



SADC

TODAY

← Southern African Development Community

Vol. 3 No. 5 April 2000

SADC drums up support for its action programme

SADC ministers and senior officials converged at Swaziland's resort valley of Ezulwini late February to impress on international donors the need to support various projects that will help to integrate the region's 14 members.

The consultative conference is held annually and attended by government ministers, representatives of the donor community, and non-governmental sector including, business leaders and civil society. The meeting accords stakeholders an opportunity to engage in dialogue on matters of mutual interest and discuss funding for SADC's programme of action.

According to the Acting Executive Secretary of SADC, Prega Ramsamy, the programme of action comprises 378 projects valued at about US\$7.7 billion of which 48 percent has been secured and eight percent are under negotiation, leaving a funding gap of 44 percent.

This year's conference was held under the theme: "Peace, Progress and Prosperity". Nearly 400 delegates took part in the meeting held against a backdrop of a sluggish peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), continued warfare in Angola and the coming into force of the trade protocol.

But as officials presented existing and new projects in SADC's 19 sectors to the donors, urgent new needs arose as cyclone-induced floods struck at least four countries – Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe – with Mozambique being the hardest hit.

As the chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Mozambique Foreign Affairs Minister Leornado Simão, briefed journalists about proceedings at the consultative conference in Swaziland, and the floods which were tearing apart infrastructure, homes and crops, rendering thousands of Mozambicans homeless.

Touring the central and southern provinces, Graca Machel, wife of former South African President Nelson Mandela described the destruction as equalling two decades of the civil war (which ended in 1992) that the southern African

country was beginning to recuperate from.

Seven years after the apartheid-backed civil war, Mozambique was starting to look different. President Joaquim Chissano's government had just been retained in office through a popular vote, its damaged road and rail links were once again operational and the rural population was returning to the land, ensuring

the country of self-reliance in food supply. But the tropical Cyclone Eline set the country back at least 10 years, according to preliminary estimates.

"They were rebuilding their lives; they had very poor houses, but they had houses. They had recovered the dignity of feeding themselves... they could

continued on page 6



UNICEF

The devastating floods in Mozambique left many in need of food aid.

Secretariat donates to flood victims

The SADC Secretariat has joined local and international organisations in donating in cash and kind to victims of floods in the region's four most affected countries.

Making the presentations to representatives of Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, the SADC Acting Executive Secretary, Dr. Prega Ramsamy emphasised that this was a

token contribution given the immensity and gravity of the situation. However, Botswana's Acting Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Tebelelo Seretse said the size of donation should not be a factor but "the spirit in which the gift is given."

The Botswana-based high commissioners of South Africa and Zimbabwe,

continued on page 4

SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community
Vol. 3, No 5, April 2000

SADC TODAY is produced by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) six times a year on behalf of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions and opinions of the SADC Secretariat or SARDC. Materials from this newsletter may be reproduced freely by the media and others with attribution to SADC TODAY.

© SADC, SARDC, 2000

Editorial Committee

Alice Kwaramba, Tinashe Madava,
Phyllis Johnson, Hugh McCullum, Jean
Chimhandamba, Walter Tapfumaneyi,
Jabulani Sithole, Diana Mavunduse

Editorial Advisors

Esther Kanaimba
Head of SADC Public Relations
Petronilla Ndebele
SADC Information Officer

Editor

Munetsi Madakufamba

Design & Layout/DTP

Juliet Mucheki

Print Coordination

Brighton Kadzambaira

Origination/Printing

Crystal Graphics and Cannon Press, Harare

Contributions are welcome from individuals and organisations within the SADC region in the form of articles, news items, and comments, and also from outside the region. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items and edit for space available.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

SADC TODAY
Southern African Research and
Documentation Centre (SARDC)
13 Bath Road, Belgravia,
P.O. Box 5690,
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263.4. 738 694/5/6
Fax: 263.4.738 693
Email: sardc@sardc.net
Website: www.sardc.net



Food Security 5



ACC 6



SADC in Pictures 11



Guest Column 12

- Policy Review: Communique from the regional extraordinary summit to review floods* **3**
- Leaders appeal for debt cancellation in Mozambique after the floods* **4**
- Preview of forthcoming elections in SADC* **7**
- Communique of the 2000 SADC consultative conference held in Swaziland* **8**
- Cape Town to host legislators conference* **10**
- Community building: Sports and culture* **13**
- Around the region: News briefs* **14**
- Book review, recent publications and acquisitions* **15**
- SADC diary, public holidays, currency checklist* **16**

A note to the reader

We would like to notify you that *SADC Today* is now available through an annual subscription fee. For six issues a year, the fee is US\$30 for outside Africa and US\$15 for Africa. Your subscription will also enable you to receive *SADC Today* by airmail and electronically via e-mail and internet should you choose to do so. We would like to thank you for your comments and support throughout the past year and would also like to remind you that we welcome your contributions to the newsletter. For more details on subscriptions, please contact the Editor.

Final communique of SADC extraordinary regional summit to review impact of floods

An Extraordinary summit meeting of the Southern African Development Community Heads of State and Government was held in Maputo, on 14 March 2000. The one-day summit was convened at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Sam Nujoma, in his capacity as Deputy Chairperson of SADC.

The Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government:

H.E. President Festus Mogae
– Botswana

H.E. President Bakili Muluzi
– Malawi

H.E. President Joaquim Alberto
Chissano
– Mozambique

H.E. President Sam Nujoma
– Namibia

H.E. President Thabo Mbeki
– South Africa

H.E. President Benjamin William Mkapa
– Tanzania

H.E. President Frederick J T Chiluba
– Zambia

Rt. Honourable Prof. Pakalitha Mosisili
– Lesotho

Rt. Honourable Dr Sibusiso B. Dlamini
– Swaziland

The Republic of Angola was represented by the Defence Minister, Honourable Kundi Paihama.

The Republic of Zimbabwe was represented by the High Commissioner of Zimbabwe to Mozambique and the Republic of Mauritius was represented by a Senior Staff member of the Mauritian High Commission in Mozambique.

The Summit was also attended by Acting Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Prega Ramsamy.

The objective of the Summit was to

review the impact of the floods caused by Cyclone Eline and Tropical Depression Gloria on the countries of SADC, particularly on Mozambique. The prevailing emergency situation in the affected countries was also reviewed.

The Heads of State and Government expressed deep sorrow and regret at the loss of hundreds of lives as a result of the floods caused by Cyclonic weather conditions. They expressed their solidarity with and sympathy to the bereaved and flood affected families not only in Mozambique but also in South Africa,

tion to the international community for the current humanitarian assistance provided to the affected countries of the region. Mozambique, for its part expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for the timely solidarity and support provided by the SADC countries, UN agencies and the international community.

The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the actions taken at the SADC level towards grappling with the effects of these disasters on the lives of the affected population. In particular, the Summit took note of the decisions that emanated from the meeting of Ministers in charge of Disaster Management held in Pretoria and the Maputo Health Ministers meeting on 3rd and 11th March 2000 respectively.

The Heads of State and Government adopted additional measures to support the affected populations and to strengthen the regional coordination mechanisms in order to trigger off the reconstruction of Mozambique and other countries affected in the region.

The Summit expressed the need for the establishment of a regional institutional mechanism for disaster preparedness and management which would respond timely to similar situations. This mechanism would also be responsible for mobilising resources that would be used to obviate the effects of disasters whenever they occur. The Summit called on the international community to provide long term support to such mechanisms.

The Summit also appealed to the International Community to cancel all foreign debts owed by Mozambique to enable it to channel all available resources to the reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure and property.

The Summit thanked President Joaquim Chissano, the Government and the people of the Republic of Mozambique for the hospitality and the excellent facilities made available for the success of the deliberations of the Maputo Extraordinary SADC Summit. □



Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Madagascar. It was noted that some two million people were affected half of whom were in dire need of assistance.

The Heads of State and Government expressed concern at the huge loss of personal belongings and the damage to social amenities and infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, water supply systems, power lines, railway lines, roads, bridges and telecommunications networks. They also expressed concern at the massive destruction of the crops as well as livestock.

The Heads of State and Government expressed deep gratitude and apprecia-

Ministers announce date for launch of trade pact

Following is a media briefing speech by SADC Acting Executive Secretary Dr Prega Ramsamy on 4 April.

"... The SADC Ministers of Trade met on 31st March 2000. One of the most critical issues discussed was the Rules of Origin particularly those pertaining to the textiles and clothing sector.

The other outstanding chapters included Chapter 11, on products of the milling industry, malt, starches, insulin, wheat, gluten, which is related to Chapter 19.

Chapter 27 on fuels has been excluded, because of its critical role in the economy. Chapters 84 and 85 covering nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical machinery and equipment, sound recorders and reproducers, television, image and sound recorders and Chapter 90 on optical, photographic and medical equipment were identified as complex and more analysis is required before an agreement is reached.

The automobile industry and the sugar sector are also outstanding, as development agreements for the sectors are required. In both cases, technical committees have been set up to develop the regional policy framework as a basis for development plans for the sectors.

With regard to the textiles and clothing, which is an area of interest to all SADC Member States, we are happy that a compromise has been reached.

There is an agreement between the Least Developed Countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) on one stage transformation for products manufactured from imported materials but governed by quotas. The quotas will be fixed on the basis of production capacity. All other trade would be carried out on the basis of the rule that requires two-stage transformation.

Zimbabwe and Mauritius have the capacity to meet the two-stage transformation for their textile products and will trade on the two-stage transformation basis.

They, however, requested for a special consideration for equal treatment one stage transformation with respect to Chapters 60-63 on clothing, particularly

in relation to man-made fabrics/fibres where the region does not have adequate capacity. Instead of insisting on an agreement on this request, the two countries decided to pursue their requests in the context of the Textiles and Clothing Committee set up by the Ministers to monitor the implementation of the rules of origin in the textiles and clothing sector.

... This compromise by Mauritius and Zimbabwe facilitated the conclusion of the negotiations on textiles and clothing in principle. Member States are now putting these chapters on the gradual tariff reduction list.

Given the critical mass achieved on the rules of origin agreed to date, Ministers decided to announce the launch date for the implementation of tariff reduction as, 1st September 2000. In agreeing on this date, the Ministers responsible for Trade were cognizant of the need to amend Annex 1 of the Protocol by activating Article 34 of the SADC Protocol on trade. The amendment has to be approved by Summit in August before implementation in 1st September 2000.

This break through should not lead

us to sit on our laurels but we will work on the support measures for the implementation of the protocol. In this regard Ministers directed that guidelines on dispute settlement should be prepared and structures put in place before September 2000. In this context, the Ministers directed that a team of Member States Legal Officers be convened by Mid-April 2000 to work on this issue.

10. Taking into cognisance the need to harmonize Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures in the region, in order to facilitate trade on agricultural products, the Ministers directed that a Coordination Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade (CC-SPS/TBT) should meet by Mid-April to work on the harmonisation of these measures to ensure that trade in agriculture and agricultural products is not unduly hampered.

Negotiations will continue on all outstanding issues, which in themselves will not prevent the launch of the implementation phase on 1st September 2000. We are positive that the process is now well were under way." □

SADC donates to flood victims

continued from page 1

who received a donation of US \$300 each, also expressed similar sentiments. Botswana received US\$300 and 12 boxes of food and clothing.

Mozambique, the hardest-hit of the four, received US\$4,000 in cash and 72 boxes of food, clothing and footwear delivered to Maputo.

The donations were sourced from the Secretariat staff, secondary schools of Legae Academy and New Era School, the local Catholic Church and the French Embassy. A local transport company, Truck Africa, delivered the goods to Mozambique free of charge.

Dr. Ramsamy said such a gesture by schools and others was heartening. He noted that "it is time we had a regional disaster management mechanism in place given the increased disasters in the region."

He further explained that the latest effort toward flood alleviation follows a series of activities undertaken by the region in trying to address the current natural disaster. These, he said, included the measures initially set in motion by the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Swaziland in mid-February which called for the intensification of efforts to "mobilise resources to assist the flood victims and mitigate the impact of floods."

Other activities included the impassioned appeal to SADC's international cooperating partners, action-oriented meetings of SADC Heads of State and Government, and SADC heads of missions in Botswana.

Dr. Ramsamy described the recent phenomenon and the response it elicited as "a positive milestone in the development of the region in that it brought to the fore the cohesiveness of the region as a community." □

Floods and drought: A tale of two extremes

by Tinashe Madava

Southern Africa is currently working on solving its food security situation which has deteriorated dramatically since the onset of torrential rains that have caused devastating floods resulting in massive loss of crops.

According to the Regional Famine Early Warning Unit (Fewu), southern Africa is faced with food shortages due to a combination of drought and floods. Regional cereal deficits had only been predicted to be wheat and sorghum with an overall deficit of 548, 000 tonnes.

Maize deficits had been assessed at 134 000 tonnes. However, the situation has since changed with the occurrence of the floods in areas where bumper harvests were expected. All the major staple cereals are assessed as showing shortfalls during the 1999/2000 marketing year.

The rains that lashed most parts of the region worsened by cyclone Eline, have left a trail of disaster in the form of floods in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Huge tracts of farmland have been submerged in water as rivers overflowed, sweeping away people, animals, crops and strategic grain reserves in Mozambique.

In eastern and southern Zimbabwe, crops have also been destroyed and thousands of people left homeless. Infrastructure has been damaged extensively in the affected countries.

Mozambican President, Joaquim Chissano said the devastating floods in his country have now affected close to one million people. An estimated 900 metric tonnes of maize, one of Mozambique's staple foods, is needed in the central region. To date only 1.22 metric tonnes of food had been delivered.

Meanwhile, the tail end of Cyclone Eline drenched central and northeastern parts of Namibia, according to a recent report by *The Namibian*. Riaan Van Zyl at the Weather Bureau in Windhoek said the current rainfall is "connected" to Cyclone Eline.

In Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the food securi-



SARDC

Opening of Kariba's flood gates affected communities downstream, especially in Zambia.

ty situation is not stable due to the wars taking place. The two countries are currently relying on humanitarian aid.

The World Food Programme (WFP) says between 28 February and 5 March, it delivered 1,360 metric tonnes of food aid and 218 tonnes of non-food items by air for hundreds of thousands of displaced people in war-torn Angola. A further 1,264 tonnes of food was delivered by road.

In its latest update, WFP said that it was organising 10 daily flights to deliver 2,900 tonnes of food to Kuito during March, "thus covering 100 percent of the projected needs for March".

According to the SADC Food Security Bulletin, rainfall has been erratic and insufficient in Tanzania, resulting in poor prospects for both the short rain season and seasonal harvests.

In north-western Tanzania, drought had been predicted, threatening food security.

However, Tanzania has donated almost 1,000 tonnes of maize to victims of the devastating floods in Mozambique, news reports said. "The Tanzanian government has decided to donate the food as a gesture of solidarity with the people of Mozambique," a foreign ministry

statement said. Tanzania, one of the world's most impoverished countries, has suffered a shortage of the staple maize crop for the last three years.

The food aid to Mozambique will come from the national food stocks.

According to FEWU, Zimbabwe's harvest was likely to be lower than last year. This could result in communal households who are reliant on crop incomes experiencing food insecurity in the coming months.

Most crops in Malawi were affected by the erratic start to the main rainy season, but maize posed the most serious concerns, FEWU said. According to FEWU, by the middle of December official maize stocks were about 225,000 tonnes. The update says that these stocks combined with the first crops from 1999/2000 season would be more than sufficient to meet national demands until April.

With SADC's food security under threat from a number of natural disasters in the form of floods and drought as well as the civil wars, there is need to increase strategic grain reserves of states in the region to improve self sufficiency when faced with disasters. □

SADC drums up support for its action programme

continued from page 1



SADC

King Mswati III and some of the ministers who attended the ACC in Swaziland.

send their children back to school, there was a small clinic next door... There was this sense of rebuilding a life and boosting again our sense of dignity and self-esteem – which was completely broken by the floods,” said Machel.

So bad was the situation in Mozambique that Simao was forced to leave Swaziland earlier than expected, before the official opening of the consultative conference to drum up international relief for his country.

The Deputy Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers and Namibian Minister of Trade and Industry, Hidipo Hamutenya, took over the chairmanship of the conference which was officially opened by King Mswati III, who called on the donor community to reduce administrative bottlenecks on aid meant for developing countries.

“Time and again, we hear of large sums being put aside for our support, but when time comes to utilise them for our priority projects, we find that unrealistic conditions are attached which makes implementation difficult, time-consuming and more costly,” King Mswati told delegates.

In addition to the sectoral working group sessions, the conference had a new format with a whole day devoted to three interactive group sessions on economic, political and social issues.

Discussions on the economic session centred on the positive news of the SADC Trade Protocol which came into force on 25 January 2000. As the region gets ready to implement the trade protocol, a strong message of warning came from the private sector which lamented the lack of business involvement in negotiations leading to the protocol.

“The protocol affects us as business but we were not adequately consulted.... We are only informed when decisions are already taken.... You need private sector involvement if this protocol is going to succeed,” said Said Hussein, President of the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry and leader of the Mauritius Business Council.

The protocol will be launched on 1 September 2000, according to a statement by Ministers of Trade who met on 31 March in South Africa, where they made a breakthrough on outstanding issues relating to the contentious rules of origin.

Participants noted that more needs to be done to accelerate economic growth and development. SADC recorded economic growth of two percent in 1999, which participants said was not enough to lift 40 percent of its estimated 200 million people who are living in abject poverty. Recent studies on SADC have

shown that a growth rate of at least 6.2 percent is needed for a significant reduction in poverty.

The session also mulled over the possibility of establishing a regional development bank, free movement of people, reform of SADC institutions and formulation of predictable, credible and consistent macroeconomic policies as ways of accelerating growth in the region.

The political session dwelt on the DRC cease-fire and violation of Unita sanctions, and the need to strengthen institutions and structures that deal with conflict prevention and resolution.

Swazi Foreign Minister, Albert Shabangu called for a long-term solution to conflict by establishing

mechanisms “that will cause us to respond in an organized fashion to deal with conflict”. Acknowledging the existence of both the SADC Organ on Defence, Politics and Security and the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee, the Swazi Minister said southern Africa should invest in structures that would allow SADC to approach conflict in a focused manner.

The social interactive group emphasised the need for a multi-sectoral approach to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The need to mainstream gender and other stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and the youth in SADC’s action programme was also underlined. □



SADC

Prime Minister of Swaziland, Barnabas S. Dlamini attended the official opening.

More elections as SADC consolidates its democracy

by Diana Mavunduse

The 2000 round of elections in southern Africa is approaching with polls expected in Lesotho, Mauritius, Tanzania and Zimbabwe between May and the end of the year.

Zimbabwe is expected to select its legislators in May, while Lesotho's poll, originally scheduled for the same month, has been postponed indefinitely due to disagreements over the electoral model. Tanzania will be next, in October, while Mauritius will complete the 2000 round of elections towards the end of the year.

In Lesotho, Lekhetso Rakuone, co-chairman of the Interim Political Authority (IPA) said, "The IPA composed of representatives of all political parties including the ruling Lesotho Congress of Democracy (LCD), agreed on a three-pronged Constitution Amendment Bill to be approved by parliament."

The amendments provided for the establishment of a mixed member electoral system, whereby the current 80-member parliament would be increased to 130 members through a mixture of a constituency and proportional representation electoral system.

The other aspects of the amendment related to the appointment of a new electoral commission and the provision for the conduct of general elections.

However, the 80-member parliament, 79 of whom belong to the LCD, rejected the IPA approval of a mixed member electoral model, and resolved instead that a referendum be held on the proposed amendments.

Rakuone said parliament's decision has created political tensions in the country, which might lead to the collapse of the IPA. "It is highly unlikely that elections will be held this year because of the disagreement of the electoral model. We are likely to experience political instability if elections are not held soon," added Rakuone.

The IPA was established as a compromise body to prevent the country

from descending into chaos after opposition parties disputed the 1998 election results and embarked on a month-long protest outside the parliamentary and royal buildings. The agreement was sponsored and guaranteed by SADC following an armed intervention by South Africa and Botswana.

In Tanzania, voter registration for the country's elections scheduled for October is planned to start in June, according to the department of Foreign Affairs.

The incumbent President Benjamin Mkapa is seeking re-election in a presidential race which is expected to be contested by three other candidates and so far, thirteen political parties have expressed interest in contesting the second multiparty general elections.

Mauritius, one of southern Africa's oldest multi-party democracies, is expect-

exercise of defining constituencies which may take up to three months, according to Justice Wilson Sandura, chairperson of the recently appointed Delimitation Commission.

According to the Zimbabwe Electoral Act, the President has powers to fix a day on which the voters' roll for that election will be regarded as closed for the purpose of accepting the registration of voters who may vote at the election. Voter registration ended on 31 March.

Although the Registrar General's Office did not immediately have the total number of people registered, some political analysts estimated that at least two million new voters would appear on the roll this year. The current voters roll, used in the 1995 election, has five million.



Daily News - Zimbabwe

Voter registration at Makombe complex in Harare. The parliamentary elections may be held in May this year.

ed to hold elections at the end of the year. The major political parties to contest the elections are the ruling Labour Party, the Mauritian Militant Movement and the Socialist Militant Movement

Meanwhile Zimbabwe's parliament was dissolved on 11 April to pave the way for an election President Robert Mugabe said will be held in May, although recent developments may push it further than originally foreseen.

Latest reports suggest that the elections which were initially scheduled for April, may be further postponed to July or August due to the usually lengthy

The registration turn out was the highest since 1980, when Zimbabwe held its first general elections.

Zimbabwe's presidential elections will be held in 2002.

If the four countries hold their elections, it would be nine out of 14 for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in a space of two years. Five SADC countries – Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa – held elections in 1999. In all cases, ruling parties were re-elected in elections widely observed and declared representative of the will of the people. □

2000 SADC Consultative Conference communique

● The SADC Consultative Conference was held at the Convention Centre, Royal Swazi Sun Hotel, Ezulwini Valley in the Kingdom of Swaziland on 20-21 February 2000. The Conference was attended by representatives from all SADC Member States, international cooperating partners from countries in Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Asia, and Europe (a list of countries and organisations represented is attached). Representatives of the various agencies of the United Nations, international and regional organisations, the private sector, the labour movement, non-governmental organisations and civil society, also attended the Conference.

● The Conference was convened under the theme "Peace, Progress and Prosperity in SADC in the New Millennium". The theme was chosen in recognition of the fact these are essential and related pre-requisites for the achievement of SADC's objectives of achieving economic growth, alleviating poverty and enhancing the standard and quality of life of the peoples of the region through regional integration.

● His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland officially opened the Conference. In his keynote address, His Majesty King Mswati III welcomed delegates to Swaziland, and observed that this particular Conference is of special significance, as it is the first in the new millennium. He further noted that for the people of Swaziland, the hosting of the Conference is a great honour.

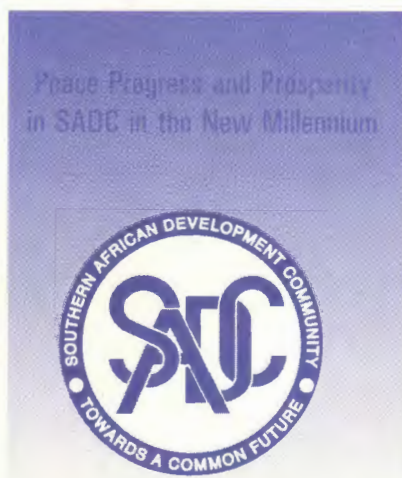
● His Majesty noted that SADC was making steady progress towards full economic integration, with all Member States strongly committed to creating the right conditions for accelerated economic growth, creation of jobs and the reduction of poverty. He reiterated SADC's determination to bring sustainable peace to the whole region, and said the prosperity of individual Member States rests entirely on the fortunes of the region as a whole.

● His Majesty took cognizance of the threat presented by HIV/AIDS to SADC's plans for economic and social improvement, observing that the rest of the agenda could become irrelevant if the region did not mobilise itself effectively to deal with the crisis. His Majesty expressed gratitude for the support SADC receives from international cooperating partners, and expressed the hope that the Conference would look at ways in which donor funding can be administered quicker, more smoothly and without unnecessarily restrictive conditions.

● The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Swaziland, Dr. B. S. Dlamini, in his

introduction of His Majesty, spoke of the pride of the Swazi nation in the four centuries of unbroken royal lineage, and the central role the monarchy plays in Swazi history and culture. Dr. Dlamini observed that His Majesty had taken many proactive and supportive roles in regional and international organisations and initiatives, and has vigorously promoted trade and investment as well as creating and sustaining excellent diplomatic links with many countries of the world.

● The Honourable Deputy Minister Mr. Kelebone Maope of the Kingdom of Lesotho gave an address in which he thanked His Majesty, the government and people of Swaziland for their warm hospitality. Mr. Maope noted that His Majesty's presence underscored his commitment and personal identification with the principles, aims and objectives of SADC. He pledged SADC's resolve to deepen the existing areas of cooperation and cultivate new ones in order to further strengthen the historical and long-



standing bonds of friendship among Member States.

● The Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Namibia, Mr. Hidipo Hamutenya, addressed the official opening session of the Conference in this capacity as Deputy Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers. Mr. Hamutenya encouraged local and foreign investors to take full advantage of the changing economic situation in the region. He noted that the region is well poised for investment, as most governments have undertaken major macro economic reforms. In addition to the need for increased foreign direct investment in the SADC region, Mr. Hamutenya called upon cooperating partners to continue with the provision of development aid, as the two are complementary.

● He emphasised the importance of enlarging the regional market, which would act as a launch pad into the global economy, as well as the need to build confidence amongst the private sector in the economy of the region. He said globalisation is a phenomenon from which SADC cannot opt out, and would not be in the interest of the international community, if a greater part of humanity were excluded from its benefits.

● Speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, Under Secretary General and Special Advisor on Africa, spoke of the importance the UN attaches to Africa. This is demonstrated, among others, by the designation of January 2000 as the month of Africa, devoted to high profile attention to African issues. He described SADC as representing the African continent's successes, prospects and opportunities, as well as its problems.

● The Acting Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr. Prega Ramsamy, also addressed the official opening session of the Conference. In his statement, he assured Cooperating Partners that SADC remains unflinchingly committed to the objective of creating a single economic space through regional integration. He said SADC would relentlessly pursue the co-ordination and execution of the SADC Programme of Action in order to achieve equitable and balanced development in the region with the view to addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment.

● The plenary session on Peace, Progress and Prosperity featured presentations by representatives of the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the SADC Council of NGOs. Both stakeholders emphasised the need for their inclusion in SADC activities so as for them to play a meaningful role in the regional integration agenda. The High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Botswana and SADC, Mr. John Wilde, spoke on behalf of International Cooperating Partners. Several countries made interventions during the plenary session, namely; Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

● Four sectoral working groups were held under the clusters of economic, human and social, natural resources and cross-sectoral issues. During these sessions, the coordinators of various SADC sectors exchanged views with, and briefed cooperating partners and other delegates on progress in the implementation of the SADC program of action.

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

Various SADC Sectors presented project proposals for funding by cooperating partners.

- SADC Ministers led discussions during interactive group sessions on political, economic and social issues in which representatives of international cooperating partners actively participated.

- The main issues discussed in the political session include:

- The need for more concrete administrative mechanisms and structures for the prevention and resolution of conflicts in SADC;
- The importance of strengthening cooperation between regional organisations such as SADC and the UN;
- Concern over the double standard shown by the international community in so far as intervention in the resolution and management of conflicts in various parts of the world; to this end, it was noted that conflicts in Africa were receiving less attention and support than that provided by the international community to conflicts in Europe;
- Inadequate donor support for countries which had taken positive steps to entrench democracy, and introduced positive economic and social reforms;
- The proliferation of small arms in the region and the need for accelerating action to combat such proliferation;
- The increasing trend for Africans to fashion their own solutions for their problems. Related to this is the concept of the African Renaissance, which delegates agreed needed to be elaborated, discussed and disseminated.
- The serious situation of conflicts in Angola and the DRC and the positive efforts and support of SADC and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) recognised; the complexity of the Angolan situation, especially the origins of UNITA which have to be acknowledged; the intransigence of UNITA and the fact that there was nothing to be gained from continuing to negotiate with Savimbi; and the need to reinforce the sanctions against UNITA, especially the illegal sale of diamonds which continue to fuel Savimbi's war machinery.
- The situation of refugees and displaced persons as a result of conflicts in the region and the need for the international community to increase support to the affected countries.
- The complexity of the process of internal dialogue among the Congolese people, under the facilitation of Former President

Masire of Botswana and the risks of the proliferation of interest groups and stakeholders. An appeal was made to ICPs and other non-Congolese players not to contribute to this undesirable trend.

- Pledges of support from ICPs for any regional initiatives in the fields of conflict prevention and resolution, strengthening institutions for the entrenchment of democracy, good governance, human rights and the rule of law.

- The recognition that Africa; and SADC still needed support from outside partners in order to realise these solutions.

- The Economic group discussed regional policy and strategy for enhancing economic growth that would make a dent on poverty. They noted the enormous economic potential of the region with a population of 200 million people and a combined GDP of 180 billion US Dollars. The group also noted that with the returns to investment estimated at 13 percent, this region should be a logical destination for foreign direct investment. The group noted fast growth in Mozambique, Botswana and Angola and the overall growth of 2 percent for the region in 1999. However, the group was concerned that poverty remains widespread with 40 percent of the population still living in abject poverty. The policy challenge for SADC is how to bring about accelerated economic growth, create jobs and reduce poverty. In addition there will be need to examine how surpluses and wealth can best be transferred to balance for the deficits in some Member States. To reduce poverty a number of measures were outlined;

- Develop regional development strategy
- Increase both domestic and foreign direct investment
- Enhance the volume and productivity of investment
- Foster private-public sector partnerships
- Expedite the implementation of the Trade Protocol
- Strengthen institutions supporting poverty reduction initiatives
- Promote micro finance schemes and small and medium scale enterprises
- Enhance the involvement of NGOs
- Economic empowerment of the poor
- Ensure gender equality
- Make policies more predictable, credible and consistent
- Provide for transparency and accountability; and
- Provide benchmarks and targets to monitor policy implementation and effectiveness.

- The key issues that emerged from the social session are;

- The need for political will to build national capacities and commit resources to regional integration agenda;
- The need to mainstream gender and all stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society, and the youth in the regional integration process and the SADC Programme of Action.
- The need to have a multi-sectoral approach to the implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes, as well as specific interventions to minimise the spread, and enhance the treatment and management of opportunistic diseases. The need to put emphasis on the suffering and burdens of HIV/AIDS, especially on the rural populations, was also underlined.

- The social interactive group also emphasised the need for job creation focusing on informal sector development, human resources development, support to women in business, increased cross-border trade and special attention to vulnerable groups such as the disabled and the youth. The group also recommended the need for more attention to be given to gender mainstreaming and the putting of more emphasis on girls' education in science, mathematics and business studies and life skills.

- Mr. Hidipo Hamutenya officially closed the Conference in this capacity as Deputy Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers. He thanked all delegates for their frank and constructive contributions, the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the SADC Secretariat for the efficient manner in which the Conference was organised.

- A vote of thanks was passed on behalf of the International Cooperating Partners, by the Head of delegation of the European Commission in Gaborone, Botswana, Mr. Robert Collingwood, who appreciated the frank and constructive manner in which the Conference was conducted.

He noted that in this assessment, this has been a most successful conference compared with the two previous ones. He thanked the Government and people of Swaziland for their hospitality and their remarkable commitment to SADC.

He also thanked the SADC Secretariat for the efficient way in which they prepared for this Conference.

- SADC Member States expressed their utmost gratitude to International Cooperating Partners, especially Japan, for their rapid response to the request for humanitarian assistance to the victims of floods in the region and for the reconstruction of infrastructure that has been devastated by the floods. □

Cape Town hosts regional conference for legislators

by Diana Mavunduse

A historic assembly of more than hundred parliamentarians from SADC member states is set to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, to lay ground for what many see as an important step towards accelerating the integrating of decision making structures in the 14 countries constituting Africa's most vibrant economic bloc.

"Parliamentarians are searching for a more holistic approach to programming in the region based on strategic thinking. We feel that the good results from projects which have been generated by SADC in the past 20 years can now be translated into tangible products which should benefit the people who are represented by MPs," said Dr Kasuka Mutukwa, Secretary-General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and a former MP from Zambia.

Convened by the SADC Parliamentary Forum, an association of national assembly structures in southern Africa, the conference is expected to debate the political-economic challenges facing the continent and the possibility of setting up a regional parliament to further the ideals of integration and democratisation.

"The conference is the first of its type since the launching of the SADC Parlia-

mentary Forum in Windhoek in July 1996," added Mutukwa.

The objectives of the conference also include; "the need to articulate the vision and mission of the Parliamentary Forum, identify the strategic objectives and set priorities for the forum as a basis for a framework of an Action Plan to achieve the stated objectives," said Mutukwa.

There are three major themes to be explored during the conference:

- the overall role of the forum in regional integration of the community;
- the role of parliaments in promoting democratic governance, gender equity and protection of human rights; and
- the role of parliaments in the management of conflicts especially conflicts arising from disputes over elections and electoral systems.

The question of whether or not the SADC region needs a regional parliament to facilitate the harmonisation of laws and regional protocols is expected to feature during discussions.

As part of its contribution to peace building, democracy and development, the forum has a programme of observ-

ing elections in SADC countries which was initiated in 1999.

Under the programme, the forum sends about 20 members of parliaments from different countries in the region to observe elections as they take place in member countries.

"Without a sound foundation of peace and a culture of tolerance, regional cooperation at any level will be difficult to sustain. Many southern African countries have taken a lead through re-introduction of plural politics on which the region can build," said Mutukwa.

The idea behind regional integration according to the forums constitution is to achieve collective economic growth which should, in turn, lead to comprehensive development:

"The latter should facilitate alleviation of poverty, and the enhancement of the standard and quality of life of the people, the citizens of SADC," said Frene Ginwala, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum, who was elected in December to replace Mosé Tjitendero of Namibia who had led the forum since its formation.

Another major topic that will be discussed is that of natural resource management in the region: "Having realised that most of our people are in the rural areas, it is essential to address the issue of natural resource management, taking into account the water problem that is affecting most of the people in the region," said Mutukwa.

The Conference will be followed immediately by a meeting of the policy organ of the Forum, the Plenary Assembly, which consists of 36 elected MPs, three from each of the 12 Parliaments plus the speakers of each National Parliament.

"The representative parliamentarians are drawn both from the ruling parties and the opposition and it includes gender balance as well," said Mutukwa.

Many regional and international organisations and partners have been invited to send observers to the conference. □



Poverty alleviation is one of the main aims of the parliamentary forum: Women here seen working on a resettlement farm

UNICEF



SADC

Botswana delegation during the Consultative Conference in Swaziland's resort valley of Ezulwini late February.



SADC

SADC Acting Executive Secretary, Dr. Prega Ramsamy (left) with Botswana's Acting Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Tebelelo Seretse during the presentation of SADC donations to flood victims in Botswana, Mozambique, South African and Zimbabwe. The presentations were made in Botswana in March.



SADC

School children from Swaziland entertaining guests during the official opening of the Annual Consultative Conference held from 20- 23 February.



Daily News - Zimbabwe

Hundreds of Harare residents queue to register as voters for the forthcoming Zimbabwe's parliamentary elections.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in southern Africa

Currently there is a total of 300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the southern African region. Angolans make up the single largest refugee population by nationality in the region, with over 174,800 refugees in Zambia alone. The second largest single nationality group of refugees is from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who are mainly in Angola and Zambia. Namibia is also home to nearly 6,000 refugees from Angola.

In the other countries, the caseloads are more mixed, including refugees and asylum-seekers from the countries of the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, as well as many other countries throughout Africa and even beyond.

Numerically, the largest number of the refugees is hosted in camps and settlements as opposed to those located in urban and peri-urban areas. The latter is the so-called phenomenon of "urban refugees".

South Africa has the most varied mix of nationalities as far as asylum-seekers are concerned. They come from countries not only in Africa, but others as far afield as Asia and Eastern Europe. According to official figures, the government receives an average of 1,000 new asylum applications per month.

On the whole, official refugee policies and laws in the region are of a positive nature. Virtually all the countries of the region have acceded to the three main refugee instruments — The 1951 UN Convention relating to the status of refugees; its 1967 Protocol; and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. This year is the 50th anniversary of the UN Convention on Refugees.

In general terms, SADC countries have kept their doors open for those arriving to seek asylum.

The region has also been the scene for some of the most successful voluntary repatriation operations in the early 1990s, including the return to their homes of 48,000 Namibian refugees, 1.6 million Mozambicans and 15,000 South Africans.

One of the biggest challenges being faced by governments and the UN High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the inability to completely stop refugee flows because of continuous social strife, tension and conflicts, such as the one in Angola. Civil turmoil does not only create more refugees, but hinders the voluntary repatriation of refugees even for those who are keen to return home.

The region is also experiencing a steadily rising number of so-called urban refugees and asylum seekers. In South Africa for instance, basically all the refugees and asylum seekers are found and have to be dealt with in urban environments.

Providing protection and material as-



Fidellis Swai

View on Refugees

sistance to refugee caseloads in urban settings can pose considerable challenges. The efforts required are labour-intensive and services on the whole involve a much higher per capita cost.

In a situation where funding availability does not always match the needs, the quality and quantity of services provided to refugees can be a source of preoccupation.

In fact the region's leaders have openly voiced concern about what is viewed as the disparity and imbalance in the assistance provided to Africa's refugees, not only with regard to the availability of assistance, but also its appropriateness and speed of delivery.

Other challenges in the region include the abuse of asylum procedures. Often, people moving into and within the region from in and outside the continent seek not only international protection,

but the expectation of better economic and social opportunities.

Many of such persons end up seeking asylum and refugee status to which obviously they are not entitled. This adds to the problem of backlogs of pending asylum applications.

With asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants competing for limited employment, social and community amenities, tensions have unfortunately sometimes occurred. As a result, stricter policy, legal and administrative control measures have been resorted to, impacting negatively on genuine asylum seekers and refugees.

The refugee situation in southern Africa is characterized by protection problems, which in some cases can be quite serious. Asylum-seekers and refugees have thus been refused entry into countries in which they seek asylum, refused status, been detained and, in some cases, been subjected to inhuman treatment.

While seeking to meet the refugee needs and achieve durable solutions for refugees in the region, UNHCR is also equally concerned that the root causes of refugees should be addressed decisively, individually and collectively by all the nations and institutions of the region.

UNHCR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SADC, mainly to collaborate in related initiatives of addressing the root causes of refugees in the region including, among other things, conflict resolutions, information sharing and emergency response preparedness mechanisms.

UNHCR programmes covered under its "Southern Africa" management structures are those in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. □

The author, Fidellis Swai, is a Tanzanian journalist and senior external relations officer at the UNHCR Regional Office for Southern Africa based in Pretoria, South Africa.

2000 SADC secondary schools essay competition launched

The 2000 edition of the SADC Secondary Schools essay competition has been launched, according to a statement from the Secretariat in Botswana. The competition is coordinated by SADC National Contact Points in conjunction with the relevant authorities in each member state.

The topic for this year is "HIV/AIDS: How does it affect you; what can you do to contain the spread of the disease; and what do you propose for the SADC region?" The topic is aimed at raising the consciousness of secondary school children in the region to the seriousness of this pandemic.

The competitors are expected to discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS on the individual, the family, at national and regional levels. The length of the essay should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words.

The prize money for the winners of the competition in each member state is US\$300 for the first prize, US\$200 for second prize and US\$100 for third prize. The three winners from each member state will then compete at the regional level.

The prizes for the regional winners will be US\$1,000 for the first prize, US\$750 for second prize and US\$500 for third prize. In addition, the three regional winners would travel to Windhoek, Namibia to participate at the opening ceremony of the Summit later in the year.

This is the second year the competition has been held. Last year the competition was won by a student from Naledi Secondary School in Gaborone, Botswana.

All interested students and schools should contact the SADC National Contact Point in their countries for further details. □

Harare braces for arts festival

Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA) scheduled to be held from 26 April to 1 May 2000 in Zimbabwe will present performances by regional and international artists in the areas of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts.

The HIFA performances have a pan-Africanist collaboration approach and are cross-cultural. Manuel Bagorro, a Zimbabwean-born pianist, says there will be female vocalists shows combining Princess Cynthia from Ghana, Dorothy Masuku from Zimbabwe and Gloria Bosman from South Africa.

Top gospel groups from Zimbabwe and South Africa will take part in a concert named "Celebration of Gospel Music." Other performances to look forward to are contemporary theatre Zimbabwe - Zambia collaboration called "Shades of grey" and dance-drama Mozambique-Zimbabwe collaboration called "For all things."

The festival is the brainchild of Bagorro. While living in London he always dreamt of starting something new and international in the arts area that would



Manuel Bagorro - Executive director of the Harare International Festival of the Arts

have a Zimbabwean focus. When he came back to Harare in April 1998 he worked towards making the vision real and 1999 saw the inauguration of HIFA. The 1999 HIFA was enthusiastically received by the corporate world, the local and international community. Sponsors of the event included local financial institutions, hotels and blue chip corporations.

For this year HIFA will last six days and is expanding its operations through

Cosafa Castle Cup kicks off

This year's Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) Castle Cup kicked off in Zimbabwe as the host scrapped through to the quarter-finals at the expense of Lesotho.

The much fancied Zimbabwe Warriors, had fallen behind a Masupha Majara 10 minute goal, but managed to fight back to win the game by two goals to Lesotho's one.

Lesotho, showing character and composure gave the Zimbabweans a torrid time but faltered when it mattered most, succumbing to a 90 minute decisive goal that sent the Basotho out of the competition at the early stage.

Zimbabwe now join holders Angola, Namibia and Swaziland in the quarter-finals scheduled for May and June.

In other preliminary round matches, Zambia meets Botswana in Lusaka, and South Africa hosts Mauritius, while Mozambique plays Malawi. The competition is being funded by South African Breweries.

outreach programmes and partnerships. The organisers have forged partnerships with the National Gallery and National Arts Council of Zimbabwe.

The exhibitions have been programmed to broaden existing National Gallery audiences. The festival has a community outreach project targeting junior and senior school children and intends to facilitate 300 disadvantaged children attend the HIFA functions.

The focus of the event is regional and international collaboration and also building cultural tourism. The festival also aims at artists being innovative by bringing new performances and ideas.

Some performances to look forward to are the British premiere of David Fanshawe called "African Sanctus" which is a Latin mass integrated with African music recorded on a cross shaped pilgrimage throughout Northwest Africa in the 1970s, British opera, and Dallas black dance theatre. □

SADC and ECOWAS to cooperate

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano said in Maputo, on 30 March, that SADC, of which he is the chairperson, is to work closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in an effort to create an African Union.

The idea of an African Union was launched during meetings of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Chissano was speaking shortly after a meeting with his Malian counterpart, Alpha Oumar Konare, who is the chairman of the West African regional organization, and arrived in Maputo on 31 March, for a one day visit.

Chissano explained that the meeting broached bilateral cooperation between the two countries, between the two regional organizations, and other issues—such as the conflicts in the Great Lakes region and in Angola.

As for cooperation between SADC and ECOWAS, he said that preparations are under way to establish a working

group that will coordinate various sectors. He noted that these are the two most successful regional organizations on the continent, and should come together to attain the objective of African Union. “Each organization was created as a step towards African integration,” said Chissano.

Speaking of the present situation, where Mozambique is suffering the effects of catastrophic flooding, Chissano said that SADC is to create a permanent body for the management of natural disasters, and ECOWAS can help with its experience. Answering a question on how SADC envisages the possibility of negotiating with the Angolan rebel movement Unita and its leader Jo-

nas Savimbi, who has been declared a war criminal, Chissano said that Unita’s structure and Savimbi’s position might change and so make a dialogue possible. Several states and organizations are working for that change of positions, he added.

For his part, Konare said that Mali is prepared to cooperate with Mozambique in various sectors.

“Just because a country has few resources, that does not mean that it cannot cooperate with another country,” he said, adding that the two countries “can work together in agriculture, human resources, democratic experience and in efforts to consolidate peace. There is a wide field for cooperation”. (AIM) □

Floods hit tourism —

The countries of southern Africa, reeling from the effects of floods that wreaked havoc since February, have experienced a drop in tourism, especially in the wildlife and ecotourism sectors, news reports have said. Industry officials reportedly said overseas tourists were concerned about the threat of malaria and other water-borne diseases and that a number of wildlife lodges have had cancellations because the rains have rendered game drives and walks impossible. Mozambique, hardest hit by the floods, has seen its flow of foreign tourists reduced to a trickle, added the reports.

Even in parts of the country that have not been affected by the floods, business has reportedly dried up because of wrong perceptions that the whole country was under water.

South Africa’s eastern province of Mpumalanga, which also experienced flooding, has seen tourism fading off after visitors cancelled their bookings because of the wet weather. A manager of a luxury wilderness camp in the province reportedly said they lost 120 bed nights because of the rains. “But the roads are fine now,” the manager said. (Irin) □

Hero’s welcome for Malawi rescue workers —

There were celebratory military parades and handshakes in Blantyre when the Malawian contingent that formed part of the multi-national rescue mission in neighbouring Mozambique returned in their two helicopters.

“You made all Malawians proud; the Commander-in-Chief and the whole country is proud of you,” said Defence Minister Rodwell Munyenembe.

Maj. Augustine Masamba, who was in charge of air operations in the Beira section of the rescue mission, told the officers and men who came to welcome them that theirs was a “mission accomplished.”

Masamba said his most memorable experience was seeing desperate people, especially women and children, perched on roof- and tree-tops crying out to be rescued. “That was the saddest moment

and the most memorable,” he noted.

Masamba said the 14-member Malawi crew whisked to safety a total of 1,071 people from tree- and roof-tops and ferried 647 government officials and members of international relief agencies.

He said his contingent also helped to transport 152 tonnes of food and medical supplies including 52,306 non-food items like temporary shelter and other life-saving materials like boats and their engines and accessories used in the rescue operations.

Malawi was the second country after the South African Defence Force to respond to requests by Mozambican authorities for help.

President Bakili Muluzi told journalists that despite Malawi’s own problem, the country had to react to its neighbour’s plight. (PANA) □

Mauritius to set up economic crime office

The Mauritius government will set up an Economic Crime Office to deal with economic crimes and money-laundering.

The bill was recently unveiled to the public by the government spokesman, James Burty David. The bill does not authorise payment of more than 350,000 rupees in cash (25 rupees = 1 US dollar).

“We will seek the co-operation of foreign countries in a bid to track those

guilty of economic crimes. Fines between 500,000 and 1 million rupees and a prison sentence of three to five years are also anticipated,” David said.

The bill which is destined to combat money-laundering has been on the agenda of the government for years.

Its introduction has been welcomed both by the private sector and foreign countries. (PANA) □

The Pan-Africanists - A new book on a long journey

"The Pan-Africanists" by Dudley Thompson with paintings by Barrington Watson. Published by Ian Randles (Jamaica) in conjunction with SARDC (Harare). 87pp.

Dudley Thompson gives an engaging account on the biodata, experiences, achievements, contributions and research of interest of Pan-African activists. The work covers the following leaders in Africa and the diaspora: Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Dubois, Marcus Garvey, George Padmore, C.L.R. James, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta, Haile Selassie, Paul Robeson, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King jnr, Muhammad Ali, Patrice Lumumba, Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela.

The publication aims at understanding the concept of Pan-Africanism - a philosophy that has accentuated the uniformity of the African destiny and enabled its people to preserve a collective action in facing challenges of Western domination. The publication looks at the history of Pan-Africanism focusing on colonialism, the slave trade resulting in Africans being scattered in other continents, the African resistance to oppression and the return of some slaves to Africa. Freed slaves were

brought to Sierra Leone and Liberia. The slaves who remained in the US and Caribbean continued the fight against colonialism and oppression. The idea of Pan-Africanism is to bring Africans in, the Diaspora in mass unification focusing on Africa.

The first Pan-African conference held in London in July 1900 marked the beginning of modern Pan-Africanism. In subsequent years similar conferences were held. The initial ones were appealing for an end to colonialism but during and after the Second World War they became more vigilant and called for an end to all forms of subjugation. In the US the fight against slavery and segregation intensified and in Africa more countries pressed for independence from the colonisers.

Thompson says that attaining independence by African countries and the end of apartheid in South Africa brought an end to colonialism. The need for full black participation and recognition in political, social, economic, and cultural spheres still remains. The dream of African unity has not been attained and Africa has its own share of calamities in the form of drought, hunger, war, famine and floods.

The publication is directed at Afri-

can readership aiming to contribute to an increased understanding of their destiny. It facilitates for the emerging and future leadership exposure and knowledge that enables them to withstand the rigour and challenges of domination. The book is a must for political and human right activists; and is an inspiration to those who are fighting for their recognition or freedom.

The foreword was written by the Secretary - General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

The author is well known for his close association with a number of the Pan-Africanists such as Nyerere, Kenyatta and Parks. He was part of the legal team that represented Kenyatta in the 1952 trial and thereafter lobbied for Kenyatta's release to the international community. Of special mention is the artistic contribution by Barrington Watson, Jamaica's award-winning master painter. It took him four years to complete the portfolio of 44 paintings contained in *The Pan-Africanists*.

Available in hard cover or paperback from SARDC, PO Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe (sardc@sardc.net, Fax 263-4-738693), or Ian Randle Publishers PO Box 686, Kingston, Jamaica. □

Recent publications & acquisitions

Eye of Fire: Chief Emeka Anyaoku; the Man and his Work

—Johnson, Phyllis.- 2000

Available from Africa World Press, Inc. PO Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08607, USA. African Publishing Group, Box 350, Harare, Zimbabwe (apg@id.co.zw)

Entrepreneurship Development Among Women in Mining in the SADC Region

—UNIFEM Southern Africa Regional Office.-1999

Available for: UNIFEM Southern Africa Regional Office, PO Box 4775 Harare, Zimbabwe

Modern Approaches to the Promotion of Co-operative Self-help in Rural Development Implications for South Africa.

—Von Ravensburg, Nicole Goler.- 1999

Available Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, PO Box 1383, Houghton 2041, Johannesburg, South Africa

Statistical Bulletin

—Central Statistics Office Botswana.- 1999

Available from: Central Statistics Office, Private Bag 0024, Gaborone, Botswana

Looking Forward Together: United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UN-DAF) for Zimbabwe 2000 - 2004

—UN Country Team.- 1999

Available from UNIASU PO Box 4775 Harare, Zimbabwe

The African Writers Handbook

—Gibbs, James and Mapanje, Jack (ed.).- 1999

Available from ABC The Jam factory, 27 Park End Street Oxford OX1 1HU, UK

New African Yearbook 1999/2000

—Rake, Alan (ed).- 1999

Available from IC Publications Ltd. 7 Cold-bath Square London EC1R 4LQ, UK

Southern Africa: the People's Voices - Perspectives on Democracy

—O'Malley, Padraig.- 1999

Available from NDIIA, 25 Wellington Road, Parktown 2193, South Africa and the School of Government, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville 7535, South Africa.

The Women's Manifesto: a Summary of Botswana Women's Issues and Demands

—Emang Basadi Women's Association.- 1999

Available from Emang Basadi Women's Association, P. Bag 00470, Gaborone, Botswana.

Globalisation Democracy and Human Rights in Africa: a Workshop Report

—Inter-press Service Africa.- 1999

Available from Inter-press Service Africa, 127 Union Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe.

SADC diary

2000	Event	Venue
APRIL	10-12 Marine Fisheries & Resources Draft Protocol Workshop	Namibia
	17-18 SADC Parliamentary Forum/ Regional Conference on Planning for the new millennium	South Africa
	17-21 Marine Fisheries & Resources Technical Committee Meeting	Angola
	17-21 Employment & Labour/Sector Meeting	Mozambique
	17-21 Health/Sector Meeting	Malawi
MAY	1-5 Meeting of the Commonwealth Statisticians	Botswana
	3-5 Economic Reform and Employment Creation	Botswana
	3-7 Women in Business-SADC Fair & Investment	Namibia
	8-10 SADC Statistics Committee (SSC)	Botswana
	8-10 Promoting Sustainable Democracy in southern Africa	Botswana
	9-15 Culture and Information Sector Meeting	Malawi
	15-22 Feedback Workshop on the Gender Audit of Some Aspects of the SADC POA	Botswana
	17-19 Committee of Central Bank Governors	Mozambique
	18-19 Finance and Investment/ Central Bank Governors Meeting	Mozambique
	24-30 African Development Bank Annual Meetings	Ivory Coast
	22-26 Annual Meetings of SADC Gender Regional Advisory Committee and Ministers	Mauritius
JUNE	5-9 Special Session of UN general Assembly on Beijing Plus Five	UN, New York
	21-23 World Economic Summit	South Africa

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lewi)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.70
D.R.C	Congo Franc	134,400
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.30
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	46.60
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	25.50
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	13,500
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.30
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.34
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.30
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	8.30
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	799
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	2,837
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	38.20

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd 30 March 2000

Public Holidays in SADC for the period April - June 2000

Date	Holiday	Country
4 April	Heroes Day	Lesotho
7 April	Women's Day	Mozambique
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
21 April	Good Friday	All SADC
22 April	Public Holiday	Botswana, DRC
24 April	Easter Monday	All SADC
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
1 May	Workers Day	All SADC
13 May	Ascension Day	Namibia
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
25 May	Africa Day	Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
1 June	Ascension Day	Botswana, Swaziland
5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC