



SADC joins in rejecting new round at WTO meeting

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The World Trade Organisation, the multilateral trading body finds itself in a fragile state a few weeks before the fourth ministerial conference scheduled for 9 – 13 November in Doha, Qatar. No consensus seems to have emerged between North and South regarding issues to be on the agenda for the November meeting.

Despite wide-spread horse-trading at the Geneva headquarters, the Seattle fiasco of 1999 seems set to repeat itself in Doha.

The North, with apparent support from the all-powerful secretariat of the 142-member WTO, are determined to see a new round of trade talks get off the ground. But the South, with the backing of increasingly influential civil society groups, are not interested. They have more pertinent issues to worry about, especially the problems they face in implementing existing agreements.

At a recent meeting in Mauritius, SADC countries underlined the concerns that were raised by an earlier meeting of developing countries in Zanzibar where they overwhelmingly rejected a new round of trade talks in Doha. Instead they want the inadequacies of current provisions fully addressed first.

SADC said the “key issue for Doha is to achieve a fundamental development agenda that will address the



BUILDING SADC THROUGH CULTURE: More than 300 dancers from 10 SADC countries took part in an enthusiastic two-week dance festival in Harare from 13-22 September. See story, page 12.

existing imbalances within the multilateral trading system.”

The Mauritius meeting was attended by SADC ministers of trade and

Restructuring to deepen economic integration

The recent SADC summit held in Blantyre, the sprawling commercial capital of Malawi, endorsed many decisions that properly received wide media attention, ranging from the leadership of the organization to the signing of a number of legal documents.

Although some who followed the events in Blantyre saw an organization

industry, finance and food, agriculture and natural resources.

The 14-member grouping wants a short and clear agenda for Doha that encompasses “negotiations on implementation issues arising from the Uruguay Round; mandated negotiations on agriculture and trade in services; and industrial tariffs with special emphasis on tariff peaks and escalation.”

This is precisely the same agenda that other developing countries want to see adopted. But developed countries have a much longer shopping list that includes environment, investment, competition policy, government procurement and e-commerce.

While recognising the importance of these matters, SADC and other developing regional blocks and countries are saying these are not a priority at this stage.

For SADC countries, the priority is agriculture and like many other developing countries, they view the main obstacle as the European Union in particular, and U.S., Japan

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undergoing political transformation at the top as various leadership positions swapped hands, in reality, changes on the ground show an organization intent on taking an economic, rather than political, route to regional integration.

With little controversy, the Blantyre summit unanimously elected Mozambican President Joachim

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Poverty reduction centre of Ramsamy's SADC vision

by Munetsi Madakufamba

Just over six months after Prega Ramsamy took office as executive-secretary of SADC, his vision and top priority stands out in all his messages. He wants the region to take full advantage of its rich, diverse resource-base to liberate its people from the bondage of poverty.

SADC, he says, is a region richly endowed with human, natural, agricultural and mineral resources. It has one of the largest unexploited markets in Africa of nearly 200 million people, and a combined gross domestic product of about US\$180 billion.

With a well-connected rail and road network as well as fast-growing information technology communications, the infrastructure in many of its member states is unparalleled in sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite this indisputable potential, 40 percent of people in the region continue to subsist on a daily income of less than US\$1, facing high levels of malnutrition, illiteracy, inadequate basic services and infrastructure needed to sustain basic human development.

Several research studies have linked these weak social indicators to a multitude of factors ranging from such international phenomena as debt and globalization to domestic issues such as wars, HIV/AIDS and a low level of economic growth.

However, Ramsamy says most member states have already put in place policies, measures and strategies, which if consolidated, are sufficient to address some of the problems. He cites policy frameworks such economic reforms, democracy and governance processes that are already bearing fruit in parts of the region.

Studies show that SADC requires an overall economic growth rate of at least six percent of GDP to begin to reverse poverty levels in the region. At the current annual average growth rate



Multi-pronged strategy needed to fight rural and urban poverty.

P. Wade

of three percent, it means poverty is disappearing in some countries while increasing in others.

According to a recent SADC Finance and Investment Sector report, Angola, DRC, South Africa and Zambia recorded growth rates below the regional average from 1991-98. The rest, registered rates above three percent with the highest recorded in Mozambique (7.6 percent).

However, as Ramsamy admits, these crude economic indicators can be deceiving as they do not show how the national cake is distributed among citizens. Thus countries that have recorded high economic growth rates may have fared badly in other areas such as GDP per capita, literacy and life expectancy. In other words, the same countries may still experience high levels of poverty, albeit declining.

The SADC executive-secretary says bearing in mind the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, it is imperative that the region puts in place broad-based policy options that translate into a Regional Strategic Plan that addresses the problem.

He cites macro-economic policy frameworks that benefit the poor,

accelerated regional integration and pursuance of good governance practices as well as an end to armed conflicts as some of the policy options available.

"Clearly, there is an urgent need for SADC to move forward, initiate and launch a strategy for poverty reduction on a sustainable basis. The potential and environment to do so is within reach," he says. □



P. Wade

Market integration gradually comes to fruition

by Munetsi Madakufamba

SADC's regional integration agenda is gradually coming to fruition with all member countries having shown their readiness to implement the crucial agreement on free trade.

As of 1 August all the 11 SADC countries which are signatories to the Trade Protocol had deposited their instruments of implementation with the secretariat, indicating when they will gazette tariff schedules in compliance with the Trade Protocol which is to be implemented in stages over eight years.

The protocol, signed in 1996, groups locally produced products into three categories: immediate liberalization at zero tariff; gradual liberalization over the eight-year span; and sensitive products that will be liberalized after 2008 but before 2012.

intra-regional trade would be free by 2008.

Before implementation, a SADC protocol has to be signed by heads of state and government, usually during the annual summit. The protocol is then taken to member states for debate in parliament which if it agrees with the provisions, the member state proceeds to ratify.

Once this has been done by two-thirds of the member states, the protocol becomes a legal document ready for implementation, and every member state is obliged to respect it whether they have ratified it or not. SADC has so far signed 20 protocols of which eight have entered into force.

By depositing instruments of ratification, member states give notice of details of implementation such as commencement date and the various product categories.

cases) of trade in SADC is informal. The launch of free trade is expected to formalize this by simplifying customs procedures.

This should come as a welcome move, said Athaliah Molokomme of the gender unit at the SADC Secretariat, who said the bulk of these informal traders are women who have been marginalized by rigid trade regulations between countries.

Trade is one of the main reasons SADC was formed in 1980 as the Southern Africa Development Co-ordinating Conference (SADCC) which was transformed to the Southern African Development Community in 1992.

At its formation, intra-regional trade was a paltry five percent increasing to only 20 percent over the last two decades, according to SITCD figures. The 20 percent represents about US\$9 billion dollars worth of trade among SADC countries.

The expansion of intra-regional trade has been hampered by the slow progress in implementing the trade protocol, considered by many as a barometer through which SADC's commitment to regional integration will be measured.

Along with 20 other SADC sectors, SITCD will now be co-ordinated from the Botswana headquarters as part of the current restructuring process, which seeks to make the organization more relevant to the objectives set in the 1992 Windhoek Treaty.

The sectors are to be collapsed into four directorates of Industry, Trade, Finance and Investment; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Infrastructure and Services; and Human and Social Development, and Special Programmes.

The trade directorate, generally considered the most important, was officially launched on 2 August at the Secretariat. Its core staff will soon be recruited but some member states have already seconded staff to this directorate. □



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Cross-border rail and road traffic is set to increase as trade among member states peaks following the creation of a free trade area in the region.

Products that qualify for immediate liberalization in one country may be considered "sensitive" in another. Malawi, whose economy relies heavily on tobacco, may feel that this should be classified as sensitive due to loss of potential foreign currency earnings.

John Mhina, outgoing director of the Tanzania-based SADC Industry and Trade Coordinating Division (SITCD) said the region hopes 85 percent of all

"Member states are now able to trade freely on those products that qualify for immediate tariff reduction while gradually lifting tariffs on those that are in category B, as well as continuing negotiations on outstanding issues," said Mhina.

Officially opening the council of ministers meeting in Blantyre, Vice-President Justin Malewezi of Malawi, said the bulk (70 percent in some

Mining industry on path to recovery

by Tinashe Madava

The mining industry in SADC member states is on a path of recovery following important investments and good performance by some minerals on the international market last year.

High investments in Mozambique's US\$1.3 billion MOZAL project, Tanzania's US\$205 million Ashanti Goldfields' Geita project and Zambia's US\$150 million Chambeshi Project led the recovery.

The mining sector contributes 60 percent to total foreign exchange earnings and 10 percent to the GDP of SADC.

In documents feeding into the action plan of the newly established Industry, Trade, Finance and Investment directorate, the mining sector says an increase in exploration expenditure in the region from US\$60 million last year to about US\$83 million in the first half of this year was recorded.

There was also an increase in the number of people employed in mining due to the opening of new gold mines in Tanzania and resuscitation of activities at the Tsumeb Corporation Mines by the Ongopolo Mining and Processing Limited in Namibia.

According to the strategic development plan, the sector contributes five percent to formal employment. Each mine employee supports, on average, between seven and 10 dependants, and the industry has been a major provider of schools, hospitals, recreation facilities and houses in many areas in the region.

A ministerial meeting was held last September in Pretoria, to discuss the conflict or blood diamond issue adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2001.

The first meeting to implement the UN resolution was held in Namibia in February and came up with a "road



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Despite a fall in prices of minerals on the world market, mining remains a major contributor to gross domestic product in many SADC countries.

map" which includes a series of focussed, expert meetings to develop various aspects of the envisaged international certification scheme for rough diamonds. The output of the expert meetings will be considered at a ministerial meeting scheduled for November 2001 in Botswana.

The mining sector has been placed under the Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment directorate.

Most of the SADC states have identified mining as a cornerstone for economic reconstruction and development because of the potential and

actual contribution which the sector makes to their economies.

Regional co-operation in mining is regulated by the SADC Protocol on Mining which came into force in February 2000.

Apart from providing the legal framework for co-operation and integration, the Protocol "spells out specific areas in which member states shall work together to make the mining sector a meaningful contributor towards the achievement of the SADC Vision and Common Agenda". □

Lesotho's new dawn: Elections beckon at last

by Kondwani Chirambo

Carefully managed tensions through an all-inclusive Interim Political Authority (IPA) appear to have finally set Lesotho towards the path to stability and elections in 2002, lost since 1998. Voter registration began 13 August for four weeks under the watchful eye of a Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) observer mission deployed to determine the country's election preparedness.

A six-member delegation spent five days collecting the necessary information in preparation for a larger observer group to the 2002 elections.

The Mission, led by Duke Lefhoko of the Botswana Parliament held consultations with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), civic organizations, representatives of the IPA and representatives of the electorate. Other MPs on the mission were: Roger Nkhwazi (Malawi), Amelia Sumbana (Mozambique) David Nyoni (South Africa), Priscilla Themba (Swaziland) and Priscilla Mushonga (Zimbabwe).

In its interim report, the mission found that the registration process in the 19 constituencies and 33 registration sites observed was well on course.

Nearly all sites had recorded more than 400 registrants each. The IEC had

expected an average of 600 registrants per station. Some 1,319 registration points in the country targeted a total of 900,000 registrants.

Agents of the main political parties were represented in registration centres, and civic organizations, seemed satisfied with the process. The SADC-PF Mission noted the use of the unemployed (the majority of them women) as registration officers -- an encouraging move, they said.

The mission recommended that electoral administrators ensure that all registration sites were electrified and an effective system of replenishing registration material was put in place.

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SADC pledges to improve delivery of ICT

by Tinashe Madava

SADC leaders attending the recent summit in Malawi pledged to improve delivery of the information communication technologies (ICT). They noted that, if harnessed, ICT can contribute significantly to the economic development of countries and facilitate the provision of a better life to citizens.

The "Information, Communication Technology Declaration", reveals that the challenge for SADC is to ensure improved living standards for all its people, by harnessing the human, capital, technology and material resources at its disposal in the most productive and sustainable manner.

In a world where most, if not all countries are increasingly turning to information technology, the region cannot afford to lag behind if the goal of regional integration is to be achieved. The leaders said that a reliable and affordable information and communications infrastructure is the foundation upon which a 'Southern African Renaissance' can be built and sustained.



SARDC

Setting parameters for an effective information communication network, the summit undertook to put in place effective policy guidelines, legislation, and a well-defined strategy that included telecommunications deregulation as well as a reliable and efficient infrastructure.

"We undertake to continue to sustain efforts in creating a favourable regulatory environment and accelerated liberalization of the telecommunications sector, which aims at creating a three-tier separation of power, with

government responsible for a conducive national policy framework, independent regulators responsible for licensing, and a multiplicity of providers in a competitive environment responsible for providing services," the declaration states.

It notes that in removing trade barriers and reducing ICT related taxes and tariffs, the costs of ICT equipment will be decreased in compliance with the SADC Trade Protocol and World Trade Organisation processes to enable e-commerce-readiness.

The declaration also seeks to remove restrictive license fees and other costly and time-consuming bureaucratic barriers in order to lower the cost of entry to the market. □

Masire optimistic on Congo political talks

by Hugh McCullum

The long awaited inter-Congolese dialogue's political conference in Addis Ababa began with some optimism but adjourned five days after it began on 15 October.

Former Botswana president, Ketumile Masire who said "he was cautiously optimistic" before the meeting began, suspended the proceedings when the Kinshasa delegates walked out of a plenary session 19 October. The conference was to have charted the DRC's political future and mark a path to national reconciliation and democratic elections

President Joseph Kabila of DRC did not attend the official opening after describing the first phase of the talks as a mere technical forum. The team he sent walked out of a plenary session five days later but it was unclear whether the walkout was temporary or definitive.

Masire's suspension of the dialogue may have been diplomatic as well, since the Addis meeting was seriously underfunded, allowing for only 80 delegates. South Africa has since offered to pay for hosting all 330 expected delegates. The date and venue for the South African conference have not yet been set.

Masire was cautious about progress for many reasons, not least of which are the two years he has spent trying to bring the many political and rebel factions together. It has been an exercise in frustration.

Before the Addis meeting opened it was still not decided who would attend the conference, which was scheduled to run for 50 days, nor who would run the country while the politicians and activists write a new constitution and hold national elections.

"It is not an easy task to hatch a programme for the future of a country, and therefore we cannot be deceived that it will be an easy go. But certainly, the



President's Office, Zimbabwe

The encouragement we have is from the spirit of give and take – Masire

encouragement we have got is from the spirit of give and take, the desire to achieve," he said during a briefing recently of the Security Council.

Masire knows too well the minefields that face the DRC. For two years he has been trying to encourage a political dialogue as the UN mediator in the vast central African nation after three years of civil war.

Some of his optimism stemmed from two fairly successful meetings in advance of the Addis conference. Late in September Presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Joseph Kabila of DRC met at Blantyre at a summit hosted by President Bakili Muluzi, current chair of SADC. Although details of the meeting are sparse, the Rwanda president said he would pull his troops out of eastern Congo once the Hutu Interahamwe militias were disarmed and demobilized. Rwanda supports one of the rebel factions and is one of several countries with troops still in DRC.

Muluzi summed up the closed meetings. He said certain agreements had been reached and that a ministerial follow-up committee had been formed. "The most important thing is that these two leaders met and discussed the way forward. I encourage them to continue talking," Muluzi said.

Masire was also encouraged by his

first effort at conference-building in Gaborone at the end of August. It was, he said, unexpectedly successful. He brought together some 60 delegates from the Kinshasa government, the armed and unarmed opposition movements and civil society. This meeting agreed to hold the Addis conference delegates were to begin the dialogue that is a necessary, if long delayed, first stage to peace according to the Lusaka Agreement of July 1999.

Despite the political and financial setbacks, and in whatever venue, eventually the inter-Congolese dialogue has a lot of work to accomplish and many factions to deal with. It is supposed to establish a political order, agree on a transitional government, set a timetable for elections and create a new national army comprising both government and rebel troops.

Much, however, will depend on the delegates. Masire reminded everyone at the pre-conference meeting at Gaborone that each political group must take care that all regions are adequately represented. On paper, the unarmed opposition parties should have 62 delegates, and the Ugandan-backed Movement for the Liberation of Congo and Rwanda's Rally for Congolese Democracy with 62 along with the government and civic organizations, also having 62 each.

It was agreed at Gaborone that five commissions would be established at the dialogue: politics and the constitution; defence and security; economics and finance; society and culture; and national reconciliation. The commissions will report to the plenary assembly sitting behind closed doors.

On the military front, there are now about 2,500 UN troops (MONUC) monitoring the shaky ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the frontline but there is still sporadic fighting in the east pitting Rwandan backed rebels and government militias south of Goma. □

Restructuring to deepen economic integration

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Chissano to chair a "troika" that will lead the important SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. His term will be for one year and he will be deputized by Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa, with Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, immediate past chairperson, completing the troika.

According to the current chairperson of SADC, President Bakili Muluzi, the matter did not take much time when the leaders met behind closed doors, as many would have thought. Muluzi took over the chair from Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

But away from this perceived political controversy, the summit quietly endorsed the implementation of restructuring of the 14-member organization, allowing it to rediscover its identity as an economic, rather than a political body.

The exercise, which kicked off after it was formally adopted by an extraordinary summit in Windhoek in March 2001, has seen the appointment of senior staff at SADC's headquarters in Gaborone, from which all operations will now be directed.

The summit appointed Albert Muchanga, a former senior civil ser-



Chairperson of SADC President Bakili Muluzi discusses a point with Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy during the Summit in Blantyre last August.

President's Office, Zimbabwe

vant in the Zambian government, as deputy to Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy. Both men are economists, as is the number three man in the hierarchy at SADC House, the chief director, Dr Themba Mhlongo who is a South African technocrat.

Under the new structure, at least one of the four directorates to replace the sectors previously co-ordinated by member states, is sure to be headed by an economist – the industry, trade,

finance and investment directorate. The other directorates are food, agriculture and natural resources; infrastructure and services; and social and human development, along with special programmes.

The economic directorate was launched on 2 August at SADC headquarters in Botswana. However, the actual winding down of activities in all of its cluster of sectors may take up to six months to complete.

SADC joins in rejecting new round at WTO meeting

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and Canada in general, which continue to heavily subsidize their farmers, shutting out those from the South.

The undertakings made by developed countries at previous global trade talks, especially regarding better access to their markets, have failed to materialize.

Available figures show that tariffs on manufactured goods have dropped from 40 to four percent over the past 50 years, but those on agricultural products still stand at between 40 and 50 percent. It is against this back-

ground that developing countries naturally feel they have been given a raw deal.

Meanwhile the WTO has to deal with the demands of the increasingly influential NGOs and the anti-globalization, anti-capitalist movement. While the more moderate mainstream NGOs want more equity in global trade, the radical anti-globalization campaigners want to shut down the WTO completely.

There is consensus in the WTO that the current global trading system is tilted against the poor, and thus NGOs

are calling for a rules-based regime as opposed to a free-for-all where small countries are forced to negotiate on a one-on-one basis with global giants.

On the other hand, anti-globalization campaigners are convinced that negotiations will yield little if anything, and are prepared to achieve this even through violent means.

But if Doha becomes another fiasco at the negotiating table, the campaigners may not have to resort to extreme means of getting rid of the WTO. It will be self-destruct. □

"We are aware of the possible problems (associated with restructuring), but we are willing to proceed and correct our mistakes along the way," said Hidipo Hamutenya, former chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers and Namibian Minister of Trade and Industry.

The sectors were previously coordinated by people answerable to national ministries, rendering the executive secretary of SADC powerless in supervising their work.

As the organization continues with its restructuring, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), is being transformed into the African Union.

As African leaders attempt to move the continent into the mainstream of global economics, they adopted as a blueprint the New African Initiative in July at the OAU summit in Zambia. The initiative is a merger of the southern Africa-backed Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP) and the Senegalese Omega Plan.

However, as leaders move to revamp economic development both at the regional and continental levels, many challenges such as HIV/AIDS, food security and conflicts remain at the top of the agenda.

Regarding food security, the SADC summit noted with "great concern" that the region faces a severe cereal shortage of 3.87 million tonnes.



President Mugabe signs one of the SADC legal documents in Blantyre. Five protocols, a declaration and an agreement amending the SADC Treaty were signed by heads of state and government on 14 August.

SADC requires 28.91 million tonnes of cereal for a single year. Only South Africa has a surplus this season, while the rest of the countries will have to import to meet requirements.

On the conflict situation in the region, the summit emphasised the need to end current wars in Angola and the DRC. It appealed to the international community to provide food assistance to millions of Angolans who have not known peace for the past 26 years.

The summit hailed the current troop withdrawal in the DRC and appealed to the international community to speed up the deployment of UN military observers. It condemned the "looting of natural resources and minerals of the DRC" and urged member states to prohibit the importation or transit of such resources through their territories.

Zimbabwe's economic and political situation requires a speedy resolution of the land dispute which has caused the current impasse with its main donors. The summit appointed a task force from Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa to help the country resolve its problems.

As SADC continues the search for solutions to its current economic and political challenges, the spotlight

remains on the current transformation of its institutions to put the organization on a stronger footing to deal with its wide agenda. □

Lesotho

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Behind the framework of this new electoral transition, however, disillusion with politics abounds among many Basotho.

"Potential registrants appear disenchanted with non-delivery by politicians; unemployment and the lack of tangible benefits accruing from the political system. Some people associate elections with conflict rather than resolution of conflict, perhaps reminiscent of the instability accompanying the 1998 national elections," the SADC-PF mission said in its report.

Of great interest, however, is the adoption of a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system, essentially a combination of the Westminster First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) and List Proportional system (List-PR).

The old FPTP was perceived to favour the dominance of a single party, leaving out any opposition possibilities, creating a potential for conflict. With the MMP system, the IPA hopes to avoid this scenario. □

Protocols and declarations signed at Chichiri Conference Centre, Blantyre, 14 August 2001

- Politics Defence and Security Cooperation;
- Firearms, Ammunition and other Related Materials;
- Fisheries;
- Culture, Information and Sport;
- Protocol Against Corruption;
- Agreement Amending the Treaty; and
- Declaration on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Two agreements help Zimbabwe land dispute

by Munetsi Madakufamba
and Privilege Musvanhiri

The SADC task force on Zimbabwe meeting for the first time in Harare urged all stakeholders to engage in open dialogue in the search for permanent solutions to the country's politically-charged land dispute.

The task force, comprising leaders of six SADC countries who were appointed at the August summit in Blantyre, heard presentations from political parties and more than 20 civil society groups, who all agreed to a SADC call for open dialogue. The presentations were meant to give the SADC leaders first hand understanding of events on the ground.

Addressing delegates and journalists at the opening session of the meeting, President Bakili Muluzi of Malawi, who is chairperson of SADC said, "Of great concern to all of us is that if the land issue is not urgently resolved amicably and peacefully, the economic and political problem Zimbabwe is facing now, could easily snowball across the entire southern Africa region."

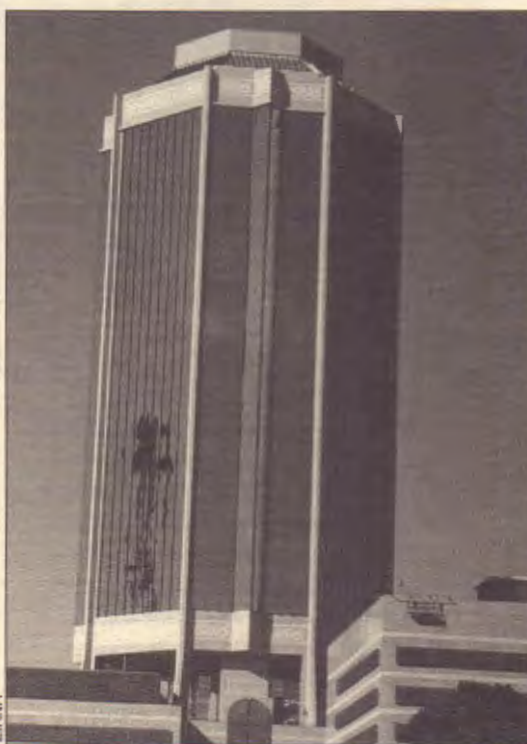
The summit was attended by Presidents Festus Mogae, Botswana; Muluzi, Malawi; Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique; Sam Nujoma, Namibia; Thabo Mbeki, South Africa and host President Robert Mugabe. Angolan defence minister Kundi Paihama represented President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The leaders expressed encouragement at the Zimbabwean government's acceptance of the Commonwealth-brokered agreement reached in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, last month, seeking to put an end to violence on the farms and ensure an orderly land reform.

In a move hailed by the SADC leaders, the stakeholders unanimously

acknowledged the Abuja agreement placing particular emphasis on the need for equitable land re-distribution and national dialogue in order to find a speedy and sustainable solution to the land problem.

The summit also directed that a SADC ministerial task force be established to "proactively continue to look into the economic and political developments in Zimbabwe".



Zimbabwe central bank needs foreign aid to stabilize local currency.

In the Abuja agreement, the government of Zimbabwe commits itself to curb violence on the farms and promises to thwart any new farm occupations.

On its part, Britain, the former colonial power, reaffirms its commitment to a significant financial contribution to Zimbabwe's land reform programme.

The financial aid will be channelled through UNDP. In a letter to the Harare summit, UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan reaffirmed the

commitment of the UNDP to work with the Zimbabwean government in implementing the land reform and resettlement programme.

The UNDP is soon to dispatch a team of observers to assess the situation on the ground in-order to come up with a framework to deal with the issue.

The land dispute in Zimbabwe deteriorated in 1998 after Britain backtracked on an earlier pledge to fund the redistribution exercise, citing a breakdown in the rule of law when government refused to deal with land-hungry peasants who had occupied predominantly white-owned commercial farms.

The Zimbabwean government, which has categorically refused to compensate the white farmers whose land is to be compulsorily acquired saying only Britain has that responsibility, has urged peaceful co-existence on the farms between the farmers and the protesters.

To date, the protesters remain on the farms while the government presses ahead with its resettlement exercise which it has vehemently said it will continue with, with or without donor assistance.

In retaliation, Britain has frozen financial aid to Zimbabwe and successfully lobbied other donors to do the same, triggering a serious economic downturn which has negatively affected Zimbabwe's neighbouring countries.

Political violence especially on the farms and during local government and parliamentary elections has only served to worsen the situation.

But the recent landmark agreement in Abuja and the ongoing SADC initiative have presented a fresh ray of hope in resolving the complex land question in what is SADC's second largest economy. □

Land reform basis for economic development

by Tinashe Madava

SADC land ministers have said equitable land reform is the platform on which southern Africa can resuscitate its economies, as this should bring peace and political stability in the region.

This emerged at a recent meeting of land ministers from nine southern African countries in Windhoek, Namibia, who sought to continue the search for a solution to the region's land reform problems.

The meeting follows a decision at the organisation's heads of state meeting in Malawi last August which directed the ministers to seek urgent solutions that collectively address the land problem.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, the ministers said land reform programs should benefit blacks because white farmers had unfairly acquired most of the region's best land under European colonial rule.

The ministers recommended that land reform should be incorporated as a core responsibility of the newly created Food Agriculture and Natural Resources directorate, which is to be based at the SADC Headquarters in Gaborone.

To this effect, the ministers agreed that a meeting of senior officials responsible for land reform in the region should be convened as soon as possible to develop concrete steps to implement their recommendations.

Greater emphasis was placed on the issue that land and agrarian reform must include an integrated approach to rural development that is sustainable, broad-based and equitable, and addresses pressures and the need for land by urban populations.

"It was noted that there is need for an equitable balance in addressing the land demands of the rural and urban poor on the one hand and the need to empower indigenous entrepreneurs on the other.



Long-running land issue: Ndebele kraal, 1898.

National Archives of Zimbabwe

"There is a need to create conditions for optimal utilisation of land by ensuring that settled farmers have access to complimentary infrastructure and support services, including credit, research, training and extension," read the communiqué.

The ministers reiterated the need to develop a race and gender sensitive system of land tenure that provides security to all landholdings and creates opportunities for development.

Opening the meeting, Namibian president Sam Nujoma said that land was important in the social, economic and political development of the region.

He said there was urgent need to address the land problems in order to maintain regional peace, stability and foster social and economic development.

Nujoma reminded delegates that the redistribution of land had been one of the main aims of African countries' liberation struggles.

"The struggle to gain political freedom and independence was characterised by the resolve of our people to liberate themselves and to determine their own future destiny," he said.

"Our aims and objectives were to

take full control of our national resources and means of production. Among these resources, land is the key to social and economic development," said Nujoma adding that the land problem differed from country to country.

He said that in Namibia white farmers owned more than 30,4 million hectares of commercial farm land and only 2,2 million hectares were in the hands of blacks.

Nujoma expressed the hope that Namibia's trading partners and friends will provide substantial support towards the US\$8,4 billion his country needs over the next five years to acquire a minimum of 10 million hectares for redistribution and resettlement of landless Namibians.

The three-day meeting was attended by agriculture ministers from Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, who emphasised the importance of addressing land reforms in accordance with national policies and programmes in order to ensure equitable access to land resources and promote balanced national development. □

SADC in dance: Reliving southern Africa's history

by Jabulani Sithole

At the dawn of a new day the reverberating sounds of the African drum and horn wake up the people of the village. Women carry their water pots, ululating and dance to the rhythmic sounds, singing *mauya vana vese ve SADC* (welcome all the children of SADC), welcoming guests to the 2001 SADC Dance Festival recently held in Harare.

The dance festival, the first to be held in the region, ran from 13-22 September showcasing rich and diverse presentations from the region. Under the theme "Building SADC Through Culture," it attracted 10 countries with over 300 artists, dance experts and critics to Harare for the cultural extravaganza.

Speaking at the festival launch, the chairperson of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Culture, Information and Sport, Joel Libombo of Mozambique said the dances bring "together the region through culture, that has resisted all forms of humiliation like colonialism, racism and xenophobia."

The 10-day multi-venued event was a great success according to SADC Culture, Information and Sport sector co-ordinator Renato Matusse. "The festival had good participation, supportive audiences and had good backing from the private sector and international organizations.

"The festival helped people of the region get to know more about each other and change stereotyping tendencies of other ethnic groups – it proved that culture is an aspect of life that accepts diversity as strength."

Zimbabwe's dance piece, a collection of colourful and dynamic choreography of traditional dances entitled "Celebrating Life" featured an orchestra of a wide spectrum of indigenous instruments – the drum, *mbira* (thumb piano), marimba and *hosho* (percussions), among others.



One of the many dance groups performing at the festival in Harare.

Through dance, social groups retrieve and recreate the community's history, values, language and culture. The cultural artefacts are then used to forge meaningful bases for cross-cultural communication like the Kalanga dances, *amabhiza*, performed by both Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The *amabhiza* dance is sacred, used for rain-making ceremonies and also as a celebratory communal feast dance, depicting families in unity and love or courtship.

Apart from the *amabhiza* dance, the Botswana National Dance Ensemble's presentation was colourful, drawing from the different ethnic groups of the country, the Basarwa, Baletle, Bangwato and Hambukushi, among others.

Dressed in their national costume – tanned leather showing the abundance of cattle in the country – the Botswana thrilled many with their *patisi* dance, a resemblance of the "gumboot" and *inquzu* dance of the Zulu and Ndebele people.

Ritual dances also enable a community to set out on a spiritual journey

back into the tribes' past like the dances presented by Malawi's National Dance Troupe. *Indungula* and *gule wamkulu*, popularly performed during the installation of chiefs and at funerals served to show this aspect of southern African dances.

The *vimbuzi*, a healing dance performed to cure mental illness was also performed by Malawi while the Ballet Nsanda from the Democratic Republic of Congo performed a different ritual dance that is done to initiate young people into adulthood.

South Africa's Indlovu Link group attracted many with their highly energetic, multifaceted choreography dubbed "the Pulse of Africa". This blends strong voices, drums, body language and a rainbow of stamped rhythms that re-enacts a diverse spectrum of life in Africa.

Their presentation was a collection of dances that span different generations from the Shangaan, Zulu, Xhosa and Tswana ceremonies, to the "gumboot" and *pata pata*, township jazz of the 1960s and the 70s. They also per-

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SADC signs culture, information and sport protocol

by Jabulani Sithole

SADC is now set to raise the levels of regional co-operation among the peoples of southern Africa through art, culture and sport following the recently signed Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport.

The protocol was among five others signed at the recent SADC Heads of State and Government summit in Malawi. The other protocols were on politics defence and security co-operation; control of firearms, ammunition and other related materials; fisheries and a protocol against corruption.

The protocols still have to be adopted by the parliaments of the member states before they are ratified.

The culture, information and sport protocol seeks development and implementation of policies and programmes in the areas of culture, information and sport, which are consistent with the principles of the region.

Through the protocol, member states are challenged to "co-operate in research and in the training of cultural agents, information workers and sports personnel." It issues a call to "identify, designate and establish from already existing institutions within the region, centres of excellence and specialization, to be utilized for research, training and other related purposes to promote the region's culture."

Regional interaction is fundamental for artists, media practitioners and athletes and the protocol seeks to achieve this. The protocol also gives emphasis on the member countries to ensure gender equality and equity in the areas

of culture, information and sport.

Through the document, SADC countries commit themselves to formulating and implementing policies that promote indigenous languages for national socio-economic development.



SADC's common identity is demonstrated by many cultural similarities among its member countries.

The protocol urges policy measures that support and encourage the learning and wider usage of indigenous languages, to preserve the culture of the peoples of the region.

On the important aspect of preserving cultural heritage, SADC countries "shall establish policy guidelines for the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the region in all its many facets." Emphasis should be placed on traditional knowledge, folklore and cultural sites and institutions of cultural heritage such as libraries museums and archives.

Apart from promoting the creation of new information policies and harmoniz-

ing others, member states are urged to co-operate in improving the free flow of information within the region. This, it says, should be done through capacity-building in media especially by encouraging networking among news agencies in the region.

Through the protocol, SADC also promises to establish a regionally and internationally recognized accreditation system or procedures for media practitioners with specific guidelines to facilitate the work of media personnel in the rest of the world.

Integral on the sport component of the protocol is the agreement by member states to promote and facilitate regional integration through sport. This will be through continued interaction in regional tournaments of different sporting disciplines and the creation of centres of talent development, centres of excellence and a regional sports academy. □

SADC in dance

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formed dances marking the liberation era in southern Africa, *gijima mfana*, in support of the liberation struggles. Then the *pantsula* dance mixed with acid jazz took many in the audience through the paces of a romantic flirtation.

The festival culminated with a SADC Peace Dance. Choreographed by Simbarashe Mugadza from Zimbabwe, the dance featured 30 dancers from the region to promote peace within the region.

"The peace dance represents an effort of what the artists can achieve if they are given the resources and support to contribute to the promotion of peace," said Matusse. He echoed an idea that a SADC Dance Company can become a reality given the success of the peace dance and the regional plan to establish a dance academy in Mozambique. □

Terrorist attacks will worsen world poverty

The World Bank has projected widespread poverty in developing countries arising from reduced economic growth following last month's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The Bank says a preliminary assessment indicates that economic growth will decline, condemning at least 10 million more people in developing countries to live in poverty next year.

"We have seen the human toll on the U.S. with citizens from some 80 nations perishing in New York and Pennsylvania but there is another human toll that will be felt in all parts of the developing World, especially

Africa," says James Wolfensohn, Bank president.

Before the 11 September attacks, the Bank expected developing countries growth to fall from 5.5 percent in 2000 to 2.9 percent in 2001 as a result of economic slowdowns in U.S., Japan and Europe and then rebound to 4.3 percent in 2002.

Because of the attacks on America there will be a delay in the rich countries' recovery in 2002, and the Bank now warns that developing countries'

growth could be lower by 0.4 to 0.75 percentage points in 2002.

The impact of the attacks is going to affect all major airlines, tourism and stock markets. U.S. airlines have already appealed for government assistance. (*Times of Zambia*)

New payment system for Namibia

Perago Financial System Enablers (Pty) Ltd, a South African company, has been awarded the contract to provide a new national inter-bank settlement system for Namibia.

Perago was appointed ahead of international competition and will install a special computer software that it designed and built. The system provides Namibia with a state-of-the-art settlement system that complies with the international guidelines for systematically important payment systems.

The Bank of Namibia is driving a banking industry initiative aimed at establishing a payment system infrastructure in Namibia. To date the Namibian banks have depended heavily on South African banks to provide payment and clearing services. While the Bank of Namibia is driving the settlement leg of the project, commercial banks are busy seeking solutions for the Namibian payment and clearing arrangements.

The implementation of the new inter-bank settlement system, based on real-time gross settlement principles, will, once implemented, enable the Namibian banks to exchange payments electronically. These fund transfers will also, in line with international practices, be final and irrevocable, bringing the Namibian system in line with international requirements for national payment systems. (*ITWeb*)

Mozambique: More debt cancelled

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed recently that Mozambique has qualified for the completion point of the "enhanced" version of the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) debt relief initiative.

Addressing a Maputo press conference, Finance Minister Luisa Diogo said that "enhanced HIPC", on top of the initial version of HIPC, for which Mozambique qualified in 1999, wiped about US\$4.3 billion off Mozambique's debt stock. The debt stock had stood at about US\$6 billion dollars at the start of 1999, and has now fallen to US\$1.6 billion.

The debt cancellation under enhanced HIPC alone is US\$600 million. Diogo said that the debt service ratio (debt servicing as a percentage of exports of goods and services) had now fallen from 26 percent to just four per cent. (*AIM*)

Angola to privatize bank

The Angolan government has begun the process of privatizing a major public bank, the Bank of Commerce and Industry (BCI). According to recent reports, the state would sell off 51 percent of its shares in BCI, a bank with an estimated US\$4.5 million in capital.

The government was expected to inject a further US\$1.5 million into the bank before concluding negotiations with private buyers.

Meanwhile, a new bank – Banco Sol – was launched in Angola, aiming to provide loans to the nation's poorest people, especially in rural areas outside Luanda. (*IRIN*)

Salim honoured

President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania has paid tribute to the former Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity, Salim Ahmed Salim.

Speaking from the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam, he said Salim has made the east African nation proud of his enormous contribution to the African cause. (*Sabanews*)

Where others wavered

Where others wavered, by Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia, published by PANAF Books, London, 2001, 476pp.

Review by Dr Renato Matusse
Co-ordinator of the SADC Sector for Culture, Information and Sport (Mozambique)

President Sam Nujoma, the former chairperson of SADC, and one of the central figures in the liberation of southern Africa has just disentangled himself from the revolution and given the liberators a voice and the younger generation an account of how costly it was to arrive at hoisting the national flag. In a book published this year, he admits in the acknowledgement page that this was not an easy undertaking.

"When I started this book, I thought it would be a matter of a year or two to complete [...] In order to do just to my other duties and responsibilities, the only time available has been from 3am to 7.30am, before the start of official working hours," says the Namibian president.

In other words, where there is a will there is a way.

More than an account of the liberation struggle of Namibia and southern Africa, *Where Others Wavered* provides insights into where SADC derives its shared vision and strength.

The book brings to mind the cultural commonalities and historical linkages among the people of the region. These assets are part of the foundation of the SADC of today. The Bantu migration southwards in the first 100 years BC and the Mfecane, or northward Nguni movement in the XIX century, provided a strong common culture among the people of this region, perhaps the first experience with global culture they had.

Migrant labour played an important role in building SADC. It is under the most oppressive conditions of work and pay, described in *Where Others Wavered*, that the sons and daughters of this region developed strong ties of brotherhood and awoke to the fact that they all had a common enemy who, like the leopard, could only change the tactics not the spots.

Where others wavered also reminds us of the fact that labour migration coined and developed a language, Fanakalo (elsewhere called Lapalapa), which, it seems, is still to catch the attention of linguists, at least from the point of view of how people from diverse language backgrounds can find ways of communicating, just as was the case with Africans and Arabs who ended up developing Swahili, in the process. Fanakalo, like Swahili, is a *lingua franca* that can build bridges as Nujoma experienced during his

early years of political activism.

Tanzania, is another pillar on which SADC was built. The late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere is not only remembered as a Pan Africanist who placed his country's development second to offering it all to the liberation movements of this region as their rear base. At independence, he lit the torch on Mount Kilimanjaro, a torch for the liberation of Africa. Mwalimu was also central in inspiring these liberation movements to unity and to perceiving the independence of their own countries as incomplete until the region had rid itself of the forces of oppression.

With assumed identity, disguised looks and appearances and with the protection and support of a network of contacts that he established on his way, Nujoma eventually reached the safety of Dar-es-Salaam on 22 March 1960. His journey had taken him through present-day Botswana, Zimbabwe, DRC, Zambia and eventually to Dar-es-Salaam, on foot, by train and by air and, amazingly, without a passport!

At that time he could have hardly dreamt that he would, in 2001 chair SADC, an organization that now brings together some of the countries he passed through and with whose leaders he engaged in the discourse of political liberation. And today in the discourse of economic liberation!

Recent publications and acquisitions

Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review 2001

—Southern African Marketing Co. (Pty) Ltd. and SADC.- 2001

Available from: SADC Secretariat P Bag 0095 Gaborone Botswana or Southern African Marketing Company (Pty) Ltd. PO Box 20112, Gaborone Botswana. Email: samramaa@mega.bw

Regional Economic Review: Southern Africa Economic Summit 2001

—SADC, Finance and Investment Sector

Co-ordinating Unit.- 2001

Available from: SADC Secretariat P Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana Internet: www.sadc.net

Southern Africa Economic Summit 2000 Report: the African Economic Renaissance: Making it Happen

—Moody-Stuart, Mark and Rhodes, William R.- 2000

Available from: World Economic Forum 91-93 route de la capitale 1223 Cologny/Geneva, Switzerland. Email: con-

tant@weforum.org Internet: www.weforum.org

These are Our Rights: Children in Zimbabwe Speak Out

—Human Rights Research and Documentation Trust SAVE the Children (UK).- 2000

Available from: Save the Children (UK), 10 Natal Rd, Belgravia, Harare or the Human Rights Research and Documentation Trust of Southern Africa, PO Box CY 2446, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe

SADC diary

2001

OCTOBER	1	International Day of Older Persons	all SADC
	14	SADC Creators and Performers Day	all SADC
	15	World Food Day	
	16	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	all SADC
	23-25	3rd International Disaster & Emergency Readiness Conference	Netherlands
	24	United Nations Day	all SADC
NOVEMBER	5-9	World Food Summit	Italy
	27 -29	International Conference on Adult Learning & Poverty Alleviation	South Africa
	5-6	SADC-EU Joint Steering Committee Meeting; to review the Berlin Initiative	Belgium
	9-13	Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO	Qatar
	30	SADC Annual Briefing of Diplomats	Tanzania
DECEMBER	1	World AIDS Day	all SADC
	4-6	SADC Drug Control Committee Meeting	South Africa
	10	Human Rights Day	all SADC

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	-
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	6.13
DRC	Congo Franc	714
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	9.33
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	59.75
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	29.95
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	21700
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	9.33
Seychelles	Rupee (100 cents)	5.52
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	9.33
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	9.24
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	888
Zambia	Kwacha (100 cents)	3560
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	55.00

Source: Standard Chartered Bank, Zimbabwe Ltd, 8 October 2001

Public Holidays for the period Oct – Dec 2001

Date	Holiday	Country
1 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Lesotho Independence Day	Lesotho
8 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
14 October	SADC Creators and Performers Day	all SADC
24 October	Zambia Independence Day	Zambia
11 November	Angola Independence Day	Angola
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of National Reconciliation	South Africa
17 December	Public Holiday	South Africa
22 December	Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	all SADC
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Boxing Day	Zambia, Swaziland, Malawi, Lesotho, Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe