

African Union summit to focus on peace and NEPAD

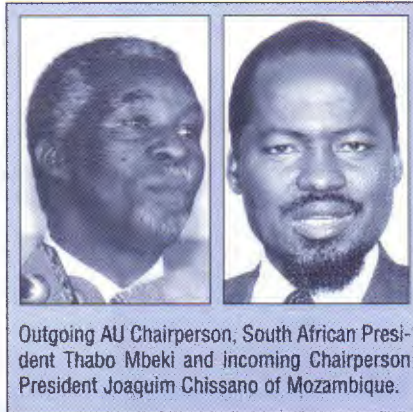
by Bonifacio Antonio

The launch of the African Union's Peace and Security Council, and a roundtable for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), are among the most significant events expected during the second African Union summit scheduled to take place in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, from 4-12 July.

Under the theme "Ensuring the Implementation of NEPAD is Contributing to African Development", the summit is expected to attract about 4,000 people from around the world.

The summit is expected to discuss political issues, notably the conflicts that still prevail on the continent, and the socio-economic situation in the region.

The Mozambican President, Joaquim Chissano, told journalists in Maputo that the African Union Peace



Outgoing AU Chairperson, South African President Thabo Mbeki and incoming Chairperson President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique.

Council may enter into force during the summit.

The AU is involved in searching for the right solutions towards peace in Burundi, the Ivory Coast, Central

African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Comoros.

Various African states are expected to start bidding to host organs of the AU, among them the Central Bank, the Pan-African Parliament and the African Court of Justice. SADC has already officially backed Botswana's bid to host the AU's investment bank.

"We in southern Africa stand by Botswana's submission to host an African Investment Bank," Prega Ramsamy, SADC Executive Secretary said recently. The bank aims at facilitating investment in Africa.

Candidates for the AU commission had already been "pre-selected" at an extraordinary meeting of the AU Executive Council held in South Africa recently.

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Significant improvement in food security

The cereal shortage that affected nearly 15 million people in six SADC countries since last year has significantly improved, although six million remain affected.

A recent consultative forum on humanitarian assistance needs in southern Africa held in Johannesburg noted that the marked improvement was due to improved rainfall and measures that were undertaken by individual countries and the region.

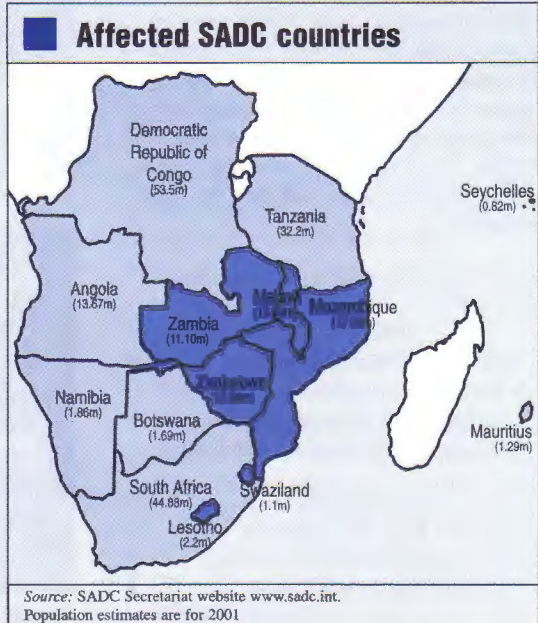
The situation was also mitigated thanks to swift joint efforts involving SADC, UN agencies and other NGOs.

The six countries severely affected by cereal deficit since last year are Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Of the 6,274,000 people that remain affected, 5.4 million are in Zimbabwe and 949,000 are in Mozambique while the

rest are in the other four countries. "However, the region as a whole has produced enough surplus to source all its food aid requirements from within the region," said a report from the Johannesburg meeting, held on 11-12 June. This shows that the region has made a significant turn-around to almost self-sufficiency in one season, although pockets of food insecurity remain in individual countries.

Speaking at the same meeting in South Africa, SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy said enough lessons had been learnt to avoid problems of a similar magnitude in future.

The UN announced at the meeting that it will launch another "Appeal for Assistance" in July. □



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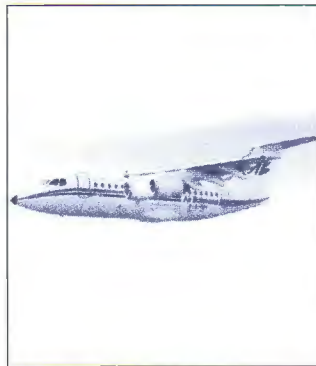
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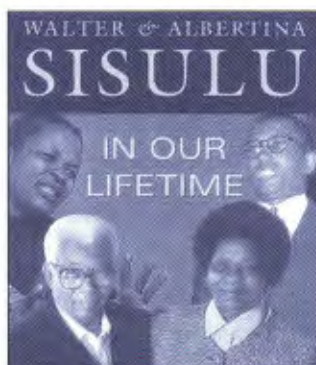
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Harmonizing regional stock exchanges

by Amos Chanda

Stock markets in SADC have made a huge leap forward towards harmonization and creation of a sound integrated regional market by the year 2006.

This milestone achievement was reached at a second quarter meeting of the Committee of the SADC Stock Exchange (COSSE) at the Zambian resort border town of Livingstone from 22-23 May, 2003.

The key resolution was that emerging stock markets in the region would be linked to the highly developed Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), making it possible for any SADC citizen to buy shares in any regional stock market from their work station at home through the national exchange.

The first three exchanges to have their trading platforms linked to the JSE are Zambia's Lusaka Stock Exchange (LuSE), the Namibian Stock Exchange (NSX) and the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE).

"These exchanges shall be the first so that people can trade in shares of any company that is listed on any of the linked stock markets in the region," COSSE said. COSSE was established in 1997 with a vision to achieve by 2006 an integrated real-time network of the national securities markets within the SADC community.

This network is expected to pave the way towards cross-border trading and investments among the SADC member countries. Stock markets experts say the wider objective of the harmonization process is to promote and transform the whole southern African region into a dynamic and well-integrated economic bloc.

The Bond Exchange of South Africa, the JSE, the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE), the LuSE, the Malawi Stock Exchange (MSE), the Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM),

the NSX, the Swaziland Stock Exchange (SSX), and the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) were represented at the meeting. The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) of Tanzania did not attend but sent a country report.

Zambian Deputy Finance Minister Felix Mutati in his address to the meeting told stock market experts that they should work towards total integration of communication systems between members if the COSSE vision is to be attained.

"We live and work in a global village with rapidly changing communication systems," Mutati said. "It is therefore imperative that COSSE ensures that autonomous national markets find ways of using technology, skills-sharing, cross-border investment and dual listing to ensure economic development."

The minister prodded experts to bridge the digital divide so that this attempt at integrating regional markets is done under the understanding that SADC works as a unified force to reap synergistic benefits of integration.

"We will be better equipped to compete on an international scale and attract the much needed foreign portfolio investment," he said.

The regional linkages of trading platforms to the JSE will result in the creation of a new market that will facilitate a centralised point for inflow of foreign capital into the continent, encouraging growth of African markets through the single access point to capital across multiple markets, the COSSE position paper said.

The JSE discussion paper that informed the deliberations at the meeting stated that a harmonized set of listings requirements for the new market will have to be developed and that the JSE's recently refined requirements will be used as a baseline.



Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) in Exchange Square Centre Sandton, South Africa.

Members of the new market, the paper says, can trade in countries linked to the JSE and can subscribe to receive information relating to all South African listed companies.

"The new market requires cost-effective information technology infrastructure and support systems. The JSE is willing to leverage some of its existing infrastructure to ensure economies of scale."

The aims and objectives of COSSE are to:

- build and enhance cooperation among SADC exchanges and capabilities;
- improve the operational regulatory and technical underpinnings and capabilities of SADC exchanges;
- increase market liquidity and enhance trading in various securities and financial instrument;
- make SADC securities markets more attractive to both regional and international investors;
- promote the development of efficient, fair and transparent securities markets within the SADC region;
- encourage the transfer of securities markets intelligence, expertise and know-how among the member states of COSSE; and
- encourage interaction among market participants. □

Can privatisation guarantee viability in airlines industry?

by Frank Phiri

The airline industry in the SADC region is gradually undergoing fundamental changes in ownership and control, raising questions about whether the sector can serve the flying public better when in private hands than those of the state.

National airlines such as in Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are at various stages of either commercialization or privatization. The principal objective, as given, is to improve efficiency, profitability and ultimately viability.

In most developing countries where few people can afford air tickets, airline business is not profitable. But because it is of such importance to national interests, governments have naturally stepped in for strategic reasons. For many years, governments in southern Africa, like their counterparts in developing countries have continuously and willingly pumped financial resources into the industry.

However, the recent tide of free market economics that have shaken government control in many parastatals worldwide is not sparing the airline industry. In southern Africa's airline industry, the change has come in different forms: commercialization, liberalization or privatization. The end result is reduced government control or ownership.

In Botswana, the flag carrier has been chosen as the pioneer of the government's ambitious privatization plan to improve efficiency. The airline is to engage in a public campaign to raise awareness about the privatization process.

The airline will scout for a strategic partner in accordance with the international airline operation standards. That would mean, among other things, that the strategic partner would not control



Air Botswana has been chosen as the pioneer of the government's ambitious privatisation plan to improve efficiency.

over 50 percent of the airline shareholding.

Meanwhile, the Malawi government has temporarily suspended the sale of its airline to a consortium comprising South African Airways (SAA) and a local empowerment company, Crown Aviation.

"What we want is an investor to take over a 100 percent stake. As long as the investor would improve the profits margin, we are willing to give up the entire shareholding," says Nelson Edwards, Senior Advisor to the Privatization Commission of Malawi.

Privatization in Tanzania gave SAA, Africa's largest airline, an opportunity to expand into the region. After snapping up 49 percent equity in Air Tanzania for US\$20 million last October, SAA is now working with Tanzanian government advisors on key operational issues.

According to senior officials, SAA wants to ensure that its strategy to form a 'golden triangle' between southern, west and east Africa is attained.

Privatization has continued to be one of the areas of focus for economic reforms in the region. The main goal of privatization according to the

SADC Annual Report 1999-2000, among other issues is to:

- improve economic efficiency;
- stimulate the private sector;
- mobilize more foreign and domestic investment; and
- revive economic growth.

"Although accepted as a major policy objective, privatization in Africa as a whole remains highly controversial and politically risky. In some countries, the process is fraught with many problems such as strikes against the proposed sell-off of state enterprises as unions fear for job losses or reduced benefits," said the report.

Job losses is a genuine concern for workers as witnessed a few years back when Air Zimbabwe embarked on its commercialization programme, drastically streamlining its labour force. Similarly, there were massive job losses when Zambia Airways was sold in the mid-1990s.

Even before Air Malawi goes into privatization, preparatory restructuring has already started afflicting workers. By January this year, more than 100 workers had been laid off ostensibly to boost profitability.

Air Malawi's chief executive, Francis Perekamoyo says airlines in

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Trade hub to boost region's exports

by Chengetai C. Madziwa

As SADC pursues its agenda to address poverty through improved trade, international assistance to the region remains vital.

It is within this context that the main thrust of the recently launched US-Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub is seen as falling "within SADC's common agenda and key objectives," as Executive Secretary of SADC, Prega Ramsamy noted during the launch.

The Hub seeks to:

- enhance the competitiveness of southern African products and services;
- expand the role that trade can play in African poverty reduction strategies;
- promote US-Southern Africa business linkages;
- improve the delivery of public services supporting trade;
- strengthen southern African capacity for trade policy formulation and implementation; and
- strengthen the enabling environment for southern African business.

SADC recognizes trade as a catalyst to poverty reduction and through implementation of its Trade Protocol seeks to promote economic development of the region and enhance the welfare of its population.

"There is great complementarity [between the hub and SADC initiatives], which should bring about the much needed synergy in our operations," said Ramsamy.

The US and southern Africa have over the years fostered good trade relations especially through the Africa Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA).

However, many aspiring African exporters have encountered problems with quality control and a lack of trade information. This has inhibited their

products from penetrating the lucrative developed world markets.

"The region requires adequate capacity to conduct trade policy research and analysis, strengthen trade negotiation and trade management skills of technical staff and in marketing the region's products," said the SADC executive secretary.

The US-Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub in Botswana is a reliable source of trade information that will contribute towards building the capacity of southern African exporters. The often-complicated technical aspects of trade will be explained so as to get African products ready for the global market.

Once African products become widely acceptable on the global market the impact of trade as a catalyst to poverty reduction can hopefully be realized. As pointed out by the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs,

Walter Kansteiner, "there is a direct link between the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub and poverty alleviation.

"Trade leads to employment and jobs create the ability for people to earn a decent living."

Under AGOA, about 15,000 jobs were created in rural Namibia through the establishment of a large-scale cotton farm, which also has a facility to process the cotton into lint for export. Lesotho's export oriented textile industry has also benefited immensely from facilities under the AGOA.

About 40 percent of the region's population lives in extreme poverty. This figure presents a great challenge for the region as it pursues trade as a means towards alleviating poverty. □



The region's textile exports are likely to be boosted by the establishment of the US-Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub.

Building capacity for a world class customs service

SADC is undertaking training programmes that are aimed at improving the skills of customs officials in the region. One such training course was held recently in South Africa.

With support from the European Union under the Regional Integration and Capacity Building project, the course was attended by 25 participants from the region. The training course targeted practising customs trainers in SADC member states, with the objective of ensuring that the initiative is extended at the national level.

The course, which focused on the SADC Trade Protocol with emphasis on rules of origin, heralded the beginning of a long and challenging road to building a customs service of world class standard in southern Africa.

Vuso Shabalala, General Manager (Customs) of the South African Revenue Service opened the training course. Hapias Kuzvinzwa, SADC EU Customs and Trade Facilitation Expert, facilitated the meeting with resource persons drawn from various SADC countries.

The impact of the regional training initiative will depend on the extent to which similar training is extended to the national level.

The training course was a culmination of a series of events that started with a meeting of heads of SADC Customs Administration held in June 2001 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. At that meeting, the reconstituted SADC Sub-Committee on Customs Cooperation (SCCC) defined their vision as: "We, the SADC Customs Administrations, united by the ideals of the SADC Treaty, shall provide world class customs service."

Guided by this statement of commitment and subsequent resolutions, regional cooperation in customs matters has grown, undertaking activities that include the creation of Customs



Participants who took part in the customs training course in South Africa.

Advisory Groups to advise the SCCC on how this vision could be realised.

Since its first meeting in July 2001, the Customs Advisory Working Group on Training has developed modules on the SADC Protocol on Trade, SADC Rules of Origin, Client Care and Train

the Trainer. Development of other modules is in progress.

The next training course whose target group is middle to senior customs managers is scheduled for November, and will focus on customs cooperation and trade facilitation. □

Can privatisation guarantee viability in SADC airlines industry?

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the region should not just be privatized because foreign carriers have better financial muscle to take advantage of the financial woes African flag carriers are facing. The situation, he says, creates unfair competition.

He says: "We're not afraid of competition but a fight is always good among equals. In this case, competition is uneven and some operators have even admitted that they never used to make profits in their own countries until they came to Africa."

However, in the wake of a global slump in the aviation industry since September 11 2001 and Iraq, it remains debatable if governments in

the region can sustain their national airlines and help the operators boost their financial fortunes.

The African Aviation Safety Council (Afrasco) says while airline privatizations are inevitable, governments should at all cost avoid outright sale to ensure they remain with a say in their flag carriers even after privatizing them.

"I believe we can't stop the wind of change, but we should carefully review the situation and control the process," advises Afrasco Vice Chairman João de Abreu, who is also in charge of technology and operations at Mozambican Airlines. □

Inga hydroelectric scheme can ignite southern Africa's power corridor

by Tafadzwa Sekeso

Massive hydroelectric power projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo are set to contribute immensely towards solving southern Africa's power shortages. Driven by the Southern Africa Power Pool, Inga 3 and the Grand Inga projects on the Congo River are a shining example of what regional integration can bring to the citizenry.

Inga 3 aims to interconnect the DRC to southern Africa via Angola, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa using either High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) or High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC).

"About 3,000 megawatts of power are scheduled to be transferred from Inga 3 to the south of which 2,000 megawatts will be destined for Eskom South Africa, while the remainder will be allocated to the National Electricity Company (ENE) of Angola, Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) and NamPower of Namibia," said SAAP Co-ordination Centre manager, Lawrence Musaba.

The project was officially launched at the 11th SAPP executive committee meeting in Durban, South Africa in 2002, where it was agreed to facilitate among other things the possible promotion and development of:

- a 3,500 megawatt hydropower plant called Inga 3;
- hydropower plants in Angola and Namibia;
- associated transmission lines from Inga 3 to Kinshasa and to Angola, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

These developments are associated with the SAPP Western Power Corridor interconnection project dubbed "WESTCOR". Its aim is to provide the much needed energy for southern Africa at an estimated cost of US\$6 billion.

SAPP, an association of the power utilities in 12 SADC countries has the mandate to support the growing trade between the southern African countries as well as facilitate the develop-

ment of a competitive electricity market and ensure that the region is the choice for investment by energy intensive users.

The Inga Falls on the Congo drops 100 metres, giving huge amounts of energy for powering turbines. The Grand Inga hydroelectric project has the potential to generate 40,000 megawatts of electricity, which is more than any known hydroelectric dam and more than twice that of China's controversial Three Gorges scheme. Inga could meet the current electricity demand of the entire continent.

Connecting it to Africa's main population centres would cost more than US\$10 billion. The first power lines would link it to South Africa via Angola and Namibia, a distance of 3,000 kilometres. There is also a possibility of it going another 4,000 kilometres north through the Central African Republic and Sudan to Egypt. Nigeria also wants to take Inga power to west Africa. And Eskom is even considering exporting Inga power to Europe, via Spain.

Technical advancement in high-voltage electricity transmission, along

with the initiatives to end the long-running DRC conflict have made the project possible. Construction could begin this year.

Engineers say the scheme does not require a large dam, as the river runs strongly all year round. The Grand Inga project envisages 52 separate generating units, each the size of a large conventional power station, with a combined generating capacity 10 times that of Africa's largest existing dam, Aswan in Egypt.

Inga 3 and Grand Inga could take up a large chunk of NEPAD's anticipated budget of \$60 billion. If successful, the projects could surpass expectations raised at the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development which cited small-scale power sources such as wind and solar as the answer to electrifying rural areas.

Other projects currently in progress include the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya high voltage transmission interconnection, the Mozambique-Malawi high voltage transmission interconnection and the second transmission line from the DRC to Zambia. □

NEPAD gives priority to hydroelectric development

About 30 percent of the projects which Nepad has put on its high-priority shortlist have reached the action phase, Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, chairperson of the Nepad secretariat told the 2003 Africa Summit of the World Economic Forum in Durban in June.

He said six out of 18 capacity-building projects, 24 of 52 facilitation projects, eight of 36 investment projects and three out of 18 studies on the short-term action plan had begun.

The African Development Bank had approved financing for two of the projects – linking electricity power grids in West and North Africa – which were expected to start first.

The short-list includes the long-awaited project to develop the Inga hydroelectric power plant on the Congo river and link it to other countries.

Nkuhlu said Nepad project implementation was "not adequate" but progress had been made. He was speaking in a session on what African governments had done to start their Nepad commitments over the past year. (*The Star*)

DR Congo: Peace on the ... MONUC needs

by Amos Chanda in Lusaka

Recent peace efforts to end the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are showing signs that the vast and volatile central African nation may be on a sustainable path towards peace and security, but events in the east of the country are putting a damper on the prospects.

The milestone peace plan agreed on in Sun City, South Africa, in April by the DRC government, rebels, opposition groups and civil society, is a feasible initiative that represents the most comprehensive plan to end a protracted conflict over power and mineral riches of the Congo.

Virtually all stakeholders were represented by the more than 300 delegates whose leaders signed the broad-based peace blueprint mediated mainly by South Africa and Zambia and facilitated by retired Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire.



UN troops are expected in the Ituri region of DRC

The key element of the peace deal includes a draft constitution and a transitional government headed by President Joseph Kabila with assistance from four vice-presidents, three of them from the rebel groups.

There are signs of hope that the peace deal is working, Congolese diplomats in Lusaka say.

"So far so good. The rebels are cooperating. They have nominated deputy presidents who have since moved to Kinshasa to take up their appointments," a senior diplomat at the DRC embassy in Lusaka said.

In a rare show of commitment to the peace deal, leaders of the largest rebel group, the Rwandan-backed Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD-Goma) arrived in the capital Kinshasa in early May, after more than four years of war.

The rebel faction has named its secretary-general, Azarias Ruberwa as its representative in the interim government where he would serve as one of the four vice-presidents.

"I will be committed to the peace plan and good governance," said Ruberwa shortly after being chosen to represent the RCD-Goma in the new inclusive administration seen as the foundation for sustainable power sharing in the bitterly divided DRC.

Other vice-presidents are Jean-Pierre Bemba,

head of the second largest rebel group, the Ugandan-backed Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC); former minister Abdoulaye Yerodia representing the Kinshasa government, and Katebe Katoto, who is representing the RCD Kisangani rebel faction.



The peace plan got another timely boost when Ugandan troops withdrew from the DRC on 6 May. Their stay was a hindrance to the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC) operations as well as a threat to Rwandan interests.

Zambian foreign minister, Dr Kalombo Mwansa, said it is particularly impressive that Ugandan troops have pulled out of the DRC, paving the way for an open peace-keeping regime under MONUC.

But the excitement surrounding the withdrawal of Ugandan troops was immediately dampened by fresh clashes in the eastern parts of the DRC.

Fighting broke out in the town of Bunia, coinciding with a summit in London between Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Paul Kagame of Rwanda who were discussing peace and security in the DRC and between their countries.

The two presidents pledged at the end of their meeting to support the implementation of the DRC peace process. International observers see

the horizon? to increase presence



the tense relations between Rwanda and Uganda as a threat to stability in the Great Lakes region, still haunted by the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the subsequent instability in the DRC.

Tension between the two neighbours escalated this year

when Uganda re-deployed troops in the Ituri region of the DRC, attracting a sharp reaction from Rwanda which branded the move a blatant violation of a treaty that led to the withdrawal of thousands of Rwandan troops from the Congolese territory last year.

President Kagame threatened to re-deploy his troops but international diplomacy halted his intentions.

Uganda and Rwanda invaded the DRC as allies fighting alongside the rebels but relations between the two burst when they began to scramble for control of the mineral and oil riches in the eastern DRC. UN diplomats are confident gun battles and looting in the area would not escalate as more UN troops are expected there shortly.

Whilst acknowledging that the UN did not have sufficient military personnel to maintain order in the east, the head of MONUC, Amos Namanga Ngongi, gave the assurance that more "blue helmets" would take up positions there.

Although the peace process in the DRC has been an on-and-off affair,

renewed fighting in the east has not erased hopes of an end to the bloody conflict. Since the outbreak of war in 1998, some 3.6 million people have died in the conflict that sucked in five foreign armies—Uganda and Rwanda on the side of rebels, while Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia defended the Kinshasa government.

Uganda and Rwanda argued that they moved into the DRC to defend their territories from the rebels who had bases there. The Kinshasa government allies said they were defending the territorial integrity of a sovereign state in line with SADC guidelines.

"We are hopeful that now is the time to give peace a chance in the DRC. It is shocking that 3.6 million people have died in the war, either through direct combat or from disease," said Zambian President Levi Mwanawasa on his return from the Sun City talks.

President Mwanawasa is hopeful that the "Global and Inclusive Agreement on the Transition Government and Draft Constitution", as the settlement is called, will herald a new era in the DRC. Inter-Congolese dialogue facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, has paid tribute to the leadership of the SADC for their steadfastness and support for the long-winding road to peace in the DRC.

But for the peace to hold, the UN needs to urgently strengthen its pres-



President Joseph Kabila head of the transitional government.

ence. With a conservative 5,000 troop-strength on the ground, many say the number is too small for the big problems of peacekeeping in the DRC.

Some 42 years ago, a similar UN peacekeeping mission failed to hold this vast nation together when the country erupted into widespread violence and lawlessness shortly after a haphazard power transfer from Belgian colonial administration.

Four decades later, the UN knows the stakes are just as high and wants the peace plan to work.

With the definitive end of war in Angola dominating last year's SADC heads of state and government summit in Luanda, SADC leaders will be happy to toast another milestone -- the end of war in the DRC -- when they meet in August at the next summit in Tanzania.

If that happened, SADC chairperson, Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, who said that entrenchment of regional peace and security would be his central theme during his tenure, would be upbeat about his prophetic declaration when he said "the region would be more peaceful the next time we meet." □

Nordic support for SADC plant breeding programme

by Tafadzwa Sekeso

SADC's Nordic cooperating partners have extended their support for a programme that conducts research in plant breeding through a US\$5 million financing agreement to support conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

The agreement was recently signed between SADC and the Nordic countries of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

"It is our belief that increased and effective plant breeding will ultimately lead to increased agricultural production," said Swedish Ambassador to Botswana, Birgitta Karlstrom Doprh.

The signing ceremony in Gaborone marked the fourth phase of the 20-year agreement, and will run until March 2007. The SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) was formally established in 1988 with funding from the Nordic countries.

The first Gene Bank was constructed at Chalimbana Research Station outside Lusaka, Zambia and commissioned in 1993.

SADC's Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, noted during the signing ceremony that "SADC will gradually be taking over the running and funding of the SPGRC. This kind of commitment shows the great value we attach to this important institution. We are very grateful to our Cooperating Partners for this long partnership commitment that has resulted in the conservation of the SADC plant genetic resources."

The role of the Nordic Gene Bank in collaboration with SADC member states is mainly to:

- act as a backstopping institution to SPGRC in all managerial, administrative and technical aspects of its operations. The support aims at ensuring that the professional quali-

ty of SPGRC is built up and maintained at the level intended;

- train and/or organize training for all categories of administrative and technical staff at regional and national levels;
- assist in the establishment of the SADC regional gene bank organization and its proper functioning;
- support the development of national plant genetic resource programmes in SADC member states;
- advise and support SPGRC staff;
- advise and support the SADC member states in establishing communication between the regional gene bank network and its users of plant genetic resource material, researchers, plant breeders; and
- aid the network in special projects including an inventory of botanic competence resources.



Improved and effective plant breeding will likely lead to increased agricultural production in the region.

Apart from maintaining the base collection of germplasm for SADC member states, SPGRC also coordinates all matters of plant genetic resources in the region under the policy guidance of the SADC Secretariat.

Through the SPGRC, a network of National Plant Genetic Resource Centres (NPGRCs) was established throughout the SADC member states. Each NPGRC is staffed by national

experts who have been trained through the SPGRC.

"To date an average of three Masters of Science degree persons per country have been trained. In addition, over 140 scientists and technicians have been trained through short practical courses arranged through SPGRC," said a statement released by SADC Secretariat.

These developments have occurred at a time when a number of issues of global importance, that have a bearing on the SPGRC programme, are emerging. Some of these include modern biotechnology and biosafety, the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, and the necessary legislation and regulations that will arise from them.

"This phase is also viewed as a consolidation phase and therefore much emphasis will be placed on the issue of sustainability," said the media release adding, "its main concern is to reduce the financial burden on SADC members to run SPGRC while at the same time ensuring commitment to the continuation of the programme".

Creating awareness on the importance and the need to conserve plant genetic resources for both present and future generations was the programme's major achievement. A significant achievement has also been the collection and conservation of germplasm through the NPGRCs.

SPGRC has been proposed as a role model in the FAO Global Plan of Action for conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. For example, the experience has recently been used to establish a regional network of plant genetic resources in eastern Africa. □

Women share power in the Mukuni chiefdom

by Leonissah Munjoma

Everybody was convinced she was Senior Chief Mukuni's wife. She sat gracefully on a chair to the Chief's left. There was an empty chair separating them. Whispers as to whose chair the empty one was were also rife but these did not outdo the mutterings about whether the young and beautiful woman was the Chief's wife.

"She looks so young," one person commented. "And beautiful too," another added.

The questions remained unanswered until the Senior Chief spoke. As he spoke, he took his time to announce who she was, thus dismissing the suspicions.

"The Bedyango and the Senior Chief are not married. They are from the same family. The current Bedyango and Senior Chief are cousins," he said to murmurs from the small group of visitors.

The visitors from six southern African countries of Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, described the visit to this magnificent village in southern Zambia as an eye opener. They could not believe that certain traditional values can survive if a people remain united.

During a tour of the Mukuni village, the visitors were told how the village, situated in the Mukuni chiefdom had survived cultural imperialism and stuck to some of the oldest traditions. These include having a female ruler who has more powers than the Chief. She can order the death of the Chief if she considers him a liability to the community; she is in charge of land distribution and she approves a number of actions.

In fact, she is the centre around which all traditional strings are tied. The people of Mukuni village still live in traditional grass - thatched round huts and have strong traditional beliefs some of which have helped them sustain the extended family system. When one visits them in their homesteads, they seem at peace despite some signs of what one may consider poverty. They are so humble, they allow visitors into their village and to have a glimpse of their everyday lives within their homesteads.

The Sambo family was one such. When the visitors arrived at their homestead, the wife, Regina Sambo was tend-



The Bedyango (Africa Queen)(right), and Senior Chief Mukuni, keep the traditional strings tied in the Mukuni village in Zambia.

ing to their children and grandchildren while the husband, Golden was carving a walking stick under a tree. She explained what the huts within their homestead were and gave lessons about how to treat certain ailments using the tree under which the husband sat.

The Mukuni chiefdom consists of a unique dual traditional rule between male and female rulers who are His Royal Highness Munokalya (Senior Chief) Mukuni and Her Royal Highness Bedyango (African Queen). This set up was created way back in the 13th century when a migrating Prince fell in love with a female ruler who was then in charge of the area. When the two got married, they agreed to share the traditional rule. The heir to the throne of Munokalya can be the son, brother or grandson while to the throne of the Bedyango can be her daughter, sister or granddaughter.

The present Munokalya Mukuni the 19th and Her Royal Highness Bedyango the 18th are cousins. They both are based in Mukuni village.

Mukuni chiefdom consists of 120 villages divided into 12 zones. Each village has a headman and a senior headman leads each zone. In each zone, a representative of the Bedyango is chosen from among the women. These participate in the decision-making process for the development of the area. This arrangement ensures gender representation at various levels of the Chiefdom.

The Munokalya (senior chief) of the Leya rules the village, which encom-

passes the Victoria Falls. A royal reception can be arranged where Chief Mukuni, dressed in his royal regalia and his court receive his guests as was the case with the visitors from the eight southern African countries.

Women may be seen as playing second fiddle in a number of African traditional societies in southern Africa. But in chief Mukuni village, the women are accorded their rightful place in that they share power on an equal footing with the men. In some instances, they have more powers as Chief Mukuni explained to the visitors: "The Bedyango chairs the meeting to choose a chief and she has the final say on the inducement of the chief's death."

The Bedyango is in charge of issues related to land including rituals, land allocation, both for agriculture and home construction purposes while the chief takes care of the administrative work. While this division of labour worked well before colonialism, things "fell apart" when the chief started receiving a salary for his administrative roles and the Bedyango was not paid when the white settlers came in.

As if denying her a salary was not enough, the colonisers demeaned her further when they built Lake Kariba on an area used for ritual ceremonies.

"Despite the fact that the Bedyango should be the most powerful, the balance of power has tilted in favour of the men. We are now fighting to have her powers reinstated by our government and to have her paid for the services she gives to the community just like the Chief is paid," Senior Chief Mukuni said.

It is the Chiefdom's hope that the Bedyango would be exposed to the outer world to enable her to have a global perspective on issues in this globalised world.

The Leya people have lived in the Victoria Falls area since the 1600s and have rich cultural traditions including deep-rooted religious beliefs, ceremonies and rituals centred on the Victoria Falls. The fact that the Victoria Falls has now been commercialised and entertains thousands of visitors a year from all over the world is disturbing to them as they feel a lot has been lost. □

President dos Santos visits SADC House

The Angolan President, Eduardo dos Santos in a recent state visit to Botswana applauded the SADC Secretariat for its good functioning, "which contributes substantially to the acceleration of the process of regional integration."

When addressing the SADC staff, he said that the secretariat's proper functioning "reinforces the confidence of member states" as they embark on the journey of creating a continental body, the African Union.

In his welcoming remarks, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Prega Ramsamy assured President dos Santos that the Secretariat is implementing most of the issues the president holds dear. Among the issues President dos Santos identified as pertinent when he assumed his term of

office as the Chairperson of SADC last October are peace and national reconciliation, combating HIV/AIDS, poverty alleviation, and management of water resources.

Ramsamy noted that President dos Santos' chairing of the HIV/AIDS Summit in Maseru, Lesotho scheduled for 4 July 2003, is a clear indication of the SADC leaders' commitment "to fight the epidemic, which has become a threat to sustainable development and security in our region." The forthcoming HIV/AIDS Summit is expected to come up with coherent and coordinated national and regional action plans on HIV/AIDS.

The Executive Secretary also praised Angola, under the leadership of dos Santos, for seeing through, the adoption of the Regional Indicative

Strategic Development Plan as a working document in Luanda in March this year. The document is a blueprint development plan for the region.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of SADC, Albert Muchanga noted that the visits to the Secretariat by SADC leaders and the general public "always reaffirm the principle that SADC belongs to the people. We as the Secretariat are mere caretakers of this regional institution."

The Angolan head of state toured the Secretariat offices, planted a tree, and presented the Secretariat with a bronze sculpture entitled "The Price of Liberty" by an Angolan artist, Mpambukidi-Nlunfidi. □



African Union summit to focus on peace and NEPAD

continued from page 1

The Mozambican Foreign Minister Leonardo Simão, who chairs the AU summit interministerial preparation commission, recently urged civil society to take an active role in the various AU organs, namely the Peace and Security Council, the African Parliament, the Pan-African Tribunal, and the African Investment Bank and Monetary Fund, all of which are yet to be established.

Speaking at a meeting with academics and students from public and private higher institutions of learning in Mozambique, Simão called on the participants to cultivate an interest in African and international politics, and outlined the advantages that the country may gain during the summit.

He said the summit would help to consolidate Mozambique's peaceful environment, and thus encourage foreign investment.

In preparation for the summit, Mozambique has built a US\$ 11 million conference centre. Named the Maputo Conference Centre, the facility has adequate parking space and boasts of a multiplicity of services including restaurants and business centres. It has four conference halls,

the largest with a capacity for 700 people, while the others may cater for at least 200 people each.

Various sectors of the Mozambican economy, including immigration services and tourism operators are already gearing up to meet delegates' needs. There are plans to install special services for delegates, including counters to issue entry visas at borders.

The interim chairperson of the AU Commission, Amara Essy, believes "that Mozambique meets all the conditions necessary for holding the summit", according to Manuel Lubisse, head of the Africa division in the Mozambican Foreign Ministry.

Briefing journalists on the preparations for the summit, Lubisse said that both Essy, and the advance group from AU member states who had visited Maputo had expressed satisfaction at the arrangements made by the Mozambican government.

Every AU member state, with the exception of the Central African Republic, was invited to send representatives in the advance group. Lubisse said that over two-thirds of the members accepted the invitation. The

Central African Republic was excluded because of the recent military coup in that country.

Essy and the advance group inspected the new conference centre, Maputo airport, and the accommodation arrangements for the heads of state.

On security, Lubisse said that "as in other fields, we are asking support from our partners, Africans and others". Such support would not be so much in terms of personnel, but additional police vehicles and other material resources.

In relation to the shortfall in the summit budget, Lubisse insisted that this did not threaten the event. "We will not work any miracles, but we will hold the summit with the resources that we have," he said.

The AU was formally established last July in Durban, South Africa, replacing the 39-year-old Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

There are 53 members in the AU, which has four key organs - the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Commission. □

SADC intensifies efforts on malaria control

by Chengetai C. Madziwa

The SADC region has demonstrated its commitment to deal with malaria through intensified efforts to control the disease. This was shown through the Race Against Malaria Rally held in April in the region.

Through cooperation of governments and the private sector, SADC health ministers and participating nationals reached out to communities in the region in a cross-SADC rally dubbed "Racing Against Malaria". The rally was organized as part of the ongoing "Roll Back Malaria" campaign which was launched in 1998 by the World Health Organization and other partners.

The race began in South Africa's Northern KwaZulu Natal and the team drove through Zimbabwe and Zambia, with Namibia and Angola joining in on the way. The rally teams proceeded through Mozambique and Malawi culminating in a major Africa Malaria Day Celebration in Tanzania.

The rally teams traveling across the region distributed insecticide treated nets, drugs, educational and communication materials for the prevention of malaria.

A first of its kind in the region, the rally attracted participants from 11 SADC countries of Angola, Botswana, DRC, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The activities culminated in the Africa Malaria Day on 25 April in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania where SADC ministers of health reaffirmed their commitment to the roll back malaria campaign. African heads of state in April 2000, called for an annual Africa malaria day as part of efforts to halve

malaria morbidity and mortality by year 2010.

Malaria is one of the top three killer diseases on the continent after AIDS and Tuberculosis. Depending on local and environmental conditions of an area, malaria can be endemic all year round, or seasonal as a result of rains. In some parts of southern Africa, malaria cases are reported throughout the year with significant increases being recorded in the rainy seasons.



The region is actively involved in the roll back malaria campaign launched in 1998.

"In southern Africa alone between 19-21 million cases of malaria are reported with between 300,000-500,000 deaths every year," says Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, South African Minister of Health and Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee on Health.

"One of the fundamental problems we face with malaria control in southern Africa is lack of resources and poor community awareness about the disease," she said.

The 2003 Africa Malaria Day theme was "Insecticides, Treated Nets and Effective Treatment for Pregnant Women and Children".

The commemoration of the day was aimed at reminding governments and

other partners of the Abuja targets, commitments and obligations. It was an opportunity to lobby for the provision of affordable insecticide-treated nets and to foster governments, community, and private sector partnership in the prevention of malaria in pregnant women and children.

Several countries within SADC have made efforts towards fulfilling their Abuja commitments. Namibia recently reduced taxes and tariffs on imported materials and drugs used to prevent and treat malaria. Tanzania has even gone a step further, offering a complete rebate on all malaria related products. Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe have also made significant steps to make these products affordable to their citizens.

The roll back malaria campaign can only succeed with the participation of not only those in the health sector but those in industry and trade. Malaria then becomes an economic issue, as stated by Prega Ramsamy, SADC Executive Secretary, in his speech during the rally.

He also noted that malaria has a direct impact on Africa's human resources and thus should be handled as an issue affecting the economic development of the region.

This year's initiative "marks the start of a process that will continue to heighten malaria control and awareness long after the race itself has physically ended," said Tshabalala-Msimang.

The activities are also in line with the SADC health protocol which says, "States shall co-operate and assist one another in order to reduce the prevalence of malaria, and with support from stakeholders, ensure the optimal use of resources to this end". □

WE ARE THE SOLDIERS OF SISULU

With the departure of Walter Sisulu, we have lost one of the major architects of the ANC, as we know it today. He played a central role among the group of leaders and activists who have occupied the front ranks of our movement for 60 years. ... They mobilised our people to produce an enduring vision for a liberated South Africa, as contained in the Freedom Charter. ...

Refusing to submit to tyranny, they decided to include armed struggle among our forms of struggle, leading to the formation of the people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe. They led the process that established one of the biggest internationalist solidarity movements in history, the world anti-apartheid movement, involving millions of people throughout the world as supporters of our struggle and friends of our people.

At the same time, Walter Sisulu and his comrades taught our movement that it also had a responsibility to act in solidarity with others elsewhere in Africa and the rest of the world, who, like us, were involved in struggle for freedom, peace and social progress. This entrenched the internationalist character of our movement, which was expressed at the very formation of the ANC, when it secured the patronage of the traditional leaders of our people, throughout Southern Africa, and later inspiring the establishment of sister ANCs in a number of countries of our region.

When the time came, Walter Sisulu and his peers, especially Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, led our movement to prepare for the negotiated resolution of the conflict in our country and to take us through the process of negotiations successfully. They led us through the first democratic elections in our country and the first years of the establishment of our democratic system of government.

Under their leadership, South Africa transformed itself from the status of an international pariah, to an important contributor to the struggle for Africa's renaissance, and an integral part of the world forces working to build a world order of democracy, peace, equality among the nations, and prosperity for all.

By any standard, these contributions constitute a critical part both of our rich history and the kind of South Africa we are able to build today. ...

We have lost a valuable guide, with a great wealth of experience, on whom we could call for advice as we grappled with the serious challenges of transformation that we face everyday. ...

Walter Sisulu was among those targeted by the apartheid regime as it prepared to hit at our movement harder, using ever more brutal means. At no point did he waver or seek to retreat.

Then began the period of extreme repression proper, with the 1960 massacres at Sharpeville and Cape Town, and the banning of the ANC and the PAC. For Walter Sisulu and his comrades, this was to culminate in the Rivonia arrests and trial, and their life imprisonment by the apartheid courts. Thus Walter Sisulu was to spend 25 years of his life in the apartheid jails.

Walter Max Ulyate Sisulu, an ANC veteran and former secretary-general who spent 25 years imprisoned on Robben Island, passed away 5 May 2003 at 90 years of age after dedicating his life to human rights, democracy and liberation. This tribute by President Thabo Mbeki is excerpted from *ANC Today – The Online Voice of the ANC*, Volume 3, No. 19, 16-22 May 2003.

But even as he fought against the increasingly brutal system of apartheid, Walter Sisulu never abandoned the vision and conviction that had informed the response of our people to the European settlers from the very first days of their arrival in the Cape. Our people were ready to share their country with the new

arrivals, extending to them the traditional welcome with which new settlers were received.

However, these settlers were intent on colonisation, the seizure of the land of the indigenous population, and their subjugation and super-exploitation as a colonised people. But still, throughout the centuries during which our people fought for their liberation, at no time were they driven by an anti-white sentiment, being inspired by the desire for a just and peaceful coexistence between themselves and the new arrivals from Europe.

And so it was that Walter Sisulu and others in his cadre of leaders, resisted for a long time the demand to take up arms against the apartheid regime. They did this because even as this regime was closing off all avenues to the peaceful resolution of the conflict in our country, they were determined that change should be brought about with the minimum loss of life among both black and white. ...

But it is precisely this that we, the fighters for the victory of the national democratic revolution must understand, that Walter Sisulu gave a particular and distinct character to our movement. He taught us that because we were opponents of white racist tyranny, we must ourselves be principled adherents of the vision of a non-racial South Africa, and the practices this entailed, even within our movement. ...

He taught us that specifically because we were fighting a regime that based its relations, especially with the rest of the African continent, on the use and the threat of the use of force in all its forms, to achieve domination, we had to remain loyal to the internationalist traditions of our movement, which respected the independence of peoples, and equality, friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation among the nations. ...

As we bid farewell to this great giant of our struggle, Walter Sisulu, all our leaders, cadres and members have a duty both to study the life and invaluable contribution of Walter Sisulu and others of his comrades. All of us have a duty to try as best we can to emulate Walter Sisulu in doing all the things that are necessary to advance the national democratic revolution. This includes a deep understanding of the need to make the necessary sacrifices to give effect to our express commitment to serve the people of South Africa, as Walter Sisulu did, without seeking any rewards of any kind.

One of our old freedom songs says: "We are the soldiers of Luthuli. Wherever we may be, we pledge to bear witness to the nobility of our cause."

At the passing of Walter Sisulu, and as our tribute to him, we must proclaim by word and deed: "We are the soldiers of Sisulu. Wherever we may be, we pledge to bear witness to the nobility of our cause." □

In Our Lifetime, the story of Walter and Albertina Sisulu

In this book, the personal and the political meet in the story of a family and a country, and one couple's dedication to each other and to the struggle for liberation in South Africa.

Walter Sisulu was born in 1912, the year the African National Congress (ANC) was formed, and his life as an activist for freedom is entwined with the growth of the organization, through the formation of the ANC Youth League, the Defiance Campaign, the Freedom Charter, and the Rivonia Trial that sent Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and others to prison on Robben Island for over 25 years.

Albertina and the children, activists in their own right, all spent time in prison, having committed themselves to the struggle, and yet remaining a strong family unit, with enough compassion to share with others who entered the household.

Nelson Mandela, who did the Foreword to the book, was also eloquent in his tribute to Walter Sisulu, who died in May at the age of 90 years, at the state funeral on 17 May attended by liberation leaders and dignitaries from the African continent.

"We take leave of a man of whom I have already said in these sad days since his death, that from the moment when we first met he has been my friend, my brother, my keeper, my comrade," Mandela said.

"His greatness as a leader derived from his humility and his ingrained belief in and respect for collective leadership. He knew and taught us that wisdom comes from sharing insights and listening to and learning from each other. He was always the unifier, never a divider where others of us would speak a hasty word or act in anger, he was the patient one, seeking to heal and bring together.

"And how can we speak about this great unifier of people without recognising and honouring that great unity in his own life: that of Walter and Albertina as a marital couple, a unity of such deep friendship and mutual respect, a personal and political partnership that transcended and survived all hardships, separations and persecution."

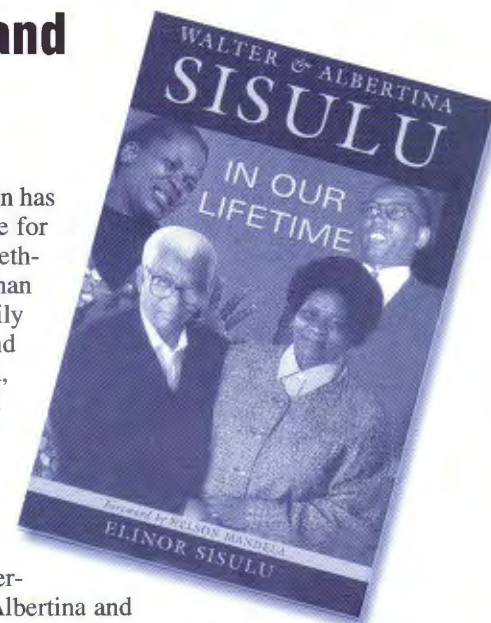
"And if our nation has to take an example for its own future together, where better than to look to the family that Walter and Albertina nurtured, held together and led? That family speaks to us of how quality and greatness are borne out of suffering and adversity. We console Albertina and the children by paying tribute to what they have come to represent in our national life.

The spear of the nation has fallen, as the militant youth of our country once sang during funerals. Let us pick up the spear, now to build a country after the example that Walter Sisulu has set for us."

Encompassing as it does the last 60 years of the struggle for liberation in South Africa, this book is a record of the recent history of the country covering all main events. Thoroughly researched and well written by their daughter-in-law, Elinor Sisulu, who had insights and access to people and documentation, and the confidence of the people whose story she was narrating, it is essential reading for current and future generations of southern Africans.

It is work like this that contributes to the fulfillment of one of the objectives of the SADC Treaty, to strengthen and consolidate the long-standing historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the peoples of the region.

Walter and Albertina Sisulu: In Our Lifetime, by Elinor Sisulu, with a Foreword by Nelson Mandela, published by David Philip, an imprint of New Africa Books, South Africa



Recent publications and acquisitions

SADC 2003 Commercial Directory, 12th Edition

Available from: B&T Directories, Unit 3/A/2 Western Industrial Estate, Gaborone, Botswana

Promoting Human Rights Education Edited by Chiweshe, F.G., Matsheza, P and Mudzongo, G.-2002

Available from: Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa (SAHRIT), P.O. Box CY 2448, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Email: hrrdtsa@africaonline.co.zw

Defining and Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability in Water Resources Management in Southern Africa.

Hirji R., Johnson P., Maro P. and Matiza Chiuta T. [eds]

SADC, IUCN, SARDC, World Bank-2002
Available from: SARDC, P.O. Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: sardc@sardc.net/
cep@sardc.net

The Africa Environment Outlook:

Past, Present and Future, a UNEP 2002 publication, has been awarded the prestigious "Notable Government Documents Award" through the American Library Association. This first edition of the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) report is a significant milestone in the collaboration between UNEP and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).
Available from: UNEP
P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: charles.sebukeera@unep.org

SADC diary

2003	Event	Venue
JULY	1 SADC Small Arms Technical Committee	Botswana
	1 SADC Fourth Project Standing Coordinating Committee (SPCC) for Crop Development Project	Botswana
	3 SADC Demining Technical Committee	Botswana
	4 SADC HIV/AIDS Summit	Lesotho
	4-12 African Union Summit	Mozambique
	6-9 Information Core for Southern African Migrant Pests (ICOSAMP) Focal Point Training Workshop	South Africa
	7 SADC Disaster Management Technical Committee	Botswana
	10 SADC Regional Appeal for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases	Botswana
	11-12 SADC Regional Meeting on the Humanitarian Crisis	South Africa
	23-24 African Defence Summit	South Africa
	23-27 SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers Meeting	Botswana
	29-30 SADC National Committees Workshop	South Africa
AUG	5-9 SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics Defence and Security	Mozambique
	17 SADC Day	Member States
	20-22 SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials Meeting	United Republic of Tanzania
	23-24 SADC Council of Ministers Meeting	United Republic of Tanzania
	26 SADC Heads of State Summit	United Republic of Tanzania

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	75.26
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.12
DRC	Congo Franc	558.61
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	7.90
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	89.50
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	27.50
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	22,950.00
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	7.95
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.61
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	7.96
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.90
United Republic of Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,025.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,735.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	824.00

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe, 10 June 2003

Public Holidays in SADC for the period July 2003 – August 2003

1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
6 July	Republic Day	Malawi
7 July	International Trade Fair	United Republic of Tanzania
7 July	Heroe's Day	Zambia
8 July	Unity Day	Zambia
17 July	Kings Birthday	Lesotho
21 July	President's Day	Botswana
22 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 July	Public Holiday	Lesotho
22 July	Public Holiday	Swaziland
1 August	Parents Day	DRC
4 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Peasants Day	United Republic of Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
11 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
12 August	Defence Forces National Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption	Seychelles
26 August	Heroes' Day	Namibia