



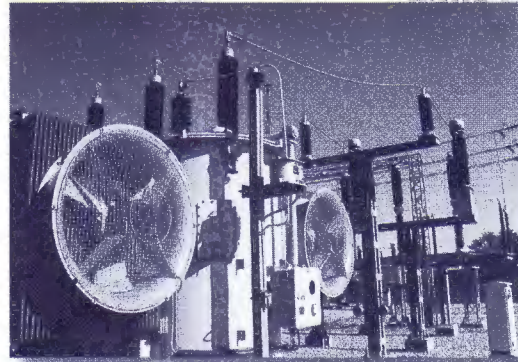
Peace and political stability prevail in SADC but poverty challenges are "enormous"

The SADC region experienced unparalleled peace, political stability and security in 2003 but poverty reduction goals remain a major challenge.

Despite considerable efforts to reduce poverty and improve human development in the region, the challenges are "quite enormous", the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Prega Ramsamy said in his end-of-year briefing.

Dr Ramsamy said the regional growth rate of 3.2 percent achieved in 2002 was far from the target of 7 percent required to halve poverty by the year 2015, and growth rates at the end of 2003 were sluggish.

With about 40 percent of the population in the SADC region living with less than US\$1 per day, he said, resource and capacity constraints need to be addressed urgently.



"The reduction in poverty achieved so far through poverty reduction strategies is not in tandem with the minimum targets as reflected in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," Dr Ramsamy said.

Poverty in the SADC region has been aggravated by cycles of drought and floods, insecurity and conflicts, and by diseases such as the HIV and

AIDS pandemic, malaria and other communicable diseases.

Despite sluggish growth rates, however, some SADC member states are emerging as continental leaders in terms of micro-economic policies and poverty reduction strategies as well as institution building, the Executive Secretary said. He cited Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa in this regard.

In terms of the economic performance, Angola is leading the way with a 13.8 percent growth rate, followed by Mozambique with 8 percent growth rate and the United Republic of Tanzania with 6.2 percent. Growth rates have also improved in Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

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Full election calendar for southern Africa in 2004

by Munetsi Madakufamba

Six SADC countries are preparing for elections during the course of the year as the region's democracy and governance once again come under the spotlight.

Although election dates are not yet confirmed in some of the countries, it is almost certain Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa will hold either presidential or parliamentary elections between March and December 2004. Lesotho will have its local government elections in November.

South Africa's third multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections are scheduled for the first quarter of the year, during which incumbent

President Thabo Mbeki will lead his ruling African National Congress (ANC) in the country's third multi-racial ballot. While analysts predict a comfortable ANC victory, the challenge for the governing party will be how to maintain the high voter interest shown in the 1994 and 1999 elections that recorded a turnout of 86 percent and 89 percent respectively.

There is no doubt economic fundamentals have responded positively to ANC's policies during the first 10 years of multi-racial democracy. The rand survived the mysterious plunge of 2002, inflation has been kept under control and the economy is steadily growing. However, challenges remain

in the distribution of the national cake, especially among the poor black majority who still yearn to take greater control of the means of production and to play an active role in the country's vibrant industry and commerce.

HIV and AIDS, a major issue in all countries in southern Africa and one that will likely dominate election campaigns, will for South Africa feature in a different context. Although the issue is unlikely to sway the vote, the controversy that arose when government delayed provision of anti-retroviral drugs to thousands of infected people

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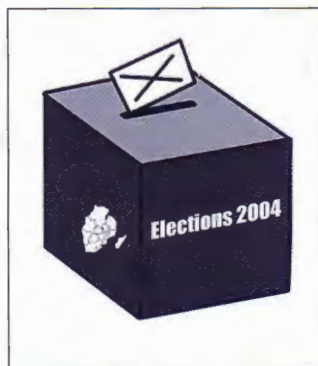
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SADC Programme of Action: Priority areas for 2004

An important milestone in SADC's restructuring process, started in 2001, was reached in 2003 with the successful establishment of all four directorates. Formally established at the SADC headquarters in Botswana, the directorates are the new structures consolidating 21 sectors previously coordinated by member states. Building on achievements of the preceding years, SADC has now defined key priorities for the directorates in 2004.

Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment

The Trade Protocol is the most important legal instrument in the region's quest for economic integration, and is in its third year of implementation since ratification in January 2000. Eleven countries have so far been implementing the protocol. Preparations are underway for a midterm review of the protocol, which will take place in 2004.

In the past year, the directorate channelled most of its efforts towards harmonizing policies aimed at putting the region on a stronger footing in the global economy. SADC played an active part in multilateral trading talks including the Cancun ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and the EU-funded Economic Partnership Agreements under the Cotonou Agreement. Priority areas identified for 2004 are to:

- consolidate implementation of the Trade Protocol, finalise the midterm review and initiate preparatory work for the negotiations for a Customs Union;
- consolidate implementation of the Protocol on Mining, finalise the SADC industrial policy and strategies document, and design an implementation programme that would enhance industrial and mining competitiveness globally;
- co-ordinate the development of regional positions and inputs for WTO and Cotonou negotiations; and
- consolidate implementation of the signed MOUs under finance and investment, and finalise the development of the Protocol on Finance and Investment.

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources

The region's food security situation has improved and SADC is working towards long-term strategies to avoid future shortages. Strategies including irrigation development and water management as well as a Regional Food Reserve Facility are being developed to strengthen capacity to respond to food emergencies.

Improved rainfall last season as well as national agricultural programmes have contributed to cereal production in the region, which has improved by six percent. In order to continue strengthening regional food security and natural resources management, the FANR directorate has set the following priorities for 2004-2005:

- promotion of crop, livestock and fisheries production to improve food availability, product accessibility and safety;
- facilitate the control of transboundary animal diseases, particularly the Foot and Mouth Disease;
- promoting measures to protect the environment from degradation, and sustainable use of natural resources, with emphasis on inland fisheries, forestry and wildlife;
- enhancing the development and dissemination of agriculture production technologies and training in agricultural research.

Infrastructure and Services

The revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses, which took effect in September last year after ratification by two-thirds of SADC member states, seeks to strengthen cooperation in joint management of the region's 15 shared river basins and avoid conflict over water resources.

The energy sector in the region also received a major boost in 2003 with approval of the Inter-governmental memorandum of understanding establishing the Western Power Corridor among the participating countries of Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia and South Africa.

The peace and stability achieved through the end of hostilities in Angola and signing of the DRC peace accord have contributed to improving the region's image as a tourist destination.

The directorate has set these priorities for 2004:

- facilitate implementation of the protocols on energy, tourism, water, transport, communications and meteorology;
- finalise and adopt guidelines on development of a legal framework for e-commerce;
- upgrade and establish telecommunication networks and services at national level;
- improve interconnectivity in the region and provision of gateways to global telecommunication networks through the Southern Africa Regional Information Infrastructure project;
- prepare guidelines for development of meteorology policies and legal frameworks for cost-recovery;
- finalise and adopt a multilateral agreement on road transport;
- promote public-private sector partnerships in the provision of transport, infrastructure and services; and
- liberalise markets in road transport, rail and air services, and coastal shipping.

Social and Human Development and Special Programmes

The Charter on Fundamental Social Rights was signed in August, during the SADC Summit in Dar es Salaam. The charter, to be used in policy formulation in member states, promotes social development and internationally recognised social rights and labour standards.

SADC Heads of State and Government also met at a special summit in Lesotho in July where they signed the landmark Maseru Declaration on HIV and AIDS.

In November, SADC launched the Belgian-funded Information 21 project to promote greater awareness through information and knowledge sharing, thus enabling participation of SADC citizens and their institutions in the process of regional integration and development. The following are priorities for 2004:

- complete a situation analysis on major human development policy concerns and their implications, including appropriate policy options;
- co-ordinate, facilitate and monitor protocol ratification and implementation;
- co-ordinate implementation of the SADC HIV and AIDS Programme of Action;
- launch and operationalise the Regional HIV and AIDS Fund and the Culture Trust Fund;
- co-ordinate implementation of the regional polio campaign, tuberculosis and malaria programmes, and reproductive health;
- finalise the regional intra-skills development programme, including a financing proposal and co-ordinate its implementation;
- develop a productivity improvement programme and co-ordinate its implementation. □

Watercourses protocol a "partnership for integrated development"

by Bonifacio Antonio

"Water -- an Essential Element for Regional Unity" was the theme of a series of international meetings on shared watercourses in the SADC region held late last year in the Mozambican capital, Maputo. Addressing the ministers responsible for water in SADC, the Mozambican Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi said Africa urgently needs to draw up a strategy for hydraulic infrastructures to make the best use of its water resources, and combat drought and floods.

Mocumbi warned that the SADC region is already faced with water shortages, which will likely worsen in the near future. "Over the last 20 years global warming has brought with it sharper cycles of droughts and floods, posing new challenges linked to the growing vulnerability of our countries to natural phenomena," he said.

"Our economies and our societies are threatened by external and unpredictable shocks that show us the need to join hands as good neighbours to find the best solutions to our problems," Mocumbi stressed.

The Mozambican Prime Minister said that with the end of racism and apartheid in the region, there are "unlimited possibilities for the development of relations of good neighbourliness, relations cemented in a historic common past of brotherhood, struggle and resistance".

The revised SADC protocol on shared watercourses resulted from a vision that "partnership for integrated development" would bring gains to each and every SADC member state.

The protocol, said Mocumbi, establishes principles and procedures that are an important reference mark in international water law, and a noteworthy landmark in the rules for international cooperation.

Mocumbi noted that over a third of Africa's population has no access to basic drinking water and sanitation services. In Mozambique, this figure rises to about two thirds. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the area of water (halving the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015) would require Mozambique to mobilise over a billion U.S. dollars in the next 12 years.

"Such financial resources can only be mobilised in a clear framework of regional cooperation," stressed the Prime Minister.

Most SADC member states share between three and nine river basins. "To provide water supply and sanitation services, we need the resources that are in those basins," he said. "We need equitable rules for access and sharing; we need to find mutual benefits in water itself, and in other goods, such as electricity".

The series of international meetings on shared watercourses culminated with the signing of five agreements hailed as further steps towards region-

al integration in the delicate question of shared watercourses.

The SADC protocol is an attempt to ensure that rivers are managed in such a way as to benefit all those who share a given river basin.

The regional strategic plan, the most significant agreement signed during the meetings, envisages that the countries concerned should work to set up regulatory bodies to manage the shared river basins.

Thus Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe would have to set up such a body to manage the Limpopo basin. Its task would be to ensure that appropriate hydraulic infrastructures are built, manage the waters of the Limpopo, and promote economic development throughout the basin.

So far 25 projects have been identified in river basins throughout the SADC region, which should be implemented as the regulatory bodies begin to function. These projects require total investment of about 70 million U.S. dollars.

One of the other four agreements does indeed concern the Limpopo basin - but was only signed by Mozambique and South Africa. Botswana and Zimbabwe cannot sign until the agreement has been approved by their parliaments.

An agreement was signed on managing Lake Niassa, and the sub-basin of the Shire river, shared by Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania. A further accord sets up a joint commission between Malawi and Mozambique on water resources of common interest.

The final agreement signed was for financing the preliminary phase of a joint study on the Maputo river. The countries concerned are Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland, and the study should cost about two million U.S. dollars. □

Access to water remains vital on the continent

African ministers who met in December 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the African Ministerial Conference on Water, reaffirmed their commitment to meeting the continent's challenges on water. The ministers pledged to tackle problems affecting water, sanitation and human settlements with a view to achieving sustainable development.

Top on their agenda was the need to develop a programme of action towards addressing Millennium Development Goals, as well as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets on water and sanitation. They also underscored the pivotal role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the framework for achieving improved access to water on the continent.

The following partnership initiatives were launched during the conference:

- Water Facility;
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative;
- Africa/EU Water for African Cities; and
- G8 Action Plan on Water for Africa.

Rainfall forecasting should be specific to time and space

by Clever Mafuta

The southern African region has been afflicted by poor growing seasons resulting from floods and prolonged mid-season droughts over the last four years. There is documented evidence of these events with droughts occurring more frequently than floods.

Scientists have even noted that the rate at which the droughts occur gives the feeling they are no longer a climatic abnormality but are part of the region's rainfall pattern.

This calls for accurate forecasting that will assist farmers in planning for their agricultural season as it will save time and resources. Planning for agricultural seasons is a crucial factor in mitigating the impacts of weather extremes and sustaining food security. However, such planning becomes a challenge when gradual forward shifts in the on-set of the rains become a common feature.

The rainfall situation is compounded by the mindset of the ordinary farmer which has largely remained the same, with planting happening during the traditional but increasingly dry months of October and November.

Agricultural planning becomes more difficult when rainfall forecasts are given mostly as averages in areas with wide climatic variations. This is despite the basic understanding that rainfall variation has two important components. They are the spatial (space) and temporal (time) variabilities.

While the previous seasons have to a large extent been affected by the El Nino phenomenon, the current 2003/04 season has largely been predicted to be a normal one. This is notwithstanding the fact that there are some temporal and spatial variability to it.

This season's regional outlook indicated normal rainfall for much of

Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho and South Africa. However, the situation on the ground is different with much of the rains having started late.

According to the SADC Regional Food Security Programme Agromet Update, the period up to the first 10 days of December were characterized by dry conditions across most of the southern half of southern Africa. Satellite-derived rainfall estimates suggest that most areas in Botswana, Lesotho, southern Malawi, southern to central Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, southern Zambia and Zimbabwe received little to no rainfall. Compared with the average scenario, the rainfall season should have started in earnest then, but up to early December the season had not had a good start.

In the northern half of southern Africa, many areas had received good rains by December. This excludes eastern Tanzania where dryness continued to aggravate the soil moisture levels.

Exceptions were over eastern Zambia and Malawi which had above normal rainfall throughout the season. Botswana and north-western South Africa had below normal rainfall throughout that season.

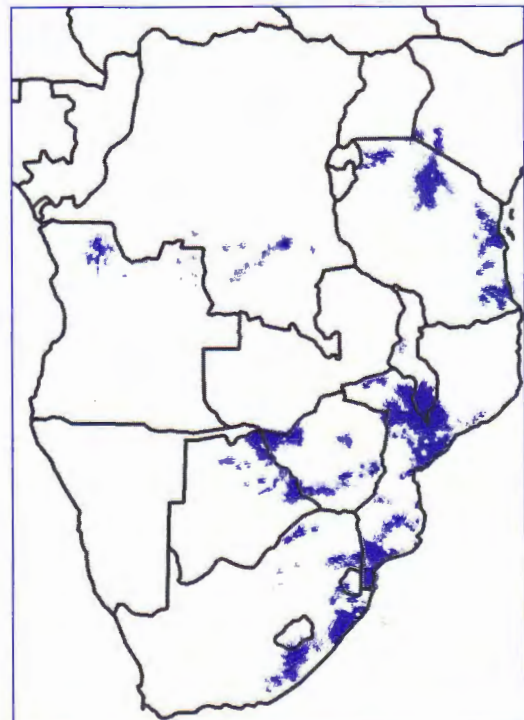
Spatial variability of the anomalies also existed within the southwestern sector covering southeastern half of Namibia, western Botswana, northwestern South Africa and the northwestern half of Mauritius having relatively below normal conditions as compared to normal.

In 2002/03 spatial and temporal variabilities were also

quite clear. The northern part of the SADC region covering DRC, United Republic of Tanzania, much of Angola, northern Zambia, northern Mozambique and northern Malawi, which always receive good rains early in the season, received normal to above-normal rainfall for the period October to December. The rest of the region experienced normal to below normal rainfall.

Bearing in mind that the region's climatic outlook monitoring systems have become sophisticated, rainfall forecasting should be more specific to time and space. Such time and area forecasts are important in saving resources, as well as ensuring effective agricultural planning. □

Areas showing delayed onset of rainfall



Source: SADC Regional Food Security Programme, Special Agromet - Update, January 2004

SADC to hold special summit on food security

The Chairperson of SADC, President Benjamin Mkapa, has called for an Extra Ordinary Summit on Agriculture and Food Security to be held on 10 April 2004 in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam.

The summit is to map out strategies aimed at accelerating development in the agro-sector. The Summit is preceded by a preparatory meeting of SADC Ministers of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources on 11-14 February, also in Dar es Salaam.

The proposal to hold the summit is premised on the urgent need for

SADC to be proactive and implement regional policies and programmes as well as developing new partnerships and initiatives to enhance agriculture and food security.

Under the theme: "Enhancing Agriculture and Food Security for Poverty Reduction in the SADC Region", the summit is expected to provide rapid interventions to resuscitate and revamp agriculture. This will be achieved by adopting immediate action plans to address key sets of challenges, that will accelerate food production, guarantee food security and reduce poverty in the region.

A declaration by the SADC heads of state and government is expected at the end of the summit. This would represent the leaders' commitment to revamping agriculture through implementation of the envisaged Regional Action Plan.

With sufficient resource allocation and investment in agriculture, coupled with appropriate infrastructure support and water management, the region can be assured of food self-sufficiency, food security and reduced poverty by 2015, which is the target set by SADC in its 15-year blueprint for development, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan. □

Full election calendar for southern Africa in 2004

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will once again dominate debate. The basis of the government's argument was that the cost of anti-retrovirals was too high, the infrastructure to distribute them lacking and that concerns remained about their safety.

However, a new government policy, cautiously welcomed by government critics, has ushered in a roll-out treatment plan for anti-retrovirals in the period 2003-2010.

Land redistribution, job creation, housing and crime prevention are other key issues that ANC cannot ignore if it is to continue enjoying support of the ordinary South Africans.

Malawians have put behind them the third term hype, and are now preparing for the 18 May general elections. This will be the third multi-party poll since 1994 when President Bakili Muluzi's ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) ended 31 years of one-party rule under the late Hastings Kamuzu Banda, and moved the country into a pluralist system of government.

President Muluzi, who has served his constitutionally-approved two terms, will step down and new party candidate, economist turned diplomat, Bingu wa Mutharika, will face a yet to be named opposition coalition opponent. The Malawian opposition is set to repeat the strategy it used in the 1999 election

when the main opposition parties, the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) and the Alliance for Democracy (Aford) fielded one presidential candidate and narrowly lost the race.

However, the situation may be more complicated now, with a plethora of opposition parties, some of which were formed by former ministers of the UDF government while the MCP has suffered a split.

For the ordinary Malawians, the main issues will remain poverty, food security and the HIV and AIDS pandemic. While government has done a fair job in increasing economic opportunities for a country that had suffered heavily under Banda's autocratic rule, economic growth still falls short of levels needed to halve poverty by the year 2015 as agreed in the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In the last quarter of the year, attention will turn to Botswana and its western neighbour Namibia where general elections will likely extend the mandate for the governing parties. President Festus Mogae will lead his ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) into an election where voters are set to reward the current government for its acclaimed economic policies. Botswana, the region's oldest multi-party democracy, has enjoyed

unparalleled peace and prosperity since proclamation of independence from British rule in 1966.

Like BDP, President Sam Nujoma's ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), which has governed since independence in 1990, looks set to extend its dominance in Namibian politics. Like its east and southern neighbours, Namibia has enjoyed steady economic growth and voters would likely want that to continue.

It will be less hectic but equally important for Lesotho which will have its local government elections in November. The presidential elections won't be until 2007.

In Mozambique, the ruling Frelimo party will field businessman and veteran politician Armando Guebuza who will face Afonso Dhlakama, his key opponent and leader of the opposition Renamo, in the presidential election scheduled later this year. President Joaquim Chissano will step down this year after 18 years in office.

Presiding over one of the fastest growing economies in the region, Frelimo is almost certain to get another mandate. In 2002, the Mozambican economy grew by an enviable eight percent, which if maintained is sufficient to halve the number of people living in poverty by 2015. □



Investment climate in southern Africa improving

by Chengetai Madziwa

The investment climate in most SADC countries has improved significantly over the past decade on the back of various initiatives aimed at creating an investor-friendly policy environment.

"SADC is... focusing its attention on increasing its competitive advantage as a sub-Saharan Africa destination for FDI [foreign direct investment] through deepening cooperation among member states," said the Executive Secretary of SADC, Prega Ramsamy in his year-end statement.

Given its improving economic environment, the region can effectively take advantage of the proposal made at the Commonwealth Business Forum held in December in Abuja, to increase investment to developing nations. This could be done through the development of a measuring tool in the form of an index, which would be used to monitor investment progress in commonwealth countries.

The index could link factors such as the gross national income of a country, its purchasing power parity and the investment it is drawing. It could also suggest what is possible by way of investment in developing countries in the Commonwealth.

SADC has embarked on a programme that targets inflation, macro-economic stability "and the creation of a wider economic space." By 2001 nine SADC countries had a single digit inflation rate with Tanzania having the lowest of five percent.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Business Forum, Botswana President Festus Mogae said "we recognize the need to work hard if we are to maintain and sustain the growth momentum of an economy that can respond to the demands of an increasingly competitive global environment.

"[In Botswana] there is no restriction of ownership, size of investment, sources of funds and marketing products. Residents and non-residents [are] free to operate foreign currency accounts at local banks. Investors can repatriate profits and dividends freely."

Another initiative by the Commonwealth Business Council, the 16 Point Action Programme for Investment, brings together governments, private sector and civil society to help countries develop fair and enticing business environment. Heads of government endorsed the programme at their meeting in Australia in 2002.

"This programme has already begun in Tanzania and Mozambique and it is encouraging that during that [one year] period, these countries have attracted new investment projects worth over US\$1.5 billion and US\$1.8 billion respectively," said the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don McKinnon.

Efforts by SADC countries to improve economic performance are in line with their commitment to macro-economic stability shown when they signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Macroeconomic Convergence last year. Through this instrument, member states agreed to implement policies that encourage movement towards regional macro-economic stability and convergence through:

- prudent fiscal and monetary policies;
- providing a framework of cooperation in finance;
- promoting development of sound investment policies:
- enhancing savings;
- facilitating and stimulating investment flows; and
- facilitating technology transfer and innovation in the region.

Work is ongoing to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding on Investment, which aims at harmonizing key investment policies in the region, presenting a united and coherent regional

SADC position on international investment.

Opportunities are also presented by a new initiative launched between the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in November in Johannesburg. Dubbed the "African Investment Initiative", it is aimed at attracting investment into the continent.

Launching the initiative, NEPAD Steering Committee chairperson, Wiseman Nkuhlu said that the project focused on how African countries' trade policies were impacting on their ability to attract investment.

In addition, SADC's Trade Protocol, which is in its fourth year of implementation, aims to establish a free trade area within the region by 2008. This would make SADC a single enlarged domestic market.

"Not only would the domestic [SADC] market be large, but also investors would find it easier to manoeuvre within the region and gain wider market access and invest in any member state for the benefit of the whole region," said Ramsamy. □

SADC investment and savings indicators

Country	Gross national savings (% of GDP) 1999	Gross domestic investment (% of GDP) 1999
Angola	7.1	20.1
Botswana	31.2	32.7
DRC	2.8	8.1
Lesotho	9.4	36.9
Malawi	4.7	15.2
Mauritius	25.1	28.2
Mozambique	2.4	26.7
Namibia	25.8	28.2
Seychelles	28.5	26.7
South Africa	14.2	23.2
Swaziland	8.9	30.0
Tanzania	1.3	14.6
Zambia	5.9	24.2
Zimbabwe	14.5	17.2
SADC	12.60	16.25

Source: Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review 2003.

The choice between ICTs and food is a tough one

In an ideal world, every citizen would have access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) with connectivity in every village, school, college, university, research centre, public library, and health centre.

In the real world however, less than half of the people have access to various forms of ICT with the majority of these living in the developed countries. The majority of people in developing countries do not even have access to the most common form of ICT, the radio. This is mainly due to lack of financial resources which most of the time have to be directed to other priority areas.

This then raises the question on whether priority should be given to addressing immediate needs for the developing countries such as food, shelter and health or it should be given to the development of ICTs which in the long run will facilitate the achievement of food security and prosperity. This issue raised debate during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003.

Much as numerous explanations about how ICTs could help alleviate poverty and end hunger were made, the dilemma developing countries, particularly those in Africa, have is that of having to choose between putting food on the table and funding ICT development.

WSIS sets targets for ICTs

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) has set targets to be met by the year 2015. These are contained in the Plan of Action the world leaders adopted at the end of the Summit held in Geneva, Switzerland in December. The targets could be taken into account in the establishment of national targets, considering the different national circumstances. They are:

- ◆ To connect villages with ICTs and establish community access points;
- ◆ To connect universities, colleges, secondary schools and primary schools with ICTs;
- ◆ To connect scientific and research centres with ICTs;
- ◆ To connect public libraries, cultural centres, museums, post offices and archives with ICTs;
- ◆ To connect health centres and hospitals with ICTs;
- ◆ To connect all local and central government departments and establish websites and e-mail addresses;
- ◆ To adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the information society, taking into account national circumstances;
- ◆ To ensure that all of the world's population have access to television and radio services;
- ◆ To encourage the development of content and to put in place technical conditions in order to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the internet;
- ◆ To ensure that more than half the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach.

Addressing the opening session of the WSIS, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique said despite being poor, his country had "gone beyond the dilemma of having to choose between ICTs and other development imperatives" because ICTs "today are the enablers and engines of spurring development in all sectors".

His Nigerian counterpart, President Olusegun Obasanjo pointed to the dilemma Africa faces between catching up with the rest of the world in getting connected and providing basic necessities for its people.

"We are, therefore, placed in a dicey situation. How to share the meager resources between the basic necessities of life and provision of ICT infrastructure," he said in his address to the Summit.

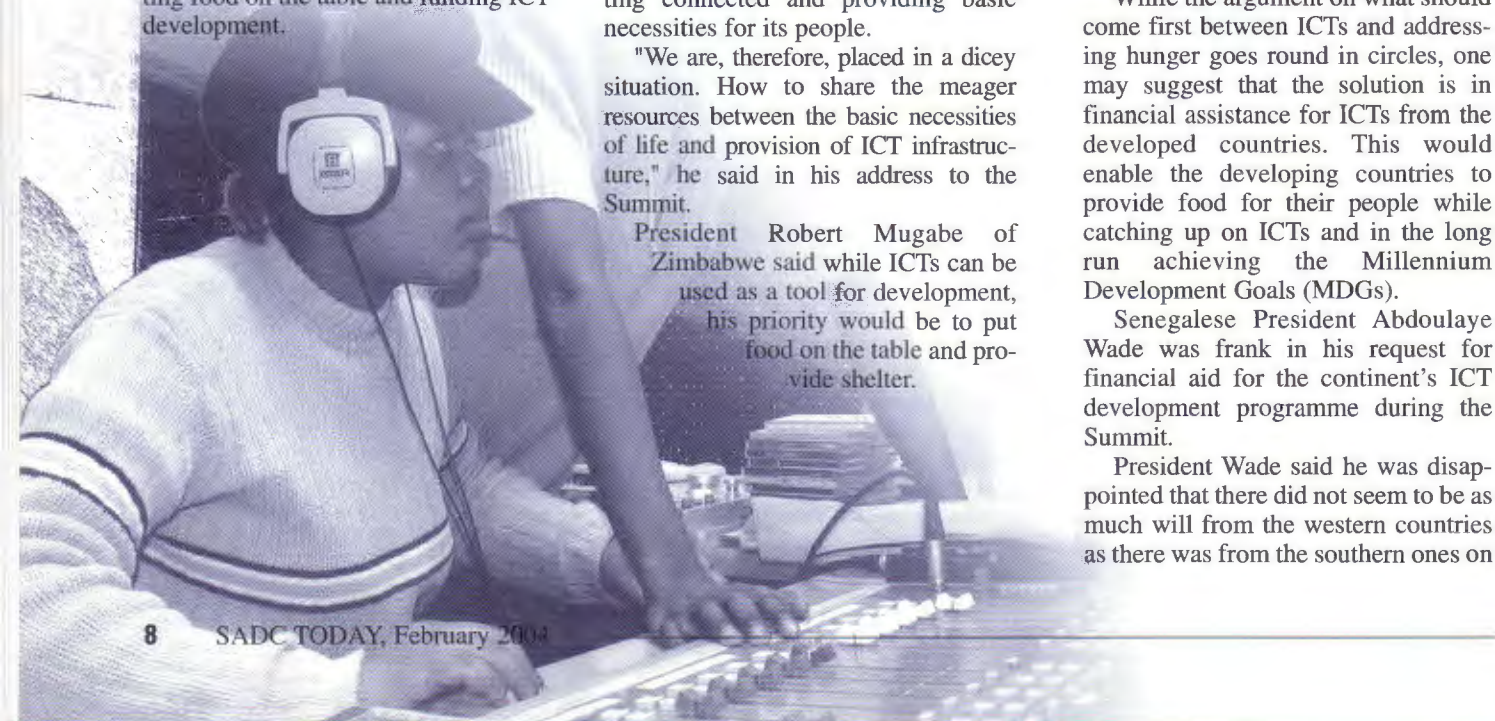
President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said while ICTs can be used as a tool for development, his priority would be to put food on the table and provide shelter.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has embraced ICTs as a tool for development and uplifting poverty, hunger and disease. Other regional bodies, including SADC, have also embraced ICTs saying these would help launch the region onto the globalization trail. It is in this regard that assistance and cooperation from partners in the north is needed in areas of capacity building, infrastructure development, technology transfer and funding.

While the argument on what should come first between ICTs and addressing hunger goes round in circles, one may suggest that the solution is in financial assistance for ICTs from the developed countries. This would enable the developing countries to provide food for their people while catching up on ICTs and in the long run achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade was frank in his request for financial aid for the continent's ICT development programme during the Summit.

President Wade said he was disappointed that there did not seem to be as much will from the western countries as there was from the southern ones on



Stories by Leonissah Munjoma in Geneva

WSIS declaration crucial for southern Africa

the setting up of a Solidarity Fund for ICT development.

"Personally, I have not seen the goodwill that we were supposed to have got at this meeting. We expected to get funding which would be used to buy the equipment from the north. It's a win-win situation. The Fund is not meant to be a free gift," he said.

Wade was pushing for the creation of a Solidarity Fund to help developing countries bridge the digital divide. But industrialised countries were opposed to the idea. They suggested that programmes to make up the ICT backlog should be financed through existing aid funding.

A compromise reached in financing ICT development in developing countries was a "Digital Solidarity Fund" that is optional while studies concerning existing mechanisms and the efficiency and feasibility of such a Fund are being undertaken. It is expected that the issue of the Fund will be dealt with conclusively in 2005 when the WSIS will hold the second phase of its meetings in Tunisia. □

The adoption of the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action at December's World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) opened "the way to the future development of a true knowledge society" and it is set to improve regional integration for groupings including SADC.

The declaration welcomes the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and encourages the international community to support the initiative's Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)-related measures as well as those belonging to similar efforts in other regions noting that distribution of the benefits of ICT-driven growth contributes to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

NEPAD is a development programme through which Africa hopes to achieve a vision of a developed Africa in which ICT connectivity will be a part.

The World Bank defines ICT as consisting of hardware, software, networks, and media for collection, storage, processing, transmission, and presentation of information (voice, data, text, images,).

Supporting regional initiatives, the Summit noted that sustainable development could best be advanced in the Information Society when ICT-related efforts and programmes are fully integrated in national and regional development strategies.

SADC has embraced ICTs as a tool for development. The WSIS has paved the way for an information revolution in the region.

Regional integration regarding ICTs was consolidated in 1998, when the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology was adopted. This protocol includes a chapter on telecommunications with a section on the need for developing a harmonised regional telecommunications policy. It includes guidelines on universal service, broadcasting, network provision and maintenance, regional cooperation, regulatory framework, responsibilities of national regulatory bodies, technical standards, human resource development, and international cooperation. Twelve SADC member states signed the protocol.

Despite these efforts to harmonise ICT development in the region, the status of ICT-related policy activities varies greatly across SADC member states. Some have made great strides while others have potential to do better.

Through the Declaration of Principles, the WSIS offers a new window of opportunity to the world, particularly the developing countries of Africa in accelerating development. As the declaration notes, under favourable conditions, ICTs can be a powerful instrument in increasing productivity, generating economic growth, job creation and employment as well as improving the quality of life for people. They can also promote dialogue among people, nations and civilisations.

The WSIS declared a common desire and commitment to build "a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilise and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential".

The Summit, aware that the benefits of the information technology revolution were tilted in favour of the developed nations, pledged to turn "this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalised". □

SADC chief on WSIS

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Prega Ramsamy says the plan of action for technology development approved by world leaders last year in Geneva will be a "living document" to guide this region toward an inclusive information society.

He said the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) provided a platform for development of a common understanding of the information societies within, between and amongst nations on a new equal partnership.

The progression of technology is eminent in SADC's development goals, and the WSIS Action Plan can guide this region in the development of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), he said.

SADC's strategic development plan recognises the importance of ICTs as "a tool for development and as an evolutionary cross-cutting key factor for regional integration and development, globalisation and modernization."

SADC thus recognises the need for basic strategies and policy options that promote ICT development.

The SADC Executive Secretary said at his year-end briefing that, while efforts have been channeled towards the development of ICTs in the region, many challenges still prevail.

He said there is a low proportion of electrified households in most member states, with only Seychelles and Mauritius at close to 100 percent electricity penetration and the rest of the countries below 50 percent.

Peace and political stability prevail, poverty challenges "enormous"

continued from page 1

On the political front, the SADC region is experiencing unparalleled peace, political stability and security since the signing of the Angolan Peace Accord in April 2002 and the installation in the Democratic Republic of Congo of a transitional government on 30 June 2003.

The regional political situation is characterised by political pluralism and regular democratic elections. Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa are expected to hold elections this year and Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe in 2005.

The SADC Executive Secretary urged member states to use the forthcoming elections as an opportunity to achieve the minimum 30 per cent of women's representation in political and decision-making structures by 2005.

He said that while progress has been made in implementing the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, and its 1998 Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children, this is mainly in parliament and cabinet.

The proportion of women in parliaments indicates that half of SADC member states are at 16 per cent and above, with South Africa leading (31.3 per cent), followed by Mozambique (31.2 per cent), Seychelles (24 per cent), the United Republic of Tanzania (22.5 per cent), Namibia (19 per cent), Botswana (18 per cent), Angola (16 per cent). In Lesotho, the Upper house has 36 per cent women representation, while the lower house has 11.7 per cent. Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are below half of the agreed minimum target.

On the proportion of women in cabinet, South Africa is leading (33.3 per cent), followed by Botswana (26.7 per cent), Lesotho (25 per cent), Zambia (22.7 per cent), Seychelles (21.4 per cent), Zimbabwe (16.7 per cent) and United Republic of Tanzania (15 per cent). Angola, Malawi,

Conditions for deeper integration and poverty eradication

- Intensifying the fight against HIV and AIDS;
- Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women;
- Rapid adoption and internalisation of Information and Communication Technologies;
- Diversification of regional economies through industrial development and value addition;
- Trade liberalisation and development;
- Liberalisation in the movement of factors of production;
- Research, science and technology innovation, development and diffusion;
- The creation of an enabling institutional environment;
- Productivity and competitiveness improvements;
- Private sector development and involvement; and
- Development of a balanced and socially equitable information and knowledge-based society.

Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland are below half of the set target.

Turning to the 15-year development plan approved by SADC Heads of State and Government in August last year, Dr Ramsamy said this will provide strategic direction, and facilitate the measurement of progress through targets and timeframes.

The purpose of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) is to deepen regional integration through a comprehensive programme of long-term economic and social policies.

The RISDP reaffirms the commitment of SADC member states to good political, economic and corporate governance entrenched in a culture of democracy, full participation by civil society, transparency and respect for the rule of law.

Regarding the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), SADC member states are integrating agreed priorities in areas such as agriculture, health, information, communication and infrastructure development into National Development Plans.

"Summit directed that we convene a High Level Ministerial meeting on NEPAD to facilitate the integration of NEPAD into SADC's regional integration programme activities," Dr Ramsamy said.

"The African Union's NEPAD Programme is embraced as a credible and relevant continental framework, and the RISDP as SADC's regional expression and vehicle for achieving the ideals contained therein."

Anti-personnel landmines continue to pose challenges to post-conflict reconstruction and survivors need urgent assistance, Dr Ramsamy said, adding that this requires financial and technical resources and must be addressed urgently.

As mandated by Summit, the SADC secretariat has been mobilising resources to strengthen the region's capacities and strategies for conflict

prevention, resolution and recovery, and on 1 December 2003 SADC signed a cooperation agreement with the UNDP Regional Programme for Strengthening Africa's Capacities and Strategies for Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Recovery.

UNDP will assist SADC in capacity building, peace and reconciliation processes, the development of an early warning system and enhancing regional coordination.

On SADC restructuring, Dr Ramsamy said that all four Directorates have been established.

The study on the New SADC Organisational Structure has been approved and implementation should commence in April 2004, with the four directors to be recruited by August.

Other major tasks which have been completed include the mobilisation of human resources from member states through secondment of officers to the Directorates and financial resources from the International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), establishment of the Integrated Committee of Ministers and in most members states, the SADC National Committees.

The next meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers will be held in March 2004 in Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania, and will approve the budget for the Secretariat for the year 2004/05. □

SADC countries to form peacekeeping force

The SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation is in the last stages of forming an African stand-by defence force that will help to tackle regional conflicts as well as those within the African continent.

This was approved at a three-day meeting of SADC defence ministers held in Maseru, Lesotho in January 2004.

SADC ministers of defence and security were in Maseru to consider the operationalisation of the AU Peace and Security Council in the wake of the entering into force of the AU Protocol on Peace and Security. The ministers also discussed the draft AU Common Defence and Security Policy. Lesotho's Mhlabi Tsekoa, the chairperson of SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ said "We want to set up an African Standby Force so that when there's a problem... whether it is in Liberia, in Sierra Leone or within the SADC region, the AU is able to deploy a force, a group of soldiers to deal with the crisis."

Another objective of the meeting was for SADC to prevent conflicts before they take place. "Africa feels that more often than not we delay to get to know of an impending crisis whether it is in Sierra Leone, Liberia or Burundi, we delay to know because we do not have an early warning system. This meeting is making proposals that will feed into the AU in dealing with the issue of developing an early warning system," Tsekoa said.

The African Standby Security Force would not be confined to the African continent, but would also help the UN Security Force where necessary.

The peacekeeping force is part of the implementation of the Mutual Defence Pact signed by SADC Heads

of State and Government at their Summit in Dar es Salaam last year.

SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy says the pact will "facilitate the interaction, joint operations, collective response within the capacities of each member state in SADC as well as building a strong foundation for one of the pillars of the defence and security of the African continent."

The latest developments are part of the operationalisation and implementation of the Protocol on Politics, Defence

State Parties and encourage the observance of universal human rights;

- ♦ observe and encourage State Parties to implement the United Nations Charter, African Union Constitutive Act and other international conventions and treaties on peaceful relations between states;
- ♦ develop peacekeeping capacity of national defence forces and coordinate the participation of State Parties in international and regional peacekeeping operations;



UN peacekeepers from Africa

and Security Cooperation. The protocol is operationalised by the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), which was also approved by the 2003 summit and outlines guidelines for implementation over the next five years.

The objectives of the protocol are to:

- ♦ protect the people and safeguard the development of region against instability arising from the breakdown of law and order, intra-state and inter-state conflicts and aggression;
- ♦ promote political co-operation among Member States and the evolution of common political values and institutions;
- ♦ prevent, contain and resolve inter and intra-state conflict by peaceful means;
- ♦ promote the development of democratic institutions and practices by

♦ regional capacity in respect of disaster management and coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

- ♦ develop common foreign policy approaches on issues of mutual concern and advance such policy collectively in international fora.

SIPO is divided into four main sectors of Politics; Defence; State Security; and Public Security.

Ramsamy says the "implementation of this plan will require the participation of not only the regional civil society, but also our co-operating partners."

He adds: "SIPO is not a plan for SADC alone. It is indeed southern Africa's contribution to strengthening peace, political stability and security of Africa and the world at large." □

"Africa feels that more often than not we delay to get to know of an impending crisis..."

Gender parity in education: countdown to 2005

by Petronella Mugoni and Chengetai Madziwa

The recently released UNESCO 2003/2004 Education for All Report, described as one of "the most comprehensive survey of education trends," reveals that a number of countries worldwide, including those in southern Africa, may not achieve the goal of gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005. However, for the majority of these countries, policies are available that would make it possible to deliver gender parity by 2015.

In most countries, says the report, the situation is better at primary school level where 60 percent of the countries had already achieved gender parity by 2000 while only one-third had done so at secondary level.

The report surveys and analyses education trends in 128 countries for which it could find data, up to 2000, and offers insights into two of the eight UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that world leaders adopted at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. MDGs, which are a set of goals aimed at reducing poverty and uplifting standards of living, have time-bound and measurable targets most of which should be achieved by 2015.

These targets have been embraced by the African Union as part of its long term development framework, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and by SADC within its Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

The UNESCO report comprehensively assesses goals on:

- ♦ universal primary education – the target for which is to ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school by 2015; and
- ♦ gender equality and empowerment of women – targets for which are to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

The two priorities are also consistent with the Education for All (EFA) programme, endorsed by 164 governments at the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in April 2000.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action is another international commitment that outlines education as a fundamental right to which both women and men should have access. SADC countries subscribe to these international commitments.

Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe are listed in the UNESCO report as having achieved gender parity in primary education in 2000. Lesotho is likely to do so in 2005. According to the report, only Swaziland had achieved parity at secondary level in 2000. Malawi is expected to achieve parity at secondary level in 2005 while Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania are likely to do so by 2015.

In drawing these conclusions, the report uses a gender parity index (GPI), which is defined as the ratio of female-to-male values of a given indicator such as enrolment and intake rates. GPI indicates male advantage for values less than unity and female advantage for higher values. For instance, countries with GPIs between 0.97 and 1.03 are considered to have achieved parity.

However, the report is quick to warn that gender parity does not necessarily mean gender equality -- gender parity is a purely numerical concept while equality is a more qualitative assessment.

"Reaching gender parity in education implies that the same proportion of boys and girls – relative to their respective age groups – would enter the education system and participate in its different cycles," says the report.

On the other hand, "Full gender equality in education would imply that girls and boys are offered the same chances to go to school and enjoy teaching methods, curricula and academic orientation unaffected by gender bias. And more broadly, equal learning achievement and subsequent life opportunities for similar qualifications and experience."

The publication adds that: "Insofar as it goes beyond questions of numerical balance, equality is more difficult to define and measure than parity". As such, the use of quantitative as opposed to qualitative indicators in measuring and thus monitoring progress on MDGs cannot be entirely relied on.

For southern Africa, improvements in gender parity can be attributed to education policy changes favouring gender equity. In Botswana for instance, the government introduced a policy allowing pregnant girls back in school after giving birth, and also established programmes to empower girls and women and to sensitise men to the importance of respect, human rights and citizenship, both of which the report cites and commends.

While some countries, including the six SADC member states, have made significant progress in achieving gender parity, attaining equality throughout education is more profoundly challenging, says the UNESCO report.

"Educational inequality is caused by deeper forces in society that extend well beyond the boundaries of educational systems," the report concludes. □

Gender parity in primary education (2000)

Country	Gender parity index (based on gross intake rate)	Gender parity index (based on net intake rate)
Angola	0.88	0.91
Botswana	0.98	1.15
DRC	-	-
Lesotho	0.91	0.76
Malawi	1.03	-
Mauritius	1.01	1.00
Mozambique	0.86	0.95
Namibia	1.03	1.07
Seychelles	-	-
South Africa	0.99	0.94
Swaziland	0.95	1.06
Tanzania	0.99	1.17
Zambia	1.02	1.08
Zimbabwe	0.97	1.05

Source: Education for all, Global monitoring report, 2003/4, UNESCO

Notes:

Gender parity index (GPI) - ratio of female-to-male value of a given indicator. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between sexes; a GPI that varies between 0 and 1 means a disparity in favour of boys; a GPI greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of girls.

Gross intake rate - number of new entrants into first grade of primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the children of official entrance age of primary education.

Net intake rate - number of pupils at the official school entrance age who are new entrants to the first grade of primary education, expressed as a percentage of the children of official admission age to primary education.

Zanzibar hosts culture event

Zanzibar hosted the Seventh Cultural and Ecotourism Symposium in December last year.

The symposium, sponsored by the Africa Travel Association (ATA), drew about 250 delegates including ministers of tourism and the environment, tour operators and game wardens from around the continent.

The meeting highlighted the importance of tourism in African countries. Showing appreciation of the event and its cause, Tanzanian Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Zakia Hamdani Meghji said, "Tourism plays a vital role in Tanzania's economic development as a major source of foreign exchange and employment opportunities."

The need to involve communities in ecotourism was also stressed during the symposium. Delegates emphasized the need to promote responsible tourism saying business should be

contacted in a manner that enhances poverty alleviation while conserving environment and culture. □

SADC prepares for games

Preparations are underway for the first Zone Six SADC Games to be hosted by Mozambique in April this year.

Ministers responsible for sport and recreation in southern Africa met in Pretoria in December to discuss the modalities and preparations for the games. All SADC countries except the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo are expected to participate in the games.

Hopes are high among the participating countries that the games will finally take place successfully after last year's postponement.

Athletes from the region will take part in various sporting disciplines including basketball, football, netball, boxing and athletics at the games. □

Athletes compete in Maputo

Mozambique hosted the 3rd Sao Silvester Road Race in Maputo, on New Year's eve. The event was held following cancellation of the Sao Silvester Luanda Road Race. Mozambique and Angola are among the countries that hold the annual event in memory of a Catholic Bishop, Saint Silvester.

Shadrack Hoff of South Africa won in the senior men's category while Zimbabwean Samukeliso Moyo came first in the senior women's category. Both athletes won 100 million meticals (US\$1 is approx. 23,000 meticals).

The race attracted long distance runners from southern Africa. The continued existence of such events and support from all stakeholders is seen as fundamental in regional integration through culture and sport. □



Officials and delegates at the launch and signing ceremony of the SADC Information 21 Project in November 2003 in Gaborone. The three-year project is funded by the Government of Belgium through the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). It is aimed at promoting greater awareness, through information and knowledge sharing which in turn enables greater participation of the SADC citizens and their institutions in the process of regional integration. Coordinated by the SADC Secretariat, the project is being implemented by three partners -- the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Inter Press Service (IPS) and the Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA).

SADC-EU sign eight-million-euro financing agreement

SADC and the European Commission have signed a 7.9-million-euro financing agreement that is aimed at contributing towards poverty reduction through increased productivity and trade flows in the traditional livestock sub-sector.

The financing agreement, signed in Gaborone in January, covers a five-year project on the "Promotion of Regional Integration in the SADC Livestock Sector".

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr

Prega Ramsamy noted that the "project will lay down a sustainable base for a coherent regional approach towards the development of the livestock sub-sector focusing on establishing a viable, efficient and sustainable core body of human and technical resources".

Dr Ramsamy added that the agreement is being signed at an opportune time given the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) crisis in the region.

In September last year, the SADC Secretariat launched an appeal for

support to control FMD in the region. Dr Ramsamy indicated that, "the EU responded favourably to this appeal and consultations are underway to prepare an Appraisal of about 8 million euros to be able to intervene in an Emergency Operation in the SADC Member States, which are currently affected by FMD". □

Forum approves SADC Parliament

The 15th plenary assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum held in Lesotho late last year approved the establishment of a regional parliament that would complement the work of the continental African parliament.

The formation of the SADC parliament as an important organ of the continental parliament was seen as a vital cornerstone to promote debate on regional integration issues.

It is further hoped that the parliament would be an important tool for facilitation of the harmonisation of laws of SADC members as well as exercising important oversight functions.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Amusaa Mwanamwambwa called upon the heads of state and government of the SADC region to collectively support the formation of the SADC parliament, saying its success depended on their support. (*Mopheme/The Survivor*) □

SADC develops new sorghum variety

The SADC International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has released 46 varieties of sorghum and millet since the establishment of the institute's sorghum and millet improvement programme more than 20 years ago.

In response to recommendations made at a SADC summit in Lusaka in 1983, the programme, in partnership with ministries of agriculture in each SADC country, has developed new varieties of sorghum and pearl millet, providing at least US\$12 million in annual income to smallholder farmers.

Several thousand farmers have been trained in different areas such as crop husbandry practices, pest disease management, seed production and storage and post harvest practices.

Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have already started using the new early maturing, high-yielding and disease-resistant seed varieties, said the coordinator of sorghum and millet improvement and networking in southern Africa, Mary Mgonja at a recent workshop in Zimbabwe. (*Sunday Mirror*) □

Maputo harbour upgraded

A dredging programme at Maputo harbour in Mozambique has been completed ahead of schedule, enabling the port to accommodate larger ships and allowing increased efficiency.

Southern African exporters have taken a keen interest in the upgrading of the port, which they see as a potential alternative facility to South African ports which have experienced congestion problems.

Maputo Port Development Company, a private consortium that took over management of the port last year, described the dredging of the Polana and Xefina channels as a milestone.

"Port Maputo is becoming more versatile in the range of services it can offer to customers," said the port company's operations director, Ken Shirley. (*Business Day*) □

Tanzanian government to institute water programme

The Tanzanian government has said it is determined to institute a national rainwater-harvesting programme to ensure access to clean water for a variety of uses.

The Minister for Water and Livestock Development, Edward Lowassa, said the programme would be officially launched in the Budget Parliamentary Session in July this year.

In his keynote address to a water conference in Arusha, attended by water experts in the country, the minister urged members of the Rainwater Harvesting Association in Tanzania to collaborate with the ministry in the preparation of the national strategy aimed at fighting poverty. (*IPP Media*) □

Examining gender dimensions in SADC constitutions

Reviewed by Chenai Mufanawejingo

A *Guide to Gender Dimensions in SADC Constitutions* is a recent publication examining the opportunities and constraints presented by the different constitutions in the SADC member states towards the promotion of gender equality and equity.

In examining SADC constitutions, the handbook provides a general overview of the region's progress on promoting gender equality, including the gender perspective of different national policies and recommendations.

Published by the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the new handbook builds on the previous publication, the *SADC MP's Companion on Gender and Development in Southern Africa*, which provided an overview of the gender issues in the SADC region.

The analyses of constitutions for 12 of the 14 SADC member states in the *Guide to Gender Dimensions in SADC Constitutions* is based on the understanding that knowledge on which constitutions are strong on particular issues within the region will provide a point for tracking the implementation and challenges facing specific countries to realize the objectives of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development.

The publication, which is neatly designed and strategically packaged in a pocket-size format, has been produced and published under the Engendering Parliaments project conceptualised by SADC PF and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA) programme.

The 68-page publication is divided into four chapters with the first briefly outlining the gender sensitivity of each of the constitutions. The second chapter provides a summary of the gender issues in SADC constitutions and an analysis of the relevant constitutional clauses of each country using the key gender themes covered by each constitution. Also included in the summary is the year in which the constitution came into effect in each country and some brief notes on the national law.

The publication also makes a reference to key regional and international human rights instruments such as the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development (1997), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the African Charter.

The depth and quality information in this publication should augment the work of parliamentarians and those interested in formal and substantive promotion of gender equality and equity.

The *Guide to Gender Dimensions in SADC Constitutions* is a useful tool for policy makers and other stakeholders in the promotion of gender equity and equality in the SADC as it also gives some recommendations for action. Advocacy groups should also find the guide a useful tool in their fight against gender discrimination.

A Guide to Gender Dimensions in SADC Constitutions

Available from: SADC Parliamentary Forum, Private Bag 13361, Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: 264-61-246461/249321, Fax: 264-61-254642/247569; Email: info@sadcpf.org

Recent publications and acquisitions

African Savannas: Global narratives and local knowledge of environmental change.
Basset, Thomas. J and Crummey, Donald (eds). - 2003

Available from: James Currey Ltd, 73 Botley Road Oxford OX2 OBS.
E-mail: orders@marston.co.uk
Website: www.jamescurrey.co.uk

Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa to 2020: Socio-economics and policy research -- Working Paper 49. Ehui, S, [et. al.]. - 2002

Available from: International Livestock Research Institute.
P.O Box 30709, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: ILRI-Kenya@cgiar.org
Website: www.ilri.cgiar.org

From War to Peace on the Mozambique-Malawi borderland.

Englund, Harri - 2002
Available from: Edinburgh University Press for the International African Institute, London
22 George Square, Edinburgh
E-mail: marketing@eup.ed.ac.uk
Website: www.eup.ed.ac.uk

Political and Economic Liberalisation in Zambia 1991 - 2001.

Rakner, Lise - 2003.
Available from: The Nordic Africa Institute
P.O Box 1703 SE-751 47 Uppsala
Sweden
E-mail: nai@nai.uu.se
Website: www.nai.uu.se

Social History and African Environments.
Beinart, William and McGregor, Joahn (eds) - 2003.

Available from: New Africa Books, 99 Garfield Rd, Claremont 7700, Cape Town.
E-mail: info@newafricabooks.co.za
Website: www.newafricabooks.co.za

Aids and Governance in Southern Africa: Emerging theories and perspectives.

Compiled by Chirambo, Kondwani and Caesar - 2003
Available from: Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA)
E-mail: kondwani@idasa.org.za
Mary@idasa.org.za
Website: www.idasa.org.za

SADC diary

2004	Event	Venue	
February	2-4	SADC Customs Advisory Working Group Workshop on Rules of Origin	Swaziland
	2-5	SADC Fisheries Ministers' Meeting	South Africa
	4-5	SADC Mid-season Strategic Assessment and Disaster Preparedness Meeting	Mozambique
	4-6	SADC Customs Workshop on Transit Regulations and Procedures	Swaziland
	4-6	SADC Finance Sub Committee Meeting	Botswana
	5-8	African Mining and Ministers Meeting	South Africa
	11-14	SADC Preparatory Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture	Tanzania
	16-20	SADC Customs Advisory Working Group Workshop - to draft training modules on WTO customs valuation	Angola
	23	SADC Ministers of Finance Meeting	South Africa
	23-24	SADC Council Chairperson's visit to the SADC Secretariat	Botswana
	23-25	SADC Customs Advisory Working Group Workshop - Customs cooperation and trade facilitation	Angola
	23-26	SADC Regional Fertilizer Policy, Trade and Marketing Conference	South Africa
	24	Launching of the SADC Culture Trust Fund	Mozambique
	3 Feb-24 Mar	SADC Information 21 Regional Consultative Workshops	All Member States
	March	8	SADC Sub-Finance Committee Meeting
9-10		SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials	Tanzania
11		SADC Finance Committee	Tanzania
12-13		SADC Council of Ministers	Tanzania
15-16		SADC Roundtable on Dispute Settlement Mechanism	South Africa
15-26		SADC Customs Advisory Working Group - Training Session	Zimbabwe
22-26		Regional Training of Trainers Course for Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Workers	South Africa
22		EU-SADC Investment Promotion (ESIPP) Steering Committee Meeting	Botswana
24-25		Training Seminar for SADC EPA Negotiations	Belgium
29		Launch of SADC EPA Negotiations	Belgium
29 March-2 April		SADC Epidemiological Network on Drug Use Training Mission to the DRC	DRC

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	78.77
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.83
DRC	Congo Franc	380.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	7.35
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	106.70
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	25.30
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	23,240.00
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	7.47
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.18
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	7.46
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.10
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,076.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,750.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	4,177.16

16 January 2004

Public Holidays in SADC for the period
January 2004 – March 2004

1 January	New Year's Day	All SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles
4 January	Martyr of Colonial Repression	Angola
4 January	Martyr's Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
17 January	Lumumba's Day	DRC
18 January	Kabila Hero's Day	DRC
19 January	Thaiposam Cavadee	Mauritius
1 February	Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	Start of Liberation War	Angola
1 March	Maha Shivaratri	Mauritius
8 March	Women's Day	Angola
11 March	Moshoeshoe's Day	Lesotho
12 March	Independence Day	Mauritius
12 March	Youth Day	Zambia
13 March	Ougadi	Mauritius
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
21 March	Human Rights Day	South Africa
27 March	Victory Day	Angola