mwanawasa intends, according to his campaign pledges, to stress strong institutions that promote good governance including the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Drug Enforcement Commission and the Human Rights Commission. The economy will undergo some changes such as imposing exchange controls to rein in currency speculators and traders.

Job creation and poverty eradication through government creating a climate of new investment are also campaign promises he must address urgently.

He intends to emphasize agricultural production, establish a grain marketing authority and prompt fertilizer delivery. Foreign policy will be based on regional concerns, good neighbourliness and a continued role in conflict management. As current chair of the African Union, Zambia will push a continental agenda.

Mwanawasa is married to Maureen, also a successful lawyer, and they have five children. □

The year 2001 in retrospect: significant

more pragmatic approach needed to achieve economic freedom

It took Africa more than a century to completely eradicate colonialism and attain political independence. Having won this protracted struggle, African leaders decided in July 2001 to re-direct their efforts towards what is set to be an even longer and more painful struggle – that of economic emancipation. Munetsi Madakufamba looks at some of the key highlights of the past year.

While the colonial chapter appears now to be largely part of the history of the continent, at least in terms of having attained political independence, new challenges have emerged in the form of struggles over control of resources, persistent civil wars and worsening poverty and disease.

To meet these challenges, Africa now requires a more pragmatic approach beyond mere expressions of solidarity, a strategy that might have worked well when the Organisation of African Unity

building blocks for a much more economically robust continent.

How SADC, like other regions, has responded to this call for a more active role in the new initiative, and to many other challenges facing southern Africa, inevitably shaped the region's socio-economic and political landscape during the past year.

Despite regional efforts, peace in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remained elusive. The reasons are many and often highly

former Botswana president, Sir Ketumile Masire, successfully brought together Congolese political rivals to dialogue in Gaborone was lost at the second attempt when a political conference in Addis Ababa was aborted a few days after it began. The conference was meant to chart the country's political future and mark the path for national reconciliation and multi-party elections.

However, all hope is not lost as the meeting, expected to bring together about 300 Congolese leaders of political and civil society groups for more than a month, has been rescheduled to February in South Africa.

In a final bid to economically empower thousands of landless blacks, Zimbabwe stepped up its land redistribution programme for which its SADC neighbours have expressed support.

However, Zimbabwe's determination to continue its land redistribution exercise, with or without donor support, has widened the rift between it and former colonial power, Britain.

In July, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo brokered a deal in Abuja, Nigeria, which was seen as landmark in narrowing the differences between Britain and Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe agreed to stop further farm occupations and deal more decisively with law-breakers, while Britain pledged financial commitments to enable the government of Zimbabwe to compensate commercial farmers and carry out a more orderly land reform.

However, current events on the ground seem to have reduced the Abuja agreement — both donors and the government have not been flexible enough in their policy stance, and the attention appears to be shifting towards the presidential elections set for 9-10 March 2002.

On its part, SADC has come up with a regional initiative, which recognizes that orderly agrarian and land reform is



A stronger UN peace-keeping force is needed in the Democratic Republic of Congo

(OAU) successfully campaigned against colonialism.

Thus a review of major highlights of 2001 would not be convincing without mentioning the birth of a new continental development initiative that was adopted last July in Lusaka by the African Union, which succeeded the OAU at the same summit.

Officially called the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the initiative is explicit about the need to reduce Africa's poverty, and making it a key global player. It gives a clear mandate to regional groupings such as SADC that they should first strengthen themselves in terms of integration, before serving as

debatable.

For Angola, the search for peace has clearly suffered from international fatigue arising from ceaseless, though sometimes half-hearted, efforts to end a war that has dragged on for more than three decades.

There is little to cheer about in neighbouring DRC as the UN has had difficulty convincing member states especially from Africa, to participate in deploying a credible peacekeeping force, an assurance SADC allied forces and rebel supporters have categorically said they need before they can completely withdraw.

And the momentum created when

shift in regional and continental policy



World tourism was severely affected by the 11 September attack on the US.

necessary and urgent for most countries in the region.

A ministerial committee has already recommended that such reform be incorporated as a core part of the newly created Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) directorate at the SADC Secretariat in Botswana.

FANR is one of four directorates created as a result of SADC's restructuring exercise, which was formalized early in the year. The institutional reform has done away with sectors, which were previously coordinated by member countries, clustering them into the four directorates, two of which have already been established in Botswana.

SADC sees this restructuring exercise as a way of deepening its regional integration agenda, necessary for it to increase economic space and help eradicate poverty, currently estimated at 40 percent of the combined population of about 200 million.

The restructuring, also seen as better placing SADC to be a continental and, more importantly, global player, has been warmly received by the organization's financiers. The European Union recently announced a grant of 101 million euros for regional projects.

And the fight against HIV/AIDS, which has severely strained health facilities in the region, made a major breakthrough in two ways:

- a number of international

pharmaceutical companies which had taken the South African government to court were, under heavy public pressure, forced to drop their case allowing the country and others in a similar situation to legally import cheaper generic drugs; and the November ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruled that where drug companies are overpricing, governments can override patents in order to put public health ahead of commercial interests. This landmark

agreement on public health gives governments the right to grant compulsory licences, or determine the grounds upon which such licences are granted.

It is now left to SADC countries to use these powers to bring down the cost of medicines and increase access to life-saving treatments in a region where AIDS is at the top of all major health issues.

Globally, of course, nothing has changed the face of world geo-politics like the 11 September attack on U.S. centres of financial and military might – the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon. The impact of this on world economies, travel, human rights, tourism and the subsequent war against terrorism first waged against Afghanistan, will have far-reaching effects everywhere – the consequences of which will remain subjects of intense debate for the immediate and long-term future.

The 2001 curtain in the region was brought down with a closely contested election in Zambia where the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy candidate, Levy Mwanawasa, beat 10 other contestants to the country's highest office with only 29 percent of the popular vote. He succeeds Frederick Chiluba as Zambia's third president and also assumes the chairmanship of the OAU/AU. □



SADC recognizes the urgency of agrarian reform in many of its member states

Consolidating a new African women's rights agenda

Faced with the negative consequences of economic and cultural globalization, Africans have intensified their efforts to not only reposition themselves in order to shift from the margins of opportunity, but also to level the playing field through strengthening economic governance and management of other resources in innovative ways, writes Pamela Mhlanga.

Recent examples include the founding of the African Union (AU) in July 2001, with new philosophy and structures, and the adoption by African leaders of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

All these initiatives that seek a new paradigm for Africa-global relations are people centred and must take the principle of human dignity as their basic premise. Promotion and protection of human rights underscores this. Women's coalitions, movements and networks have coalesced to place their issues at the centre of these debates. They are constantly seeking to ensure that in this rush to reposition Africa in the global community, women's voices are not lost and African leaders are reminded that the continent is gendered.

Central to any move to consolidate democracy and development is the reality that the balance sheet of opportunities and rights is skewed against African women. The AU and NEPAD must recognize the need to engender all processes, with specific reference to the role, rights and opportunities of women.

In view of this, a critical dimension is the need to push the envelope in the women's rights arena, through promotion of an "African Women's Bill of Rights". At the 31st Ordinary Session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa in June 1995, a resolution was endorsed, based on a recommendation by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, to elaborate a Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.

This was the culmination of several national demands by women activists to ensure equal protection of women's rights as entrenched in anti-

discrimination clauses in various constitutions.

It was significant that 1995 also saw the culmination of another UN Women's Decade, and African women had ensured a number of critical issues on their national and international agendas, with governments committing themselves, through the Beijing Platform for Action,



Justice Elizabeth Gwaunza of the High Court of Zimbabwe is one of the few female judges in the region

to implementing the required reforms and changes in practical ways.

As a follow through to this 1995 Addis Ababa resolution, the draft protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa evolved, and has since gone through a number of expert discussions over the last five years that have reached an advanced stage. At the most recent experts meeting

held in November last year in Addis Ababa, 44 countries participated. The special rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Dr' Angela Melo, re-emphasized the central role that women must play in all stages of the establishment of the AU. The amended draft protocol as adopted by the experts will be presented to ministers responsible prior to formal presentation to the AU decision-making organs.

What is significant about these meetings is the extent to which African women's rights have thus far been articulated and debated, and agreed positions reached by governments on a broad range of rights. The November experts meeting demonstrated the maturity of the process, in that there were fewer areas of dissent, and a greater convergence of views on respective areas of the draft protocol.

Women activists have made significant contributions to the text, aimed at expanding the meaning of terms used, as well as broadening the nature and scope of rights. The experts meetings, usually attended by senior government officials, are the litmus test in determining the level of commitment by governments in Africa to affirm the true, broad and all-encompassing meaning of African women's rights, as well as recognizing the contribution of feminist jurisprudence in this regard — it is clear that this remains contested terrain and requires continued vigorous lobby and advocacy.

How is this draft protocol distinct and unique from the other international and regional human rights instruments? While firmly anchored on a number of significant developments in the women's rights arena regionally and internationally, it takes the unique positioning of African women as the premise. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights has an anti-discrimination clause and stipulates that women's rights must be protected. But the proposed protocol notes its

limitations, and aims at eradicating the continued victimization of women by discrimination and harmful practices.

The charter and draft protocol are buttressed by the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocol, which Kofi Annan, UN secretary-general, has declared a milestone in "defining the universal norms of gender equality... a key pillar in international human rights law."

Significantly, at least 12 SADC countries have signed, ratified or acceded to CEDAW. In 1997 Heads of State and Government in Southern Africa recommitted themselves to promoting gender equity and equality through a homegrown Declaration on Gender and Development and its addendum on the prevention and eradication of violence against women and children.

While universal norms and standards of gender equality as captured in CEDAW and other instruments, are

the yardstick for women's development and democratic participation, the draft protocol is specific to the struggles and concerns of African women. It aims to make a major shift that sets the norms and standards for African women's rights. In essence, it restates and consolidates the agenda taking into account respective struggles and



David Martin photo

OUA protocol ensures women's dignity

perspectives of African women in their diversity and unity. At the root of the draft protocol is the need for African governments to affirm women's personhood and dignity, and take concrete legal, social, economic and cultural measures to protect them without apology. It identifies issues such as harmful practices, negative social and cultural patterns, respect for dignity, right to physical and emotional security and elimination of violence against women.

This move, aimed at restating women's rights, must be put in the context of efforts by African leaders to reposition Africa as a whole in the global community, to enhance economic growth, governance, democracy and human development.

It makes sense for African leaders to anchor these initiatives through committing themselves to a new agenda to protect human rights and, more specifically, women's rights. By doing so, more than half the battle would have already been won. □

Summit gives fresh impetus to regional peace and stability

continued from page 1

the two rebel leaders commended them for their "thirst" for peace in the DRC through participation at the summit.

He disclosed that the warring sides are expected to meet in mid February in South Africa where they will try to agree on a programme for the country's political future and mark the path for national reconciliation and multi-party elections.

The summit mandated President Bakili Muluzi of Malawi, SADC chairperson, to work with the Organ to mobilize funds for the resumption of Inter-Congolese Dialogue in South Africa. This follows an appeal by the Inter-Congolese Dialogue facilitator, former Botswana president, Sir Ketumile Masire.

The dialogue was forced to postpone deliberations soon after they began in Addis Ababa due to procedural and financial constraints.

On Angola, where relative peace now prevails as a result of the government's latest peace plan, the summit agreed to intensify sanctions against Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebel movement to compel the group to comply with the 1994 Lusaka Peace Accord. It also urged Unita

to return to the negotiating table, in the spirit of national reconciliation.

The summit urged the government of Zimbabwe to ensure that the presidential elections scheduled for 9-10 March are free and fair. President Robert Mugabe assured his colleagues that a peace campaign involving all parties would be undertaken ahead of the election.

"President Mugabe has assured the region of free and fair elections in his country. We want to believe that what he has promised will be adhered to... Let's give Zimbabwe a chance to implement its promises," President Muluzi said.

President Mugabe's assurances came in the wake of mounting international pressure to allow foreign observers and journalists into the country before the election date. Zimbabwe has said it will invite observers except Britain which it says is hostile to the current government and which it sees as having a hidden agenda. Britain is also criticized for preventing blacks from voting when it was the colonial power in Zimbabwe until 22 years ago.

Zimbabwe Foreign Affairs Minister Stan Mudenge said his government would not be cowed by threats of sanctions from the European Union (EU) and the U.S.

The March election comes amid a hotly contested land redistribution exercise, which has attracted both local and international criticism. Nonetheless the government has remained steadfast saying it will complete an exercise it sees as necessary to correct past economic and social injustice.

"Zimbabwe won't reverse its stand on land because that's what we fought for. To have your land stolen from you is the biggest sanction you can have," Mudenge declared after the summit. This was in reference to the seizure of black farmland by British settlers during the country's 90-year colonial era.

If President Mugabe's words at the end of the summit are anything to go by when he said "...all is well that ends well...", the Blantyre summit left the leaders with a clear calling - that of peace, stability, rule of law, and deep regional integration for SADC. □

Mozambique: Race against third consecutive year of floods

by Bonifacio Antonio

Mozambican authorities have started the race against the possibility of a third consecutive year of flooding, as the weather forecast for the next three months indicates a strong probability of "above normal" rainfall in some parts of the country.

After the last two successive floods, the water table is still high in some parts of the country. Pools and small lakes left by last year's floods have not yet dried up, causing the earth to be easily waterlogged.

The director of the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC), Silvano Langa, warned recently that even "normal" rainfall could provoke flooding when the soil is so saturated.

The Southern Regional Water Board says that the main rivers (Limpopo, Incomati, Umbeluzi, Maputo and Save) are currently below the alarm level. However, the board warns that the southern Mozambican river valleys "are vulnerable for flooding, even with normal rainfall this year."

Langa says that the situation is more worrying because most of Mozambique's



Opening of floodgates at dams needs to be done in co-ordination with down stream authorities

major rivers rise in neighbouring countries where many of the dams are ready to spill.

"The dams in South Africa are full. They're holding between 75 to 100 percent of their capacity," Langa told reporters in Maputo. Should the South Africans open their floodgates, the absorption capacity of Mozambican dams would be quickly exhausted.

In February-March 2000 there were catastrophic floods in every river valley south of Beira. Data from the National Meteorological Institute shows that

southern Mozambique recorded about 900 mm of rain in that period.

About 27 percent of the population, 4.5 million people, were affected by this disaster which killed 699 people and left another 544,000 displaced. The floods destroyed 10 percent of the country's cultivated lands, over 20,000 cattle disappeared, and many buildings, health posts, hospitals, roads and bridges were damaged.

Last year, disaster also struck, affecting more than 500,000 people, of whom more than 100 were killed. □

New SADC structure could be replicated by African Union

continued from page 3

- Social and Human Resource Development – responsible for health, labour and social affairs; and
- Political Affairs – responsible for promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent.

These are essentially the same institutions that SADC is establishing as part of its restructuring exercise.

The Council of Ministers expressed their desire to host some of the institutions that the AU intends to establish, "especially the financial institutions".

The SADC secretariat is drawing up criteria for hosting some of these AU institutions. The draft report is expected to be considered at the 12-14 February SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Zanzibar.

In view of "SADC's under-representation at the OAU General Secretariat" in Addis Ababa, the Council of Ministers recommended the adoption of an effective quota system.

"The Committee of SADC Ambassadors (at the OAU) has been tasked with consulting on the system, taking into account the contributions of member states, gender representation, the quota system in the UN and country representation," Ramsamy said.

The ministers raised concern over the system currently used in appointing the chairperson of the AU Commission which they said made it difficult for SADC to field a candidate. In light of this, they recommended that the position should rotate among the five regions of the continent.

In order to improve poor funding that has plagued the OAU in the past, the council has recommended:

- the AU commission should carry out studies on mobilizing extra budgetary resources, including a self-financing mechanism and the possibility of establishing a continental endowment fund;
- a continuous reassessment of the current OAU scale of contributions should be carried out, taking into account member states' capacity to pay, and the increased responsibilities of the organizations; and
- the AU should be firm in imposing sanctions on member states that are in arrears.

As the AU undergoes this critical transitional phase, it is fitting that SADC take a leading role in offering ideas and direction. One of its own members, Zambia, holds the current chair of the AU until the next summit. □

Sustainable use of natural resources theme of essay competition

The SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition for 2002 recognizes that the future belongs to youth who should be environmentally conscious.

This is the topic for this year's competition: "Effective use of natural resources and the environment is critical to ensure sustainable socio-economic development of the SADC region. Do you agree and why?"

In a statement to national contact persons, who will co-ordinate the competition at the national level, the SADC Secretariat said the participants are expected to demonstrate the impact of unsustainable development on the economies of the region.

The competition is in its fourth year and is open to secondary school students in all SADC countries. At the national level, it is organized by

the contact point in collaboration with other contact points for the education, culture, information and sport, and media sectors.

"The participants should underscore the importance of SADC countries to share information and expertise on common environmental problems and natural resources for achieving

2,000 and 2,500 words, can be written in any of SADC's official languages – English, Portuguese or French.

The Secretariat will also provide prize money for the top three winners in each country – US\$300 for first prize, US\$200 for second and US\$100 for third.

The three national winners automatically qualify for the regional competition where they stand to win even bigger prizes – US\$1,000 for the first prize, US\$750 for second and US\$500 for third. The Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources will oversee the judging of the regional competition.

The three regional winners will also be sponsored to travel to Luanda, where they will receive their prizes during the opening ceremony of the

SADC summit. The deadline for submissions to the Secretariat is 31 May. □



PREVIOUS WINNERS of SADC Secondary Schools Competition Sibanesezwe Mulanga of Zimbabwe (2000) and Lucinda Heyns of Namibia (2001).

sustainable development," says the statement.

The Secretariat said the essays, between



Brita Masaletshulini, newly crowned Miss Malaika, meets with awe-struck primary school students following her victory in South Africa over 27 regional and continental contestants from 15 countries. The title, taken from Swahili, means angelic qualities. The pageant, held at Sun City in North West province, is the first which seeks to find beauty of African origin. Brita lives on a farm near Harare. The woman chosen as Miss Malaika, as Brita explains to the students, needs to have intelligence, knowledge and a desire to represent Africa and its issues and peoples at any forum.

First SADC journalism awards to be launched in Luanda

Everything is now ready for the official launch of the first SADC journalism prizes this year, according to the general secretary of the SADC information and culture sector, Renato Matusse.

"The only thing missing for granting the regional journalism prizes is candidates," Matusse said recently.

Matusse said that all SADC member states have agreed to make an annual

contribution of US\$5,000 in prize money, to be added to the US\$10,000 that is already available.

"So we have guarantees that we can give this prize annually to journalists in the region," he added.

Matusse said the committee that oversees the award has also received guarantees that the launching of the new prize, scheduled to take place during the next SADC summit, which will be held in

Luanda in August, will be broadcast live throughout the region by the Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA).

The committee has already produced the application forms to be used by candidates. There will be three prizes — one for print journalists, one for radio and television, and one for photo-journalism.

Matusse said the purpose of the prize is to encourage SADC media professionals "to promote southern Africa". (AIM) □

Namibia suspends new fishing rights

No new fishing rights will be awarded for the next six years, Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister Abraham Iyambo announced recently.

The only exception is the horse mackerel sector. Iyambo said in his annual statement on the status of the fisheries sector that no new rights would be granted before 2007.

"Our fish stocks are precious and not unlimited. We do not intend falling into the same situation as is found elsewhere in the world where you end up having too many fishermen chasing

too few fish!"

The government will continue to monitor promises made by companies in their original applications for fishing rights. "Where it is clear that companies are failing to meet their promises, I have undertaken to meet with them in order that appropriate remedial action can be taken," the minister said.

The total number of right holders across all fisheries is 152. The majority are for hake (38), monkfish (9), horse mackerel (12), large pelagic (21), red crab (3) and rock lobster (21). (Namibian) □

Zimbabwe invites observers

President Robert Mugabe has invited various African and international organisations and some individuals countries to come and observe the 9-10 March presidential election.

The list that the president released to journalists last month does not include Britain, which has been accused of meddling with Zimbabwe's internal affairs.

"In line with Zimbabwe's tradition of holding open democratic elections, my government will be inviting, among others, the following organizations and governments to send observers to witness the electoral process and see the people of Zimbabwe proudly exercise their sovereign right to freely elect a president of their choice:

"The Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU); the Southern African Development Community (SADC); the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA); the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM); the Commonwealth, excluding the United Kingdom; the joint ACP-EU delegation (excluding the United Kingdom) and led by the ACP; the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) from the United States of America; individuals and countries to be invited in their own capacities include the Federal Republic of Nigeria." □

22,000 poll monitors for Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Electoral Supervisory Commission says it will deploy at least 22,000 officers to monitor the forthcoming presidential vote in the country.

Thomas Bvuma, its information and public relations co-ordinator, said at the start of training programme of the central group of 40 trainers that the electoral

supervisory commission would be the sole monitor of the poll. The rest would come in as observers.

Zimbabweans go to the polls on 9-10 March to choose a president for a constitutional six-year term. Five candidates will run for the post in an election that has attracted wide international interest. (Sabanews) □

Botswana won't devalue Pula

Botswana will allow the pula to continue to appreciate against the rand, Finance Minister Baledzi Gaolathe said recently, effectively ending speculation that he as about to devalue the currency.

Producers that export heavily to South Africa have complained bitterly to the Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower that

their goods are no longer competitive. The pula has appreciated from 1.42 rand to 1.69 over the past 12 months. It reached a high of 1.80 during the month of January.

Over the last 12 months the rand has lost heavily against international currencies, losing about 30 percent against the U.S. dollar and the British pound. (Mmegi) □

Perspectives on ICTs and development in southern Africa

Into or Out of the Digital Divide: Perspectives on ICTs and Development in Southern Africa, published by Panos Southern Africa, Lusaka, 2000, 115pp.

Debate has arisen as to whether or not information communication technologies (ICTs) can bring positive development to Africa in view of the continent's pressing issues such as the need to alleviate poverty, the HIV/AIDS scourge and natural disasters such as floods and drought.

Central to this report, *Into or Out of the Digital Divide*, are seven analytical articles in which specialists with diverse views tackle key issues related to the role of ICTs in development. The authors examine how the ordinary people in southern Africa are using technology in a bid to improve their lives and communities.

All the analysts highlight in their own way the importance of well thought out national and regional policies and regulations to ensure that the development potential of ICTs is realized in southern Africa. In a bid to promote universal access, governments and

regulators are urged to provide investors with incentives for investment while negotiating from an informed position, considering the best options for the region.

To kick off the study, Prof. Clement Dzidonu, CEO of an Accra-based IT institute, examines the traditional modes of communication among southern African groups and notes that the use of cell phones, internet, e-mail and satellite will serve the same purpose as drums and oral transmission.

Canadian-based Andy Dymond's article asserts that phone services in rural areas can be commercially viable. He argues that the rural people crave information and they would utilize a portion of their disposable income on telephone services or a more efficient means of alternative communication.

Gillian Marcelle, a UK-based telecommunications economist, points towards a viable African information society that fosters genuine development as development of communications in the public interest. Guy Zibi, an African who lives and works at the heart of a northern IT industry,

provides a frank insight into what IT companies, governments and development organizations in the North mean when they talk of ICTs and development in southern Africa.

He advised that southern African policy-makers and their civil society counterparts need to be familiar with technological standards and their compatibility with existing technology. He urged institutions in Africa not only to be consumers but to aspire to be service providers and develop their own systems.

The report proves that solutions to the ICT and development dilemma in southern Africa do not necessarily lie in the think tanks and databases from the developed world but the region should have courage to develop and adapt policies that take into account their specific requirements. Case studies for Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe reflect the scenario on the ground and provide a comprehensive and realistic insight on the place of ICTs in the region. *(Reviewed by Chipu Muvezwa,*

SARDC). □

Recent publications and acquisitions

SADC Annual Sectoral Reports - July 2000 - June 2001
— 2002.

Available from: SADC Secretariat, Pvt Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana Website: www.sadc.int

Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review
— 2001

Available from: Southern African Marketing Company, P.O. Box 2021112, Gaborone, Botswana, e-mail: samramaa@mega.bw Website www.sadcreview.com and SADC Secretariat, Pvt. Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana Website: www.sadc.int

Regional Economic review: Southern African Economic Summit
— 2000

Available from: SADC Finance and Investment Sector Co-ordinating Unit, SADC Secretariat, Pvt Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana Website: www.sadc.int

These are our rights: children in Zimbabwe

Speak out - 2000

Available from: Human Rights Research and Documentation Trust of Southern Africa, 12 Ceres Road, P.O. Box 2448, Causeway, Harare Email: hrrdtsa@africaonline.co.zw Website: www.sahrit.org and Save The Children (UK), 10 Natal Road, Harare, Zimbabwe

The interaction of market and compulsory land acquisition processes with social action in Zimbabwe's land reform

— Moyo Sam, April 2001

Available from: Southern African Political And Economic Trust (SAPES), P.O. Box MP 111, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe Website: www.sapes.co.zw

Torn apart: San children as change agents in the process of acculturation: a report on the educational situation of San children in southern Africa

— Roux, Willemlen Le, 2000

Available from: Working Group of

Indigenous Minorities in southern Africa (WIMSA), P.O. Box 80733, 8 Bach St., Windhoek, Namibia, e-mail: wimsareg@iafrica.com.na

World Trade Organization: which way for Zambia?, Lopi, Barbara and Sapallo, Patrick M

— April 2001

Available from: Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD), P.O. Box 37836, Lusaka, Zambia, e-mail: zard@zamnet.zm and Association INZET (Netherlands)

Zambia Electoral Laws

— 2001

Available from Electoral Commission of Zambia website: www.elections.org.zm

Zimbabwe Human Development Report

— 2000

Available from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 67-69 Takura House, Union Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe

SADC diary

Date	Event	Venue	
February	8-9	SADC Finance Sub-committee	Tanzania
	10-11	SADC Standing Committee of Senior Official	Tanzania
	12	SADC Finance Committee	Tanzania
	13-15	SADC Council of Ministers Meeting	Tanzania
	18	Forum for Agricultural Research Retreat	South Africa
	18	SADC Mini Donor's Conference	Botswana
	18-22	SADC Epidemiological Network on Drug Use (SENDU) Training Workshop	Mozambique
	26-28	Conference on Disaster Management & Dissemination of the Regional Disaster Strategy	Lesotho
	28/02-01/03	SADC Macro-economic Sub-committee	Botswana
	March	2-5	Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Meeting
9-10		Zimbabwe Presidential Elections	Zimbabwe
18-22		Conference on the SADC Mine Action Operators & 7 th Meeting of the Mine Action Committee	Angola
21-22		SADC-US Forum	USA
28-29		Meeting of the SADC/EU Working on Small Arms	South Africa
April	11-12	Demining Technology Evaluation	Zimbabwe
	22-23	7 th SADC Drug Control Meeting	South Africa
	24-25	SENDU Regional Report Back Meeting	South Africa

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	7.33
DRC	Congo Franc	-
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	12.63
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	69.80
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	31.75
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	23,809.76
Namibia	Dollar 100 cents)	12.63
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	-
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	12.63
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	12.63
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	961.95
Zambia	Kwacha (100 Cents)	3,958.33
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	55.00

Source: Standard Chartered Bank, Zimbabwe Ltd, 7 January 2002

Public Holidays in SADC for the period Feb - April 2002

Date	Holiday	Country
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
11 March	Moshoeshe Day	Lesotho
12 March	Independence Day	Mauritius
12 March	Youth Day	Zambia
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
21 March	Human Rights Day	South Africa
29 March	Good Friday	All SADC
1 April	Easter Monday	All SADC
7 April	Women's Day	Mozambique
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa