

Revitalised SADC determined to “cut the talk and walk the walk”

by Munetsi Madakufamba

SADC is shrugging off the “talk shop” tag often associated with intergovernmental bodies, increasingly adopting a new business culture that is results oriented. Gone are the days when the success of meetings of its leaders was based on how many protocols have been tabled for signature.

With a new institutional structure emerging from four years of restructuring, which is now almost complete, expectations for a more efficient, effective organisation are higher. Targets have been set in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), and within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

For most of these targets, the deadline is 2015, which is around the corner. They range from a seven percent annual economic growth target needed to halve the number of people living in poverty, to gender equity, equality and empowerment.

Current key socio-economic indicators of member states’ performance point to a region that requires some urgency and a business-like approach to addressing the various challenges that confront southern Africa’s 208 million people.

The political and socio-economic challenges and the way forward were aptly characterised in speeches at the 2004 Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Grand Baie, Mauritius, on 16-17 August.

The speakers ranged from outgoing SADC chairperson and Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa to his successor Mauritian Prime Minister Paul

Bérenger; Presidents Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Sam Nujoma of Namibia both of whom bade farewell to their colleagues as they will soon retire, to the newcomers, Bingu wa Mutharika elected Malawi President in May, and Marc Ravalomanana of Madagascar whose country was given candidate membership for one year before being considered for admission as a full member.

Common in all the speeches was the self-criticism which bears testimony to an organisation determined to take control of its destiny. The leaders criticised the “painstakingly slow” implementation of agreed policies.

A total of 30 legal instruments, including the SADC Treaty, protocols and charters, have been adopted since 1992 when the organisation trans-

formed from a coordinating conference to a development community.

Of these, 20 have entered into force while the remainder awaits the requisite number of member state ratification before they become binding. For those that have been ratified, it is still a long way before the protocols are harmonised with national policy.

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Leaders adopt electoral guidelines

Southern African leaders unanimously adopted the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections during the Summit held in Grand Baie, Mauritius, in August.

The Guidelines are in line with the organisation’s Treaty, which commits member states to “promote common political values, systems and other shared values which are transmitted through institutions which are democratic, legitimate and effective.”

The electoral guidelines are within the framework of the Protocol on

Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and its implementation framework, the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO).

The guidelines outline standards for conducting democratic elections. The mandate and constitution of the SADC Observer Mission is also laid out in addition to guidelines for the observation of elections. A Code of Conduct outlines the rights and responsibilities of SADC election observers. The guidelines also lay down the responsibilities of the member state holding the elections. (*see full version on pages 10 and 11*). □



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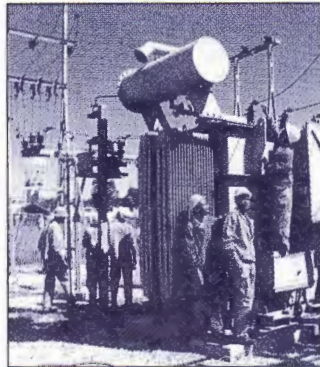
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SADC restructuring: Progress to date

While commending the significant progress achieved on restructuring within SADC, leaders attending the Mauritius summit in August said they would want the process to move a gear up so that the agreed structures can deal more effectively with the challenges at hand.

The following milestones have been achieved:

- ◆ amendment of the Treaty and subsidiary instruments;
- ◆ development of a new formula for membership contribution;
- ◆ clustering of 21 sectors and the establishment of four directorates at the SADC Secretariat;
- ◆ creation of an Integrated Committee of Ministers and SADC National Committees;
- ◆ audit of SADC programmes/projects and assets;
- ◆ implementation and approval of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP); and
- ◆ completion of the job evaluation exercise.

However there are still some outstanding tasks to be completed. These include:

- ◆ amendment of subsidiary instruments such as the protocols, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), agreements and charters;

- ◆ feasibility study on the Fisheries Agency;
- ◆ staff development and training;
- ◆ performance management;
- ◆ creation of a regional development fund; and
- ◆ long-term office accommodation needs.

The next challenge and way forward for SADC is to implement the new structure and effectively conclude the transitional phase of restructuring through:

- ◆ strengthening of the Secretariat by provision of adequate resources to accelerate the appointment of directors, heads of units and senior officers within the next year;
- ◆ convening of regular meetings of the Troika to perform its duties as steering committee of SADC;
- ◆ strengthening and popularisation of SADC National Committees so that member states and stakeholders make effective use of them as institutions of SADC;
- ◆ efforts should be strengthened to establish the proposed SADC Development Fund;
- ◆ member states should at every meeting of Council submit reports on how they are implementing SADC Protocols.

“We are optimistic that the new SADC structure if given the appropri-

ate human and financial resources will serve as a vehicle to enable us to begin in earnest, the journey from poverty and marginalisation to prosperity, enlightenment and the centre-stage in global economic and political affairs,” said Prega Ramsamy, Executive Secretary of SADC.

The launch of the RISDP has provided strategic direction to the organisation and seeks to operationalise the SADC Common Agenda towards poverty eradication.

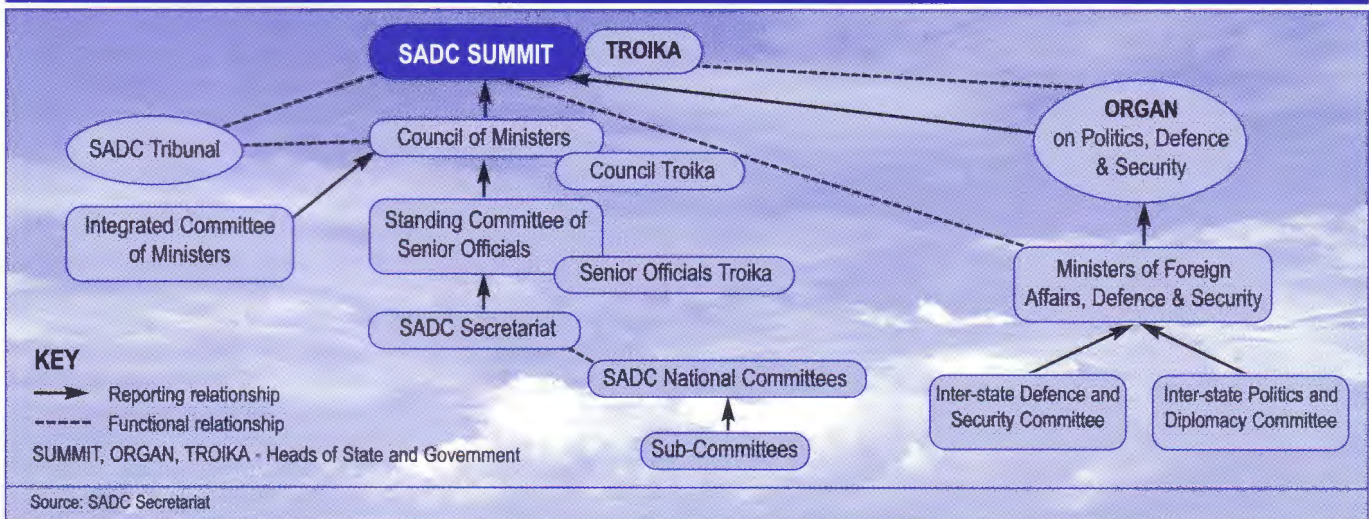
The responsibility of operationalising the RISDP has been devolved to the national governments.

SADC National Committees will be responsible for information dissemination, implementation and monitoring of the RISDP at national level. They will also ensure broad and inclusive consultations at national level, which will feed into the inputs required by the secretariat.

At the SADC Secretariat level, business plans are being developed for launching at the Council of Ministers early next year.

The Integrated Committee of Ministers will exercise continuous oversight over the implementation process to ensure consistency of outputs with SADC’s vision, mission and agreed targets. □

SADC Institutional Framework



Economies trail international poverty targets

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The majority of SADC economies have continued with their trend of positive economic growth albeit at levels that are insufficient to progressively reduce poverty.

Latest figures released by the SADC Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment Directorate show that the region's average gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.2 percent in 2003, the same growth rate achieved in the previous year.

Angola, which has just come out of a devastating civil war, achieved a GDP growth rate of 17 percent in 2003. Botswana (6.7), Malawi (6.5), Mozambique (7) and United Republic of Tanzania (5.5) were among the top performers. The rest achieved growth rates below five percent with Zimbabwe, which appears set for an economic upturn this year, recording a negative growth rate.

At current growth rates, most SADC countries will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving poverty by 2015. The internationally agreed minimum economic growth target necessary for developing countries to achieve the poverty MDG is for them to grow by at least seven percent per annum.

"The majority of our people in the region subsist on below internationally acceptable poverty lines," says Jakaya Kikwete, Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Poverty, which stands at 40 percent of SADC's combined population, is fer-

tile ground for the spread of major communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria, and HIV and AIDS which have severely derailed development efforts in the region.

Fudzai Pamacheche, head of the SADC economic directorate says the other big challenge is for SADC member states to keep inflation within single digit levels. He says recent food shortages in some parts of the region had a knock on effect on the consumer price index in 2003, "particularly for Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia, which had achieved single digit inflation rates in the last few years". However, seven countries recorded single digit rates of inflation during the same year.

A significant increase in intra-regional trade has been achieved since 2000 when the SADC Trade Protocol came into effect. Intra-regional trade is estimated at 25 percent of all international trade and is expected to rise to 35 percent by 2008, according to targets set out in SADC's economic blueprint, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

"Major increases in trade have occurred in the textiles and clothing, and sugar sectors," says Pamacheche, adding that special trade arrangements for these sectors have opened up opportunities for the region.

While the trade protocol is meant to facilitate the exchange of goods and services in the region by reducing and ultimately removing tariffs, a number of barriers still remain.

"There is outstanding work on the harmonisation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, which are critical for trade in agricultural products," says the SADC economist, explaining progress on the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol.

He adds that: "while there has been significant progress on trade in goods,

trade in services remains behind schedule mainly due to lack of capacity. In dealing with trade in services, we have to be mindful of the obligations that member states have undertaken at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) level as well as the current Doha Development Round negotiations."

SADC countries, along with other developing nations, are facing stiff resistance from wealthy nations who are reluctant to reduce, let alone remove, subsidies on agricultural products, which render farmers in the south less competitive.

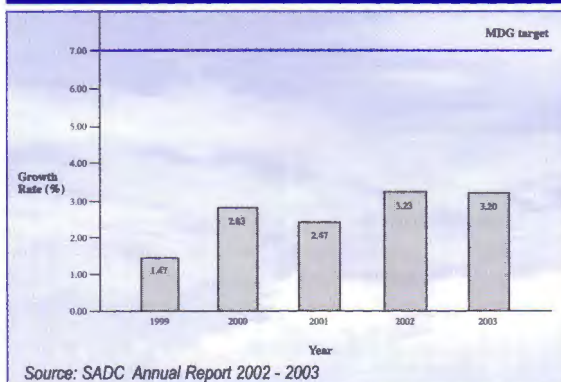
For SADC countries, two major avenues are available to pursue the trade talks: the WTO framework, and the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) negotiations with the European Union (EU). Negotiations for a regional economic partnership agreement between SADC and the EU were launched in Namibia in July, this year.

The creation of a harmonised industrial and investment growth environment is yet another challenge for SADC. Most southern African countries are producers and exporters of primary products with a small industrial base that relies heavily on imported machinery and equipment. South Africa is the region's most industrialised economy while Mauritius and Zimbabwe have a significant manufacturing base.

Pamacheche says SADC is carrying out a regional assessment of the extent of cross border trade, an informal sector that has steadily grown over the last few years, but remains largely ignored. It is now increasingly accepted that cross-border trade, in which women are the main players, has the potential to transform the lives of many social groups in the region.

Cognisant of the numerous economic challenges that the region faces, and the need to achieve acceptable macro-economic convergence, SADC plans to establish a surveillance mechanism that will monitor the performance of member states and ensure that they stay within agreed targets as outlined by the 15-year RISDP. □

SADC GDP growth rates, 1999 - 2003



Southern Africa taking steps to avert energy crisis

by Virginia Muwanigwa

The launch of a major regional energy project in the Democratic Republic of Congo is one of many initiatives to ensure sustainable supply of energy in the SADC region.

The Western Power Corridor Project (Wescor) includes a 35,000-megawatt hydropower station at the Congo River's Inga Falls, which is expected to supply power to Angola, Botswana, the DRC, Namibia and South Africa initially, and later to the rest of the region.

Joao Caholo, SADC Supervisor of the Infrastructure and Services Directorate told a media conference during the last SADC Summit in Mauritius that the five countries have initiated the US\$7.3 billion project to boost power supplies in line with diminishing generation capacity especially in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

The summit also received from its member states, energy projects for capacity expansion for 2005 – 2010 and up to 2020. SADC countries are exploring strategies to ensure sustainable energy supply, including power projects meant to complement traditional sources of energy such as thermal and wood fuel to sustain growing populations and economies.

Inga is the largest single hydropower initiative in the world and at full capacity is expected to surpass Mozambique's Cahora Bassa, currently among Africa's biggest hydroelectric stations producing an estimated 2,500 megawatts.

Fani Zulu of the South African power utility company ESKOM, says the Inga project's objective is to provide "low cost, affordable and environmentally friendly energy and to ensure that economic development in the region is not constrained by shortages in energy capacity."

This is in response to projections that diminishing power generation capacity in the region may lead to major constraints if no major investment in power generation is made by 2007.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, says the region needs to take urgent action to address the power generation capacity constraints through fast tracking short-term priority power generation projects under the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Member states have also been urged to streamline development planning with the implementation of short term priority power generation in addition to exploring alternative sources of power such as renewable energy.

SAPP, which was formed in 1995, brings together power utilities of 13 SADC member states. Its primary aim is to provide cheap and reliable supplies of power and to regulate cross-border electricity transmission and trade.

Caholo says the major focus has been on increased energy trading under SAPP and the establishment of regulatory institutions to reform the region's energy market to allow for the increased participation of other stakeholders and attract investment.

SAPP has set up the Short Term Energy Market (STEM), coordinated by the Zimbabwe-based SAPP Regional Office, whose objective is to reduce energy prices among SAPP members. Power utility companies in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are trading under STEM, which will see new interconnection transmission lines along the SAPP network that will extend regional electricity trading.

The interconnections will also link Malawi and Tanzania to the regional electricity grid.

while allowing countries to import power from other SADC countries.

The SADC Infrastructure Directorate is undertaking studies to develop a Renewable Energy programme of Southern Africa, which seeks to increase access to renewable energy technologies.

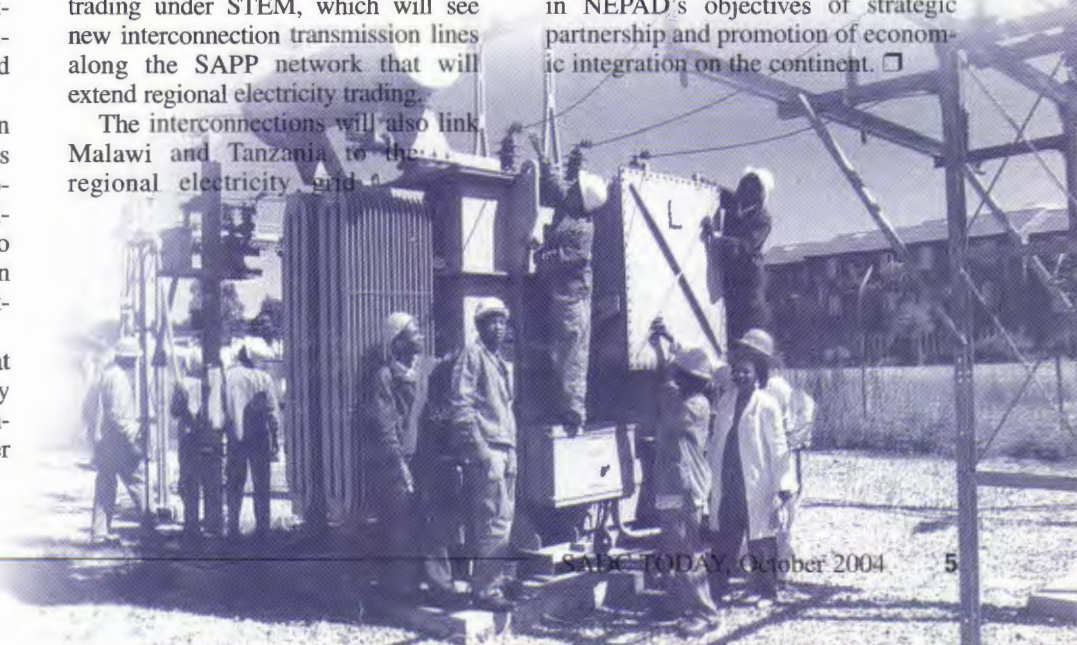
Research into the use of natural gas reserves, nuclear options, wind and solar power and small diesel or petrol generators has been initiated. Nearly half of Africa's power is currently generated from coal.

Lovemore Chilimanzi of SAPP says while renewable energy sources such as solar is a minor source, they need to be tapped for regional markets.

"We want to see southern Africa developing into a truly regional market. We also want to be a region of choice for investment by energy investors," he says.

The regional energy projects are coordinated at continental level by NEPAD, whose primary role is to promote, facilitate and monitor the development of regional infrastructure activities.

NEPAD has developed a short term action plan on infrastructure for implementation between 2003 and 2007. SADC, among other regional economic communities, has submitted a list of projects based on agreed criteria within NEPAD's objectives of strategic partnership and promotion of economic integration on the continent. □



Revitalised SADC determined

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Apart from charters and declarations, no new protocols have been signed since 2002. Unlike charters and declarations, which are an expression of commitment, protocols constitute the legal framework which must be harmonised with national laws and policies.

In Mauritius, the leaders adopted, for immediate application, SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. The common electoral guidelines are set to be applied for the first time during the forthcoming elections in Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique.

The lack of financial resources has often been cited as the biggest factor hampering effective implementation of SADC decisions. While acknowledging the role of external support, Mkapa and Bérenger spoke in unison about the need for member states to take the lead.

Other constraints are to do with human resource capacity. The Secretariat, which plays a major advisory role to member states, does not have sufficient human resources. As noted by the summit, the four directorates, which emerged after clustering 21 sectors previously coordinated by member states, are served by officers on short term contracts and on secondment from member states and the directors are in the process of being recruited.

"The recruitment process has been painstakingly slow, the transitional phase has taken longer than anticipated, and this has heightened uncertainty and demoralisation among staff," said Mkapa, adding that "such a situation impacts negatively on performance and programme delivery."

The new bigger offices to accommodate the enlarged Secretariat team are also yet to be constructed four years after the decision was taken and land donated by the government of Botswana.

This will now change with member states, in an unprecedented move, committing a total of US\$6,250,000 as

seed money for the construction of the new offices. Prime Minister Bérenger also pledged to visit the Secretariat as "early as October" to ensure that there is progress on outstanding restructuring-related issues.

The Mauritian Prime Minister outlined his priority areas during his term of office, embracing those identified by his predecessor, President Mkapa – food security, HIV and AIDS, peace and security and the integration agenda. To that list, he added:

- ♦ implementation of the SADC Protocols by spelling out concrete programmes of community-building through regional integration;
- ♦ operationalisation of the two major development plans – RISDP and Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) and building the necessary synergy with NEPAD;
- ♦ rationalisation of the various Committees, both technical and ministerial so that there is value for money;
- ♦ increasing the credibility of SADC vis-à-vis its international cooperating partners;
- ♦ forging strong relationships with sub-regional, continental and multi-lateral organisations; and
- ♦ encouraging member states to align their national policies to regional cooperation so they stay on course in the globalisation process and make a significant dent on poverty.

PROFILE

Paul Raymond Bérenger Prime Minister of Mauritius



Date of Birth	26 March 1945
Marital status	Married to Arline Perrier and has three children
Qualifications	BA (Hons) Philosophy and French, University of Wales
Decorations	Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.C.S.K), Grand Officier de l'Ordre National Malgache (GONM)
Career	
1969 - 1983	Secretary-General of the MMM (Mauritius Militant Movement)
1970 - 1982	Trade Unionist
1976 - 1987	Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Constituency of Belle Rose/Quatre Bornes
1982 - 1983	Minister of Finance
1983 - 1987	Leader of Opposition
November 1990	Special Adviser to the Prime minister for Disarmament Affairs
September 1991	Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Constituency of Rose Hill/Stanley
October 1991 - Aug 1993	Minister of External affairs
December 1995	Re-elected Member of the National Assembly for the Constituency of Rose Hill/Stanley
December 1995	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International and Regional Co-operation
July 1997	Leader of the Opposition
October 2000	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
30 September 2003	Prime Minister and Minister of Defence & Home Affairs

Source: Government of Mauritius

With this short and practical agenda, it is set to be an exciting year during Prime Minister Bérenger's term of office.

He said at the close of the summit, "in Mauritius we are not known for making long speeches... we are more interested in action". □

Will SADC member states meet the 2005 gender goals?

by Barbara Lopi

Will SADC member states meet the benchmarks to gauge the region's commitment to reduce gender imbalances and improve the welfare and human rights of women set for the year 2005?

In 1997, SADC Heads of State and Government made a commitment to achieve 30 percent representation by women in all areas of decision-making by 2005.

In 2000, leaders in SADC countries joined the rest of the world in adopting the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Goal number three of the MDGs challenges governments or states to "Promote gender equality and empower women," setting targets to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015.

As the deadline for the year 2005 nears, progress on the MDGs indicates that most of the countries in the SADC region have either achieved or are on track towards achieving the goal on gender equality.

Regarding the 30 percent target of women in political and decision-making

structures by 2005, most member states in the region are striving to make it.

Three SADC countries, Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia, have elections before the end of 2004 while

Angola, Lesotho, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe will have theirs in 2005. The elections present opportunities for countries to improve on progress towards meeting the target. □

Women in politics and decision-making in SADC countries

Country	% Women representation in national parliaments	% Women in Cabinet	% Deputy or assistant ministerial portfolios	% Women Deputy Ministers	% Women in local government
Angola	16.4	11.5	11.1	10.7	1.2
Botswana	15.9	26.7	16.7	33.3	22.8
DRC	12	-	-	-	-
Lesotho	12	23	33	-	-
Malawi	14.0	20.7	-	33.3	-
Mauritius	8.6	4	-	-	9.2
Mozambique	31.2	13.04	-	27.8	29.7
Namibia	22.1	18.5	26.3	25.0	43.3
South Africa	32.75	42.9	47.6	47.6	28.2
Swaziland	19	18.8	-	-	-
Tanzania	22.5	15	29	23.5	34.2
Zambia	13.7	23.8	9.75	10.0	7.0
Zimbabwe	10.7	14.3	10	8.3	4.3

Source: National Reports on implementation of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development.

RISDP is SADC's vehicle for achieving NEPAD ideals

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) presents the region with opportunities based on synergies that exist within the region's own blueprint, according to a high level meeting on NEPAD convened by SADC Council of Ministers in Mauritius in August.

The meeting noted that the region sees the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) as "SADC's regional expression and vehicle for achieving the NEPAD ideals."

It was also noted that the objectives, underlying principles and priority areas of both plans were similar. Both initiatives value peace and security;

democracy and good governance; capacity building; poverty eradication; gender and development; HIV and AIDS; science and technology; information and communication technologies (ICT); agriculture and food security; environment; social and human development; infrastructure; trade and economic liberalisation.

The similarity in priority areas between the continental and regional initiatives also means that SADC and the African Union may pursue related projects. "Projects submitted to NEPAD should also appear in the national and regional development plans as priorities," said Albert Muchanga, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary.

The meeting recommended that the SADC and NEPAD Secretariats should work closely for better results.

The need for SADC to take on board issues emerging from the NEPAD process was also noted at the meeting.

In addition, the SADC Summit noted that Council had mandated their representatives of the region on the NEPAD Steering Committee and the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) -- Angola, Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa -- to strengthen their interaction with the region. It was agreed that South Africa will be the spokesperson of the group and should report to the regular summit. □

Excerpts of the 2004 SADC summit

... In his address to the opening session of the Summit, the outgoing SADC Chairperson, H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, President of the United Republic of Tanzania outlined the major achievements of his tenure of office such as the launch of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the adoption of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Agriculture and Food Security, the establishment of an HIV and AIDS Unit at the Secretariat as well as the initiation of the process of establishing the SADC HIV and AIDS Trust Fund.

President Mkapa urged for more policy coherence and greater political will within SADC in order to lift the vision and focus from the national to the regional level. He warned that if SADC Member States were too bogged down by what they want out of accelerated integration nationally, they risk losing sight of the greater benefits awaiting them in the longer term. ...

The incoming Chairperson of SADC, Hon. Paul Raymond Berenger, Prime Minister of Mauritius and host of the 2004 Summit, ... noted that although Mauritius was physically separated from the rest of the SADC countries by hundreds of kilometres of sea, southern African countries were indivisibly bound together by their common objectives and endeavours and their shared vision of SADC as a powerful and prosperous community of nations. ...

The Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (SIPO) was launched during official opening ceremony by the outgoing Chairperson of the Organ, the Rt. Hon. Pakalitha Mosisili of the Kingdom of Lesotho. In his launch statement, the Rt. Honourable Mosisili said the SIPO was an enabling instrument for the implementation of the SADC developmental agenda embodied in the RISDP. He stressed that the

core objective of SIPO is to create a peaceful and stable political and security environment within which the region will endeavour to realise its socio-economic objectives.

The official opening session also witnessed the ceremonial handover of the chairpersonship from H.E. President Benjamin W. Mkapa to Hon. Prime Minister Paul Berenger. Summit also elected H.E. President Festus G. Mogae of the Republic of Botswana as Deputy Chairperson of SADC.

In his acceptance statement, Prime Minister Paul Berenger assured the region that the issues that were pursued with drive by his predecessor, will remain at the top of SADC's regional integration agenda during his tenure of office. ...

The new Chairperson ... undertook to improve trade and investment relations between SADC and India as well as with China. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that with free and fair elections due in Zimbabwe at the beginning of next year, SADC can already start preparing for the normalisation of relations between SADC and the European Union and the United States of America.

Summit elected H.E. President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, as Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and H.E. Sam Nujoma of the Republic of Namibia as Deputy Chairperson. ...

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Prega Ramsamy said that the economic growth rate of the region has been positive for the past ten years as a result of Member States concerted efforts and deliberate macro-economic measures such as trade, financial and capital markets liberalisation, reduction of budget deficits and reform of the public sector.

Dr Ramsamy also emphasised the need for Member States to ensure that the priorities of the RISDP are inte-

grated into the national development plans for effective implementation. ...

Summit mandated the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security to field an evaluation mission to the DRC and neighbouring countries to determine and identify the practical modalities to promote peace and security in the DRC. The mission should also identify the strategies that SADC should implement to support the transition process and the organisation of democratic elections in the DRC.

With regard to Swaziland, Summit noted that the Constitution drafting process undertaken by the country will be completed by the end of November 2004. Summit further noted that currently, the Draft Constitution has been referred to the citizens of the country to make their observations and comments before the final text is adopted through the Parliamentary process. Furthermore, the issue relating to the rule of law is receiving the Kingdom's necessary and expedient attention and it is hoped that the Court of Appeal will be constituted shortly. ...

On Zimbabwe, Summit noted that the next Parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe are scheduled for March 2005 and that this has already been publicly announced in Zimbabwe by H.E. President Robert Mugabe. In this connection, Summit was informed that the Government of Zimbabwe has drafted electoral legislation consistent with the newly adopted SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. ...

Summit adopted SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, which aim at enhancing the transparency and credibility of elections and democratic governance as well as ensuring the acceptance of election results by all contesting parties.

Summit reiterated the urgency of the Hashim Mbita Project, which is intended



nal communiqué

to document the history of the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa. To this end, Mozambique and Namibia pledged a monetary contribution of US\$100,000 each to support the project. ...

On energy, Summit observed that the power supply situation in the SADC region will reach crisis levels by 2007 if no concrete steps are taken to increase the region's power generation capacity. Summit noted that several Member States have submitted projects for power generation capacity expansion in the context of short and long term priority plans covering 2005-2010 and 2011-2020 respectively. ...

Summit noted that the extent of the HIV and AIDS pandemic in the region has reached crisis proportions. ... Summit underscored the importance of nutrition and traditional medicine in addressing health challenges, in particular HIV and AIDS. In this regard, Summit noted the establishment of a Ministerial Committee on traditional medicine consisting of Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Committee will make proposals on the promotion of research on safety, efficacy and use of traditional medicine in addressing major diseases and nutritional supplements. ...

On food security, summit noted marginal improvement in the food security situation in the region during the 2003/04 consumption year compared to the previous year. The number of people needing food assistance is projected to have dropped from 6.5 million in 2003/04 to 5.4 million in 2004/05.

Summit noted that projections for 2004/2005 consumption year indicate a cereal deficit of about 1.93 million tonnes, which is lower than that of 2003/2004 estimated at 2.96 million tonnes. This is due to the increased cereal production especially from Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Summit commended the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Mkapa for convening the Extraordinary SADC Summit on Agriculture and Food Security in May 2004. Summit urged all Member States to honour their commitments made in the Declaration adopted at the Summit.

... Summit urged those Member States that have not attained the [gender] target to use the opportunities of the forthcoming elections and other measures to achieve the minimum 30 percent of women's representation in political and decision-making structures by 2005. Summit commended South Africa for surpassing the target in terms of women in Parliament and Cabinet. ...

With regard to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Summit noted the report of the High Level SADC Ministerial meeting on NEPAD. Summit noted that the issues discussed included an overview of the NEPAD initiative; synergies between NEPAD and RISDP; democracy, peace, security and governance; agriculture, food security and environment; education and health; science and technology; Infrastructure development and tourism; resource mobilisation and capacity building.

Summit agreed that the SADC representatives in the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee would, under the leadership of President Mbeki, regularly brief other Heads of State and Government on the implementation of the NEPAD Programme

Summit noted the launch of the negotiations with the European Union on the SADC Economic Partnership Agreement. Summit also noted that following the launch of the negotiations, the SADC EPA Ministers and the EC Commissioners held the first session of the negotiations and agreed on a joint road map, which will guide the negotiations.

Summit considered the application for membership from Madagascar and decided to accord it "candidate membership status" for a period of one year during which Madagascar will be expected to present to Council, through the Secretariat, a detailed time-frame and action plan indicating how it will meet its obligations, including the implementation of various SADC legal instruments. The President of Madagascar, H.E. Marc Ravalomanana attended the closing ceremony of the Summit and expressed appreciation to SADC for according his country "candidate membership status."

On the construction of the SADC headquarters, Summit approved the establishment of a task team comprising Ministers of Finance of the SADC Troika and the Troika of the Organ to mobilise resources for this project. All SADC Member States made an initial contribution totalling US\$6,250,000 as seed money for the construction of SADC headquarters.

Summit approved the SADC anthem and that the anthem be performed in all Member States at all major SADC events and in all primary and secondary schools in all Member States on SADC Day – 17 August and SADC Creators' Day – 14 October.

On the 2010 World Cup, Summit congratulated South Africa for successfully bidding for the World Cup and urged SADC Member States to cooperate with South Africa in order to ensure the successful hosting of this event. Summit further noted that the Ministers of Sports, Tourism and Information will draw up strategies to ensure that the region benefits from hosting the World Cup.

Summit accepted the offer by the H.E. Festus G. Mogae to host the next Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in August 2005. ... □



SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections

INTRODUCTION

SADC region has made significant strides in the consolidation of the citizens' participation in the decision-making processes and consolidation of democratic practice and institutions. The Constitutions of all SADC Member States enshrine the principles of equal opportunities and full participation of the citizens in the political process.

The southern African countries, building upon their common historical and cultural identity forged over centuries, agreed to encapsulate their commonality into a single vision, that of a SHARED FUTURE. In this context, in 1992 the southern African countries meeting in Windhoek, the Republic of Namibia, signed a Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Article 4 of the Treaty stipulates that "human rights, democracy and the rule of law" are principles guiding the acts of its members. Article 5 of the Treaty outlines the objectives of SADC, which commits the Member States to "promote common political values, systems and other shared values which are transmitted through institutions, which are democratic, legitimate and effective. It also commits Member States to "consolidate, defend and maintain democracy, peace, security and stability" in the region.

The Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation provides that SADC shall "promote the development of democratic institutions and practices within the territories of State Parties and encourage the observance of universal human rights as provided for in the Charter and Conventions of the Organization of African Unity [African Union] and the United Nations."

In addition, the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), as the implementation framework of the Protocol, emphasises the need for democratic consolidation in the region. The development of the principles governing democratic elections aims at enhancing the transparency and credibility of elections and democratic governance as well as ensuring the acceptance of election results by all contesting parties.

The Guidelines are not only informed by the SADC legal and policy instruments but also by the major principles and guidelines emanating from the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa – AHG/DECL.1 (XXXVIII) and

the AU Guidelines for African Union Electoral Observation and Monitoring Missions – EX/CL/35 (III).

2. PRINCIPLES FOR CONDUCTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

2.1 In the event a Member State decides to extend an invitation to SADC to observe its elections, this shall be based on the provisions of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

2.2 SADC Member States shall adhere to the following principles in the conduct of democratic elections:

2.2.1 Full participation of the citizens in the political process;

2.2.2 Freedom of association;

2.2.3 Political tolerance;

2.2.4 Regular intervals for elections as provided for by the respective National Constitutions;

2.2.5 Equal opportunity for all political parties to access the state media;

2.2.6 Equal opportunity to exercise the right to vote and be voted for;

2.2.7 Independence of the Judiciary and impartiality of the electoral institutions;

2.2.8 Voter education;

2.2.9 Acceptance and respect of the election results by political parties proclaimed to have been free and fair by the competent National Electoral Authorities in accordance with the law of the land; and

2.2.10 Challenge of the election results as provided for in the law of the land.

3 MANDATE AND CONSTITUTION OF THE SADC OBSERVERS MISSION

3.1 In the event a Member State deems it necessary to invite SADC to observe its elections, the SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOM) shall have an Observation role. The mandate of the Mission shall be based on the Treaty and the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

3.2 The Chairperson of the Organ shall officially constitute the Mission upon receipt of an official invitation from the Electoral Authority of a Member State holding the elections.

3.3 The Chairperson of the Organ shall mandate the Executive Secretary to issue a Letter of Credential to each Member of the SEOM prior to their deployment into the Member State holding elections.

3.4 The constitution of the Mission shall comply with the SADC policies relating to gender balance. While recognising that the members of the Mission may come

from different political parties in the home countries, they should behave as a team.

4. GUIDELINES FOR THE OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS

4.1 SADC Member States shall be guided by the following guidelines to determine the nature and scope of election observation:

4.1.1 Constitutional and legal guarantees of freedom and rights of the citizens;

4.1.2 Conducive environment for free, fair and peaceful elections;

4.1.3 Non-discrimination in the voters' registration;

4.1.4 Existence of updated and accessible voters roll;

4.1.5 Timeous announcement of the election date;

4.1.6 Where applicable, funding of political parties must be transparent and based on agreed threshold in accordance with the laws of the land;

4.1.7 Polling Stations should be in neutral places;

4.1.8 Counting of the votes at polling stations;

4.1.9 Establishment of the mechanism for assisting the planning and deployment of electoral observation missions; and

4.1.10 SADC Election Observation Missions should be deployed at least two weeks before the voting day.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS

5.1 The code of conduct for the elections observers of SADC is consistent with the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Election in Africa - AHG/DECL. 1 (XXXVIII). In this regard, the SADC Election Observation Missions shall adhere to the following code of conduct:

5.1.1 Must comply with all national laws and regulations;

5.1.2 Shall maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties, and shall at no time express any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, parties and candidates in contention in the Election process. Furthermore, they will not display or wear any partisan symbols, colours or banners;

5.1.3 Shall neither accept nor attempt to procure any gifts, favours or inducements from candidates, their agents, the parties or any other organisation or person involved in the electoral process;

5.1.4 Shall immediately disclose to the relevant SADC structures any relationship that could lead to a conflict of inter-

est with their duties or with the process of the observation and assessment of the elections;

5.1.5 Will base all reports and conclusions on well documented, factual, and verifiable evidence from multiple number of credible sources as well as their own eye witness accounts;

5.1.6 Shall seek a response from the person or organisation concerned before treating any unsubstantiated allegation as valid;

5.1.7 Shall identify in their reports the exact information and the sources of the information they have gathered and used as a basis for their assessment of the electoral process or environment;

5.1.8 Shall report all information gathered or witnessed by them honestly and accurately;

5.1.9 When meeting election officials, relevant state authorities and public officials, parties, candidates and their agents, the observers shall inform them of the aims and objectives of the SEOM;

5.1.10 May wish to bring irregularities to the attention of the local election officials, but they must never give instructions or countermand decisions of the election officials;

5.1.11 Will carry a prescribed identification at all times, and will identify themselves to any interested authority upon request;

5.1.12 Will undertake their duties in an unobtrusive manner, and will not interfere with the election process, polling day procedures, or the vote count;

5.1.13 Will refrain from making personal or premature comments or judgements about their observations to the media or any other interested persons, and will limit any remarks to general information about the nature of their activity as observers;

5.1.14 Must participate in the briefings/training provided by the SEOM;

5.1.15 Must provide their reports on time to their supervisors and attend any debriefings as required; and

5.1.16 Shall work harmoniously with each other and with observers from other organisations in their area of deployment.

6. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SADC ELECTION OBSERVERS

6.1 The rights and responsibilities of the SEOM are based on the SADC experience and the AU Guidelines for Electoral Observation and Monitoring Missions. Accordingly, the following shall be the rights and responsibilities of the SADC Elections Observers:

6.1.1 Freedom of movement within the host country;

6.1.2 Accreditation as election observers on a non-discriminatory basis;

6.1.3 Unhindered access to and communicate freely with the media;

6.1.4 Free access to all legislation and regulations governing the electoral process and environment;

6.1.5 Free access to electoral registers or voters' roll;

6.1.6 Unimpeded and unrestricted access to all polling stations and counting centres;

6.1.7 Communicate freely with all competing political parties, candidates, other political associations and organisations, and civil society organisations;

6.1.8 Communicate freely with voters without prejudice to the electoral law proscribing such communication in order to protect the secrecy of the vote;

6.1.9 Communicate with and have unimpeded and unrestricted access to the National Election Commission or appropriate electoral authority and all other election administrators;

6.1.10 The SEOM shall be headed by an appropriate official from the Office of the Chairperson of the Organ who shall also be the spokesperson of the Mission;

6.1.11 Send regular reports on the electoral observation process to the Representative of the Organ on issues that may require urgent consideration;

6.1.12 Issue a statement on the conduct and outcome of the elections immediately after the announcement of the result; and

6.1.13 Prepare a Final Report within 30 (thirty) days after the announcement of the results.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBER STATE HOLDING ELECTIONS

7.1 Take necessary measures to ensure the scrupulous implementation of the above principles, in accordance with the constitutional processes of the country;

7.2 Establish where none exists, appropriate institutions where issues such as codes of conduct, citizenship, residency, age requirements for eligible voters and compilation of voters' registers, would be addressed;

7.3 Establish impartial, all-inclusive, competent and accountable national electoral bodies staffed by qualified personnel, as well as competent legal entities including effective constitutional courts to arbitrate in the event of disputes arising from the conduct of elections;

7.4 Safeguard the human and civil liberties of all citizens including the freedom of movement, assembly, association, expression, and campaigning as well as access to the media on the part of all stakeholders, during electoral processes as provided for under 2.2.5 above;

7.5 Take all necessary measures and precautions to prevent the perpetration of fraud, rigging or any other illegal practices throughout the whole electoral process, in order to maintain peace and security;

7.6 Ensure the availability of adequate logistics and resources for carrying out democratic elections;

7.7 Ensure that adequate security is provided to all parties participating in elections;

7.8 Ensure the transparency and integrity of the entire electoral process by facilitating the deployment of representatives of political parties and individual candidates at polling and counting stations and by accrediting national and other observers/monitors;

7.9 Encourage the participation of women, disabled and youth in all aspects of the electoral process in accordance with the national laws;

7.10 Issuing invitation by the relevant Electoral Institutions of the country in election to SADC 90 (ninety) days before the voting day in order to allow an adequate preparation for the deployment of the Electoral Observation Mission;

7.11 Ensure freedom of movement of the members of the SEOM within the host country;

7.12 Accreditation of the members of the SEOM as election observers on a non-discriminatory basis;

7.13 Allow the members of the SEOM to communicate freely with all competing political parties, candidates, other political associations and organisations, and civil society organisations;

7.14 Allow the members of the SEOM to communicate freely with voters except when the electoral law reasonably prescribes such communication in order to protect the secrecy of the vote;

7.15 Allow the members of the SEOM an unhindered access to and communicate freely with the media;

7.16 Allow the members of the SEOM to communicate with and have unimpeded access to the National Election Commission or appropriate electoral authority and all other election administrators;

7.17 Allow the members of the SEOM free access to all legislation and regulations governing the electoral process and environment;

7.18 Allow the members of the SEOM free access to all electoral registers or voters' list;

7.19 Ensure that the members of the SEOM have an unimpeded and unrestricted access to all polling stations and counting centres. □

Winning entry - SADC Secondary Schools Essay on water

'Water is important for economic and social development as well as peace and prosperity. What should SADC do to promote the effective utilisation of water resources in the region?'

Sanitation brings clean drinking water to people. Human lives should not be at risk because of drinking or using water. Water should minister life – not death...

Through economic development, water plays a major role. Through initiatives to try alleviating poverty, bringing or making water accessible to everybody, jobs are created. Where water projects are embarked upon, many local people are relieved from being jobless, for example, with [dam] projects...

...Through these projects and many more, there has been regional cooperation in water management, peace and prosperity. Less fortunate countries financially form partnerships ... to provide water ...

Since relationships are formed between cooperating countries, peace prevails between the countries; people travel peacefully to and from each country. This ensures that the tourism industry booms. Artists make money from selling their works, which impacts positively on the economy. As a relationship is formed, countries tend to be friendly towards each other and there is no fighting. This promotes development and prosperity. ...

Through technology, domestic water supply is possible. These days it is easier and quicker to use water as it can be supplied to communities and even better, to households. Life has been made efficient through domestic water supply.

...Water is one of the most important components of industries. Water is used in industries to clean materials and surroundings in order to prevent germs and to produce good and healthy products.

Hydroelectric power is produced by using the energy of falling water. ... Therefore, without water there would be limited electricity...

We need to be able to know how to conserve water because if we do not, the consequences of not conserving water are harsh and permanent. If actions are not taken to conserve water, it could become scarce. If not

conserved, water will not be able to meet the demand of a fast growing population. Future generations will not have the resources they need...

SADC should educate people about water resource management. Through knowledge, [the organisation] will be able to affect people's behaviour and attitude towards saving water and water management. SADC should make water management a personal quest for each and everybody; each individual must be concerned about water. People need to be taught how saving water affects them, their children, and their community directly.



Samukelisiwe Dlamini

View
on
Water

To say a dripping tap wastes two big buckets of water a day, a broken toilet wastes up to thirty buckets a day, is no lie... SADC can also implement mass awareness and education campaigns of water resource management by producing free local newspapers, leaflets, posters and outreach programmes through radio stations and television. SADC should conduct workshops to educate the people about water conservation through churches, clinics, schools, crèches, women's focus groups, and environmental groups. SADC can also conduct door-to-door campaigns to try to implement water resource management.

Communities should be taught how to fix cisterns, taps and toilets. SADC can sponsor classes for "community plumbers" to encourage repair of leaks and help the poor. ... The people should only buy the repair parts. The

repair should be free; SADC should pay the "community plumbers". Jobs are created, which helps develop our people and gives them good exposure. The news of the successful programme will run like wild fire.

SADC must be able to market itself to the Africans so that awareness is created among the people that there is an organisation, which cares about their future. The result will be that water will be used wisely; water will wash away poverty by offering employment. SADC's vision of "a better life for all" will become a reality.

Most people think it is difficult to control floods and drought but actually, it is possible. If grass and trees are planted on the slope-land, that would help the soil absorb and retain rainwater. ... Reservoirs should be built so that they can also take excess rainwater. They serve as storage areas that can provide water in periods of drought and keep rivers from filling up excessively...

People can also manage droughts if they stop polluting the earth. The ozone layer would not be the number one cause of dangerous heat, which causes droughts. We lose people, animals and nature to drought. ...

SADC should abolish the cutting down of trees, since trees absorb some of the heat. Water restrictions should also be imposed so that reservoirs are not drained quickly.

On the other hand, people must know why SADC is doing this – it has people's best interest at heart.

SADC should continue with its great work for its people. □

Samukelisiwe Dlamini's essay won the SADC Regional Secondary Schools Essay Competition and was read out at the Summit in Mauritius. The writer is a student at Valencia Combined School, Mpumalanga, South Africa. The first runner up was Robert Lusinje of St. Patricks Secondary School, Limbe, Malawi, while Priyamvatha Doorgakant of Queen Elizabeth College, Mauritius, came third.

SADC at the Olympics

Despite collecting only a few medals at the Athens Olympics, athletes from the region and the continent showed that they have potential to excel with more resources and better preparations.

South Africa won six medals while Zimbabwe clinched three medals won by swimming sensation, Kirsty

Olympics medals table for Africa

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Ethiopia	2	3	2	7
Morocco	2	1	0	3
Kenya	1	4	2	7
South Africa	1	3	2	6
Egypt	1	1	3	5
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	3
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Nigeria	0	0	2	2
Eritrea	0	0	1	1

Coventry. The "traditional" regional ambassador, Mozambique's 31-year-old Maria Mutola was a surprise absentee from the winners' podium, after she failed to win a medal in the 800m finals. Namibia's 200m veteran, Frankie Fredericks, at 37 was still widely tipped to cap his Olympics retirement with a winners medal but had to be content with fourth position in the finals.

The games, which are the most prestigious sporting event in the world, brought together about 10,500 athletes from more than 200 countries, competing in 37 sporting disciplines. □

SADC ANTHEM

The SADC anthem melody was approved by Summit in Mauritius and member states are expected to play it at all major SADC events, at SADC Day and SADC Creators Day commemorations

SADC, SADC dawn of our certainty
 SADC, SADC dawn of a better future
 And hope for regional and universal integration
 Towards our peoples unity and harmony

Cradle of humanity
 Cradle of our ancestors
 Let us praise with joy, the realisation of our hopes
 And raise the banner of solidarity
 SADC, SADC SADC, SADC dawn of our certainty



Four scoop SADC media awards

Winners of the 2004 SADC Media Awards were presented with their prizes in four categories, of photo journalism, radio, print and television, during the opening session of the summit on 17 August.

Leonard Magomba of the United Republic of Tanzania, the only entry in photo journalism category, won US\$2,000. Under the radio category, Tshepo Ikaneng of South Africa, who submitted the only entry, received a Notable Mention, which earned him US\$1,000 for his piece on gender and information communications and technology in relation to SADC.

The print category received five entries of which Zimbabwe came first

with an article on The Orphan Generation, written by Takawira Musara who received US\$2,000 for his efforts. The television category attracted three entries of which Wapamesa Christopher Mwelwa of Zambia scooped the first prize of US\$2,000.

Online publications will in future be eligible for entry into the competition following agreement by the Regional Adjudication Committee to accommodate the growing number of journalists publishing online.

Meanwhile, the 2005 competition has been launched with 30 March 2005 set as the deadline for submission of national entries to the National Adjudication Committees. □

Winners of the media awards and the secondary schools essay competition receiving their prizes during the official opening of the SADC summit in Mauritius on 16 August 2004.

(Left to right) Pic 1: Samukelisiwe Dlamini. Pic 2: Tanzanian President, Benjamin Mkapa and Wapamesa Christopher Mwelwa. Pic 3: President Mkapa and Takawira Musara. Pic 4: Tshepo Ikaneng. Pic 5: President Mkapa and Leonard Magomba. Pic 6: Priyamvada Doorgakant, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary, Albert Muchanga, Samukelisiwe and Robert Lusnje.

Botswana elections set for 30 October

President Festus Mogae has announced 30 October as the date for Botswana's general election. Nomination of candidates for the poll was set for 4 October and the president had already dissolved parliament on 3 September in "a routine

step" in anticipation of general elections.

The now dissolved national assembly was elected for a five year term in October 1999, making it constitutionally necessary to organise new general elections.

President Mogae's Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which has ruled since independence, is favourite to win the upcoming poll, thus paving the way for a second term for the incumbent president. Botswana's president is elected by the National Assembly for a five-year term.

In the 1999 poll, BDP had garnered 54.2 percent of the votes. The main opposition party, the Botswana National Front (BNF), achieved only 24.6 percent of all votes, while smaller opposition parties shared the rest of the votes.

Representatives from SADC, the Commonwealth, European Union, African Union and the UN are expected to observe the October poll. (*Afrol News*) □

Statistics committee to harmonise regional indicators

A regional committee, the SADC Statistics Committee of Southern Africa has set sight on building regionally acceptable economic indicators.

The committee met in Luanda on 30 June to discuss strategies to gather as well as harmonise statistics on the

informal sector, investment, trade, national accounts, the development of a regional database and a project on the production of poverty indicators. (*ANGOP*) □

Namibian oyster industry suffers

South Africa's decision to invoke a six-year rule requiring exporters and importers of live animal products to get permits has left the Namibian oyster industry at a virtual standstill.

Namibia was exporting about 80,000 oysters a week to South Africa, which is the bulk of its weekly output. The Namibian government, which has written to the South African authorities, feels the decision is not in the spirit of SADC cooperation.

Producers feared that the Namibian industry would be paralysed until both sides got permits – and longer if they did not get them. The move has oyster growers concerned about the long-term future of their industry and has jolted them to accelerate the search for alternative markets. (*Independent Foreign Service*) □

SADC-backed candidate wins WHO job

Luis Gomes Sambo of Angola, whose candidature was endorsed by SADC leaders at the last summit in Mauritius, has been nominated to become the World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for Africa. He takes over from Ibrahim Malick Samba, in January 2005.

Sambo beat Deogratias Barakamfitiye (Burundi), Phetsile Kholekile Dlamini (Swaziland) and

Francis Gervase Omaswa (Uganda) who also vied for the post.

With 25 years experience in public health of which 15 were at the WHO, Sambo coordinated technical support provided to southern African countries.

Before joining the WHO, Sambo served Angola in various health-related capacities. He was educated and trained in Angola, Portugal, Switzerland and the United States. □

Call to strengthen UN Mission in the DRC

Urgent action is needed to avert a collapse of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and possible emergence of war there, an international pressure group has warned.

The International Crisis Group has appealed to the UN Security Council to strengthen the UN Mission in the DRC. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan recently submitted a report on

the DRC to the Security Council, in which he sought an increase of UN troops from 10,800 to 23,900.

The peacekeeping troops need a clearer mandate and more financial resources to be able to contain armed groups and to facilitate a diplomatic strategy that can support the efforts of the transitional government in Kinshasa, says the group in a report. (*The Herald*) □

Assessing Regional Integration in Africa

Regional trading blocs are seen as the building pillars of a stronger Africa as the continent seeks to become a viable trading partner in the global economy.

An Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) report released in July 2004 says Africa is laying the groundwork for the establishment of an African Economic Community, which, like the European Union, could increase benefits that member states can derive from a larger market.

The report, *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*, observes that African countries are taking concrete steps towards integrating their economies by building regional economic communities, adopting common currencies and increasing intra-regional trade. However, to make this achievable, the continent needs to accelerate links between national and regional economies.

"Africa's long-standing recognition of the needs and benefits of regional integration has spawned the proliferation of regional economies and protocols across the continent," says the preface to the 278-page report, adding: "But these have yet to be strategically consolidated."

Africa has a total of 14 regional economic communities, considered the building blocks of the African Economic Community. Some of these are wholly within bigger, more visible regional trading blocs. They have achieved varying progress on key issues such as trade liberalisation, free movement of people and building external infrastructural links.

Of the 14 regional communities, SADC, ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union are rated among the best in terms of achieving deeper regional integration.

"To be effective, integration must be part of an overall development strategy," the report says noting that the ambitions outlined by African political leaders in the mandate of the regional economic commissions have never been matched by their capacity to deliver.

Despite the many protocols signed in Africa linking national and regional transportation, telecommunications, capital and labour mobility, regionalisation has never been given the financial and human resources to succeed while trade among the continent's countries remains low, ECA says in the report.

It says some of the regional economic communities have overlapping memberships, duplicate efforts and in the process waste limited resources. Fewer regional bodies would reduce administration costs and provide funds to improve day-to-day operations and finance projects.

To accelerate integration, ECA calls on countries to ratify and implement existing protocols, find alternative sources of financing and involve the private sector.

The report also recommends that the African Union (AU) should play a leading role in the integration process including rationalising the legal instruments and aligning them to continental objectives.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) should be the driving force behind initiatives such as African trunk road network and an African railroad network, says the report. (Review by Chipu Muvezwa, SARDC) □

Assessing Regional Integration in Africa is available from: Economic Commission for Africa, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

E-mail: ecainfo@uneca.org, Web: www.uneca.org

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Available from: Trades Centre P.O. BOX CY 2549, Causeway Harare, Zimbabwe.

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P.O. Box 31971 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

E-mail: ossrea@telecom.net.et

Website: www.ossrea.net

SADC diary

2004	Event	Venue		
October	2-14	13th Meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Thailand	
	3-7	Regional Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Address Food Emergency in the SADC Region	Malawi	
	6-7	Beijing + 10 NGO Forum on gender issues	Ethiopia	
	10-15	SADC Copyright and Related Rights Meeting	Botswana	
	11-12	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Regional Trade Workshop	Lesotho	
	11-12	African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	Uganda	
	11-13	Implementation of Animal Health Standards: Quest for Solutions	Egypt	
	12-14	Beijing + 10 Ministerial Meeting on gender issues	Ethiopia	
	12-14	African Aid, Disaster Management and Relief Expo and Conference	South Africa	
	13	Agricultural Research Information Workshop	South Africa	
	13	Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) Forum 2004 – African Development and Poverty Reduction: The Macro-Micro Linkage	South Africa	
	13-15	ESKOM Africa Business Leaders Forum	South Africa	
	14	SADC Creators and Performers Day	All SADC	
	22-29	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Annual Meeting	Mexico	
	25	NEPAD Advisory Panel Meeting	South Africa	
	30	Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	Botswana	
	November	1-2	Water Centres of Excellence Workshop	Botswana
		8-12	Establishment of Desert Margins Centre	Namibia
		15-16	Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	Namibia
16-18		12th SADC Drug Control Committee Meeting	Mauritius	
22-23		NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSIGC)	Algeria	
29-30		Plant Protection Meeting	Lesotho	
December	1-2	Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	Mozambique	

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	85.02
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.88
DRC	Congo Franc	382.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.48
Madagascar	Malgache Franc	1.00
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	106.00
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	28.26
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	21,901.77
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.68
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.69
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.47
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,083.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,735.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	5,610.46

25 August 2004

Public holidays in SADC for the period October-December 2004

1 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
4 October	Peace Day	Mozambique
11 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day	Tanzania
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
2 November	All Saints' Day	Angola
2 November	Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Mauritius
11 November	Independence Day	Angola
12 November	Divali	Mauritius
14-15 November	Eid Ul Fitr (subject to moonlight)	Mauritius
17-18 November	Idd-El-Fitri (subject to moonlight)	Tanzania
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC
26 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
27 December	Public Holiday	Botswana