



From Grand Baie to Maputo: All set for SADC Summit

SADC leaders head for the Mozambican capital Maputo for the 19th annual summit to review the region's economic and political landscape which has changed in many ways since the last summit in Grand Baie, Mauritius.

"The summit will review the political and economic situation in the region. On the political scene, the war in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continue to be of concern. On the economic situation, the summit will exchange views on trade and investment issues, debt crisis, post-Lomé arrangement among other things," said Kaïre Mbuende, SADC Executive Secretary.

The six countries with military forces in the DRC recently signed a cease-fire agreement in Lusaka, raising hopes of a permanent solution to the conflict that broke out 12 months ago. However, the rebels are yet to sign the agreement, before it can be enforced. "We are hopeful that the rebels will soon sign the agreement," said Mbuende.

The situation in Angola, a country that has not known peace for the last 24 years, remains worrying. The SADC Summit last year declared UNITA leader, Jonas Savimbi, a war criminal. The Summit called upon the international community, particularly those countries and leaders which have an influence on Savimbi, to persuade the rebel movement to honour the Lusaka Protocol. However, limited progress has

been made so far as the country remains at war.

On the economic side, the executive secretary said significant progress had been made on the trade protocol, which is considered the key to successful regional integration and economic development. The Lomé convention, which expires in February 2000, is also expected to dominate economic discussions. □ (See story on page 13).

All that glitters is not gold

by Hugh McCullum

Selling gold to help some of southern Africa's poorest and most heavily indebted countries would seem like a good idea at first glance, but the fact is that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) scheme could cause far more human misery and economic chaos for SADC countries like Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The gold industry is already reeling from the sale by the Bank of England of

25 tonnes of gold at US\$261.20-an-ounce during an auction which was over-subscribed. Gold prices, already at a 20-year low, dropped further to US\$256.90-an-ounce, a decline of US\$36-an-ounce since May when Britain's central bank announced its plan to sell off 415 tonnes of its 715-tonne reserve. The sale netted the bank about US\$210 million. Hundreds of thousands of workers in the gold mining industry in southern Africa could

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Mozambique: SADC's gateway to the east

by Fernando Goncalves

The concept of Spatial Development Initiatives (SDIs) is gaining a lot of currency in southern Africa, where development corridors, aimed at facilitating the region's transport and communications systems are being implemented.

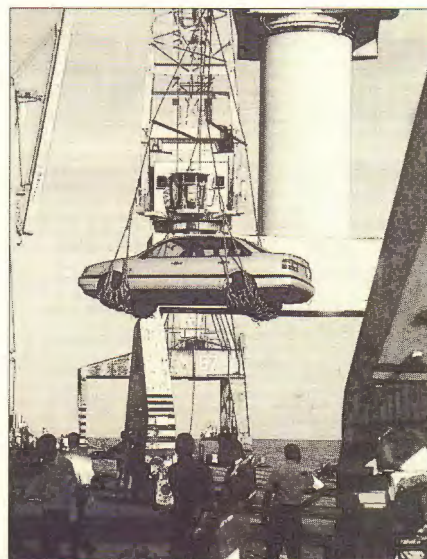
One of the most talked about of these initiatives is the Maputo Development Corridor (MDC), which when complete, will link South Africa's industrial hub, Gauteng, to the port of Maputo, in Mozambique. The MDC, one of the five infrastructural development projects between Mozambique and South Africa, has so far attracted private sector investment worth US\$400 million and gener-

ated more than 6,000 jobs since work began in 1998.

The other four SDIs are the Ressano Garcia railway network, the Ressano Garcia-Komatipoort border post, the Mozal Aluminium Smelter Plant in Beluluane, near Maputo, and the port of Maputo itself.

Of particular significance in the MCD project and others in southern Africa still under consideration, is the joint public and private sector participation. Last year, the MDC's toll road project was awarded the highest rating ever in project finance world-wide, for its ability to meet long term debt. The US\$430 million, 440-km road is to be constructed, operated

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Offloading cargo at Maputo port, Mozambique.

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A note to the reader

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Trade integration on course - Mbuende

Mesh Moeti, Features Editor of the Mmegi newspaper in Botswana, interviews Dr Kaire Mbuende on issues relating to the SADC Trade Protocol.

When do you expect the required number of Member States to have ratified the Trade Protocol for it to enter into force? So far, how many countries have ratified the Protocol?

For a SADC protocol to enter into force, two-thirds of the signatory Member countries of that instrument must have ratified it. In the case of the Trade Protocol, 11 countries of the then 12 Members of SADC have signed. Angola has not signed the Protocol. Thus, 7 Member States have to ratify the Trade Protocol for it to enter into force.

To date, five Member States have ratified the Trade Protocol, namely Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Three other Member States, namely Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique, are firmly expected to have submitted their ratification by the time of the 1999 SADC Summit in Maputo (18 August 1999).

Therefore, the required number of ratifications for the Trade Protocol will be achieved in August 1999. Tariff reductions in the context of the implementation of the Trade Protocol will start in January 2000.

According to the SADC Trade Protocol, at what point in the manufacturing process is a product considered to be originating from a given country?

For a product to be considered to have undergone substantial transformation, we have agreed that 35% local content should suffice at which point the product would be considered to be originating from the exporting country. However, there are certain types of products for which it is difficult to achieve that level of 35% local content, and therefore provision has been made for a shift in tariffs for such goods.

For those particular products where you can't add 35% local content, you can use other criteria and agree on a lower level of local content provided a number of other processes have been undertaken so that it's not just a question of labelling, but actual value addition to a particular product.

Given that industries of most SADC countries are at an infant stage, is 35% local content not asking for too much?

If the objective is to industrialise, then 35% is very low. If we go for a lower level of local input, the region will never see development of industries. But, as indicated, there could be flexibility in certain instances and that flexibility would be dictated by the nature of the product.

Some industries need a long gestation period which is why some of your members feel the eight year time-frame for the establishment of a free trade area is too short. Some countries have suggested that the period be extended to 15 years. What is your comment?

Well, I believe eight years is a long time. The WTO provides for the establishment of free trade for regional trading regimes within a period of 10 years. It was in keeping within the framework of the WTO that we thought if you commit yourself to the 10 years then you are not demonstrating political will, but you are only subjecting yourself to the rules.

It was very important for us to actually make a commitment and say that we should do this in less than what is provided under the WTO, and looking at the actual situation today there is substantial free trade area in southern Africa through SACU arrangements and through a whole set of other bilateral arrangements. So we took eight years just to play it safe. But in my view, we don't need eight years. There could be a specific product that may need a longer period, and from our analysis the sensitive products are textiles, some types of agricultural products and automobiles. We think all these could be done within that framework. There is no product that we feel needs more than eight years.

Some people predict that this arrangement will result in job losses in countries with weaker economies. Don't you share similar fears?

No. You shouldn't look at trade and trade liberalisation in isolation. The creation of a single market is aimed at, among other things, making the region attractive for investment. So, some of the losses in revenue in terms of uncompetitive industries closing down may be compensated for by inflow of investments from outside the region. It's a dy-



Dr Kaire Mbuende, SADC Executive Secretary

namic situation. We just don't look at trade in isolation. We have to relate it to investment flow both from within the region as well as from outside the region. Today some countries can't be considered for investment because they are small markets in themselves, but they could be very attractive locations for accessing the larger markets in the region. It is a much more dynamic situation in which loss of revenues in trade are replaced by investment flows. ...

So, there will be a process of restructuring, and that process is such that you lose jobs in one sector and create them in another sector. At the end of the day what you want to see is the creation of more jobs than the ones that will be lost, and we strongly believe that in fact that is what is going to happen.

Some of the projections that are made in terms of the importance of a free trade area for creation of jobs have come up with an estimation of up to 1.5 million new jobs being created as a result of implementation of the SADC Free Trade Protocol in the initial phases. But once we move to deeper levels of integration we should expect creation of even more jobs. But let's face it, there are a lot of industries that are now competitive, not only in regional terms but also in global terms because regionalism is a very important instrument for preparing us for global competition.

If we don't integrate now and put our industries on a competitive basis, they will be wiped out – not by South African industries or Zimbabwean industries – but industries from South East Asia, China, Europe and America because with the implementation of the provisions of the WTO, tariffs are bound to come down and all our States are members of the WTO which they will have to honour. □

Region needs to reverse negative perceptions to attract investment

by Diana Mavunduse

Economic growth in southern Africa is stalled by negative perceptions about the region and the continent in general held by international investors.

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa told a plenary session on Responsible Leadership: Trade as an Engine for Regional Integration, at the 9th Southern Africa Economic Summit of the World Economic Forum held in Durban recently.

"International investors are unable to shed long-held perceptions of Africa as a continent with all the negative attributes, including wars and dictatorships," said Mbeki, attributing it to communication barriers between international and regional investors.

He urged investors to visit individual southern African countries for a better assessment of what they are doing in creating an enabling environment for foreign investment, adding that global perceptions about the continent do not reflect the reality in specific countries.

SADC, which has the potential to become one of the fastest emerging markets in the world, has struggled to attract foreign investment crucial to kick-starting economic growth.

Baroness Linda Chalker, former British Minister of Overseas Development, said that one of the factors impeding foreign direct investment (FDI) was lack of clear communication between government and the private sector.

"No foreign direct investment can take place unless local investment exists," she said, adding that some international investors felt African leaders spoke "democracy but do not practice it".

"Foreign direct investment is the only hope for the region, but FDI will only go where there is domestic investment," said SADC Executive Secretary, Kaire Mbuende.

SADC leaders were urged to speed up the ratification of the SADC Trade Protocol to enhance regional integration and to work closely together with business and labour officials.

Zimbabwe's Minister of Industry and Commerce, Nathan Shamuyarira, said the



"International investors are unable to shed long-held perceptions of Africa as a continent with all the negative attributes, including wars and dictatorships," - Mbeki.

political will for regional integration exists although the community needs to accelerate the process.

"The three-year old trade liberalisation process is incomplete as five more countries must ratify the trade protocol to put it into force," said Shamuyarira.

Under Article 41 of the SADC Trade Protocol, two-thirds of the member states must ratify the protocol, to enable it to come into force as a basis for co-operation in the region. Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have ratified the protocol so far.

Conflict in the region has also exerted a brake on foreign investment and SADC placed an end to war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola at the top of its priorities.

Weeks of talks over DRC have yielded limited progress on solving the conflict, which has divided the third largest country on the continent. SADC is however, optimistic that peace is imminent and that a coalition of peacekeepers would soon be dispatched.

The region is also threatened by civil war in Angola, where fighting resumed after an uneasy four-year truce shattered by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

Also high on the agenda of the economic summit was the issue of debt cancellation where SADC leaders slammed the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised states for their approach to debt relief. The group adopted an initiative to forgive US\$65 billion in third world debt and proposed the sale of 10 million ounces of gold held by the International Mon-

etary Fund (IMF) to finance the debt relief.

The IMF claims the programme would aid 41 of the world's poorest countries. But critics argue its negative impact on bullion prices would be disastrous for many of those same countries whose economies depend on mining income.

Some of the delegates at the Durban summit argued that G-7 members, among them former colonial powers in Africa had a moral obligation to forgive the debts of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries.

"The answer is to write it off, selling the gold will create a new problem. It is within their (G-7) powers to do so without selling the gold," said Mbuende.

"For the G-7 to be cautious on debt is criminal. The G-7 can help, not by preaching but by taking the debt off the books so we can proceed with proper public and private partnerships," said South African Minister of Trade and Industry, Alec Erwin, responding to US Deputy Commerce Secretary Robert Mallet who told delegates that SADC was moving too slowly on regional trade integration.

Southern Africa hopes to enter the new millennium free from conflict and



"... the political will for regional integration exists although the community needs to accelerate the process," - Zimbabwe's Nathan Shamuyarira.

the burden of debt has contributed to a slow flow of FDI. SADC is eager to solve this by widening the region's market potential by implementing a free-trade accord and moving towards a harmonised monetary area that would encourage growth.

"We are convinced that all SADC states would have ratified the SADC Free Trade Protocol in time for implementation by 1 January 2000," said Mbeki. □

Bulawayo-Beitbridge railway launched

SADC's Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) railway project hailed as the largest non-mining investment in post-independence Zimbabwe was officially launched on the 15 July 1999. The project paves the way for more privatisation deals on the extensive National Railways of Zimbabwe network and faster access to regional freight routes to the north.

strong support for the BBR line," said BBR chief executive Eitan Dvir in an interview. He confirmed that approximately 35 percent of the BBR transportation orders have come from the mining sector. Oil procurement by Zimbabwe through South Africa will be furthered; it is anticipated that the transportation of at least 400,000 tonnes of oil will be assured over the next 30 years.

ment prepared by the SADC Finance and Investment Sector for the recent Southern Africa Economic Summit.

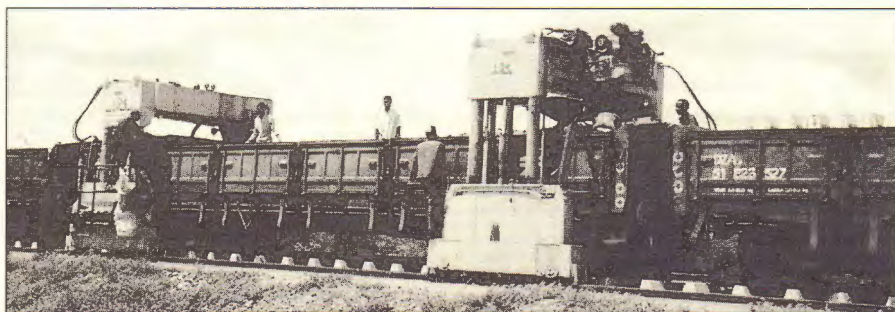
The project involved the building and rehabilitation of 317 km of line between the southern Zimbabwean border town of Beitbridge, the busiest cargo border crossing point in the region, and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second capital city.

The new line cuts more than 200km from the current roundabout route from Beitbridge to Bulawayo, the country's domestic railway hub and links to other national networks to the north. It will also significantly cut operational costs.

"South Africa's Spoornet will manage train services on the route, providing for a single cargo operator on both sides of the busy Zimbabwe/SA border routes.

"Cargo rates will be collectible directly by BBR and set in US dollars, in a hedge against the volatile Zimbabwe currency," says the theme document.

The BBR line will bring a new era in railway transportation — the more direct route for freight will result in immediate savings in time and money for transporters. □



During construction: The Beitbridge-Bulawayo railway line.

The fast track ensures that access to and from South Africa is quicker and more efficient. Before completion, the BBR line had confirmed orders for over one million tonnes of freight.

"The mining sector has expressed

The US\$65m BOT project will be operated by BBR (Pvt) Limited for the next 30 years before being transferred to the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) and the government of Zimbabwe at no cost, according to a theme docu-

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and maintained by Trans Africa Concessions (Trac), with Nedcor Investment Bank and Investec of South Africa expected to pay US\$258 million.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has provided US\$40 million, while the governments of Mozambique and South Africa are to contribute to a total of US\$26.4 million and the Future Bank Corporation (FBC) has pledged US\$39.6 million.

A consortium of Mozambican and South African investors have pledged to provide the remaining US\$13.2 million.

The SDIs became a priority immediately after the establishment of SADC in 1980, and were intended to make the region more independent of the transport and communications system of apartheid South Africa, then seen as the region's main destabilising factor.

One of the most important projects identified then was the Beira Development Corridor, linking Mozambique's

port city of Beira and Zimbabwe, which was also expected to benefit other states in the region's interior, such as Botswana, Malawi and Zambia. The Beira Corridor project included the upgrading of the road and railway between Beira and the Zimbabwean border, as well as the deepening and development of the port of Beira itself.

The Nacala Development Corridor is another important project. It links the seaport of Nacala, in Mozambique's northern Nampula province, and Malawi. Transport ministers from Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia met at the end of July in Dar es Salaam, to discuss ways to expand the project including all four countries, and prepare for the October donors' conference, which is expected to mobilise funds before implementation gets underway next year.

Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia are also involved in the development of the Mtwara Corridor, which seeks to improve the port of Mtwara, in

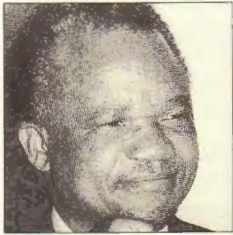
southeast Tanzania. Negotiations on the development of the corridor began in November last year, and when completed, the project is expected to boost trade and investment in the four countries, and at the same time creating jobs.

The four countries have already begun work on the corridor, starting from the Tanzanian side, which is seen as having great potential for trade and investment, through the interlinkage of trade routes and the development of tourism, as well as improving the lives of local populations.

A project document presented at a recent meeting in the northern city of Pemba, in Mozambique, with the participation of the private sector, says the Mtwara Development Corridor will include the improvement of the port of Mtwara, and the road and telecommunications network.

The port of Mtwara is strategically situated, touching on northern Malawi and Mozambique, as well as the eastern part of Zambia. □

Democratic Republic of Congo: Can peace prevail?



Frederick Chiluba



Jose Eduardo Dos Santos



Laurent Kabila



Robert Mugabe



Sam Nujoma

by Fernando Goncalves

In line with the spirit of continued search for peace and stability in the region, several initiatives have been undertaken to end the conflict in the DRC. The most recent of such initiatives was the Lusaka Peace Summit in July which culminated in a ceasefire agreement signed by leaders of six countries involved in the DRC war and their Zambian counterpart, giving hope of an end to the two-year-old conflict.

The DRC peace agreement was extracted after almost one month of intense negotiations in the Zambian capital, involving first, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence from all SADC countries, and later restricted to representatives of those countries militarily involved in the conflict, the hosts and the rebels.

But when the hour of truth came, and against all expectations, the rebels threw spanners in the works, casting a dense cloud of uncertainty regarding the success of the peace initiative.

The split among the RCD rebels had grown so deep that both faction leaders, Emile Ilunga, who claims to be the legitimate leader of the movement, and Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, who was deposed in a palace coup in May, each claiming to have the sole right to put their signatures to the deal.

In the midst of the confusion, Jean Pierre Bemba's Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) was celebrating its capture of the late Mobutu's home town of Gbadolite, in the north of the country. The MLC had sent representatives to the Lusaka peace summit which initially refused to sign, saying they will only do so after the RCD has sorted out its problems.

However, with the involvement of two SADC leaders, Bemba has now signed the agreement but on condition he would withdraw his signature if oth-

er rival rebel groups did not follow suit.

Among some of its provisions, the agreement calls for the cessation of hostilities within 24 hours of its signing and the release of hostages and prisoners of war within 30 days.

It also establishes a Joint Military Commission (JMC) to oversee the implementation of the ceasefire and undertake peace keeping operations until the deployment of a larger UN peace keeping force.

Chaired by the OAU, the JMC includes two representatives from each of the signatories, and is assisted in its operations by a joint OAU/UN observer mission.

Secretary general Koffi Annan has declared his commitment to see the implementation of the agreement, but a final decision depends on the security council, currently preoccupied with ensuring the success of the Kosovo peace keeping operation.

Observers note that a potential problem facing the peace process is that the various rebel groups may opt to keep large parts of their forces out of the process as an insurance policy.

The Mayi Mayi fighters, who have always been left out of the process, have already declared that they will not recognise the agreement, and RCD-Goma vice president, Moise Nyarugabo, is on record saying that the signing of the agreement did not mean the recognition of Kabila as head of state. Nor does his group intend to give up territory under its control, as stipulated in the peace agreement.

"We did not fight in order to hand everything back," Nyarugabo said recently.

There also appear to be differences of interpretation of the clauses in the agreement dealing with the unification of government and rebel forces. Nyarugabo says the integration does not mean the incorporation of RCD troops into the

present government army. "The aim is to restructure and create a new army," he adds.

The uncertainty over the success of the the agreement is exacerbated by reports that as recently as a week before the signing of the document, Rwanda had sent into the DRC an additional 7 000 troops.

This was followed by Rwanda's vice president and defence minister, Paul Kagame's utterances that if the agreement fails to round up, disarm and hand over the Interahamwe, his government was ready to go it alone.

Rwanda and Uganda have argued that they are in the DRC to guarantee the security of their borders in the face of persistent attacks against their territories by the Interahamwe and former members of the Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR), who fled to the DRC after the 1994 massacres in Rwanda.

However, the agreement leaves the issue of the security concerns of DRC's neighbours for later and outside its scope. Upon entry into force, the agreement says, "the parties commit themselves to immediately address the security concerns of the DRC and her neighbouring countries."

But it makes no provisions for enforcement, or the penalties deriving from such violations. It also implies that the DRC is the only source of instability in the region, and therefore it places on it the burden of ensuring that security in the region prevails.

By creating the impression that it is the DRC that should ensure the security of the region, by eliminating rebel groups operating in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, the negotiators of the agreement have exonerated the three countries from ensuring their own security by embarking on a genuine process of national reconciliation with the various

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Lesotho opposition parties lobby for electoral change

by Pamela Chinaka

Following last year's disputed election results, political stakeholders in Lesotho are engaged in debate for change in the electoral system, with a view of coming up with a more democratic and representative model for next year's multi-party elections.

Negotiators during last year's political impasse that resulted in violence established an Interim Political Authority (IPA) to represent all political parties that contested the 1998 elections.

The authority is to prepare for next year's general elections in consultation with government. It also has powers to review the electoral process.

Until now, the mountainous kingdom – like most former British colonies – has been using the Westminster First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system in which to win a parliamentary seat the candidate only needs to get the majority of the votes regardless of how many they are.



A SADC citizen exercises his democratic right.

A number of opposition parties, led by Basotho National Party (BNP) feel that this system gives all the power to one party, thus, they are convinced the Proportional Representation (PR) system will accord every party an opportunity to be represented in parliament.

In the PR system, a party's share of national votes is translated into a corresponding proportion of seats in parliament.

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political forces fighting them.

The JMC is also responsible for tracking, disarming, cantoning and documenting all armed groups operating in the DRC, including those that have been accused of perpetrating attacks against Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, and handing over perpetrators of the genocide in Rwanda to the International Crimes Tribunal in Arusha.

The final withdrawal of all foreign forces including those of allies on both sides of the conflict, is expected to be complete within six months of the agreement being signed, followed by the re-establishment of government authority throughout the country, disarmament of non-military personnel and the normalisation of security along all DRC's international borders.

The DRC has for many years been plagued by ethnic conflicts, particularly in the east of the country, where there is a large concentration of the Banyamulenge, who centuries ago settled in the Kivu provinces. Natives in the area consider the Banyamulenge immigrants

from Rwanda, who do not therefore qualify for citizenship.

The peace agreement guarantees that "all ethnic groups and nationalities" who were part of the DRC territory at independence in 1964 "must enjoy equal rights and protection under the law as citizens."

The agreement also commits President Kabila's government to enter into "an open national dialogue" with all political forces in the country, leading to a new political dispensation and national reconciliation. The OAU is expected to assist in the process, to be headed by a neutral facilitator agreed to by all parties.

The agreement imposes that the internal settlement in the DRC must result in among other issues, the formation of a new national army that includes members of the government forces, the RCD and the MLC.

It must also result in the establishment of institutions aimed at ensuring good governance, the holding of democratic elections and the enactment of a new constitution. □

Unlike the FPTP system where the vote for a nominated candidate in a constituency, in the PR system, parties list candidates to the electorate and voters vote for a party, which later gives listed candidates seats in accordance with their position on the list. This is the system used in South Africa.

However, the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy does not see anything wrong with their present electoral system, and feels the PR system being advocated for by some opposition parties is undemocratic.

"This system is undemocratic as it deprives the electorate the right to choose the candidate of their own at constituency level. Parties impose candidates upon the electorate," says Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili.

But the BNP and other opposition parties opposed to the status quo disagree saying they are in fact advocating for democracy as their proposed system will ensure that every party is represented in parliament and independent candidates can also be voted into the legislative assembly.

"We are trying to democratise the system of voting, but others want to monopolise it," argues the Secretary General of BNP, Majara Molapo.

In a statement recently, five parties under the banner "Khokanyane-Phiri" dismissed calls by BNP for Proportional Representation saying they were in favour of a Dual Model which takes elements from both PR and FPTP systems.

"A dual model which takes both PR and FPTP systems is the only one which respects and gives equal rights and opportunities to candidates and contesting parties alike," the statement said.

Political parties have taken the debate on electoral systems to the public and are busy trying to convince the electorate to subscribe to an electoral system that advances their (political parties') interests.

Of the 80 seats contested in the last election, the ruling LCD won 79 seats representing 60 percent of the votes cast, whilst BNP won only one but with 25 percent of the votes cast. Other parties could not secure seats, but managed to get up to ten percent of the votes cast.

Political upheaval and riots rocked the country in protest against the results, threatening peace and stability. □

All that glitters is not gold

continued from page 1

lose their jobs, wreaking economic havoc in countries already struggling to stabilise their economies.

Even more controversial is the IMF's plan, supported by the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations, to sell 10 million ounces of its gold reserves to finance debt relief for countries like Tanzania and Mozambique. The latest blow came when the Bank of Switzerland announced it will sell 1,300 tonnes of excess gold reserves as early as next year.

Selling the gold will undoubtedly create new economic problems for the mineral-rich region and may well weaken the economies of 36 of the 41 most indebted countries in the world which the IMF wishes to help by relieving them of crippling external debt. In addition to the SADC countries, Ghana, Mali and Burkino Faso in Africa will be seriously affected as well.

Already 5,000 miners in South Africa have been laid off without severance pay by the East Rand Proprietary Mines, the first of several mines expected to go bankrupt from falling bullion prices.

Zimbabwe's Chamber of Mines, deploping the British and IMF decisions, says 30,000 jobs in the gold mining sector are at risk, affecting the lives of as many as 150,000 people dependent on the gold sector.

Many southern Africans, from presidents and gold barons to trade union leaders are furious at the world's new disdain for the once precious metal. "It doesn't make sense to say we'll weaken your economies and then give you a little debt relief," says Trevor Manuel, South Africa's Minister of Finance.

And Dr Kaire Mbuende, Executive Secretary of SADC says the IMF scheme is unnecessary. "It is within their power to forgive debt without selling the gold," he told the closing session of the Southern Africa Economic Summit in Durban. "Selling gold will just create new problems. Even Mozambique, supposedly one of the beneficiaries of debt forgiveness, fears the IMF's gold sale. Thousands of migrant gold miners send home some US\$50 million each year. Most of them face unemployment as mines close.

The answer to the debt problem is write-off, not selling gold, Patrice Motsepe, Executive Chairman of African

Rainbow Minerals, a black empowerment group.

And President Thabo Mbeki, in a move calculated to gain support in the U.S., reversed his earlier position and came out firmly against the IMF plans. Since the IMF sale requires some 85 percent support from its board, and the U.S. has 17 percent of the votes, Congress could effectively veto the plan. Republicans have introduced legislation to block the proposal and the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus has added its opposition.

Paradoxically, southern African mines have been steadily cutting their costs of production to become more competitive with such countries as Australia and Canada where producing an ounce of gold costs about US\$250 but the price is falling faster than mines can retool.

And, say gold analysts, prices are plummeting at a time when world demand for gold outstrips supply so, if it were not for the central bank and IMF sales, the price of gold would be going up. Jewelers, dentists, electronics makers and personal hoarders absorb about

be incalculable. Labour unions and mine owners alike, along with governments, are mounting an intensive lobby to stop the IMF plan and declare an immediate moratorium on all gold sales by central banks. The steep decline in gold prices is contrary to assurances by Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair that the sale of gold in tranches would not affect price speculation but Saunders says speculators are nervous. "A 25-year-old in front of a computer in London who has never been down a gold mine has no idea of the impact on people and nations of what he's doing."

And the London-based World Gold Council, which represents the industry, calculates that while the IMF could realise about US\$108 million-a-year by selling gold, those same highly indebted countries have already lost US\$224 million from the US\$36 drop in gold prices in the last three months.

Others are critical of Britain as the main coloniser of countries being hurt the most, noting that South Africa has been the world's biggest gold producer for more than a century.

"In the 19th century, Britain profited enormously from the gold mines in south-

Major Gold Producing Countries in SADC (Production in Kgs)

Country	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Botswana	192	234	86	5	28
Mozambique	149	336	236	67	0
South Africa	619,201	579,678	523,815	496,846	4921,643
Tanzania	2,025	2,430	2,099	2,145	2,416
Namibia	3,370	2,861	1,413	1,300	232
Zambia	266	165	79	113	227
Zimbabwe	18,565	20,512	23,959	24,677	24,226
Total	643,698	606,216	551,687	525,153	519,772

Source: Mining Sector Report, 1999

4,000 tonnes of gold annually while mines throughout the world produce just over 2,500 tonnes, the shortfall being made up from recycled gold, forward sales by mines and sales by central banks.

The big question mark is the 35,000 tonnes of bullion stored in those central bank vaults which used to be kept as a hedge against economic downturns. About 80 percent of the trading in gold futures is by speculators, not users.

"If they believe," says Brenton Saunders, a gold analyst in Johannesburg, "that governments will demonetise that gold and sell it to buy euros, dollars and yen for portfolio balancing, the price will plummet." The damage to South Africa and other countries in the region could

ern Africa. The Anglo-Boer war was a gold war — Britain was losing to Germany in gold competition and saw South Africa's mines as a solution. Now, it's the same old colonial power that's giving this region another blow," says Prof. Sampie Terreblanche, a political economist from the University of Stellenbosch.

James Motlatsi, head of the South African National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), agrees and, along with thousands of NUM members picketed the British and Swiss embassies in Pretoria demanding Blair stop selling gold.

"When you destroy gold-mining, you destroy millions of lives. We say to Britain, you cannot run away from your social responsibilities." □

Meeting of SADC Ministers of Finance and Investment: Communiqué

The SADC Ministers of Finance and Investment held their fifth annual meeting in Maseru, Lesotho on 8 July 1999. The meeting discussed a wide range of issues and adopted resolutions to enhance finance and investment within the SADC region.

The resolutions adopted by ministers are as follows:

The sale of gold:

- The proposed sale of gold by the IMF, support for the sale by the G8 countries and the sale of gold reserves by the UK government were identified as the major causes for the fall of the gold price at about \$257 an ounce. Ministers express concern with the impact of the sale of gold on gold producing SADC countries.

- Ministers express concern with the impact on employment levels in Lesotho and Mozambique, whose labour force and economy relies heavily on the South African mining industry (these countries supply about 46% of the gold mining labour force in South Africa).

- For these countries, the impact will especially be on remittances, which form a major part of their revenue earnings. In this regard, ministers requested the Chairman, Mr Trevor Manuel, to communicate with the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Gordon Brown and find means to stop further auctions of gold by the UK government.

- Mr Manuel also requested to inform the IMF of the SADC ministers' concern about the intended sale of gold by the institution and its adverse effect on the very HIPC countries it wishes to assist.

- At the meeting, the Chairman of the Ministerial Committee of Mining and Mineral Resources in SADC, Dr. K. Syamujayo, made a presentation on the negative impact of gold sales on SADC countries and called for a joint effort between Finance and Mining sectors to take measures in stopping the current slide in the price of gold.

Debt relief and the HIPC initiative:

- Ministers called for a revised HIPC framework, which should aim at:

- Having periodic reviews of the eligibility criteria and a consistent interpretation of track records. Countries such as Tanzania and Ethiopia will only qualify for HIPC in the year 2001, though they have had a good record of fiscal reforms for over five years.

- Shortening the interim period of debt relief from six to three years for countries that implement IMF/WB reform programmes, have social welfare programmes in place and observe the principles of good governance. Therefore, SADC member states are of the view that a country's total record of adjustment and reform must be adequately recognised. Countries that have already demonstrated a reasonable track record, such as Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia should immediately qualify for debt relief.

- Discouraging the IMF from selling gold in the present climate. The Ministers urged the IMF not to support the G8 resolution for the sale of 10 million ounces of gold.

- Reviewing debt sustainability ratios in order to provide deeper and wider debt relief. It is recommended that the threshold figure for indebtedness be set at between 100 and 150% of exports and 10 to 15% for debt service to export ratio, with some of flexibility in exceptional cases.

A lower debt service threshold prevents the inevitable accumulation of arrears as a result of the widening spread between the scheduled debt service ratio and actual payments.

- Encouraging additional contributions to the HIPC Trust Fund since the lack of financing is the major obstacle to implementing the initiative. As at February 1999, pledges to the Trust Fund were US\$442 million, falling far short of the debt service relief package of US\$4 billion. Substantial contributions should be made to the HIPC Fund, which is commensurate with financing needs of an expanded HIPC initiative.

Relations with the World Bank:

- The main resolution was re-appraising with the World Bank in a manner that will develop a vision to address

critical developmental challenges facing Africa, amidst a changing global environment, into the next millennium. This should be underscored by the need to bring about economic prosperity through structural transformation of African economies, industrialisation and capital accumulation. The Ministers further emphasised the need for infrastructural development poverty eradication and human and institutional capacity building in a manner that preserves African resources.

Investment promotion in the region:

- Ministers discussed the declining trend of investments in the region especially foreign direct investment in light of shrinking domestic savings in member countries and the existence of foreign exchange controls that inhibit investments. Ministers recognised the importance of combining sound macroeconomic policies with efforts to attract investments in the region.

The meeting received reports from:

- The Committee of Central Bank Governors presented reports on work done on recent economic developments and statistics for SADC countries. Another report dealt with work done on national payment systems while a third report explained the training of officials on banking and economic issues in the region.

Year 2000 Compliance:

- This discussion focused on six broad areas of need. These are:

- Finance and Banking
- Revenue Collection
- Fiscal Accounts
- Municipal Accounts
- Health System
- Telecommunications

- Ministers were assured that remedial programmes are already in place and further decided to seek public holidays for the first and second of January 2000 and to take the Y2K matter further at the Task Team on Information Technology.

The 6th annual meeting of SADC Ministers of Finance and Investment will be held in Mozambique in July 2000. □

The changing face of beauty pageants

by Diana Mavunduse

Beauty pageants are no longer about modelling half-naked in catwalk styles, but a life-time opportunity for young women to become ambassadors for their own countries. To be such an ambassador, a woman is chosen on the basis of her beauty, deportment and intelligence, and not political ideology or affiliation.

"Modelling is no longer considered just as a hobby, it is a profession. It is a stage for young women to show their talents and for designers to show how professional they are," says Marvellous Nyahuye, communications manager for M-Net/Multi-Choice Zimbabwe.

Former Miss Botswana, Mpule Kwe-lagobe (19) was this year crowned Miss Universe. The pageant is American-owned and was previously dominated by western contestants. Over the years it has spread to Africa, allowing more and more African beauty queens to take part in the competition.

The question of motherhood concerned the pageant. Miss Guam, Trisha Helfin, from the Marian Island in the South Pacific, was sent home because of her "indelicate condition". Pageant officials contended Trisha was pregnant, a condition outlawed by the competition owners.

The question of whether Miss Universe should step down if she became pregnant was answered Mpule's victory. "I think pregnancy should not in anyway interrupt her duties, she should celebrate her femininity. Having children is a celebration of womanhood for all females, including beauty queens," she told the competition judges.

"The question to some seemed so provocative in the sense that it [infringes on] a human right to have babies," Maleta Mogwe-Lock, the organiser for Miss Universe Botswana, said.

"With her intelligence and composure, she came out as a personification of the ideal southern African woman, one who is forward-looking, educated, ambitious, and assertive. It was as if she was speaking for an entire generation," added Mogwe-Lock.

The pageants have long been derided by some, especially gender rights groups, as shallow affairs that demean women by

promoting style over substance as a feminine role model. But that perception has been eroded over the years.

Emang Basadi, one of Botswana's oldest and largest women's organisations has officially welcomed Mpule's win with an advertisement in the national press:

"To all young Batswana women we say: the sky is the limit, Mpule has set the pace. She has proved that women can take Batswana to greater heights, especially in the next millennium. Cast your vote for a woman in the coming general elections."

Commenting on the advertisement, Alice Kwaramba of Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA) Project said, "The sky is the limit for all women in southern Africa. Mpule proved that for women to make it in this competitive world, there is need for self-confidence, determination and education."

The increasing number of entrants from southern African countries in international beauty pageants shows that attitudes have changed over the years. People are now appreciating the event.

"Parents are encouraging their children to participate in these pageants. Misconcep-

tions have been erased by the success of other beauty queens. Who wouldn't want to see her daughter to be an ambassador?" says Nyahuye in an interview.

She adds that the introduction of Face of Africa may help foster a positive image of the continent by creating valuable and exciting new opportunities for many of its talented models, both male and female.

Young as she is, Mpule is not only representing her country or southern Africa, but Africa as a whole. Faced with many duties, the most challenging one is to portray a positive image of Africa and to counter the negative aspects reported about the continent.

Like her predecessor, Wendy Fitzgerald of Trinidad and Tobago, Mpule wants to highlight the AIDS issues from a southern African point of view. Her country, Botswana, and other

southern African nations such as South Africa and Zimbabwe are among the worst affected by the deadly pandemic.

Most models know that being a beauty queen brings many opportunities in the business world. Those who come back after their one year stint in Europe often start their own modelling agencies, some become designers, others complete their studies there and come back to work in their own countries.

The exposure they get enriches their minds to start up businesses and it is also an opportunity for African designers to show their professionalism, as happened to designer Angelo John of Savannah Creations, Botswana. He designed the dress that helped Mpule win the crown.

Like Mpule, Angelo instantly got international acclaim and since then his life has changed over night, he has been asked to design clothes for other countries.

The western media is notorious for highlighting only negative events in Africa. Recent inroads by Africa's beauties into the fashion and beauty business are helping change attitudes.

Mpule's win has opened a golden marketing opportunity for southern Africa. "Most Americans have never heard of Botswana, let alone have a clue where it is, southern African

tourist organisations have been presented with a golden opportunity which should be seized upon," writes Milan Vesely in *African Business* magazine.

The producer of Face of Africa, Jan Malan says, "there is need for conscientisation in schools and in the society to try and change the perception of beauty, especially with the parents."

Mpule, the first African to win the prestigious title, has proved that old prejudices and misconceptions no longer apply. Her win signifies the African woman's coming of age and opens the door for other contenders.

"The will-power, courage and positiveness combined with dazzling beauty and brains will get Mpule wherever she wants to go in life. Could there be a fitter celebration of femininity?" writes Victoria Massimo of *The Voice*, a Botswana weekly. □

“I think pregnancy should not in anyway interrupt her duties, she should celebrate her femininity...”

Tourism Protocol to strengthen growth of sector?

by Tinashe Madava

The ratification of the SADC Protocol on the Development of Tourism, which was signed last year has become a major topic of discussion in the tourism sector as entrepreneurs in southern Africa are already thinking of the benefits they stand to gain from marketing the region as one tourist destination.

Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia recently, SADC ministers responsible for tourism agreed to ratify the Tourism Pro-

to Festus Mogae of Botswana said that the train service is an investment which is in line with the objectives of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa and the SADC Tourism Protocol.

The implementation of the tourism protocol could result in the creation of jobs in the region, a welcome development in a subcontinent plagued by plummeting unemployment levels.

At the Windhoek meeting, the SADC ministers also signed an agreement with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), providing for cooperation

and tourism sector could create about seven million new jobs in Africa by 2010 of which five million would be in southern Africa.

The tourism sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in southern Africa and is one of the leading foreign currency earners for countries in the region.

In recognition of the SADC's potential in the tourism industry, Lipman said at a tourism conference; "What is needed now is a determined initiative and a clear policy framework to get this strategy on the cabinet tables of governments concerned."

Southern Africa is host to some of the world's most beautiful tourist attractions which include the Victoria Falls and Great Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe, as well as vast tracts of game parks with different species of animals in South Africa's Kruger National Park, and the Okavango Delta in Botswana.

Meanwhile, the World Conference on the measurement of the economic impact of tourism, which was held in France recently, recommended the development of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA). The TSAs would enable the tourism sector to monitor its statistics more efficiently thus paving the way for strategic improvements to help draw in more profits.

As the SADC Heads of State and Government meet in Maputo, the idea of speedy ratification and implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Development of Tourism could be one of the major talking points that could bring the region's economy to heal. □



Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

to in a move set to improve cooperation between member states in promoting development of the sector in the region.

The Tourism Protocol seeks to "aggressively promote the region as a single but multifaceted tourism destination, capitalising on its common strengths and highlighting individual member states' unique tourist attractions". It therefore seeks to lure European and American tourists to come and spend their money here. This could see countries in the region improving their foreign currency reserves.

Although the target countries are mainly from outside SADC, the protocol also encourages visitors from the region.

The protocol also pledges to "give priority to investment in the sustainable development of natural and cultural resources that transcend territorial boundaries."

After the launch of the Blue Train II which will service Botswana, Namibia South Africa and Zimbabwe, President

between the two organisations in various areas of tourism. Participants also agreed that there was need to increase SADC's market share of the global tourism business.

As the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) president Geoffrey Lipman pointed out last year, the travel



Abundance of wildlife is the pride of southern African tourism.

SADC in the next millennium: Working together for peace, progress and prosperity

Oratile Mmualefe, a pupil at Naledi Secondary School, Botswana, gives her scenario of SADC in the next millennium in this essay which won her a regional competition contested by pupils from SADC countries. The essay competition was open to children of school-going age in SADC. She and her two runners-up are expected to be announced officially on 17 August in Maputo, Mozambique. NB The essay was edited for space only.

SADC comprises 14 independent countries. Its main target is to mould these countries into a closely-knit community with peace, progress and prosperity. However, this aim has not been fully accomplished since its introduction. The next millennium offers hope for these three [peace progress and prosperity] to be attained. This however depends on what people in the SADC region are prepared to do, when they will commence and who will be involved.

Peace and tranquility are the foundation of stability. There are several ways in which SADC can bring peace in the next millennium. These include forming a peace organisation, collective security, communication and trade, disarmament and diplomacy...

The [peace] organisation will have to consist of representatives from all the 14 countries. The representatives should have law qualifications, be honest and even trustworthy. The function of this organisation will be to resolve quarrels between countries in the region... Examples of such organisations are found worldwide. One particular example is the United Nations. Namibia and Botswana had a conflict over the Sedudu Island. This was taken abroad and investigations by the international court are still on.

Collective security is also very helpful in the SADC region for peace. This involves cooperation from all the SADC members. Just like a community, we should protect each other... When one of the SADC members is attacked by an outsider, other members should be prepared to help in order to discourage the attacks... Situations like the recent one in Lesotho can be handled only if mem-

bers help. Botswana and South Africa ran to Lesotho to lend a helping hand when Lesotho's government nearly collapsed.

Trade and communications in SADC can be improved for better results. These bring people closer to each other as relations are improved. They get a chance to know each other well and a strong bond of friendship is formed. ...

There should be disarmament in the SADC region. This means reduction of military forces and the number of weapons. The availability of war weapons will prompt people to make use of them. It is therefore a good idea to stop producing them and using the money for something worthwhile...

Diplomacy must prevail in the SADC region as one of the efforts to bring peace. This refers to the work of managing relationships between countries. As it has always been the case, ambassadors are sent to represent one country in many others. This can also be found

"... diplomats should be thoroughly checked and be very trustworthy."

in the SADC region but diplomats should be thoroughly checked and be very trustworthy...

Progress refers to the process of getting better at doing something. In this case, SADC will be aiming at improving the living standard of its people. Measures needed to be taken by SADC members are improving education in each country, technology and ideas sharing, encouraging investors from abroad, discouraging income inequalities in different areas and the true meaning of independence should be practised.

Technology and ideas should be shared among SADC countries. There are a lot of geniuses in this region but the problem is they are not given a chance to come out in the open. Scientific ideas should be discussed and solutions to problems found. Recently there has been a lot of talks, which are in fact true, that most of the countries affected by AIDS are found in the SADC region. Scientists have tried to find solution to these kinds of incurable diseases but this needs

"Democracy should prevail in all countries."

a lot of money, which SADC as a whole should provide for experts... to use.

For more progress, investors from abroad the SADC region should be encouraged... Most SADC countries are small and unnoticed and therefore advertisement can help to bring in investors who will help in the countries' development through creating jobs...

Most countries in the SADC region depend on imports to feed their nations. However, this is a disadvantage in efforts for progress. Large amounts of money are spent on food, which could easily be produced locally. Agriculture must be encouraged in SADC...

For success... SADC needs capable leaders... People should work together and improve what is already being done.

Democracy should prevail in all countries. Presidents should be people who are responsible and ready to work for their nations. They should be able to handle the economies of their countries. In this way, success will be attained.

Law should be very tight in all these countries. Criminals should be given severe sentences... Nepotism and corruption can also be the reasons for the downfall of most countries in the SADC region. Very strict laws and policies should be put in place. ...

Most countries in the SADC region have large mineral deposits. This could bring prosperity only if certain measures are taken. The minerals found in this region are useless unless processed. They are therefore transported abroad where big machines are found. What

is stopping the SADC countries from making their own machines?

While we join hands in SADC and work for the best results, we should always keep in mind that the changes we will be bringing in the next millennium will even bring more brighter changes just as we know, change of thoughts brings change of behaviour, change of behaviour brings change of habits, change of habits brings change of personality, while change of personality brings change in one's destiny. What is SADC' destiny? To attain peace, progress and prosperity. □

SADC Day celebrations to precede Maputo summit

by Afonso Campos

SADC leaders assemble in the Mozambican capital of Maputo on August 17 to attend the last summit of the millennium, planned to coincide with the celebrations of the 7th anniversary since the organisation was transformed from a coordination conference into a fully fledged development community.

According to Mozambique's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Leonardo Simao, the Maputo summit will also be attended by former heads of state, some of whom were instrumental in establishing the organisation. These include Sir Ketumile Masire of Botswana, Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

For the first time, the SADC Day commemorations will be held at a regional level. Nigerian President, General Olusegan Obasanjo will attend as guest of honour and deliver a statement during the official opening ceremony.

At a news conference in Maputo, Simao told journalists that Mozambique was less concerned with the contested issue of the chairpersonship of SADC than with the need for member states to uphold the principles contained in the SADC Treaty.

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, who is also SADC's deputy chairperson, is tipped to take over the leadership of the organisation, a position until recently held by South Africa's former president, Mandela.

High on the agenda of the summit will be the conflicts in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as ways of ensuring a rapid ratification by member states of the 1996 SADC Trade Protocol.

Cultural and sporting events will mark the occasion in each of the 14 countries that form the organisation, according to Ana Nemba, deputy secretary of the Maputo-based SADC culture information and sport sector.

In Maputo, a football match has been planned between Nigeria and Mozambique, on 17 August. This will be preceded by a children's parade.

In a colourful, festive atmosphere that is expected to engulf the city for the week of the summit, SADC officials will

address students at schools, in a move aimed at teaching them about the objectives of the organisation.

The culture, information and sport sector was established with the view to coordinate the development of cultural relations within the SADC region, and among its future programmes it plans to organise an exhibition of visual arts in Namibia next year.

Nemba says the exchange of information in the region, which the sector is expected to promote, is hampered by limited availability of electronic mail facilities in some SADC member states. □



Leonardo Simão, Mozambican Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Children use art to condemn violence

by Diana Mavunduse

Violence against children is one of the most pervasive forms of violation of human rights. It results in the disturbance of children's lives and it impairs their full and equal participation in the development of their communities and societies. An environment free from violence is a prerequisite to achieving sustainable human development and eliminating poverty.

"Violence is systemic in society, not the privilege of one group, and it is not the problem of others, it is a problem for all," said UNIFEM regional adviser, Dr. Gita Honwana Welch.

She added, "A successful campaign against it (violence) is a necessary process for children to regain control of their lives and rebuild confidence in their capacities to play a meaningful and decisive role for sustainable human development."

The United Nations Development Fund for Women-Southern Africa Regional Office (UNIFEM-SARO) based in Zimbabwe recently organised a competition as part of its world wide media campaign to raise awareness of violence and to change behaviour and policies.

A total of 720 students from Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Swaziland entered the competition titled, 'A Life Free From Violence'. Many children discussed different forms of violence and its effect on the young and vulnerable.

The eighteen month campaign was launched on 31 July 1998, in Zimbabwe. Various activities have been undertaken since the launch, including workshops, seminars, media events, and community activities within various countries in southern Africa. □

All Africa Games Update

The Zambian national soccer team has continued their domination of their southern neighbours, Zimbabwe, by beating them in home and away matches recently in the qualifying stages of the All-Africa Games to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September.

Southern Africa will be represented by South Africa who qualify by virtue of being host, and Zambia. In the last All-Africa games in Zimbabwe, the host were runners-up to Egypt who lifted the soccer trophy.

Meanwhile, most countries in the region are in the process of choosing their athletics teams to compete in the Johannesburg games. □

More SADC states go to polls

The last quarter of the year will see elections taking place in Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia, and preparations are now at various stages.

In Mozambique, registration of voters started on July 20 and will run until September 17.

Although no polling date has been set, it is expected that the elections, which are estimated to cost US\$41 million, will take place in late Novem-

ber. According to the electoral law, there must be at least 60 days between the end of voter registration and the polling date.

Instead of updating the existing voter register, the government has complied with demands by the main opposition party RENAMO that the entire electorate re-registers afresh. Observers feel that there is need to convince those who have voter cards from the last election that these will

not be valid for the forthcoming election and thus they have to re-register.

Meanwhile in Botswana, only 385,369 out of 800,000 eligible voters have so far registered to vote. The secretary of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Gabriel Seeletso said that lack of education on the importance of voting among the electorate was the main contributing factor, but hoped that the ongoing voter education will have an impact on those who have not yet registered.

Election dates are still to be announced but early October is earmarked as the most likely month.

In Namibia, constitutional amendments to allow President Sam Nujoma to run for the third term in office sailed through Parliament and voters are expected to go to the polls towards the end of the year. The exact dates have not yet been announced.

South Africa and Malawi went to polls last June. □

OAU seeks home-grown solutions

Southern Africa wants to enter the next millennium free of war and violent conflict, Kaire Mbuende, SADC Executive Secretary said at a medica conference during the Organisation of African Unity summit held in Algiers, Algeria in July.

Mbuende estimated that there are 11 violent conflicts currently blighting Africa with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) conflict and the full-scale civil war in Angola among the most prominent.

The horrific 1994 genocide in Rwanda, in which almost a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed, challenged the OAU's founding principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of member states.

Thus the call by President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria that the OAU must

ostracise any future leaders taking power by force. "Africa's reputation as a continent at war against itself must be arrested," he told the Algiers summit.

The OAU Secretary-General, Salim Ahmed Salim, said: "It is clear to me that much as we would want to concentrate on economic development, unless we are able to make some significant headway on the issue of ending instability and insecurity in Africa, our efforts will continue to be frustrated."

African leaders at the summit made a resolution to never again embrace coup leaders into the pan-Africanist body.

"The summit was adamant that from now on no coup plotters or designers will be taken on board and are irrelevant to Africa," said Ibrahim Dagash, an OAU spokesman. □

Water hyacinth cleared from Lake Kariba

The Zambezi River Authority has cleared about 2,200 hectares of water hyacinth on Lake Kariba using aerial sprays with a chemical weed killer, according to a recent article by *PANA News Agency*.

A recent river authority report said the aerial sprays achieved an 80 percent success rate against the "notorious water hyacinth" which had covered almost the entire surface of the lake. The exercise was done with the aid of local and international agencies.

The report said only a few patches of the weed both on the Zambian and Zimbabwean sides were deliberately left. This was because they were at the time either floating on or close to outlets of water required for domestic or agricultural use as well as vital tourist points.

Officials concerned have arranged to remove the remaining weed mechanically or manually.

Laboratory analyses of the water from the lake after the spraying has been found to contain no trace of chemical contamination, according to the report.

An international conference is set for Lusaka in October to plan long-term monitoring and control measures against the weed on the lake and other water bodies within the Zambezi River basin, which borders Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Environment experts say the Kariba weed poses both environmental and mechanical problems. It is said to inhibit natural underwater circulation of oxygen necessary for the survival of fish and other water life. (*PANA*) □

Old Mutual completes demutualisation

The demutualisation process by Old Mutual, the multinational financial services powerhouse, was completed early July when the company was listed on four stock exchanges in southern Africa.

The company was listed on the Johannesburg, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Malawi stock exchanges. The company was also listed on the London stock exchange.

Reports say the listing resulted in major cash injections in the southern African economies, totaling more than US\$2 billion in South Africa alone. More than 30 million shares Old Mutual shares had changed hands within one day of trading at the five stock exchanges in southern Africa and in London.

The demutualisation process which stated in August 1997 means that Old Mutual is no longer a mutual society owned by members but a group of companies owned by shareholders.

Old Mutual is southern Africa's largest life insurer and has assets worth billions of dollars. It has 3,2 million life insurance policyholders, two million banking customers, 270,000 general insurance customers and 790,000 unit trust account holders. □

Landmine monitor report: Toward a mine-free world

Landmine Monitor: Toward a Mine Free World, published by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), an initiative coordinated by a Landmine Monitor Core Group of five organisations: Human Rights Watch; Handicap International; Kenya Coalition Against Mines; Mines Action Canada and Norwegian People's Aid. Reviewed by Tinashe Madava

This book, is the first annual report of the Landmine Monitor Core Group and seeks to hold governments accountable for their commitments to eliminate anti-personnel mines.

The report is an evaluation of the progress by the international community in implementing and compliance with the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and alleviating the global landmine crisis.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) says it is very difficult to obtain accurate data on the number of landmine victims and the amount of money spent on treating them.

The *Landmine Monitor Report 1999* contains information on every country in

the world with respect to landmine ban policy, use, production, transfer, stockpiling, mine clearance, mine awareness and survivor assistance. According to the report, Lesotho and Mauritius are believed to be the only countries unaffected by landmines in southern Africa.

The report explores governments' commitments to banning landmines in their countries. Mozambique was one of the most heavily mined countries in the region. Since the start of a demining operation in 1993, 60,000 mines have been removed at a cost of US\$116 million, one of the highest figures for any demining programme in the world.

Although Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Mines Ban Treaty and has vowed to stop use of anti-personnel mines, the report castigates the country for having done little in terms of mine awareness. It points out that there is need for a sustained mine awareness programme.

In Angola, as the country returned to civil war, both the government and the UNITA rebels have been using anti-personnel mines and the Landmines

Monitor Report condemns them both. Angola is a signatory to the Mines Ban Treaty, but has not ratified it.

ICBL says one of the biggest obstacles to demining was funding. Mine awareness is also cited as a crucial part of any anti-mine action programme. According to ICBL: "Mine awareness involves information programmes to reduce the threat of landmines to affected communities." □

Reporting gender

Reporting Gender in Southern Africa: A Media Guide published by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) and Zambia Institute of Mass Communication (ZamCom), compiled by Barbara Lopi.

Reporting Gender in Southern Africa: a Media Guide will help journalists and other writers, improve their skills on balanced reporting of gender in the region. The handbook is a solid tool of information and tips for those writing about gender issues.

It highlights that gender is not only about women's issues but is everyone's concern. This should be reflected in reporting because gender cuts across every socio-economic issue.

The handbook advises that to achieve balanced reporting on gender, there is need to sensitise editors, particularly male editors. Mainstreaming gender news is about incorporating the views of women, men, girls and boys in editorial coverage.

The handbook has topics that include reporting from a gender perspective, common problems in seeking balanced gender reporting, "the dos and don'ts" in gender reporting and a guide towards balanced gender reporting.

It has annexes containing references, sources, and contents of main regional and international declarations such as the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action, excerpts from the Vienna Declaration, and the draft declaration of the Know How Conference, to help journalists develop development-oriented story ideas on gender.

The guide will go a long way in improving the quality of gender coverage in the region and beyond. □

Recent publications and acquisitions

Beyond Inequalities: Women in Swaziland

—Hlanze, Zakhe and Mkhabela, Lolo. -1998

Available from Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust (WLSA) PO Box 182, Veni, Mbabane, Swaziland or SARDC Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA) Programme, PO Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Community Building for Crop, Food Security, Livestock, Research and Training Sectors: Regional Issues Papers. —Chisvo, Munhamo et al.. -May 1999. SADC Secretariat, P. Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana.

Directory for Community Based Environment Organisation Southern Africa 1998 —Munjoma, Leonissah. -1998

Available Development Media Organisation (DMO) 11 Bishop Gaul Ave, Kopje PO Box 5725, Harare, Zimbabwe.

The Electoral Systems Issue in South Africa

—Faure, Murray. - 1999 Available from

Konrad- Adenauer - Stiftung, 31 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown 2193, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa *Gender Checklist for Free and Fair Elections: A Handbook*

—Fick, Glenda. - 1999

Available from Electoral Institute of South Africa (EISA), PO Box 740 Auckland Park 2006, South Africa.

So this is Democracy? Report on State of the Media in Southern Africa 1998

—Galant, Raashied (compiler). -1999 Available from Media Institute Southern Africa (MISA) Private Bag 13386, Windhoek, Namibia.

South African Electoral-Laws and Regulations 1999

—Electoral Institute of South Africa (EISA). - 1999

Available from EISA.

Urban Water Demand Management in Southern Africa: the Conservation Potential—Macy, Peter. - 1999 Available from the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA) Embassy of Sweden, PO Box 4110, Harare, Zimbabwe. □

SADC diary

1999		Event	Venue
August	03-05	Sixth Regional Symposium on Science and Technology	Zimbabwe
	09-10	Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the SADC Finance Committee	Mozambique
	11-12	Meeting of the SADC Standing Committee of Officials	Mozambique
	13	Meeting of the Finance Committee (Consideration of the Annotated Agenda for Council)	Mozambique
	15-16	Meeting of Council	Mozambique
	17-18	SADC Day and Summit	Mozambique
	23	SATCC (Postal Services Sub-Sector) UPU Congress	China
	30-31	Marine Fisheries/Benefit Policy Committee meeting	South Africa
September	11-14	SPGRC Board Meeting	Zambia
	12-16	11 th International Conference on AIDS/STDS	Zambia
	16-17	SPGRC/Fruits and Nuts Regional Crop Working Group Meeting	Zambia
	20-24	SPGRC/NPGRC Planning	Zambia
	27-28	SPGRC/ In Situ/On-Farm and Under-Utilised Plants Regional Crop Working Group Meeting	Zambia
October	28-30	Human Resources Development/ Sub- Committee Meetings	Botswana
	28-30	Environment/Sub-Committee meetings	Botswana
November	08-12	Mining Sector/Sub-Committee Meetings	Lesotho
	14-18	Geology/Sub-Committee Meetings	Zimbabwe
	12-15	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting	South Africa
	16-18	Human Resource Development/ Sub-Committee Meetings	Swaziland
	17-18	Mineral Processing/Sub-Committee Meetings	Swaziland
25-10/12	16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women	All SADC	

Currency checklist

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	2.2m
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.64
D.R.C.	Congo Franc	--
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.13
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	43.99
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	24.05
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	12 325
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.06
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	--
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.03
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.37
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	709.21
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	2300
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	38.22

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, 21 July 1999

SADC Public Holidays**September - December 1999**

Date	Holiday	Country
6 September	Somhlolo Day	Swaziland
7 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
17 September	National Heroes' Day and Founder of Nation	Angola
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Independence Day	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
12 October	Mothers Day	Malawi
19 October	Divali	Mauritius
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
2 November	All Saints Day	Angola
11 November	Independence Day	Angola
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Lesotho
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	SADC
26 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Boxing Day	Zambia, Tanzania, Swaziland, Malawi, Lesotho and Botswana