



## A vibrant SADC marks 20-year-anniversary amid expanding economic and social integration

by Munetsi Madakufamba

**S**ADC, Africa's most vibrant economic bloc, celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary buoyed by the fact that the 14-member regional group has made a distinct contribution toward expanding the frontiers of economic, social and political development.

Formed in 1980 as a functional co-operation association of nine majority-ruled countries – Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – the organization, then known as the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), successfully withstood apartheid South Africa's policy of economic and political destabilisation.

As an offshoot of the Frontline States, SADCC's founding declaration "Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation" was signed by leaders in Lusaka, Zambia, on 1 April 1980 with the objective of reducing economic dependence on other countries, especially then apartheid South Africa.

The initial focus was on project development, with significant emphasis on transport and communications as this was the sector in which dependence on South Africa was felt most. Later SADCC expanded to food security, energy and industry and trade.

At a time when many countries of southern Africa had attained political

independence, the late Botswana President, Sir Seretse Khama, one of the founders of SADCC, predicted: "The struggle for economic liberation will be as bitterly contested as has been the struggle for political independence."

Twenty years later, although two countries of the region are still plagued by civil war, the greatest challenge



SADC's 20 years: Voting in the region; founding fathers Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania (below); high tech come to the region; the commercial districts of South Africa; and the beaches and fishers of Zanzibar.

*continued on page 10*

## SADC needs a regional development plan, says Council Chairman

**T**he Chairman of SADC Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Mozambique, Hon. Leonardo Simão, has called for an overhaul of SADC structures and resource mobilization, and closer cooperation with the private sector and civil society.

"One of the main problems, which impedes the organization from moving at the pace that Member States would like to see, is the fact that there is not a definition of a common agenda, goals, priorities, deadlines as well as a regional development plan.

"The current integrated development based on the sectoral strategy is limited

by an inadequate management framework, which does not respond clearly with regard to the articulation of the objectives, policies, priorities and deadlines.

"Despite the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government and of the SADC Treaty itself referring clearly to the long-term objective, which is to achieve regional integration and to promote a common identity in an economic community through cooperation, it is not clear as to how, where and when the organization will achieve such goals. ... there are neither objective criteria for the creation of areas of cooperation within SADC, no prioritization of such areas.

"Therefore, there is a need to review the sense of ownership by Member States, in conformity with what we want to achieve with our cooperation and regional integration."

The Chairman was addressing an Extraordinary Session of SADC Council of Ministers in Maputo on 21 July, just one day before the meeting of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Ministers to consider regional security issues including the structure of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

The meeting was transferred to Maputo to ensure the participation of

*continued on page 14*

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### Editorial Committee

Tinashe Madava,  
Phyllis Johnson, Hugh McCullum,  
Jabulani Sithole, Diana Mavunduse,  
Grace Buhera, Renato Pinto

### 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

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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



**Zimbabwe Election 6**



**DRC Peace Talks 7**



**Guest Column 13**



**Gender 15**

- Policy Review:  
Draft SADC  
Environment Protocol **3**
- Southern Africa Economic  
Summit held in Durban **4**
- Angola Peace Process **5**
- International AIDS Symposium  
held in Durban, SADC Launches  
AIDS Plan **9**
- SADC Parliamentary Forum  
Profile and Objectives **12**
- Community building:  
Sports and culture **16**
- Around the region:  
News briefs **17**
- Book review, recent publications  
and acquisitions **18**
- SADC diary, public holidays,  
currency checklist **20**

### 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.

## Environment protocol for SADC on the drawing board

**S**ADC Ministers of Environment agreed at their meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 1999, to adopt a Protocol on Environment and directed the SADC Environment and Land Management Sector (ELMS) to develop it.

The ministers approved the establishment of a working group consisting of Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Mauritius, the SADC Secretariat and SADC-ELMS to oversee the process.

The working group was mandated to co-opt international and regional environmental bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and The World Conservation Union, Regional Office for Southern Africa (IUCN-ROSA) to provide technical support to the process.

The first working group meeting in Johannesburg in January 2000, put together the working framework including giving SADC-ELMS the mandate to recruit consultants who are responsible for the technical drafting process.

The second meeting held in Maseru, Lesotho in May discussed the substantive elements of the proposed protocol. A programme of action and the generic terms of reference for the consultants as well as the budget, were discussed. The Maseru meeting also mapped out the strategy for the process and laid down the roles and responsibilities of various national and regional stakeholders.

Since all the member states rely heavily on the exploitation of natural resources and the environment in their economies, the region must put in place measures and strategies for proper management of natural resources, many of which are shared. This means that overexploitation or neglect in one country can adversely affect sustainable management efforts in a neighbouring country. Hence the need for an instrument that can promote harmonisation of plans, programmes and projects in the region.

In the past five years, SADC has been very active in adopting regional instruments such as protocols and policies relative to its various sectoral agen-

cies. SADC has adopted protocols on Wildlife Management and Law Enforcement and Shared Watercourse Systems while protocols on forestry and fisheries are on the drawing board or being considered.

The proliferation of uncoordinated sectoral instruments on environment and natural resources would leave gaps, create duplication and make implementation expensive and ineffective.

An effective natural resources and environment management programme for SADC therefore requires a holistic and co-ordinated approach as well as careful consideration of the various factors that have a bearing on this sector.

At the Maseru meeting the Working Group drew up a programme that will seek to create both national and regional consensus. In particular, the Working Group identified the need for national reviews

constraints. There are however, a number of ongoing studies in the region that can supplement any existing gaps in information.

The aim of the national and regional reviews, workshops and stakeholder consultations is to sift out relevant principles emerging from national and regional approaches, experiences and strategies. The consultants will use this information for purposes of drafting the protocol and will form the core of their instructions. The process seeks to comply with and fulfil the mandate of the SADC member states under the SADC Treaty.

The involvement of the peoples of SADC in its programmes is clearly identified as key under the treaty. The draft protocol will benefit from extensive stakeholder review at national and regional workshops and through consultations. It will also be subject to technical review by the working group and a Regional Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts before it goes to the SADC Secretariat for the formal process of adoption.

A framework protocol on environment for SADC seems a logical step to take given the proliferation of sectoral protocols that have a bearing on the environment and natural resources. The protocol must contend with entrenched sectoral interests and some sectors may be required to

change their strategies for purposes of harmonisation. This is not new.

With extensive consultations envisaged, the process of adopting the protocol could take between three to five years. Again this is not new. If well done, the region will have a coherent, comprehensive and co-ordinated legal and policy regime for harmonising and co-ordinating the sustainable utilisation and management of its natural resources and the environment. □

*The author, Gracian Banda, a member of the working group of the proposed SADC Protocol on Environment, is an Environmental Lawyer working for the Regional Institutional Development Programme at the World Conservation Union's Regional Office for Southern Africa (IUCN-ROSA).*



Oil refineries and shipping can threaten the marine environment

of environment and natural resource-related legislation and policies, which would be discussed at national workshops. National experts in each country will carry out these reviews. There will also be reviews of natural resources and environment related regional and international instruments by the consultants. The consultants will also carry out stakeholder consultation in the region.

The working group emphasised the need for a multidisciplinary approach to the reviews as well as creating conditions for national "buy in" to the proposed protocol. An issue of major concern is the need to consult local communities during the national workshops and stakeholder consultation. Clearly a comprehensive consultation of local communities is often difficult due to budgetary

# Economic summit rekindles African renaissance

by Grace Buhera

**P**overty, peace and stability in Africa were the main challenges that confronted the participants at the 21-23 June economic summit in Durban whose theme was "The African Economic Renaissance: Making it Happen."

Known as the Southern African Economic Summit, the conference is co-chaired by SADC and the World Economic Forum. Issues discussed included the role of business and government in the battle against AIDS, poverty eradication, debt implications on development, peace and stability, trade and investment as well as globalisation. Other issues which attracted interest, in the wake of recent developments in Zimbabwe, were land reform, as well as disaster management, following the floods that hit Mozambique and other countries early in the year.

Addressing the summit, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano explained that for the African renaissance to be successful, Africa should be independent from rich countries. He said the continent should strengthen its fight against corruption and mismanagement of public resources, and promote peace and respect for human rights. He also stressed the need to bring peace to Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) both member countries of SADC of which he is the current chair.

Prega Ramsamy, SADC Acting Executive Secretary, said the African Economic Renaissance "implies the renewal of the continent. This should be based on the recognition of its failures and difficulties, and its potential for development. Africa must move into the mainstream of the world economy, and face up to the challenges of globalisation".

Trade and investment flows into the continent came under the spotlight. Although global foreign direct investment (FDI) has increased four-fold during the 1990s to a staggering sum of US\$850 billion, the share apportioned to the emerg-

ing markets, including SADC, averaged around 30 percent.

Chissano lamented the ever-widening gap between the developed world and Africa despite the latter's efforts in putting into place measures aimed at creating a conducive environment to attract foreign investment.

Also noted were the glaring disparities in terms of expenditure in key sectors such as education, health and other social services which have "impacted negatively on the standard of living and quality of the life of the African masses."

Professor Anthony Hawkins of the University of Zimbabwe argued for globalisation and regionalisation to open markets. A policy of open regionalism with low external tariffs is needed and he noted that of the US\$2.1 billion FDI inflow into sub-Saharan Africa,

the lion's share is split between Nigeria and South Africa.

There was strong support from panellists for a new round of World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations as a vehicle through which developing countries could achieve their goals in the organisation. A negotiated approach to globalisation is needed given the fact that countries in different parts of the world are not starting from an equal footing.

Commenting on the level of development assistance to the region, President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, said that promoting good governance, fighting corruption and wooing foreign investors were marginal to the larger problem of how to get the Eurocentric Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to "put their money where their mouths are."

Since the 1960s, he said, "approaches to foreign economic developmental assistance had shifted from aid to trade

and back to aid, with the yardsticks changing all the time. Now aid through NGOs is being stressed as a means of stimulating economic growth that fits in the framework of globalisation. Today trade and foreign investment are falling, and foreign aid has yet to reach promised amounts."

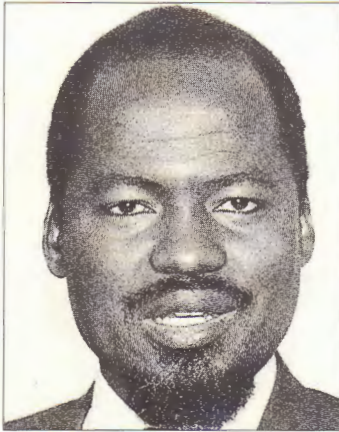
South Africa's Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, said privatisation of industry had robbed African countries of a key source of revenue, putting it instead in the hands of foreign shareholders. He described a generally hopeless situation of governments with too much debt and too little foreign aid to better the lot of rural Africans. As a result, talk of improving the investment environment and tackling the continent's social and political problems are unrealistic.

Peter Hain, a junior minister in the British foreign office for Africa, argued that responses need to be found to the "privatisation of conflict". He said in Angola it is no longer South African apartheid and the US Central Intelligence Agency aiding the rebel Unita - now the war is funded by diamonds and oil and fuelled by shadowy business concerns in Europe and Africa who profit from arms and logistics supplies. Africa is awash with small arms, which represent one of the greatest threats to peace, Hain said.

AIDS, which is increasingly reversing economic gains, needs more resources to be channelled towards the development of vaccines.

Seth Berkley, President of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, pointed out that less than two percent of US\$20 billion spending on AIDS in Africa was directed at vaccine development. Since 1998, four vaccines have been put on trial, two of them with

African partners. This approach is to offer licence rights to manufacturers who offer the lowest cost to end-users and the highest access.



President Joaquim Chissano



President Benjamin Mkapa

*continued on page 8*

# Angola's 25-year war drags on despite regional efforts

by Hugh McCullum and Munetsi Madakufamba

Angola has been at war since 1961. Its history of struggle against colonialism, apartheid, foreign interference and criminal rebellion has now moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Hundreds of thousands of Angolans have been killed and maimed, while millions are displaced.

Much of its potentially rich economy has been damaged and social development set back by decades. The impact of the war on neighbouring Namibia, Zambia and, indeed all of southern Africa, has been extremely negative. Peace has been delayed too long by the so-called rebel movement, Unita and its shadowy supporters in the underworld of arms peddlers and illicit traders.

Recent reliable estimates claim that Unita has "earned" US\$4 billion from the

col, abandoned unimplemented in 1997 as Unita defied every aspect of the ceasefire; to the international prohibition of diamond purchases from Unita-controlled areas of Angola in 1998 and the close of the UN's mission by Angola for its failure to keep peace in 1999 and the establishment of a Sanctions Committee.

In absolute disregard of democratic norms, the West demanded that the Angolan government share power with Savimbi, instead of urging him to accept the 1992 results.

"If that is the rationale (of sharing power with those who have lost elections), why are we obliged to go for elections if the objective is to share power," Georges Chikoti, the Angolan Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs told a recent workshop in Maputo, Mozambique. The workshop, was an effort to renew waning international commitment to the peace process in Angola.

"In all democracies in the world, it is the winning party that rules while the minority stays in the opposition. Why a double standard in Angola?" asked Chikoti, a former Unita official, who blames Western hypocrisy for the continued conflict.

Nonetheless, the government agreed, through the 1994 Lusaka agreement, to share power with Unita. Positions in government were given to Unita, while deputies went into Parliament. Savimbi though never came to Luanda to take up his post as vice-president.

"If Savimbi did not fulfil the provisions of Lusaka (accord), there is no other negotiation that will suit him," declared the deputy minister of a man who has lost the trust of many of his own lieutenants.

Each time Angola has returned to war, the consequences on the civilian population have been aggravated. Today four million people are displaced and in need of humanitarian aid; more than two million have died since 1975; more than 400,000 have been orphaned and 80,000 mutilated.

And, although UN Secretary-General Koffi Annan says Unita "bears the

responsibility for the return of war to Angola" the international community seems unwilling to do little more than wring its hands in frustration, unable to implement the absolute sanctions it imposed on the movement which it describes as "bandits and terrorists."

The most recent report from Annan to the Security Council in mid-July says Unita continues to engage in guerrilla activities across parts of Angola creating insecurity and fear among civilians.

The Angolan government recently called for a boycott of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit meeting in Togo on 12 July because President Gnassingbe Eyadema, among others, had been implicated by the UN sanctions committee in assisting Savimbi in exchange for illegally mined diamonds.

The issue of "conflict diamonds" was first brought to international attention when Ambassador Robert Fowler of Canada revealed in a detailed report to the UN the extent of illegal diamond sales to perpetuate the Angolan terrorism of Unita. Fowler called for the sanctions against Unita to be extended to diplomatic sanctions against third parties.

The sanctions have met with some success with the recent decision in Antwerp, Belgium by the diamond industry to choke off the traffic in diamonds of war fuelling Unita's ability to continue its terror, along with rebel movements in Sierra Leone and DRC. Although these diamonds constitute only four percent of world production, processes have been set in place to eliminate them.

While the Angolan army has scored some major victories over Unita in the last six months and now controls vast areas of its national territory, Unita's attacks on civilians in remote and isolated areas continues. The humanitarian situation is appalling in parts of the countryside. Some four million people remain vulnerable and displaced and face widespread hunger and malnutrition.

Rumours which have been circulating that the government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is holding "secret talks with Unita" have been roundly denied by the speaker of Angola's Parliament, Roberto De Almeida who criticized those who are pressuring the government to once again engage in peace talks with Savimbi. □



Emergency aid required for some two million Angolans due to Unita terrorism, most of them women and children.

illegal sale of diamonds to buy arms to wage war against Angolans.

The conflicts have raged despite almost endless attempts by Angolans themselves, by the international community, by the UN and by SADC, which as a community has suffered alongside its member state in order to end the war.

Jonas Savimbi, Unita's leader, who was declared a war criminal by SADC in 1998, continues to defy the very Lusaka protocols signed in his name.

The peace initiatives brokered by Angola and broken by Unita are legion: from the 1991 Bicesse Agreement which led to the 1992 presidential and legislative elections which Unita wrecked by refusing to recognize the outcome of the voting; through the 1994 Lusaka Proto-

## Zimbabwe election reflects people's will: SADC Parliamentarians

by Hugh McCullum and Kondwani Chirambo

Results of Zimbabwe's fifth parliamentary elections held 24-25 June generally reflect the will of the people, according to observer missions from the SADC Parliamentary Forum and Electoral Commissions Forum, as well as the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The SADC Parliamentary Forum said in a post-election press briefing that the large voter turn-out and the acceptance of the results by political parties, indicated the outcome was representative of the electorate's wishes. The ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) secured a narrow victory over the new Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in the 120-member Parliament. ZANU-PF won 62 seats, MDC 57 and ZANU, a small regionally-based party, one.

The Parliamentary Forum, a regional body whose membership includes parliamentary structures in 12 southern African countries, representing 1,800 MPs, noted in its conclusions that the people "turned out in large numbers to vote and elect leaders of their choice."

"This is also evidenced by the fact that by and large all the stakeholders have accepted the results of the election," said Nora Schimming-Chase of Namibia, head of the Forum's observer mission.

The Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries echoed this position, saying despite pre-election violence that claimed about 30 lives, the voting process and the results "are legitimate and reflect the will of the people".

But both organisations stressed the need for Zimbabwe to set up an independent electoral commission to improve confidence in the electoral process.

The parliamentarians made recommendations to Zimbabwean authorities on the need for an independent body, a practice that an increasing number of SADC countries is embracing.

Mostly, the Registrar-General, a civil servant, ran Zimbabwe's elections, but

the Elections Directorate and the Electoral Supervisory Commissions were assigned roles.

The Forum said while voting proceeded in a "smooth and peaceful manner", the high incidence of pre-election violence "imposed limitations" on political parties to campaign freely.

Flanked by Forum Secretary-General Dr Kasuka Mutukwa and three members of the observer mission, Schimming-Chase said the mission deplored the violence that characterised the pre-



Voters queued for long periods with calm and patience outside residences in Harare's high-density suburbs for Zimbabwe's fifth parliamentary election which gave ruling ZANU-PF a narrow victory.

election phase and called for a culture of tolerance.

"There should be no room for violence in the political processes in the SADC region. The SADC Parliamentary Forum calls upon all the political leaders in the region to ensure that violence does not occur before, during and after elections," she said.

The mission found the public and private media too polarised to play a significant role in voter education and noted the restrictions on political advertising on public broadcasting.

There was lack of communication between the electoral authorities and the electorate regarding the process which resulted in a large number of bona-fide voters not being able to participate in the poll. The mission added, however, that the counting process, though slow and tedious, was transparent and polling staff was professional.

The Electoral Commissions Forum, an association of regional electoral management bodies, acknowledged the "high levels of violence" before the polls and that the situation improved with the arrival of international observers.

The elections were well conducted but took note of the problems present-

ed by the voters' roll, from which several thousands of potential voters names were left out.

"The omissions, however regrettable, do not seem to have fundamentally affected or undermined the electoral process and the election results," said the Electoral Commissions Forum.

The Electoral Forum recommended to Zimbabwe's government and electoral authorities, the development of a code of conduct for all stakeholders, the avoidance of last minute changes to the electoral regulations and establishment of clear procedures for the accreditation of domestic monitors and international observers early in the process.

The Parliamentary Forum stressed that it had an "obligation of empowering the region with the capacity to deal with issues pertaining to electoral systems and processes — so that standards are not set by others".

Speaking to the nation on state television, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said the results of the parliamentary elections should "bind us all together, loser and winner alike".

He pledged to work with the new parliament in which there will be the largest opposition in the country's history from among 120 elected members.

There will be 20 non-constituency members in the 150-seat Parliament, made up of eight provincial governors and 12 MPs nominated by the president. Ten other members are chosen from the Council of Chiefs. □



Voting in Zimbabwe

# After 40 years, Congo struggles for peace as UN dithers

by Hugh McCullum

**A**fter 40 years of independence from Belgium, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is still at step one in its attempts to rid itself of four decades of violence, corruption and the collapse of most of its social, political and economic institutions.

On 30 June 1960, Africa's second largest country, saw the colonial power leave with the most minimal levels of education, health and infrastructure and five days later Congolese troops mutinied against their Belgian officers.

This event sparked the beginning of 40 years of conflict and corruption supported by western countries during the Cold War. Ironically, as the sombre ceremonies marking Independence Day on 30 June 2000 took place in the capital, Kinshasa, the United Nations (UN) was trying to gather an insubstantial force (MUNOC) to help end two-years of civil war, much as it did 40 years ago when peacekeepers were sent to help the newly independent government.

The DRC's history is one of numerous foreign interventions, dictatorship and invasions, leaving one of the continent's potentially richest territories little more than a vast battlefield.

From the time of first President Patrice Lumumba's assassination by pro-Western agencies who propped up his successor, Mobutu Sese Seko who changed the country's name to Zaire and ravaged DRC's untold wealth of mineral resources for his own use, to his eventual overthrow in 1998 by Laurent Kabila, the country has been underdeveloped and at the mercy of one foreign power or another.

Even as Kabila was marking the anniversary, alongside Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel, the armies of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi were slugging it out in the north and east of the country with their rebel forces pitted against Congolese forces supported by their SADC allies.

Military analysts describe it as one of world-war dimensions, yet it is virtually unheard of except for the occasional flurry of attention such as the recent pitched battles between former allies Rwanda and Uganda which ended only



after the country's third city, Kisangani, was ravaged leaving more than 500 dead and thousands wounded. The two armies have now pulled back in a shaky ceasefire to 50 km north and south of the city.

The statistics of the civil war are appalling and outrageous as the UN dithers and the Lusaka Peace Accords are regularly violated by rebels and their Ugandan and Rwandan backers.

- More than 1.5 million civilians have been killed or disappeared in the



The late President Patrice Lumumba

eastern Kivu (Great Lakes) region;

- Most of these deaths have been a result of the destruction of the health and food infrastructure, already ruined by Mobutu's abject neglect;

- The misery of DRC's citizens inherited from Mobutu's 35 years in power is seen in the hospitals without medicines and staff, schools permanently closed, roads which are impassable, telephones and postal services which cannot function and fear a constant impact on their lives.

The myriad of rebel factions and ethnic insurgents supported by Uganda and Rwanda subverted the Lusaka Accord signed in July 1999 by all parties. Efforts by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of which DRC is a member, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the UN are unabated but fighting continues, flaring up and dying down as factions within factions struggle for control of the huge underdeveloped country of nearly 50 million spread over 2,345,410 sq km.

Earlier this year, following meetings in New York with the Security Council by the heads of state of countries involved in the DRC, the UN approved a small force of 5,500 soldiers and observers to be drawn largely from African countries to try and police the revived Lusaka Accord. So far only a handful of UN soldiers are in the country as an advance party.

African analysts rightly question the UN's commitment: in Sierra Leone, one-30th the size of DRC, there are nearly 12,000 troops and in tiny Kosovo in former Yugoslavia, 42,000 peacekeeping troops have been deployed.

To the casual observer, the on-going fighting in DRC is simply between Kabi-

*continued on page 8*

*continued from page 7*

la and his SADC supporters and his former Rwandan and Ugandan allies who helped him overthrow Mobutu in May 1998. Kabila was sworn in as president on May 22 of that year. The reality, however, is much more complex.

Kabila and his allies control much of the southern diamond rich areas where there is now relative peace. The rebel movements are supported by the three Great Lakes countries but their unity has disintegrated resulting finally in the all-out battles that raged in Kisangani in mid-June, while 30 unarmed UN observers attempted to broker a ceasefire, themselves in grave danger from the warring countries and rebel movements.

Many consider the DRC conflict to be intimately connected to several other conflicts in the Great Lakes region. Indeed, its genesis is in the Hutu-Tutsi conflict that resulted in Rwanda's 1994 genocide where the UN also failed to halt the deaths of almost a million people. Many members of the former Rwanda regime fled into DRC and actually helped Kabila overthrow Mobutu. The conflict is also linked to the long-running Burundian civil war, which pits a Tutsi military against ethnic Hutu rebel factions.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and Rwanda's President Paul Kagame were once close friends and allies but following the Kisangani violence have created yet another complexity for those struggling to bring peace to DRC. Kofi Annan, the UN's secretary-general, who was head of peacekeeping during the Rwanda conflict, appears reluctant to send troops until the seemingly



President Laurent Kabila

endless breaches of the ceasefire have ended.

Both the OAU and SADC have been heavily involved in attempts to end the war. The three SADC armies supporting Kabila have expended huge amounts of money while the 14 nations have used all their diplomatic clout to broker and maintain the Lusaka Accords of which President Frederick Chiluba of Zambia has been the principal mediator with wide support from the rest of SADC.

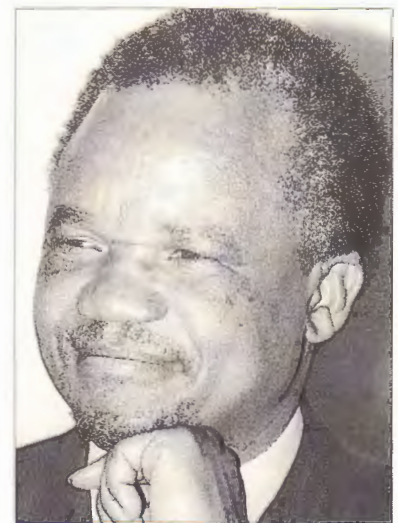
The OAU appointed former Botswana president, Sir Ketumele Masire as a facilitator in the conflict. Kabila, however, will no longer meet with Masire and has closed the OAU office in Kinshasa, claiming that the facilitator is biased against him.

Masire argues that two parallel approaches are needed. The UN peacekeeping force envisaged by the Lusaka Accord and approved in January by the Security Council is one aspect of a solu-

tion. The other, says Masire, is dialogue among the Congolese. "I am leading the dialogue approach," said Masire.

Even as the latest ceasefire seems to be holding, enormous damage to an already weakened country has been done. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons from the many regional conflicts around the Great Lakes have created a crisis so severe that Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, made a special trip recently to meet signatories of the Lusaka Accord "because peace and stability are so important for the region."

DRC is the linchpin in the region she says. Observers, including those from SADC, see her as an unofficial envoy from Annan in another effort to bring peace to a country too long at the mercy of invaders. □



President Frederick Chiluba

## Economic summit rekindles African renaissance

*continued from page 4*

On land reforms, Prof. Sam Moyo, a Zimbabwean land expert, said developments on the land issue in Zimbabwe had to be seen in the political context. "The problem is to find a balance in increasing the number of small farmers while deracialising the land issue." Although agreeing that the immediate effect of farm invasions was a 10 percent loss of production on commercial farms, coupled with losses caused by poor tobacco

prices and delays in marketing, he argued against the idea that redistribution destroys the economy.

There is increasing evidence that small farmers occupying optimum space are more productive than large-scale farmers, he said. "As soon as the [farm] invasions [in Zimbabwe] are resolved and there is a repackaged land reform deal, we will see a reversal in the fall in production." □

# Mbeki adds new dimension to AIDS debate

by Renato Pinto

A new dimension has been added to the debate on AIDS, a disease that has wreaked havoc in Sub-Saharan Africa killing 2.2 million people, including adults and children, during 1999. Addressing an international AIDS conference in Durban on 9 July, South African President, Thabo Mbeki, told thousands of health experts of his premise that extreme poverty is the continent's biggest killer and that the effectiveness of AIDS drugs is questionable.

"We remain convinced of the need for us to better understand the essence of what would constitute a comprehensive response in a context such as ours which is characterised by the high levels of poverty and disease," said Mbeki.

The South African president stirred heated debate among the medical fraternity when in April he wrote to world leaders explaining his position on antiretroviral drugs, such as AZT.

Antiretroviral drugs are capable of hindering the onset of AIDS and interrupting transmission, however they are not likely to inhibit viral production completely and the disease may develop sooner or later. Mbeki has questioned whether the medicines and treatment for HIV/AIDS often used in Western countries to combat a different strain of AIDS, could effectively treat African strains as well.

According to Mbeki, "it is obvious that whatever lessons we have to and may draw from the West about the grave issue of HIV/AIDS, a simple superimpo-

sition of Western experience on African reality would be absurd and illogical".

He called upon governments, scientists, NGOs, and civil society in Africa to work collaboratively to accelerate responses to specific African challenges, since the attempts according to western standards to combat AIDS in this continent have so far failed to slow the increasing spread of the pandemic.

The most recent United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) report shows that in Sub-Saharan Africa the number of new infections was four million during last year. Several SADC countries have double-digit HIV prevalence rates and some whose prevalence has doubled in the past two years. The report shows Botswana's HIV rate estimated at 35.8 percent among adults (15-49), followed by Swaziland at 25.5 percent and Zimbabwe at 25.06 percent.

According to an American marketing research agency, Africa represents only one percent of world drug sales, while North America, Japan and Western Europe represent 80 percent. Africa is not seen as a viable market.

Five major pharmaceutical companies and the World Health Organisation (WHO) recently announced an agreement to reduce prices on AIDS drugs to Africa by as much as 80 percent. However, it is not enough, since these drugs

prices would still be unaffordable to African customers, as well as to health ministries' budgets. In addition, these drugs are only part of a comprehensive treatment programme for HIV/AIDS, which does not cure the disease, but only keeps it under control.

In May, Mbeki set up an AIDS international commission of experts to discuss AIDS issues that, beyond the obvious threat to health, have had a negative impact on the economy and society of SADC countries. Among the international experts included are scientists, mainly from the US, who reject the conventional idea that the HIV causes AIDS.

These scientists assert that AIDS is due to underdevelopment, poverty, malnutrition, poor hygiene and local diseases.

The commission, together with the letter to world leaders on AIDS in



President Thabo Mbeki

Africa and Mbeki's incisive beliefs, has sparked substantial controversy. It has been criticised for focusing on whether HIV causes AIDS or not.

In response, 5,000 doctors and scientist signed a declaration refuting what they see as theories from "dissidents" on the cause of AIDS. "Persons who are malnourished, who already suffer other infections or who are older, tend to be more susceptible to the rapid development of AIDS following HIV infection. However, none of these factors weaken the scientific evidence that HIV is the sole cause of AIDS."

In South Africa, AIDS activists fear that illiterate people may misunderstand Mbeki's association with scientists that deny the link between HIV and AIDS. This combined with the belief that AIDS does not exist could lead people to assume that safe sex, including the use of condoms, and other precautions are no longer necessary.

Although the theory of some of the scientists invited by President Mbeki could be questioned, many believe his arguments are relevant to the AIDS debate in so far as specific issues to prevent HIV infection in Africa are concerned. □

## SADC launches AIDS plan

SADC recently launched its HIV/AIDS strategic framework aimed at strengthening the region's fight against the disease.

The plan, developed by SADC's health ministers, was launched on the eve of the Durban Conference.

South Africa's Health Minister, Mantombi Tshabalala-Msimang, said regional cooperation in fighting the disease could lead to solidarity as well as economic and political integration in SADC.

SADC ministers had also reached agreement with pharmaceutical companies that no further announcement would be made about making anti-HIV/AIDS drugs available to people in the region. She said that SADC countries needed more information before any offer could be considered and accepted.

## A vibrant SADC marks 20-year-anniversary amid expanding economic and social integration

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remains on the economic front. It therefore came as no surprise when the regional group took the economic, rather than political, route to regional integration, first in 1980, and again in 1992 when it adopted this model.

When SADC chose economic cooperation and later integration, the region was cognisant of the experiences of other parts of the world. The staggering success of the European Union (EU) — mainly an integrated economic community in western and, more recently, eastern Europe — can be cited as an inspiration to the long-term objectives of many regional economic blocs.

The alternative was to be seen in the political and economic disintegration in the former Soviet Union and ex-Yugoslavia into marginally independent and squabbling republics since the end of the Cold War. With bloody conflicts in Bosnia, Kosovo and Chechnya, the process of fission is still continuing and serves as a sharp reminder of why political conglomerates are not an attraction for African states.

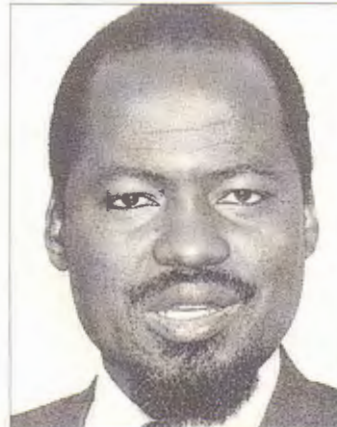
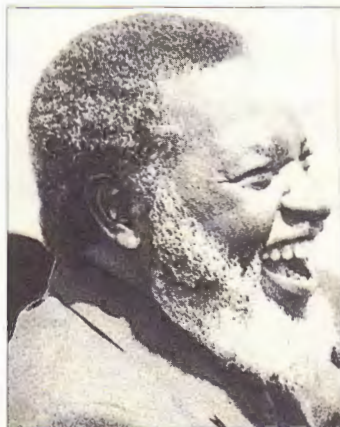
The importance of economic integration was also underlined by the Lagos Plan of Action of 1980 and its sequel, the Abuja Treaty of 1991, which envisaged the creation of an African Economic Community built on vibrant economic blocs such as SADC.

However, the correlation between political stability and economic development is all too obvious to ignore. As a result, SADC has played a pivotal role in conflict prevention and resolution at regional and continental levels.

Although landmark developments in SADC can be traced to the days of its formation, the community made some far-reaching and often under-estimated critical decisions in the 1990s such as the 1992 Windhoek Declaration which replaced SADCC with the present day Southern African Development Community (SADC), transforming the organization from a coordination conference to a development community with a common vision on matters of regional integration.

The 1990s also saw prospects for economic integration multiply with five new entries — Namibia in 1990, South Africa, 1994, Mauritius, 1995 and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Seychelles in 1997 bringing the number of member states to 14. This development was crucial, but perhaps more important is that the regional market more than doubled from just under 100 million to the current population estimated at 200 million. Gross domestic product (GDP) increased by more than 300 percent to US\$180 billion.

In 1994 the organisation invited a critical partner, the private sector. Later, other stakeholders such as civil society were also invited to play an active role. This



President Nujoma (left) takes over SADC chair from President Chissano

move was hailed by economists around the region, as government's role was seen to be more effective as a facilitator, rather than active participant in development. During the same period, a decision was taken to formulate sectoral protocols that would form the legal basis for regional cooperation and integration upon which national policies would be modelled.

In 1995, the first sectoral protocol on shared water-course systems was signed in Johannesburg. To date, 11 protocols have been signed with seven already ratified by the requisite two-thirds majority needed before the legal instruments can come into force.

The sectoral protocols that are now in force are on: immunities and privileges, energy, combating illicit drug trafficking, mining, trade, transport, communications and meteorology.

The Trade Protocol, seen by many as the barometer by which SADC's commitment to regional integration can be measured, deserves special mention. It was signed in 1996 and underwent a meticulous negotiating process leading to ratification by 10 of its 11 signatories as of January 2000. The ministers responsible for trade in the region have already met and agreed that the Free Trade Area (FTA) will be launched on 1 September this year.

Once the FTA is under way, member states will begin to lift all barriers to trade over an eight-year period, paving the way for further market integration. Intra-regional trade was a paltry five percent when the organisation was formed in 1980, but burgeoned with the entry of South Africa into SADC and is now estimated at above 20 percent.

The pace at which the SADC protocols are being ratified has been slow, but compare favourably with other parts of the world. With SADC-conscious national administrations, protocol ratification should be faster and smoother, and the vision of the organisation can more easily transcend the

political boundaries as members of parliament are more in touch with their constituencies.

Stronger political institutions are needed because economic integration depends on a number of political pre-conditions. As part of this realisation, SADC has made remarkable progress in building multi-party-based democracies.

"Whilst it is understood that multi-partyism is not necessarily synonymous with democracy, the relative opening up of political systems by governments in response to people's struggles and demands is a welcome step in the direction of democratic practice," notes one commentator.

In almost all member states, regular elections have become a common practice. But, democracy is more than just elections. However, elections are still to take place in countries that are experi-

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encing internal conflicts, notably Angola and the DRC.

Through Article 21 of the SADC Treaty, member states agree to co-operate in areas of "politics, diplomacy, international relations, peace and security".

To ensure this, the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security was endorsed in 1996. The Organ presents, in its objectives, the intent by SADC to embrace a common system of political values, systems and institutions.

With the creation of the Organ, political and security considerations were given prominence in the operations of SADC, and its emergence was seen in some quarters as the re-constitution of a more flexible approach to the old Front-line States. Particularly so, because the Organ operates at summit level and through the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee, constituted at ministerial level. The Organ is currently under review.

There is no doubt that conflict resolution and management is a top priority for SADC. Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe acted swiftly to quell a Uganda-Rwanda-led rebellion in the DRC. Similarly, Botswana and South Africa stopped a military-led coup attempt in Lesotho, restoring peace.

But the Angolan civil war, which southern Africa has lived with for almost 25 years now, remains a major problem for peace-building in the region. The plight of millions of refugees caught in

these areas of conflict also remains another pressing issue.

On the social dimension, SADC's greatest challenge is to increase economic growth, currently averaging a lacklustre annual two percent, in order to eradicate poverty, and with it the scourge of AIDS.

Economists estimate that an annual growth rate of at least six percent is needed to uplift the standard of living of the 40 percent SADC citizens who are living in abject poverty on less than US\$1-a-day.

For all they have achieved, economic structural adjustment programmes, (SAPs) which some SADC countries are still implementing, have reversed valuable gains attained in the social sector. Many countries, on the advice of international financial institutions, have systematically cut down on social spending, severely impacting on human development.

And now as health budgets continue to decline, the HIV/AIDS pandemic takes its toll on SADC citizens. Health experts put the average HIV infection among adults in SADC at 15 percent, and rising rapidly. "AIDS is an unspeakable human tragedy and its social and economic impact can jeopardise years of progress in human development and economic progress," writes one commentator.

Whatever SADC's economic, social and political accomplishments, women have been the least beneficiaries. Many recent studies have shown that cutbacks

on social expenditure have impacted women more than men. The struggle for gender equality is therefore still to be achieved.

Nonetheless, SADC can still draw inspiration from the fact that it now enjoys the highest number of women in parliament averaging 17.9 percent, which is higher than the continental average of 11 percent and the global average of 13.4 percent.

But the region cannot afford to be complacent on the basis of that achievement since this is far below the 30 percent average set by the SADC leaders in a 1997 landmark declaration on Gender and Development.

And for SADC to claim its rightful place on the global stage, a stable political environment is needed.

Conflicts, that still plague parts of the region, not only impact on tourism and investor confidence, but also erode gains made over many years of development and cause unnecessary loss of life and property.

With more members now, SADC also needs to find a strategic way of dealing with the question of complicated convergence of political systems. Apart from varying levels of economic development, SADC member states have many divergent political systems.

But despite all its challenges, SADC remains one of the few regional economic bodies globally regarded as having the potential to succeed, and its 20 years of history bears testimony to that achievement. □

## SADC Protocols

Protocol	Countries that have ratified protocol (as of July 2000)														
	Ang	Bot	DRC	Les	Mal	Mau	Moz	Nam	RSA	Sey	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	
Immunities and Privileges	•	•		•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•	
Shared watercourse system		•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	
Energy	•	•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	
Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking		•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	
Transport, Communication and Meteorology	•	•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•		•	
Trade		•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	
Mining		•		•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	
Education and Training		•		•		•		•	•		•	•		•	
Tourism		•				•		•						•	
Health		•													
Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement		•													

Source: SADC Secretariat

## An association of 12 parliaments and 1,800 MPs spearheads the role of legislatures in regional integration

The SADC Parliamentary Forum is an association of the 12 parliaments of the SADC region established to spearhead the participation of parliaments in regional integration and in contributing to a conducive environment for peace, democratic governance, gender equity and the quest for human rights.

The Forum was launched in 1996 and is recognized by SADC Heads of State and Government as an autonomous institution in the Southern African Development Community. The secretary-general is Dr Kasuka Mutukwa, a former MP from Zambia, and the Forum has its headquarters in Windhoek, Namibia.

Mutukwa says it was considered imperative that the 1,800 MPs in SADC member countries should be involved "as direct shareholders who can bring the benefits of regional co-operation to their electorates."

The Forum "fills a major gap in

the role of the legislative sector in the provisions and operations of the SADC Treaty."

At a historic assembly in April of 140 parliamentarians from SADC member states in Cape Town, the Forum began to lay the groundwork for accelerating the integration of decision-making structures in the region.

The conference made commitments toward supporting democracy through election observation, civic education and capacity-building for parliamentarians on their role, responsibility and accountability to the electorate and the relationship between the executive and legislature.

The Forum was asked to promote programmes on harmonization of SADC laws, to organize roundtable meetings on issues of regional importance and to establish capacity-building mechanisms, including a committee on SADC affairs in each member parliament. □

### Emergence and promotion of democratic practices

As a regional organization, the Forum is mandated to contribute to the promotion of multi-party elections in which all parties participate freely.

For that reason, and in keeping with the SADC Treaty, the Forum has committed itself to observe elections in member countries, and it has successfully done this in Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

"Through the lessons learned, it is hoped that positive experiences, processes and practices may be strengthened throughout the region and pitfalls avoided.

The result will be the emergence and promotion of positive democratic practices in the SADC region," said the Statement of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Observer Delegation to the Zimbabwe 2000 Elections.

"The Forum believes that its observers have a stake in the electoral processes in SADC countries, as the outcome thereof will invariably affect other practices, security and stability in the region.

The Forum therefore believes that it has an important obligation of empowering the region with the capacity to deal with issues pertaining to electoral systems and processes – so that standards are not set by others."

This view was expressed also by the head of an observer mission of South African parliamentarians, Tony Yengeni, who said that decisions should be taken in Africa and outsiders should first listen to what Africa has to say.

These and other observer missions from Africa, including the Organization of African Unity, played a key role in assessing the Zimbabwe electoral process. □

### Gender equity issues are a priority for SADC parliaments

Gender equity issues occupy a central role in the Programme of Action of the SADC Parliamentary Forum through its plans to:

- increase the role of parliaments in monitoring implementation of the gender policies and programmes of the executive branches of government, enabling parliamentarians to exercise their "oversight" functions;
- assess the state of implementation of the Declaration on Gender and Development adopted by the SADC Summit in Malawi in 1997;
- encourage parliaments to promote gender equality using their role in ratifying high level positions such as judgeships;
- mainstream gender concerns in all its activities, including budget committees in parliaments which could become more sensitive to gender in the allocation of a country's resources;
- empower parliaments with the information necessary for addressing gender issues and concerns;
- launch a comprehensive programme entitled "Engendering Parliaments" later this year;
- work closely with the SADC secretariat and its gender coordination unit, as well as non-governmental organizations, universities and international agencies which promote gender and development in the SADC region.
- support the creation of a regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus to promote and consolidate the gender agenda in parliaments.

The constitution of the Forum provides that gender be one of the factors for electing the three representatives from each member parliament; and one of the Forum's three standing committees, established in December 1999, focuses on gender equity alongside promoting the values of democratic governance.

## SADC – Making a difference in the new millennium

As SADC celebrates 20 years of development cooperation, growing from nine member states in 1980 to 14 in this year 2000, it is Africa's most dynamic regional bloc, and offers a number of challenges as it comes of age in its 21<sup>st</sup> year.

Of particular significance are the efforts by the member countries that brought independence and majority rule to southern Africa, to entrench this culture of democracy and accountability through their electoral systems and legal infrastructure. The SADC Parliamentary Forum is one of the engines designed by the SADC members to strengthen and sustain democratic governance. By creating a platform for dialogue and advocacy on regional cooperation at the parliamentary level, SADC has opened new opportunities for advancing regional integration of decision-making.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum is hosted by Namibia, which has been an active member of SADC since independence in 1990, and also hosts the sectors on Fisheries and Marine Resources, and Legal Affairs.

Namibia will chair SADC for one year from August, and while it boasts a growing economy and stable political environment, the country faces similar challenges to those of other member states: to reduce poverty and improve access to health and education, to increase agricultural productivity and rural development, and to strengthen economic cooperation to compete in the brave new world of globalisation.

The task of SADC in the new millennium is to continue creating the requisite conditions for sustainable development in the areas of: democracy, equality and gender, water and other natural resources, the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, investment in education, especially in science and technology, and economic and social development.

The challenge is to create an enabling environment for SADC countries to identify these issues as cross-border imperatives. It is therefore critical to establish a cross-border institutional foundation, a regional perspective and common approaches.

The SADC Education Protocol is an important tool for the development of

integrated strategies to strengthen the delivery of quality education in the region. It is vital that the essential role that education plays in social and economic development in member states is recognized as a critical factor in developing new approaches to improving the quality, relevance and effectiveness of education.

Institutions of higher learning must grapple with a number of pressing concerns, not least the growing demand for building capacity in the face of shrinking budgets with the resultant decline in the quality of education offered. The gradual reduction of the role of the state in higher education, and the need to respond to the global economy, underscore the need for a paradigm shift in the way universities, in the regional context, deliver the educational product.



Professor Katjavivi

### View on Namibia's forthcoming leadership of SADC

Sharing resources and knowledge and collaborating in teaching, research and related academic programmes, such as distance education delivery models, are opportunities for enhancing the quality of education at tertiary level. However, the concept of university for industry – which are smart partnerships between universities, industry and civil society, as a means of creating relevance in curricula, reducing funding dependence on government, maintaining autonomy, and generating economic growth – is clearly a new understanding of the changing role of higher education in the region, on the continent and throughout the world.

The strategies for making educational opportunities available to all must include the systematic integration of gender in development planning. Equality of women is as much a human rights issue as it is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Women have a key role in supporting their households (60 percent

of SADC households are headed by women), constitute the majority of the population and are affected more severely by poverty, yet they remain under-represented in leadership positions.

SADC in this millennium will have to intensify its efforts in initiating changes in systems and laws, and in issues such as credit and employment barriers, to ensure the participation of women in the political and economic decision-making processes. There is a long and determined road to travel to reach the goal of 30 percent women in decision-making by the year 2005, agreed by SADC Heads of State at their annual summit in Malawi in 1997.

The empowerment of women in farming and agriculture, and in ownership and usage of land, is critical for sustainable development. Food security is decisive to human development, and for the prospects of reducing poverty in the SADC region.

Maintaining a sustainable environment with appropriate administration of water and other resources offers prospects for regional collaboration. Initiatives that utilize existing resources rather than adding expensive inputs to eliminate pollution, increase productivity, and create new jobs, are innovative approaches to ecological and economic stability.

The University of Namibia in collaboration with sister institutions, is involved in promoting total productivity of raw materials through research projects adding value in utilising waste materials. Similar projects on crop diversification, energy systems, low-cost building technologies and marine agronomy technologies are being undertaken which require regional co-operation and partnerships.

These research efforts are aimed at promoting income-generating activities, stimulating diversification and establishing strategies and management methods for integrating the best that science and technology has to offer.

When His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia assumes the SADC chair in August, it is expected that these issues will be addressed, through consolidation and practical initiatives.

*continued on page 14*

## SADC needs a regional development plan

*continued from page 1*

these sectors and of all those responsible for SADC activities in their countries, Simão said, replacing the visits that members of the Restructuring Committee should pay to SADC capitals, as contemplated in the Terms of Reference approved by the Council of Ministers in Mbabane after the decision a year ago at the SADC Summit in Maputo which mandated that all SADC structures be restructured, including the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security.

These are key issues for consideration by the SADC Council of Ministers and Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government which takes place in early August in Windhoek, Namibia.

The SADC restructuring is "an outcome of the realisation of the fact that our Organisation is not moving at the pace that is desirable towards our regional integration.

"Our Heads of State have on various occasions, particularly during the Maputo Summit, expressed their profound concern with the pace and level of cooperation among members states. ...In actual fact, regional economic integration is a rather complex and synergetic task, and not a mere management and development of individual projects. Consequently,

SADC needs to adjust its structure and functioning accordingly."

"The role of the Secretariat as established in the Treaty is not being fulfilled, resulting in its weakness as the spearhead of the regional integration process. Moreover, there is conflict-like relationship between the sectoral coordinating units as their tasks do overlap.

"It is also pertinent to refer to the very nature of the Secretariat and to its role in the new restructuring, where it will play its advisory role and lead the process of regional integration. Equally, there is a need to improve the regional articulation and interaction so as to create intersectoral synergies for the sake of efficiency, efficacy and dynamics of the community building process.

"The present decentralised scheme has been resulting in the poor coordination among the different sectors, thereby obstructing the emergency of synergies between them.

"The different capacities of the member countries in terms of human, material and financial resources mean that the sectoral coordinating units function differently and this negative impact is reflected in their performance."

While he acknowledged that the existing structure is effective in as far as it creates a sense of ownership of SADC

by member states, the "main weakness of the current structure is related to the level of performance and implementation of the activities of the different sectors, which vary considerably as a result of the capacity of the host country to sustain them."

This structure, he said, is "very likely to promote sectoral activities with strong national characteristics instead of regional ones." He noted that many sectoral coordinating units are small and "deprived of resources to meet their objectives. This model has led to a proliferation of sectors, a situation that discourages the integration."

With regard to the mobilization of resources, he said, SADC should conduct a cost-effective analysis and evaluate its operational performance. "The prevailing feeling that SADC is growing too fast, or that at least the sectors are proliferating is becoming increasingly less sustainable due to the limitations in terms of resources."

The minister said "some countries have already expressed the viewpoint that the funding of the SADC activities should be calculated on the basis of a proportion of the GDP of the country and not on the basis of an equal contribution. There is also the feeling that most of the activities of the SADC institutions are undertaken by donors, due to the individual nature of the funding of the Sectoral Coordinating Units and the mobilisation of resources for the respective programmes, thereby reinforcing the dependence syndrome."

There seems to be growing frustration, he said, due to the numbers of meetings both in terms of financial resources and time. "This shows that there are limitations in terms of planning, difficulties in the exchange of information and poor coordination."

Concerning the participation of the private sector and the civil society at large, he said "there is growing consensus pointing to the review of the current SADC institutional model, towards one that responds to the needs in terms of involvement of the different entities and there should be a focus on the key areas of cooperation. Moreover, the private sector needs to be directly involved through a national consultative and formal mechanism." □

### Focus on Namibia

*continued from page 13*

Particular attention will focus on harnessing science and technology for accelerated development. Without deliberate and systematic strategies for the development of this sector, the region will continue to be a net exporter of raw materials (at give-away prices) and a net importer of manufactured and industrial goods (at exorbitant prices).

Regional economic development and integration continues to be hampered by the war in Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), therefore investment in conflict prevention could go a long way towards facilitating development.

SADC has registered many achievements in the past 20 years in laying a firm foundation for regional co-operation, strengthened in the past year under the leadership of President Joaquim

Chissano of Mozambique, even while he confronted the challenges that water in flood can present to human development. We salute him for his wisdom and fortitude, and we see in the response to that disaster the warm heart of regional support and collaboration. As he hands over the challenges of regional leadership to President Nujoma, his active involvement and experience will remain at the service of SADC through the troika system of consultation.

The people of SADC look forward to consolidating their achievements under Namibia's leadership, and implementing programmes of action that will strengthen regional understanding, integration and development. □

*Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, and Chairman of the Board of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre.*

## Five years after the Beijing gender conference

by Diana Mavunduse

More than 10,000 women and men from all walks of life converged on New York for the Beijing Plus Five review process whose theme was "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the UN General Assembly gave an ideal opportunity to assess how far countries have gone towards fulfilling their promises, especially those made at Beijing in 1995. The special session in June also sought to address shortcomings, face new challenges and reaffirm commitments since Beijing 1995.

"Women are bringing their unique concerns to the attention of their governments for action. These concerns include domestic violence, lack of access to land and property, unequal pay for work of equal value and negative portrayal of their roles in society," said Theoban Gurirab, president of the UN General Assembly, who is also Namibian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Five years ago at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, 189 governments including all those from

flict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and media; women and the environment; and the girl-child.

SADC heads of state and government have since shown their commitment to the PFA by signing of the Gender and Development Declaration (1997) and its Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children in 1998. These have become the yardstick by which women in the region continue to measure change.

"A large number of SADC member states have taken the conclusions and experiences of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women to heart and are applying them in formulating national programmes and progressive legislation," said Indira Thacoor Sidaya, chairperson of the SADC Committee of Gender/Women's Affairs Ministers, addressing delegates during the special session. Thacoor is also Mauritian minister responsible for women, family welfare and child development.

Instruments have been put in place to track and monitor developments. The SADC Gender Plan of Action of 1997 spells out the terms of reference and roles for the different players to avoid duplication and overlap and ensure that they complement each other.

Progress has indeed been made in the regional plan of action. There is an increase in the number of women Members of Parliament and cabinet ministers in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa, reflected following national elections in 1999, although the increases have been marginal in some of the countries. SADC boasts a regional average of 17.9 percent women in parliament, which is higher than the continental and global averages at 11 and 13.4 percent respectively.



South Africa's Dr Nkosazana Zuma - the only woman Foreign Affairs Minister in SADC

Major challenges remain issues of poverty, HIV/AIDS, women's human and legal rights. While almost all SADC countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination Against Women (CEDAW), laws that affect women directly such as the customary law remain incompatible.

After exhaustive negotiations at the General Assembly, delegates reached the much awaited agreement on an outcome document that will accelerate international efforts towards achieving women's equality and advancement.

The document calls for national laws to eradicate such traditional practices as forced marriages and so-called "honour killings" of women considered by their families and communities to have committed acts that dishonoured their name.

The document calls on national governments to set 2005 for the elimination of gender gap in primary and secondary education.

African NGOs expressed concerns that their issues such as education, the girl-child and AIDS, also mentioned as critical areas in the PFA, are still given little commitment by governments.

"There is need for clear political commitments by our governments, so that we move to action," said Amelia Zambeze an NGO delegate from Mozambique.

The conference also made progress by calling for tougher measures to combat domestic violence, trafficking in women, tackling HIV/AIDS head on and globalisation.

The general assembly came to a realisation that "not only do women belong on this planet, but that the future of the planet depends on women," said UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan. □



BREAKING NEW GROUND: Susan Gandanzara, the first black woman aircraft engineer in Zimbabwe

southern Africa, committed themselves to advancing the goals of equality, development and peace for all women around the world by adopting the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA).

The PFA calls upon governments to take action in 12 critical areas of concern identified as barriers to women empowerment: women and poverty; women and education; women and health; violence against women; women and armed con-

# Governments urged to engage youth in development

by Diana Mavunduse

Since SADC transformed itself from a coordinating conference to a development community in 1992, a number of declarations, treaties and protocols have been signed, but no structure has been established which specifically provides for mainstreaming youth participation in creating policies and programmes.

At a recent youth conference in Mozambique, delegates discussed issues of concern to the region's young people as well as mechanisms for placing youth policies as a priority on the political agendas of SADC countries.

"Youth participation in the construction of a better future strengthens government in finding appropriate solutions to the most pressing problems that our youths are confronted with today... they are the key element for the development of our society," said Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, SADC's chairperson, who opened the conference.

The First SADC Youth Conference, attended by about 500 representatives

from governments and civil society, identified "youth participation" in education and health programmes as priority areas.

"The aim of the conference was to put youth issues on the SADC agenda by fostering regional linkages between youth to advocate key development priorities," said Norman Makore, assistant secretary for Zimbabwe's Ministry of National Affairs, Employment Creation and Co-operatives.

Youth face a range of obstacles to full participation in national and regional programmes because resources are limited. Policy-makers have tended to focus on unborn or very young children in safe motherhood and immunisation programmes.

Realising the barriers faced by youth, the conference made "Recommendations for Youth Participation in The SADC Structure."

The participants called upon governments to:

- ensure youth involvement in political decisions;

- enhance a strong learning society embracing the existing education systems and strengthening partnerships with government, civil society, private sector, local communities and other stakeholders;

- revise education systems in terms of quality, relevance and equity to address specific needs of youth in order to enable them to adequately respond to the complex, competitive and changing nature of society;

- SADC Youth Ministers should mobilise resources for programmes within the region and that priority should be given to funding of youth programmes;

- ensure youth participation in research and documentation on the situation of youth and HIV/AIDS, youth needs and challenges and best practices.

The recommendations will be presented to the SADC Heads of State and Government during the SADC Summit in Windhoek in August. □

## SA loses soccer world cup bid in controversial circumstances

After losing the 2006 World Cup bid in most controversial circumstances in the 70-year history of the tournament, South Africa is leaving no stone unturned.

Irvin Khoza, SA Bid Committee Chairperson was at the time of writing reported to have engaged a top Belgian lawyer who is an expert in Swiss law to contest the decision by the soccer governing body, FIFA, which awarded the bid to Germany on 6 July 2000.

FIFA is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, where the voting was conducted.

South Africa lost the right to host the multi-million dollar event after FIFA's 24-man executive voted 12-11 in favour of Germany, with one decisive abstention by Charles Dempsey, the Oceania representative who said he was subjected to intolerable pressure.

Dempsey ignored specific instructions from his home country New Zealand, which ordered him to switch his vote to South Africa in the

event that England had lost. England lost in the second round of voting, leaving the race between Germany and South Africa. But after voting in the first and second rounds, Dempsey abstained in the third round.

"Why must we keep quiet? What happened was unprecedented and we need to sort it out for the good of the game," Khoza told *Reuters*.

Africa remains the only continent that has never hosted the tournament in its 70-year history. Ostensibly, some sectors in South Africa have begun actively campaigning for a rotation system, to make Africa the host in 2010.

Europe has dominated the right to host, followed by South America. North America hosted the event in 1994 while Asia's turn is in 2002. Many had hoped that the tournament would this time assume its "true world" status by coming to Africa.

But all this hope went up in smoke when Germany, another European country after France staged the event in 1998, won the bid.

"Africa's time will come," said President Thabo Mbeki in apparent comfort to the SA 2006 World Cup Bid Committee which had worked so hard with assistance from former president Nelson Mandela. "Let us continue to learn... Your efforts cannot be faulted," Mbeki said of the Bid Committee.

With the bid going to Germany, South Africa lost a potential US\$2.5 billion boost to its gross domestic product (GDP) and about 100,000 jobs.

Its southern African neighbours, particularly Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe would have benefited directly.

According to Ambrose Mendy, a British sports marketing expert, Zimbabwe lost a minimum of US\$50 million in estimated potential revenue as a result of the failure by South Africa to host the 2006 World Cup.

With the World Cup coming after every four years, Africa will have to wait for another chance in 2010.

## Ministers to bargain for better mineral prices

**S**ADC ministers responsible for mining activities have agreed to put in place a mechanism to check the rapid fall of mineral prices.

Meeting in Harare recently to review the performance of the mining industry and the implementation of the mining sector programme of action, the ministers agreed to use a regional platform to help individual countries bargain for better mineral prices in the world market.

The mining sector programme of action is divided into six sub-sectors comprising information, geology, mining and marketing, mineral processing, environment and human resources.

Total regional production of cobalt, copper, chromite, diamonds and lead increased last year while asbestos, coal nickel and zinc output declined.

Meanwhile, the ratifying of the SADC mining protocol has been completed fol-

lowing its endorsement by two thirds of the organisation's membership.

The implementation process has started and a stakeholders' workshop has been set for March 2001. □

## Food security update

**T**he SADC Food Security Unit forecasts an increased cereal harvest for the region this year.

"Cereal production prospects for SADC are generally brighter than last year despite devastation caused by flooding in Mozambique and parts of South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana and Zimbabwe," the report noted.

The SADC update forecast a total cereal harvest of 23.79 million metric tonnes (mt) for the 1999/2000 season against last year's 21.40 million mt.

It said that maize production was expected to increase significantly in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Maize is the staple food in large parts of southern Africa. Production in South Africa is expected to reach 9.64 million mt against last year's 7.50 million mt. In Zimbabwe, a harvest of 2.15 million mt is forecast, against last year's 1.52 million mt.

A regional maize surplus of 1.14 million mt is projected. (IRIN) □

## Joint tourism pact

**S**outh Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique will tear down borders separating their conservation areas to unlock the tourism potential of the Lubombo region, says an agreement signed by ministers from the three countries on 22 June.

The Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) agreement is aimed at uplifting the regional economy through a joint conservation programme.

The establishment of the Lubombo TFCA supports the broader aims and socio-economic upliftment in the southern African region, as well as improving regional ecosystem management.

The major objectives are economic development through appropriate maximum use of opportunities presented by the three countries' natural assets and the development of joint strategies for trans-frontier ecological planning and resource management. (PANA) □

## EC to fund investment promotion

**S**ADC and the European Commission recently signed a financing agreement valued at EUR16 million for the SADC-EU Investment Promotion Programme.

The Acting Executive Secretary of SADC Dr Prega Ramsamy on behalf of SADC and the Head of the EC Delegation in Botswana, Robert Collingwood, signed the agreement at the SADC House in Botswana.

The total cost of the programme will be EUR18 million to be funded over a six year period with EUR2 million drawn from the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development. (approx. US\$1 = 1.07 euro)

The purpose of the programme is to promote investment and inter-enterprise co-operation agreements in key sectors such as agro-industries, tourism, mining, light engineering and building materials including strengthening the role of the

Investment Promotion Agencies and intermediary organisations in the SADC region.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr Ramsamy thanked the EC for responding to SADC's call for investment in the region. Dr Ramsamy noted that many of SADC economies are in the process of creating an attractive environment for investment adding that, "many have managed to reduce inflation, reduce budget deficits, stabilise exchange rates, liberalise exchange controls and stabilise overall macro-economic environment".

The programme is expected to result in an increased number and quality of SADC projects identified and promoted and Dr Ramsamy added that SADC is cognisant of the fact that in this competitive global era, investors are interested in larger markets and therefore the need to promote SADC as a region. □

## Truckers form association

**L**ong haul truck drivers of the 14-member SADC have formed an association.

Harold Myaba, interim president of the body, recently said Beyond Borders Drivers Association, as the union is called, aims at improved efficiency and professionalism in hauling goods in the SADC economic bloc. The association will seek to control loss and damage of goods in transit, promote unity among SADC drivers, and improve relationship between drivers and their employers, he explained.

The association would endeavour to improve working conditions of truck

drivers some, of whom, he noted, were being exploited. Its long-term vision is to assist member drivers when approaching retirement to acquire loans to buy their own trucks.

"It is our hope that the association will contribute to improving the economy of member states since retiring truck drivers will be able to offer employment to some people in their home countries," Myaba affirmed.

The association will have its headquarters in Blantyre, Malawi. Membership fee has been set at three US dollars plus a yearly subscription of 55 US cents. (PANA) □

## Role of theatre in SADC

*Past, Roles and Development of Theatre Arts in SADC* is published by the Culture, Information and Sport Sector. Review by Antonio Gumende, SARDC.

Can performing arts contribute to national development in SADC and play a role in regional integration? A difficult question that a just-released book entitled *Past, Roles and Development of Theatre Arts in SADC* seeks to provide an answer for.

The book represents the first incursion by the Maputo-based SADC Sector on Culture, Information and Sports to profile the views of the players in the area of performing arts in the region.

The book is published in two versions, English and Portuguese, and was edited by Dr Renato Matusse, the coordinator of the sector. It comes in the wake of the first SADC Arts Festival held in Maputo in 1997, a memorable celebration of the region's culture that was attended by more than 500 participants.

The book is a collection of commissioned papers written by contributors from the 12 countries that comprised the regional grouping at the time that Mozambique hosted the festival.

The 12 papers from academics, art and culture administrators, playwrights and performers highlight the rich cultural diversity, profile experiences in the region and "capture the peculiarities and commonalities of theatre arts in the region" as well as the challenges they face.

The book is in two parts. It opens with a collection of speeches delivered

during the festival including the keynote address by President Joaquim Chissano. In his address opening the festival, Chissano stressed that "cultural expressions provide occasions for the reinforcement of the identity... of each nation in the region, which we are building and consolidating."

The book takes a historical perspective of the role of performing arts in southern African. The different papers highlight theatre as one of the instruments of resistance against foreign domination and preservation of African cul-

## Dispelling Mozambique's old myths

*The 1999 Mozambique National Human Development Report* is the product of partnership between the United Nations Development Programme country office in Mozambique, the Maputo office of SARDC and Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo. Published in English and Portuguese.

One of the most publicised myths has always been that southern Mozambique went to the beach while the central and northern parts of the country toiled to feed, clothe and educate the country's 17 million inhabitants.

The 1999 edition of Mozambique's National Human Development Report shows that regional imbalances exist but the idea that southern Mozambique is a prosperous enclave in a sea of poverty is a myth invented to pursue political

tural identity and the efforts to fight off the ideological incursions by colonial masters in their attempt to influence culture by domination.

The book also looks into the challenges facing the performing arts in SADC countries. In the introduction, Matusse points to three obstacles that presently hamper the development of theatre: lack of training opportunities, funding and infrastructure.

This book provides an invaluable insight into the situation of the performing arts sector in the region and constitutes a rare collection of descriptive papers on the role played by theatre in the different historical periods in SADC. □

agendas. The new report is divided into six chapters. The first chapter discusses the conceptual, methodological and statistical framework and tracks the trends in human development in the country between 1994 and 1999. Chapter two discusses the similarities and differences in human development as well as the situation of poverty in the different regions of the country.

Chapter three deals with the disaggregation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by province and region. Chapter four discusses the role of wage labour in survival strategies, while Chapter five considers the economic and social impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Mozambique. Chapter six is devoted to main conclusions and pointers for future

*continued on page 19*

## Situation of women in southern Africa

*Beyond Inequalities: Women in Southern Africa* is published by SARDC's Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA) programme and its national partners. (Review by Diana Mavunduse, SARDC).

*Beyond Inequalities: Women in Southern Africa* gives a comprehensive overview of the status of women in 12 of the 14 member countries of SADC (DR Congo and Seychelles are not yet included), providing a regional overview and exposing the obstacles to development at the national and regional levels.

In her foreword to the book, Ambassador Gertrude Mongella of Tanzania, who was Secretary-General of the Fourth World Women Conference in Beijing,

says that the book has provided the region with an important information tool, which gives a regional perspective of the status of women in SADC.

This book answers the call from the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action which mandated governments, the donor community and NGOs to generate and disseminate gender disaggregated data for planning and evaluation in recognition of the critical role that accurate, accessible information contributes to policy-making.

The regional book, which has 13 chapters, looks at the situation of women in all the 12 critical areas of concern identified in the global Platform for Action, reviewing issues such as partici-

pation of women in the economic, social, political and decision-making spheres, violence against women and violation of their human rights.

It reviews the situation of women with disabilities, the girl child, the health and education status of women as well as their access to information, and coverage by media.

The book highlights a number of important developments within SADC including the commitment at the highest level – the Gender and Development Declaration of 1997 and the Addendum on Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children of 1998 – and the institutionalization of gender in SADC structures. □

## The Zambezi basin most shared in SADC

*State Of The Environment Zambezi Basin 2000*, with a separate summary in English and Portuguese, is published by the SADC Environment and Land Management Sector (ELMS), SADC Water Sector Coordination Unit (WSCU), the World Conservation Union Regional Office for southern Africa (IUCN-ROSA), the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) and SARDC with support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

This book marks the first time that an assessment of a single ecosystem has been undertaken and reported upon in SADC.

While state-of-the-environment reporting in SADC is relatively new, the traditional approach has been to focus on national boundaries.

The State of the Environment Zambezi Basin 200, to be launched at the time of the SADC summit in Windhoek, Namibia August, seeks to increase public awareness through the provision of information, education and participation on

environment and development issues in southern Africa. It is also aimed at expanding regional integration and global cooperation on environmental and natural resources management.

In his foreword to the report, Mozambican President and SADC Chairman, Joachim Chissano says that the preparation of this report is in line with the SADC Policy and Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development whose aim is to strengthen the analyti-

## Dispelling old myths

*continued from page 18*

research. The report closes with an appendix of up-to-date statistical annex.

The main innovation is found in the report's subtitle: "Economic Growth and Human Development: Progress, Obstacles and Challenges" which breaks new intellectual ground. It provides an up-to-date statistical base disaggregated by region and, where possible, by gender.

The report's main contribution is the

cal, decision-making, legal, institutional and technological capacities for achieving sustainable development.

The Zambezi river basin is the most shared in SADC and is utilised differently by people living along it. Eight riparian countries share the Zambezi.

These are Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The book shows that sustainable use and equitable access to resources can significantly contribute towards poverty alleviation in SADC. □

estimation of the share of each administrative region in Mozambique in GDP for the first time.

The report places particular emphasis on the likely impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which if not tackled now, will have a negative impact on development. The report warns that, with a 14 percent prevalence among the adult population, Mozambique already faces a high level of infection. Current projections show the disease will increase rapidly, reaching 20 percent by 2010. □

## Recent publications and acquisitions

*Act Against Child Soldiers in Africa: a Reader*

—Bennett, Elizabeth; Gamba, Virginia and van der Merwe, Deirdre.- 2000

Available from: ISS PO Box 1787, Brooklynn Square 0075, Pretoria, SA

*Angola Unravels: The Rise and Fall of the Lusaka Peace Process*

—Human Rights Watch.- 1999

Available from: Human Rights Watch, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 10118-3299 or <http://www.hrw.org>

*Angola: From Socialism to Liberal Reforms*

—Kaure, Alexactus T.- 1999

Available from: SAPES Books, PO Box MP111, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe

*Canadian Development Report 1999: Civil Society and Global Change*

—Rooy, Alison Van.- 1999

Available from: The North-South Institute, 55 Murray Street, Suite 200, Ottawa, Canada K1N 5M3 [www.nsi-ins.ca](http://www.nsi-ins.ca)

*Democracy, Culture and Tradition: On the Problem of Pre-colonial Rule in the African Debate on Democracy*

—Erdmann, Gero.- 2000

Available from: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation, PO Box 4325, Harare, Zimbabwe

*The Effect of Crime and Violence on the Delivery of Rights and the Creation of Human Rights Culture*

—Human Rights Committee.- 2000

Available from: The Human Rights Committee of South Africa, PO Box 32723, Braamfontein, South Africa

*Human Development Report 2000*

—United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).- 2000

Available from: UNDP PO Box 4775 Harare, Zimbabwe

*Human Development Report 1999 Zimbabwe*

—United Nations Programme (Zimbabwe).- 2000

Available from: UNDP

*Monitoring the Process of Regional Integration in SADC*

—Peters-Berries, Christian and Michael, T Marx (eds).- 1999

Available from: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation

*Poverty in Zimbabwe Chapter 1 of the March 1999 Study: The Contribution of German Development Co-operation Towards "Poverty Reduction in Zimbabwe"*

—Fiedler-Conradi, Sabine.- 1999

Available from: German Technical Co-operation, PO Box 2406, Harare, Zimbabwe

*Reporting Elections in Southern Africa: A Media Handbook*

—Chirambo, Kondwani and McCullum, Hugh.- 2000

Available from: SARDC-Sustainable Democracy Programme PO Box 5960, Harare, Zimbabwe or University of Namibia Department of Information and Communication Studies P Bag 13301 Windhoek, Namibia

*The State of the World's Children 2000*

—United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).- 2000

Available from: UNICEF, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York NY 10017, USA

*Social and Economic Rights*

—Human Rights Committee (HRC).- 1999 October

Available from: HRC

**SADC diary**

2000		Event	Venue
July	28 -5 Aug	Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF)	Zimbabwe
Aug	4-5	SADC Council of Ministers Meeting	Namibia
	6-7	SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government	Namibia
	11	World Population Day	All SADC
	12	International Youth Day	All SADC
	14-15	African 2000 Defence Summit	South Africa
	17	SADC Day	All SADC
	20-23	Southern African International Dialogue	Mozambique
Sept	1	Launch of the SADC Trade Protocol	All SADC
	5	The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations	UN, New York
	22-28	Southern African Film Festival	Zimbabwe
Oct	5-7	Global Women Summit 2000 (10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	South Africa
	6-13	3 <sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Women in Africa	Madagascar
	9-11	International Herald Tribune Southern Africa Trade and Investment Summit	Namibia
	14	SADC Performers and Creators Day	All SADC
	16	World Food Day	All SADC
	29	Tanzania Elections	Tanzania

**Currency checklist**

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Adjusted Kwanza (100 lewi)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.60
D.R.C	Congo Franc	134,400
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.95
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	43.10
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	24.95
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	12,115
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	26.35
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.95
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.95
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	689
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	2,425
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	37.95

Source: Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Ltd, 16 July 2000

**Public Holidays in SADC for the period Aug - Oct 2000**

Date	Holiday	Country
7 August	Farmers' Day	Zambia
8 August	Peasants' Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
11 August	Heroes' Day	Zimbabwe
12 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Mauritius/ Seychelles
6 September	Somhlolo Day	Swaziland
7 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
17 September	Founder of Nation and National Heroes' Day	Angola
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
30 September	National Day	Botswana
2 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
11 October	Mothers' Day	Malawi
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
26 October	Divali	Mauritius