



Proactive process of redefining a new regional agenda

by Munetsi Madakufamba

The restructuring of SADC is a proactive process of redefining a regional agenda that is in sync with member states' aspirations, and not just an exercise aimed at centralizing management of the 13-member organization.

This was said by SADC Executive Secretary Dr Prega Ramsamy in a wide-ranging interview with *SADC Today*.

"The entire purpose of the restructuring was to have an efficient organization that would respond better to our challenges of underdevelopment especially in the context of a globalized world," said Ramsamy.

He said the new agenda is spelt out in the 15-year Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) which was launched in early 2004. This has since been disaggregated into time horizons of 1-year, 5-year and 15-year implementation plans.

The one-year business plans - an analysis of the activities to be undertaken, deliverables and financial resources needed - will be tabled for approval at the Council of Ministers in February 2005.

Ramsamy said the restructuring exercise is almost complete. "We have now recruited the four directors who will be responsible for the implementation of

the RISDP at the directorate level. Some heads of units have also been recruited and others will be recruited during the next financial year," he said.

Regarding food security, Ramsamy said the situation has markedly improved and member states are already implementing the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security adopted in May 2004. He cited the provision of subsidized inputs as one of the measures that some member states have adopted targeting vulnerable groups in the region.

On HIV and AIDS, a five-year business plan, 2005-2009, has been completed. This will facilitate the implementation of the SADC Strategic Framework and Programme of Action for Combating HIV and AIDS in the region. The Secretariat marked the World AIDS Day on 1 December with a workshop aimed at developing a workplace policy on HIV and AIDS.

Ramsamy said contrary to popular belief, the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections adopted by Summit in August

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Berenger visits SADC House, calls for concrete programmes

by Sechele Sechele

The Chairperson of SADC and Prime Minister of Mauritius, Paul Berenger, has called for implementation of the numerous protocols already ratified, and speedy action to cap the restructuring of the Secretariat.

Berenger said this during his first visit to the SADC Secretariat in Botswana.

He said the issues include finalization of the restructuring process, the recruitment of permanent staff, and the construction of the new SADC headquarters on a plot of land provided by the Botswana government in Gaborone.

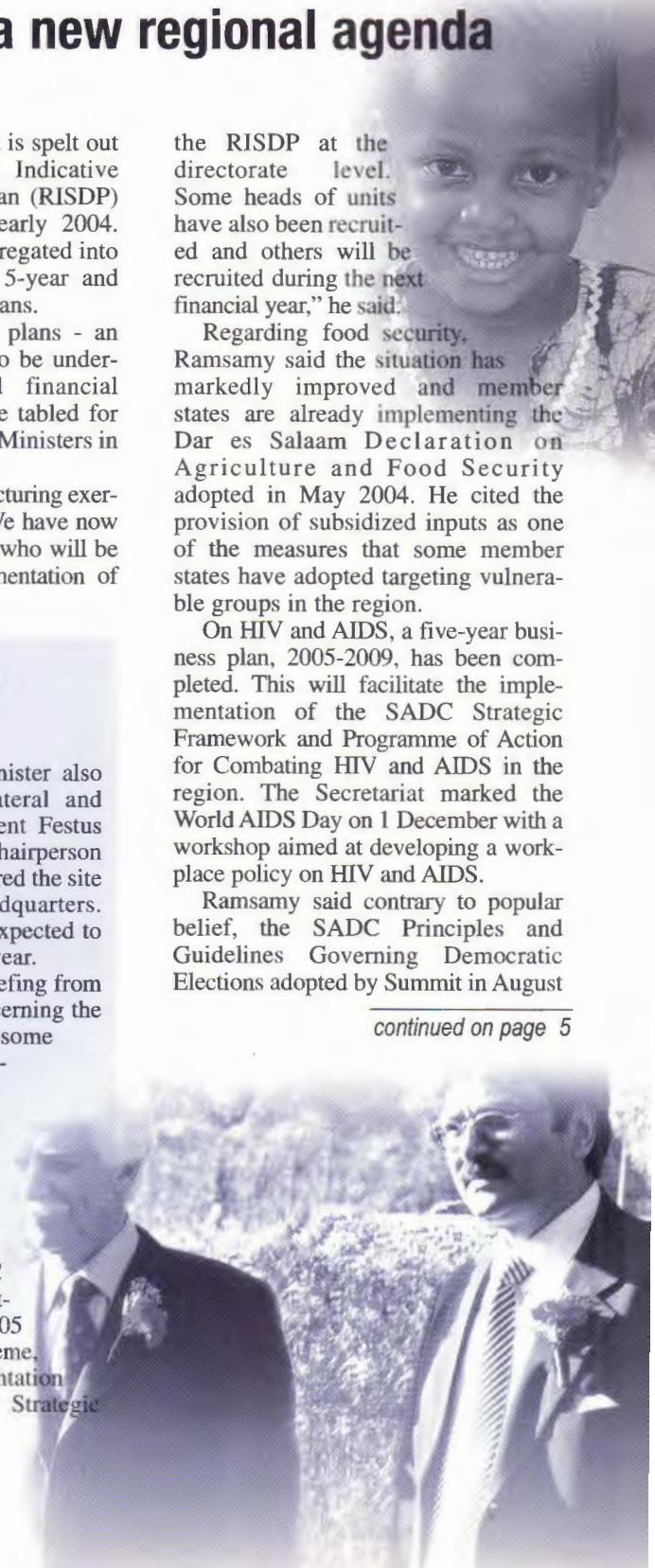
"It is also my wish to see the numerous Protocols we have signed being fully implemented by drawing out concrete programmes designed to build our Community.

"Our two major development plans, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ should enter the implementation phase," he said.

The Mauritian prime minister also held consultations on bilateral and regional issues with President Festus Mogae, who is the deputy chairperson of SADC, after which he toured the site of the new SADC headquarters. Construction on the site is expected to start before the end of next year.

"I received a thorough briefing from the Executive Secretary concerning the recruitment of directors and some heads of units who will spearhead the recruitment of permanent staff once on board."

He also discussed the forthcoming SADC Consultative Conference, which is a platform for interactive dialogue with SADC development partners, expected to be held 25-27 April 2005 in Mauritius under the theme, "Partnership for the Implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan". □



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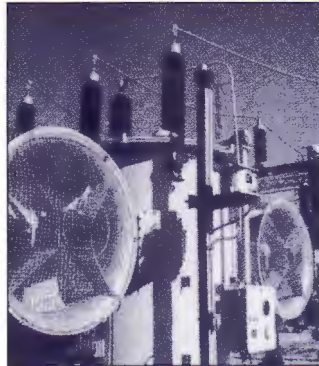
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Review of NEPAD-related SADC activities

Since the inception of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) three years ago, it has been broadly accepted as an important vehicle towards the achievement of development goals and objectives of the continent. The achievement of these goals, however, requires both national and regional efforts and SADC has taken NEPAD as an integral part of its policy development in the region in order to contribute to the continental objectives.

Synergies exist between SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and NEPAD in a number of areas including democracy, peace, security and governance; agriculture; food security and environment; education and health; science and technology; and infrastructure development and tourism. SADC and NEPAD have elaborated an implementation strategy with clear responsibilities, activities and time frames in these areas.

From the conceptualization to the development and advocating of the continental initiative, SADC played and continues to play an active role at the continental and global levels, through marketing NEPAD for support and partnership.

NEPAD has been included in SADC policy meetings since its inception in 2001. This is reflected in a number of decisions made by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the SADC Summit.

In fulfillment of Council decisions, the SADC Secretariat formulated the RISDP which reflects the objectives, principles and priorities of NEPAD.

In addition to the region's indicative plan, the Secretariat developed a number of projects in consultation with member states and these have been submitted for consideration and funding within the NEPAD framework. The project areas include energy, transport, water, agriculture, health and environment.

With projections indicating that the region's power supply will reach crisis

levels by 2007, power utilities in SADC countries have decided to team up to find ways and means of harmonizing the energy sector. They have developed the Western Corridor Power Project (WESTCOR) whose objective is pooling the vast hydro potential in Angola, DRC and Namibia.

In the transport sector, the region has formulated several projects, which are aimed at easing cross-border movements within the region, and rehabilitating rail and road networks.

The NEPAD and SADC secretariats have worked closely in the coordination and development of a Tourism Action Plan, which was endorsed by heads of state and government at the African Union's Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July this year.

The region has also participated in environmental issues by contributing significantly in the development of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. This plan contains a number of project proposals formulated and presented by the region. Plans are underway to develop a SADC Sub-regional Action Plan on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD which will contain projects in all programme areas. The region has also submitted projects aimed at the effective management of water resources in the region.

Over the past decade, SADC's agriculture production has not improved,

with poverty, food insecurity and the food import bill increasing. In order to address these problems, SADC has included in the RISDP, strategies that seek to, among other things, "attain sustainable access to safe and adequate food by all people and at all times for a healthy life".

Since April 2003, the SADC Secretariat has been working with NEPAD on agricultural programmes in irrigation, food safety, food reserve facilities, and agricultural trade as part of the measures for recovery and long-term regional food security.

In the health sector, SADC is making efforts to implement its HIV and AIDS Strategic Programme and Plan of Action 2003-2007 and the Maseru Declaration. The areas covered under SADC policy in this regard are aligned to the mandate of the NEPAD Health Policy strategy to address the pandemic in Africa.

SADC Council also approved recommendations from a high-level NEPAD meeting, which took place during the SADC summit in Mauritius in August, to enhance coordination between the two secretariats. Regular meetings will thus be held by the representatives from SADC on the NEPAD Steering Committee which include Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa plus the current chair of SADC, Mauritius. □ see Table page 8-9

Decisions made by extraordinary meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers in Blantyre, Malawi in January 2002

- The development of the RISDP and the SADC restructuring process should reflect NEPAD and programmes should be harmonised; ○
- The SADC Secretariat should attend the NEPAD Steering Committee meetings; ●
- A working relationship should be developed between the SADC and NEPAD Secretariats; ◇
- The cost implications of the implementation of NEPAD, including the involvement of the Secretariat, should be noted by member states, so that they can be considered and factored into future planning and budgeting in appropriate cases; and ◆
- The SADC Secretariat should carry out a study on the relationship between NEPAD and the Regional Economic Communities. ◆

Key: ○ Done ● Ongoing ◇ Established ◆ Not yet done

NEPAD three years on

by Hopewell Radebe

Scholars and analysts will soon find it difficult if not impossible to track, record and examine the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) continental projects.

Already, the Secretariat is overwhelmed by the challenge of keeping track of the first US\$5bn worth of projects that have resulted from international and intercontinental investors who have responded with enthusiasm to the African Union's NEPAD programme initiatives.

According to Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, the NEPAD Secretariat chairperson, the Secretariat has produced a short-term project list, but is yet to come up with a more comprehensive one giving details of the projects already underway while others are in the planning stage.

The Secretariat openly admits that some of the work linked to the NEPAD framework is being done independently by the private sector that is moving around the continent establishing new joint business ventures that are not yet recorded.

Nkuhlu outlined a range of energy, telecommunications, pharmaceutical and regional development projects, which are an indication of emerging priorities. Among the priority projects that Nkuhlu mentioned was the Western Power Corridor that will carry power from a hydroelectric scheme at the Inga falls in the Democratic Republic of Congo to Angola, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

The proposals for a generation project at the Inga falls have been around for 20 years, but NEPAD has provided a framework for collaboration among African states. The plans are now progressing and the project is expected to be strengthening the flow of electricity in the region before supply becomes critical in 2007.

Another project is the Mepanda Uncua Power Project for the downstream development of Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique.

This means that by 2010, SADC will be at least chasing one of the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Action which emerged from the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The region will be using cleaner and environmentally friendly ways of generating electricity as well as reducing poverty through increased access to energy for millions of poor households.

While there is a possibility of World Bank funding for these projects, a proposed African Energy Fund could also make a contribution to the financing. The primary aim of the energy fund would be to develop connections between the electricity grids of African countries.

There is also a marine fibre-optic cable project to strengthen telecommunications links and a coast-to-coast project built around core transfrontier parks. Many countries are following the example of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe in developing transfrontier national parks. A similar project is underway in Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia along their common border.

Nkuhlu said there is also a proposal that the expanded Okavango/Upper Zambezi International Tourism Spatial Development Initiative will deliver 15 resorts at US\$100m each by 2010.

However, the flow of tourism in Africa has been thwarted by the fact that for more than 70 years European, Asian and western airlines have been allowed to dominate the African skies.

South Africa's Transport Minister Jeff Radebe said the continent has started working at changing and cutting red tape in a bid to ease bureaucracy to allow business among neighbours.

"They (European airlines) have been making a killing and recently we have seen an increased number of privately owned airlines entering the industry and taking advantage of the vacuum that exists by covering certain routes that have not been well serviced," he said.

The AU has set up an aviation commission to assist collaboration between governments to open the skies and to promote their airlines.

"There is no doubt that there is huge African capital to render these airlines economically viable," said Radebe, "especially now that the continent subscribes to NEPAD goals and objectives of intercontinental trade."

An initiative to develop and produce pharmaceuticals is also underway as part of the initiative on pharmaceutical and technology transfer to improve the continent's access to essential drugs at affordable prices for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

According to the Minerals and Technology Council of South Africa (Mintek), Africa's rich and diverse mineral resource base could provide the platform for industrial development.

Africa holds the largest world reserves of platinum (70 percent), diamonds (52 percent), chromite (52 percent), cobalt (43 percent) as well as manganese (38 percent). He said as a continent, we still lead others in holding reserves of phosphate (29 percent), gold (24 percent) and uranium (17 percent), as well as 10 percent of petroleum.

What is left for the continent to realise its dreams of eradicating poverty, is to seek foreign investment that will be tied to indigenous participation in mining ventures. There will have to be significant changes in ownership of natural resources and a genuine injection of indigenous capital to improve capacity for management of mines.

However, an assessment of some South African ventures on the continent has shown that they either collapsed or were failing to attain anticipated targets. This was due to the fact that some NEPAD objectives of closing gaps and harmonizing business legislation, taxation and customs regulations in the continent still have a long way to go. □

An uncertain crop season forecast for southern Africa

by Clever Mafuta

The eighth Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-8) predicts a tricky rainfall season for southern Africa, ranging from above normal to below normal rainfall.

In a statement at the end of their recent meeting in Harare, SARCOF-8 predicts that the central parts of the SADC region covering Angola, northern Botswana, northern Zambia, extreme northern Namibia, extreme northern Malawi, southern DRC, and western Tanzania and the Indian ocean islands of Mauritius and Seychelles, have higher chances of receiving normal to above normal rainfall during the months of October to December 2004.

The extreme northern (northern DRC) and southern parts of the SADC region (South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, southern Mozambique, southern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe and southern Namibia) have increased chances of experiencing normal to below normal rainfall during the same period. It is also predicted that eastern Tanzania, much of Malawi and northern Mozambique will experience below normal to normal rainfall during the same period.

The period January to March 2005 will see the bulk of the region receiving normal to above normal rainfall, with the exception of parts of Zimbabwe, Botswana, central Mozambique, South Africa, eastern Tanzania and Mauritius, which have increased chances of normal to below normal rainfall. This is despite the anomalous warming over the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, which is being associated with a developing weak *El Nino* phenomenon.

The *El Nino* is usually associated with below normal rainfall conditions over southern Africa. The memorable *El Nino* of 1997/98 had devastating impact on much of southern Africa causing a severe drought.

The rainfall forecast for the 2004/05 rainfall season presents challenges for crop production in southern Africa. The rainfall outlook suggests near-normal crop production conditions for the region, with the southern parts of South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and southern Mozambique the most affected.

Of particular concern is the low rainfall expected in January to March 2005 in the maize production belt of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa and eastern Tanzania. At this time of the season, maize, which is the staple

food for much of the SADC region, is at the critical tasselling stage.

A poor 2004/05 rainfall season would have a negative impact in southern Africa given that parts of the region are facing critical food shortages. The Famine Early Warning System Network estimates an overall cereal production shortfall of 1.5 million tonnes from the 2003/04 season, with Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland the most affected countries.

However, domestic cereal availability improved considerably in Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia, compared to the 2002/03 season. These countries are projecting exportable maize surpluses, but this is only sufficient to cover the import requirements of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

It is also important to look beyond agro-climatic factors and take into account other factors such as availability of seed and fertilizers, farmer access to finance, incentives for crop production and the provision of extension services. □

Proactive process of redefining a new regional agenda

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have already been applied by SADC Observer Missions during elections in Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique.

"The [electoral] principles are ... a work in progress and shall be perfected by the democratic experiences and practices within the region. The opinion that not all member states will implement the principles is, to my view, a prejudgment. Let experience be the best teacher," he said.

Asked whether SADC is happy with progress that the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is making towards integration and development of the continent, Ramsamy said it is too early to quantify any achievements.

Nonetheless, he said, "one can safely say that the framework is clearly enhancing Africa's prospects for mobilizing foreign direct investment and foreign portfolio investment, accelerating policy reforms and consolidating democracy and sound macro-economic reforms."

Ramsamy said that notable progress has been made towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially in areas such as literacy, but daunting challenges remain particularly in reducing poverty levels and combating HIV and AIDS.

The executive secretary is hopeful that current trade negotiations between SADC and the European Union (EU) will yield a favourable outcome that will allow member states better market

access to the EU. SADC is seeking improved market access particularly for agriculture and fisheries.

On his assessment of the process of integration in SADC, Ramsamy said the agenda is on course. He cited the example of the mid term review of the trade protocol, which has revealed that implementation is on track.

"In the next ten years, I can see SADC already having a common external tariff i.e. SADC will be transformed into a Customs Union," said Ramsamy.

He was however, quick to point out that overall delivery is the responsibility of member states. "We [SADC Secretariat] can only facilitate, monitor and advise. Implementation rests with member states," he said. □

A retrospective reflection of the year 2004 in SADC

The year 2004 is ending the way it started, with southern Africa enjoying unparalleled peace, political stability and security, while poverty reduction remains top of the agenda for the region. Munetsi Madakufamba and Chengetai Madziwa trace highlights of SADC's year 2004.

When SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy outlined the agenda for 2004 at the end of the previous year, he singled out poverty reduction goals, which he said were lagging behind the minimum targets.

He called for strategies to unlock the resource and capacity constraints that have contributed to the lack of progress toward UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Poverty in SADC has a cyclical relationship to drought and floods, insecurity and conflicts, and HIV and AIDS, as well as malaria and other communicable diseases. These formed the priorities for 2004, as did issues of gender equality, energy, water and other basic socio-economic requirements necessary for regional development and integration in SADC.

In pursuit of the regional agenda, a milestone was the launch in March of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which is the blueprint for poverty eradication. RISDP is the region's adaptation and domestication of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the MDGs.

The historic blueprint will guide SADC for the next 15 years in all key areas of regional integration and underpins the aspirations of the four directorates that have been established at the SADC Secretariat in Botswana, emerging from four years of painstaking restructuring.

The RISDP was launched by Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa, who held the rotating SADC chair earlier this year. His term was marked by a clear agenda for results-based regional integration with time-bound targets. He spoke consistently and strongly about regional integration and its relevance to poverty eradication.

Mkapa reminded western countries that southern Africa's democracy had

come of age and that its member states are capable of handling their own affairs. The elections in South Africa in April, Malawi in May, Botswana in October and Namibia in November, as well as preparations in Mozambique for December, have demonstrated a well-entrenched universal suffrage, in a culture of political pluralism.

The unanimous adoption in August of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections by the SADC Summit in Mauritius further strengthened the region's democratization process.

The guidelines, upon which elections in SADC are now assessed, are a bold show of the unity that exists in the region and common destiny that its member states aspire to.

Another milestone was the adoption, and now implementation, of the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in May 2004 by an Extra-Ordinary SADC Summit in Tanzania, a multi-sectoral strategy for sustainable food security.

SADC leaders reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate agricultural development, upon which 70 percent of the population of the region depends for food, income and employment. The declaration contains short, medium and long term strategies and targets.

The tone was set by an impassioned opening address by the host, President Mkapa, who urged his colleagues to ensure that the region can feed itself on a sustainable basis. Mkapa said bluntly, "unless we, the leaders of SADC, feel ashamed of having to beg for food – sometimes receiving it with all manner of conditions – we cannot bring honour to our countries. Let us work together to bring honour, not shame to independent southern Africa."

Prime Minister Paul Berenger of Mauritius, who took over the SADC chair for the 2004-2005 term, emphasized the need for an action-oriented

approach in dealing with the region's challenges. He committed to operationalizing the RISDP and continuing with Mkapa's agenda for addressing food security, HIV and AIDS, and conflicts and insecurity.

He also stressed the need to complete the restructuring process and implement SADC protocols.

The SADC Trade Protocol, one of the most important of SADC's 30 legal instruments, has undergone a mid-term review during the year, assessing progress since its implementation in 2000. The results of this exercise are expected in the New Year.

The Trade Protocol is the legal framework within which SADC is pursuing its target of establishing a Free Trade Area by 2008 and a Customs Union by 2010.

The launch of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission marked a significant step in implementation of the Protocol on Shared Watercourses, which was signed in 1995, revised in 2000 and came into force in 2003.

The Protocol on Energy was given a boost with the approval in October by energy ministers and chief executives of power utilities from Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia and South Africa to form a company to operate the Western Power Corridor.

SADC will hope to advance implementation of protocols if it is to be a strong building block of NEPAD, which has completed its first three formative years. A long list of projects have been submitted by SADC to NEPAD to rally financial support.

SADC is well placed to push its agenda at the AU and NEPAD. The Pan African Parliament, which was launched this year, and the NEPAD Secretariat are hosted by the region, both in South Africa.

In September, the AU's Pan African Parliament held its first regular assembly with its 265 members from all over Africa. The parliament discussed the legalities, rules and establishment of committees to guide its response to the challenges on the continent.

And at the top of those challenges is poverty eradication. □

Transition of leadership and land are key election issues in late 2004

Three important national elections in southern Africa during the last quarter of 2004 had at their core the key issues of land redistribution and transition of political leadership.

First off the mark was Botswana which held parliamentary elections on 30 October, won by the incumbent Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) with 44 of the 57 seats in parliament.

The leadership transition issue simmered during the campaign. The question of who will succeed Mogae when he steps down in 2008, was the first post-election issue to be dealt with by party and parliament, with the endorsement of Ian Khama Seretse Khama, the party vice-president, as Vice President of the country.

Khama was unopposed in his bid for election as Member of Parliament for his home area of Serowe, where he is the Bamangwato chief, or *kgosi*. He is the eldest son of the first President of Botswana, Seretse Khama, and a former commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF).

Another issue simmering behind the ballot box was that of the relocation of the Basarwa people from their ancestral land in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve to the town of New Xade, which is currently being contested in the courts.

Land was also a hot issue in the peri-urban villages around the capital, Gaborone, which continued to largely support opposition candidates.

Namibian voters went to the polls on 15 and 16 November, and returned the ruling party, the South West Africa Peoples Organization (Swapo), to power 14 years after the end of a protracted armed struggle for independence.

The leadership transition in Namibia is from President Sam Nujoma, who led the country to independence in 1990 and will retire from government in March.

His successor is Hifikepunye Pohamba, the Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, who was Swapo's presidential candidate.

Swapo got over 75 percent of the votes cast, and retained its 55 seats in the 72-member National Assembly. In distant second was Ben Ulenga's Congress of Democrats (CoD) with 7.3 percent and 4 seats.

Swapo sees land reform as the key to national development and poverty reduction, ensuring stability, both politically and economically.

Pohamba, in his current portfolio, initiated the acquisition of derelict

land for distribution to the majority of landless citizens. He also prepared plans to tackle the broader issue of sharing the limited arable land, largely still in the hands of white farmers.

Another issue in the recent election was the consolidation of recent gains in the social sector, including health, education, and infrastructure development.

In Mozambique, where national elections on 1-2 December will elect a new president and parliament, the incumbent President Joaquim Chissano will stand down after 18 years. □

Government commitment to gender targets reflected in cabinet

SADC governments elected into office in 2004 clearly showed their commitment to the 2005 targets in the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, although the electorate did not always support them on this issue.

The most notable case was Botswana, where the general elections on 30 October saw a sharp drop in the number of women elected as Members of Parliament (MPs), down from seven in the previous parliament to four. Only 12 women candidates contested the elections.

Although heavily criticized for being the laggard in reaching regional gender targets, trailing all but Mauritius, President Festus Mogae used his prerogative to redeem the situation by appointing women to three of the four nominated seats for non-constituency MPs, thus bringing the number back up to seven.

He then took another significant step by appointing four women cabinet ministers out of a total of 14 full ministers. This means that 28.6 percent of the cabinet positions in Botswana are held by women.

In addition, Mogae gave arguably the most important cabinet post in the country at the present time to a woman, that of Health, to Professor Shiela Tlou.

The presidential and parliamentary elections in Malawi on 20 May saw a considerable increase in women representation. The number of women in parliament rose from 8 to 17 percent. Malawi now has 25 percent of women in cabinet and 33.3 percent female deputy ministers.

South Africa's parliamentary elections on 28 April registered an increase in the number of women in parliament, from 30 to 32.8 percent.

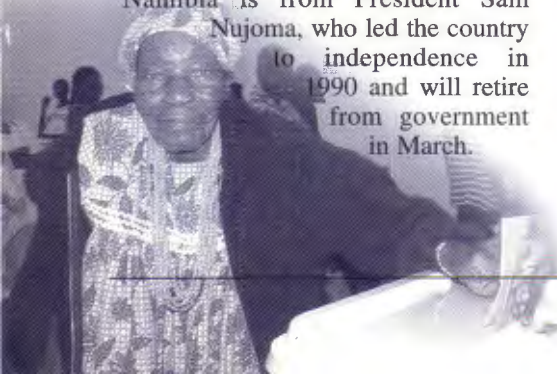
There are 12 women out of 28 full cabinet ministers, up from eight in the last government. Women deputy ministers rose to 10 out of 21, up from the previous 8 out of 16. Thus, women now make up 43 percent of the cabinet in South Africa.

Elections in Namibia on 15-16 November resulted in a decrease in the number of women elected to the National Assembly, the country's parliament. Namibia now has 18 women in the 72-seat Assembly, 25 percent, compared to 21 women elected (29 percent) in 1999 and nine percent in 1994.

Women representation in cabinet stands at 18.5 percent and that will most likely remain the same until the new cabinet is appointed in March 2005.

In Mozambique, the representation of women in the outgoing National Assembly was 31.2 percent, while cabinet was at 13.04 percent. This is set to change after the 1-2 December presidential and parliamentary elections.

Mozambique has the distinction of being the first country in the SADC region to appoint a woman Prime Minister, Luisa Diogo, who also holds the finance portfolio. □



Progress on the Short Term Action Plan projects submitted by SADC to NEPAD

Project Title	Objective	Progress/Comments
Western Corridor Power (WESTCOR) Project	To pool the vast hydro potential in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An initial Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 24 April 2002 among five Utilities (Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia, and South Africa) ◆ Approval of an Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGMOU) between the five governments yet to be done ◆ An Inter Utility Memorandum of Understanding has been signed paving the way for the establishment of WESTCOR as a company ◆ US\$4.0 billion being sought
Implementation of a Harmonized Regional Bond Guarantee Scheme	To facilitate the implementation of a harmonized Customs Bond Guarantee scheme across the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and SADC regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Single Administrative Document (SAD) is being piloted in the TransKalahari and the Dar es Salaam corridor ◆ SAD requires changes to legislation in some countries, a process that takes time ◆ Customs administrators and the private sector are assessing the bond guarantee and other possible facilitative bond security system options
Strengthening/establishing of private sector associations and stakeholder forums	To promote the public-private sector interactions and nurture the culture of public-private partnerships in infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regional associations in all modes of transport formed and active ◆ Some associations are affected by challenging funding environments ◆ Association of Southern African National Road Authorities (ASANRA) has developed a business plan with clear priorities and it is expected that the plan will facilitate the securing of funding for its activities
Implementation of one-stop border posts	To facilitate the cross-border movements within the SADC region, particularly of large goods vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establishment of one-stop border posts is progressing slowly ◆ Requires some fundamental changes to legislation in all states ◆ So far, one member state, South Africa, has made changes to its laws
Vehicle overload control management	To reduce the incidence of overloaded trucks on SADC roads and prolong their life and reduce costs of road maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Several overload control initiatives are being implemented in all member states ◆ Linking customs clearance of cross-border traffic with load limits compliance underway ◆ SADC is preparing a targeted programme to apply model guidelines that were developed in the early 1990s
Institutional, policy advice and road safety studies	To provide for the implementation of road safety programmes in SADC member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A pilot project covering safety and other issues along the Beira Corridor being implemented since 2001 ◆ Developed manuals on driver training, law enforcement and developed school curriculum on road safety ◆ The identification of accident black spots and the proposition to counter measures done ◆ The Beira Corridor work is supported by an African Development Bank grant
Kazungula bridge	To replace the current ferry service between Botswana and Zambia with a bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No significant development on the project and funding is still being sought for its implementation
Unity bridge	To carry out a technical and economic feasibility study, including preliminary design, for the construction of a new road link between Mozambique and United Republic of Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The feasibility study is still to be carried out ◆ The project has high level political support from Governments of Mozambique and United Republic of Tanzania
Needs assessment for Angola	To facilitate the assessment of needs with regards to the rehabilitation of the country's road infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SADC is prioritizing the development of road links to improve south-north interconnectivity ◆ The road running from the border between Angola and Namibia at Santa Clara to the town of Lubango in Angola is being considered the possible funding with support from the EU Regional Indicative Programme for SADC

Project Title	Objective	Progress/Comments
Tanzania Railways	Track rehabilitation, upgrading signals and provision of the telecommunications infrastructure for the Dodoma-Mwanza-Tabora-Mwanza section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Funding secured from the World Bank, May 2004 ✦ The private operator will manage the railway operations and is expected to invest in rolling stock and infrastructure
Support for concessioning of railways	To support the concessioning for Tanzania Railways Corporation and Swaziland Railways through capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ The process to concession both TAZARA and TRC is advanced ✦ Support is sought for Swaziland
Nacala Corridor – Railway rehabilitation of the 77 kilometre Cuamba-Entre Lagos	To rehabilitate and upgrade the line between Nacala and Cuamba and to improve the stretch between Cuamba and Malawi border (Entre Lagos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Railway stretch from Nacala to Cuamba is now in good condition ✦ Support still being sought to rehabilitate the 77 kilometre Cuamba to Entre Lagos link
Needs assessment studies for Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo	To provide for studies into the condition of the railway networks in the two countries and the identification of the needs for rehabilitation of the systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Angola has developed a comprehensive railway rehabilitation and development programme known as AnGoFerro ✦ Financing is still being sought for the implementation of the programme
Rehabilitation of the Benguela Railway System	Rehabilitation and upgrading of the Benguela Railway to provide adequate capacity for future transport needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Financing being sought
Nacala Port Rehabilitation in support of concession	Design and construct container facilities, purchase of container handling equipment and technical assistance to the management, general improvement of the port	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ The Port was concessioned in 2000 ✦ Support is still sought to improve the handling capacity of the port by investing in equipment and other infrastructure
Lobito Port Rehabilitation and provision of transshipment facilities	Provide general support for the implementation of the Development Plan for the Lobito Port Transport System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Needs rehabilitation and additional equipment ✦ Envisaged increases in traffic arising from the rehabilitation of the Benguela line ✦ Funds being sought
Advisory services for maritime affairs	Increasing the Safety of Navigation in SADC waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ There has not been much progress as attention has shifted to port security and the pursuit of compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code which entered into force on 1 July 2004
Development of a regional strategy for ship waste reception facilities	To develop a regional policy on waste reception facilities in ports, including technical and legal aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ There has not been much progress as attention has shifted to port security and the pursuit of compliance with the ISPS code which entered into force on 1 July 2004
Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa needs assessment on safety	Achieve a co-ordinated transportation system for goods and passengers for the three countries bordering the lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ The model bilateral agreement is still to be developed
Implementation of Yamoussoukro Decision and restructuring	Establishment of a Joint Competition Authority by SADC, COMESA and East African Community (EAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Common rules for competition in air transport services ✦ Draft regulations for competition have been revised ✦ Support is required to facilitate the establishment and operations of the Joint Competition Authority
Upgrading airport security	Upgrade airport security in all member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ SADC Civil Aviation Committee formed a sub-committee of civil aviation security experts ✦ Sub-Committee is expected to share information and to develop a strategy for harmonised action across SADC member states
Establishments of Upper Airspace Control Centre	Feasibility study for the establishment of Upper Airspace Control Centres (UACC) for the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Implementation of the detailed study into the proposed UACC has been delayed by changes to the ToR as well as the funding agreement
Global Navigation Surveillance System (GNSS)	Implementation of the Satellite Based Augmentation Systems, in particular the region's participation in the European Geo-stationary Navigation Overlay service (ENGOS) test bed programme of the European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Significant progress towards the establishment of common procedures for GNSS-based air navigation services made ✦ Namibia, South Africa and Zambia are taking part in the ENGOS test bed programme for African and Indian Ocean (AFI) states ✦ Equipment has already been delivered and is installed while training is already underway.

Source: SADC Secretariat

The southern Africa human capacity challenge

by Agnes Phiri

The southern African sub-region is at a critical human resource crossroads.

It is faced with daunting human capacity challenges exacerbated by the interlocking impacts of HIV and AIDS, poverty and recurring disasters.

The resulting weakened human capacity for sustained and efficient delivery of basic social services to the public demands new innovative skills and approaches if countries are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As a response, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), countries in southern Africa, development partners and other UN agencies and organizations are promoting, supporting and implementing a new initiative – The Southern Africa Capacity Initiative (SACI).

While this human capacity initiative currently focuses on southern Africa, its applicability could in the future be extended to other parts of the continent facing similar capacity challenges.

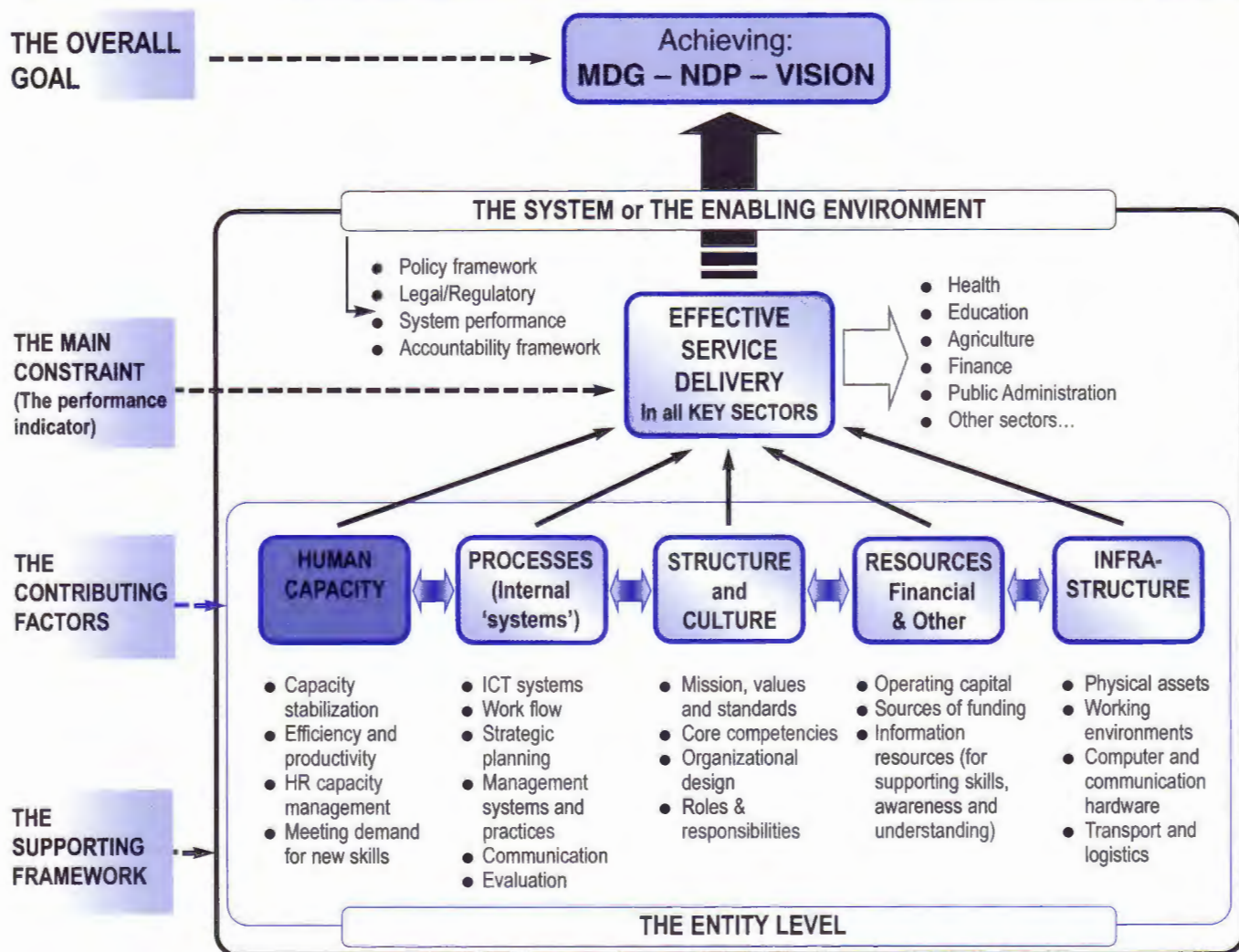
What is SACI?

SACI is a framework promoting responses to a number of critical human capacity areas. The initiative supports countries in southern Africa to design and implement additional actions and strategies to address the complex human capacity challenges in a systemic and integrated manner.

The framework calls for a new urgency to meet capacity needs that will facilitate achievement of MDGs.

continued on page 12

SACI Framework Focus



Strengthening energy capacity in SADC

The SADC region has prioritized energy as the key to development, and has moved rapidly in a number of areas to strengthen capacity in a region where demand is annually outstripping the growth in supply.

The most significant development to date has been the rapid evolution of the Western Power Corridor.

The project, based on the largely untapped capacity of the Inga river in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is expected to generate initially about 3,500 megawatts, sufficient to supply four other countries.

A company to operate the US\$4.5 billion project will be formed by the power utilities of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and the DRC, after the signing of a stakeholders agreement in December.

The rapid development of the project follows the approval in October by Ministers of Energy and the chief executives of utilities in the five countries. The electricity demand in the region is likely to continue expanding in 2005.

The company to be established will be located in Botswana and will be the first of its kind on the continent. Each participating country will own a 20 percent stake.

The proposed company would own the infrastructure, dams, power stations and cables running from the DRC through the other countries.

Private sector participation and financing will be invited for the construction and operations of the project, which is expected to be completed in the next six or seven years.

A feasibility study financed through a contribution of US\$100,000 from each of the five countries, as well as an environmental impact assessment, and a study of legal and financial viability, will be produced in 2005.

The participating governments have agreed to harmonize legislation to facilitate the movement of people and goods related to the ambitious project.

The project is driven from the New Partnership for Africa's Development

(NEPAD) unit of Eskom, the South African power utility.

The project could develop in future into the Grand Inga project with the potential to generate sufficient power to supply to the rest of the continent.

The Inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the Western Power Corridor was approved by the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers in July 2003.

"The regional energy situation has remained static over the past 12 months on the supply side," the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Prega Ramsamy, said at year end. "However, on the demand side, the region has registered a steady increase in the traded energy through the short term energy market established and managed by the Southern Africa Power Pool Co-ordination Centre."

A major development on the other side of the region is the restructuring of ownership of the giant Cahora Bassa dam project in Mozambique, constructed while Mozambique was still under Portuguese colonial rule, initially to supply electricity to South Africa at preferential rates, and owned largely by the government of Portugal. HCB also sells 500 megawatts of

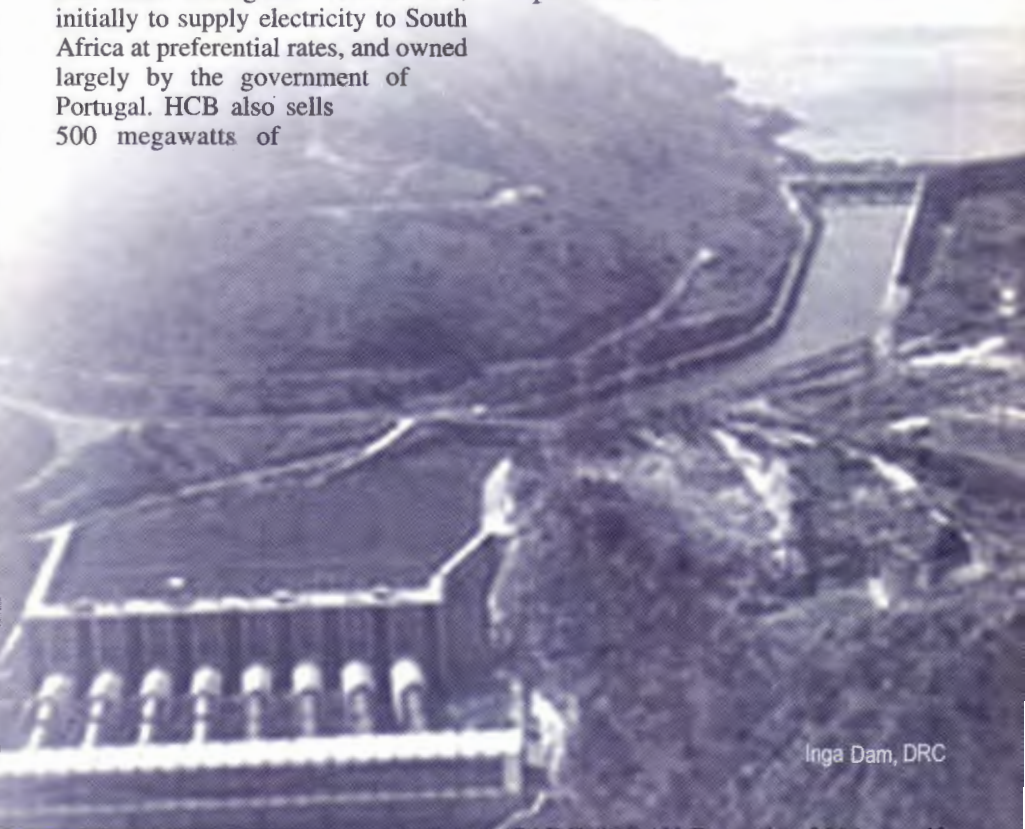
power to neighbouring Zimbabwe, at a higher tariff.

Delegations from Mozambique and Portugal have been holding consultations to discuss the framework for a transfer of ownership of Cahora Bassa Hydroelectric (HCB), the company that operates the dam on the Zambezi river in central Mozambique.

The delegations are tasked with establishing a "reasonable figure" for the HCB debt to the Portuguese treasury, which owns 82 percent of the shares while Mozambique has the remaining 18 percent.

An extensive debt was accumulated by the company during the 15 years when the dam was unable to operate and generate income, due to sabotage by apartheid South Africa and a local rebel group, Renamo.

Portugal calculates the debt at over two billion US dollars but Mozambique argues that is unpayable. The parties are trying to reach agreement on a reasonable figure for the debt and establish a financial syndicate to liquidate the debt as cheaply as possible. □



Inga Dam, DRC

The southern Africa human capacity challenge

continued from page 10

SACI currently covers Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Main components

- ◆ Enhancing the policy environment to address the human capacity challenge – promote new efforts to strengthen the overall policy framework for addressing human capacity constraints in the context of current challenges. This involves adaptation, coordination and development of policy instruments or strategies;
- ◆ Developing new approaches for strengthened service delivery – pro-

moting alternative approaches to the re-thinking and reorganization of service delivery in order to maximize outreach, including consideration for new ways in which community-based and civil society organizations, as well as the private sector, can contribute to enhancing service delivery. In this area, opportunities for using Information Communications Technology (ICT) to strengthen service delivery is identified and developed;

- ◆ Innovative and urgent training for meeting new demands for skills and capacity that are now surfacing – this involves working with

institutions to develop training programmes and competencies in new areas such as governance, food security, strategic and systems thinking. Among other approaches, the focus is to work with institutions and other bodies in development of skills acquisition and training programmes for key sectors such as health, education, agriculture and public service, as well as in identified new sectors; and

- ◆ Promoting capacity stabilization, maintenance and utilization – this involves the rapid programming and deployment of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and other existing volunteer schemes to meet critical capacity gaps at various levels in the countries. An appropriate aspect of this is the development of National Volunteer Schemes, which could engage a fairly sizeable number of nationals from a pool of skilled graduates, or retired persons remunerated to work at national, district, local and grassroots levels in the country to strengthen depleted human capacity. □

Eskom promotes creative thinking and common humanity

The South African state electricity enterprise, Eskom, is promoting independence of mind and creative thinking among the new generation of African leaders, using the concept of *ubuntu*, the traditional sense of the common humanity that unites Africans across the continent.

The Eskom chairperson, Reuel Khoza, says the corporation has identified good leadership as the key to building cooperation and teamwork that will be good for the company, its stakeholders, and society in general.

He believes that authentic African practices should replace Eurocentric business practices, according to a *Sunday Times* article, "Time for continent's leaders to take their rightful place".

Eskom undertook a study of leadership styles in Africa and elsewhere, in response to President Thabo Mbeki's challenge of, "Where are the African intellectuals?"

The Eskom Foundation Study of African Leadership said Africans generally lack confidence in their own cultural traditions and must work to restore their heritage so they can rejoin the international community in full dignity.

The study suggests a campaign to revive interest in traditional leadership practices because so many Africans in business and politics have forgotten, or never learnt, where they came from.

Khoza says that *ubuntu* promotes identity, trust, motivation and teamwork. These are the qualities that most concern business in an age where sustainability depends on human capital.

"The communal values of old Africa are much closer to the spirit of modern business than the authoritarian values we associate with scientific management," says the article.

"African leadership is about caring for and serving others, while scientific management was the result of mass production techniques in which workers became adjuncts of conveyor belts, doing repetitive, uncreative work."

Eskom is among African businesses, governments, officials and intellectuals who actively defy Afro-pessimism and insist that the continent has solutions, ideas and values that could change the face of global commerce. □

Partnerships for the promotion of SACI

Regional/Continental organs AU, NEPAD, SADC, ECA, IGAD, ACBF and others.

Multi-lateral/International Financial Institutions UN Agencies, ECA, World Bank, IMF, EU, AfDB and others.

Bilateral AID Organisations.

Regional NGOs, networks, academia and select private sector organisations.

South-South Cooperation.

For more information contact the SACI Operational Team at the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa, 7 Naivasha Road, Sunninghill, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Tel: 27-11-603 - 5000 Fax: 27-11-603-5071 www.undp.org/rba/saci

Arts festival colours Zambia's independence celebrations

Artists from five SADC countries staged a series of arts and cultural performances to honour Zambia's 40th anniversary of independence during a 10-day festival.

This gave practical expression to the SADC Protocol on Information, Culture and Sport which encourages member states to jointly organize such cultural events to pursue the ideals of regional integration.

From 18 - 28 October 2004, artists came together to participate in the celebrations that apart from marking four decades of Zambia's freedom, also brought memories of Zambia's centrality in the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

On 24 October, Zambia's National Day, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, who was guest of honour at the celebrations, recollected Zambia's "many sacrifices" in the liberation of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. He said Zambia's 40th anniversary was a momentous occasion that also reminded SADC states to integrate and cooperate more for economic liberation.

Organizers of the 40th anniversary of Zambia's independence said the event was a significant chapter in the history of the nation and region, and it was therefore worth celebrating with different artists beyond the borders of Zambia.

Zambia was the fulcrum of southern Africa's liberation struggle where freedom fighters from Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe set up operational bases and received asylum.

Organizers said the Independence Arts and Cultural Festival was a resounding success. It attracted entertainers from Malawi, Madagascar, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This was a celebration of freedom in the entire SADC region. The performance also demonstrated the promotion of an extensive programme of films, music, performing arts, exhibitions, and literature in the SADC region.

"The independence arts festival is aimed to create an informal space for creative people and lovers of art to interact and enjoy the artistic offerings of nations far and wide while providing education and learning," said Antone Barral, Director of the Alliance Francaise, one of the organisers.

The carnival attracted popular international entertainers including the Zimbabwean musician Oliver Mtukudzi, Malawi's George Phiri, Phinda Mtya of South Africa and Tany Manga of French/Madagascar origins. Others were Tony "Titi" Robin and Gulabi Sopera (Indian/French) and Mahube Feat, Steve Dyer and Maureen Lilanda.

The festival, Barral said, was a unique opportunity for Zambian musicians to mix and learn other experiences from other SADC and foreign musicians. "We want to share ideas about music and other artistic and cultural issues," he said.

A collection of top southern African musicians and vocalist under the brand name "Mahube" also performed a series of concerts during Zambia's week-long celebrations. "Mahube" is

the name given to top SADC musicians and vocalists who combined to record and release various albums that were performed in Zambia under the direction of Steve Dyer to create a blend of contemporary and celebrated artists.

"Mahube" is a Tswana name that means "New Dawn" and reflects these musicians' desire to participate in South Africa's reintegration into the cultural life of the African subcontinent.

"The music is a rich and seamless blend of infectious rhythms, soaring vocals and harmonies," says Barral. "The intricate and evocative harmonies are under-pinned by a wonderful brass section and surrounded by a clear and sympathetic arrangement."

Organizers said the festival represented the celebration not only of Zambia's independence but the oneness and freedom of the SADC region as a whole. The SADC Protocol on Information and Culture also states that member states shall facilitate and promote greater interaction and exchanges among cultural agents, media practitioners, athletes and sports personnel of the region. □

Angola wins psychological victory over landmines

Angolans have been reflecting on the benefits of two years of peace in the country after almost 27 years of war, as they marked their 29th anniversary of independence on 11 November.

Although they continue to face development challenges such as agriculture on the fertile highlands due to landmines, they have been counting the successes and opportunities that come with peace.

Among these national victories of peace celebrated this year was that of a 30-year-old Angolan athlete who set three world records in the Paralympic Games in Greece, in the 100, 200 and 400 metres races, bringing home three gold medals.

José Armando Sayovo lost his sight at the age of 25, while serving as a Sergeant in the Angolan Armed Forces specializing in demining, when the truck he was in activated a landmine.

Another Angolan victory this year in the field of health was the appointment of Dr. Luis Gomes Sambo as Regional Director for Africa of the World Health Organization. □



José Armando Sayovo

Peace, security, democracy and development —

The Great Lakes region of Africa took a firm step toward peace and sustainable development in late November when a summit of 15 African leaders signed a Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development.

The Summit was hosted by the Tanzanian President, Benjamin Mkapa, in Dar es Salaam, and jointly organized by the African Union and the United Nations.

It was an exercise in building trust and confidence as well as commitment. The declaration calls for demo-

bilization programmes and prevention of arms supplies as well as a framework for economic development in a region that covers Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, DRC, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The signature of the accord was witnessed by the Presidents of Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe. □

Africa needs better statistics

African governments should give priority to building up statistical data about their countries in order to make their policies more effective, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said.

The Director of the ECA's Economic and Social Policy Division, Augustin Fosu, said "the absence of reliable, up-to-date statistical information in many African countries limits the application of practical development strategies on the continent."

To highlight the issue, the theme of the 2004 African Statistics Day was "Managing for development results: the role of statistical information."

In Africa, statistical systems are at varying stages of development. Some countries are able to undertake exhaustive and expensive countrywide operations such as censuses, specific sample surveys and cross-checking of administrative records through databases.

Other African nations lack the capacity to generate the required information for macro-economic and social demand management. African and international partners have launched a number of initiatives to strengthen statistical capacities in Africa. (ECA) □

First African Interpol president

International police organization, Interpol has elected South African police chief, Jackie Selebi, as its new president.

Meeting in Cancun, Mexico, representatives of 114 of 182 member countries of the international police organizations picked Selebi with 83 votes to replace the outgoing president, Spaniard Jesus Espigares.

He becomes the first African to hold the post. Mexican candidate Genaro Garcia Luna came second with 31 votes. (*The Sunday Independent*) □

Water resources, sanitation and hygiene

The Water Resources, Sanitation and Hygiene Fair (WARSH), held in Harare by SADC and partners, focused attention on SADC's regional integration efforts through the management of water resources.

The SADC Directorate for Infrastructure and Services, Water Division, working together with regional NGOs, organized this southern African exhibition and trade fair on water, sanitation and hygiene.

The fair focussed on addressing poverty issues and building bridges between and among various users within the water sector and between water and other sectors.

Global action needed on spam

At a conference called to debate anti-spam measures, the US and UK governments said that closer collaboration is needed to stop spammers as most spam originated overseas so cross-border co-operation is vital to combat this menace.

In 2001 only 10 percent of e-mail sent was spam but now almost 60 percent of all mail is classified as junk according to data revealed at the International Spam Enforcement Workshop, which was held by the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the UK's Office of Fair Trading (OFT). Deborah Majoras chairperson of the FTC said "spammers hide behind the cloak of anonymity" provided by the latest technology and the path from a spammer to a consumer's inbox typically crosses one or more borders.

Tracing the origins of spam is the biggest problem, according to the FTC head, who called for more sharing of information to track down spam gangs. John Vickers, OFT chairperson said that spam is more than just a nuisance as statistics show that more than half of all spam is now produced by spammers keen on fleecing people out of their money or personal information. (*Tradewatch*) □

Democracy, governance, human rights and the WTO

Behind the scenes at the WTO: the real world of international trade negotiations is the title of a frank new book that exposes the sober realities of international trade.

This book, says the Preface, is "a valuable contribution to the study and understanding of current multilateral politics and North-South relations, as played out in the WTO. It depicts the 'lopsided playing fields' on to which the developing countries were thrust by the North after the conclusion of Uruguay Round Agreements and the establishment of the WTO.

"It is a sober and sobering book for all those who believe in a prosperous world economy anchored in rule-based system in which North and South co-operate and equitably share the gains from global economic expansion... In this carefully researched, unique book the authors lift the veil on how decisions are actually taken."

The Preface is signed by two distinguished development practitioners, Professor Ajit Singh at Cambridge University, and Branislav Gosovic of the South Centre secretariat in Geneva.

The book was produced with the assistance of the South Centre (whose founding chairperson was Mwalimu Julius Nyerere) and a number of development agencies, through extensive interviews with 33 diplomatic missions in Geneva and staff of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The authors are Fatoumata Jawara, an international trade and development analyst from The Gambia; and Aileen Kwa, a trade analyst and author of *Power Politics in the WTO*.

Stolen Fruit: The tropical commodities disaster is an up-to-date investigation by one of the leading authorities on commodity trading, who became a UN consultant on trade relations between African countries and multinational companies, and an adviser to the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa on trade sanctions against apartheid.

Chapters include: The scale of decline in tropical commodity prices; Controlling supplies and taming markets; and How tropical commodities are traded.

Peter Robbins has published several other books on related matters, and is now working on establishing market information for tropical agricultural products in rural areas of Africa.

The book "effectively demolishes the myth that international markets serve poor countries well."

Hungry corporations: Transnational biotech companies colonise the food chain, demonstrates that a handful of companies have gained control over the food chain through the industrialisation of agriculture, the forces of globalization, and the vertical and horizontal integration of business. Chapters include Hunger; Image control and manipulation; and Opening up the South. By Helena Paul, Ricarda Steinbrecher with Devlin Kuyek and Lucy Michaels.

Juggernaut Politics: Understanding predatory globalization aims to describe not only the globalization of the economy but also the "agents and mechanisms of this global system so that the reader may understand its workings and architecture". Jacque B Gélinas is a writer and lecturer on issues of developing countries and globalization, and the founder of a publishing house dedicated to publishing on the political and social issues of a sustainable society. For a decade during the 1960s, he worked on popular education and community development in the Bolivian Andes, during which time he collaborated with Paulo Freire and Ivan Illich. He is also the author of *Freedom from Debt*.

What the market does to people: Privatization, globalization and poverty. The author explores the privatization of poverty; and causes and results of poverty on hunger, crime, education, housing and health. He looks critically at efforts to overcome poverty, and argues that poverty is also an issue in developed countries which is not being addressed. David Macarou is Professor Emeritus, and writes on poverty and the work place. □ All by ZED Press; *Stolen Fruit*, David Philip, Cape Town.

Recent publications and acquisitions

A Code on the Equality of Women and the Reduction of Risk of HIV Infection AIDS. --Rights Alliance for Southern Africa. - 2004

Available from: RASA, P.O. Box 604, Windhoek, Namibia

Email: arasa@lac.org.na

Website: www.lac.org.na

Paved with Good Intentions: background to the GATT, Uruguay Round Table and WTO

Tandon, Yash and Allardice, Megan. - 2004

Available from: SEATINI, 20 Victoria Drive, Newlands, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Email: seatini.zw@undp.org

Website: www.seatini.org

The Politics of Trade and Industrial Policy in Africa: forced consensus

--Soludo, Charles C.; Ogbu, Osita and Chang, Ha-Joon. - 2004

Available from: Africa World Press, Inc., P. O. Box 48, Asmara, Eritrea.

Email: awprsp@africanworld.com

Website: www.africanworld.com

Report of the African Union Observer Team on the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in The Republic of Malawi, held on 20 May 2004

--- 2004

Available from: African Union, PO Box 3243, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

Website: www.africa-union.org

Simon Vengesayi Muzenda & The Struggle for and Liberation of Zimbabwe

--Bhebe, Ngwabi. - 2004

Available from: Mambo Press, P. O. Box 779, Gweru, Zimbabwe

Strategic Plan of Action for the National Gender Policy (2004-2008)

--Gender in development division cabinet office - 2004

Available from: P.O. Box 30208 Lusaka, Zambia

Email: gidd@zamnet

Strategic Plan of the Commission of the African Union, Volume 2 and 3: 2004 - 2007

Available from: African Union, PO Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Website: www.africa-union.org

SADC diary

2004	Event	Venue	
December	1-2	Presidential and Parliamentary Elections	Mozambique
	1-4	NEPAD Science and Technology Regional Workshop	Algeria
	2-4	Workshop on Implementation of NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP) on Transboundary Water Resources Management	South Africa
	2-4	Millennium Development Goals/Beijing +10 Strategy Session	USA
	5-7	World Economic Forum	India
	6-7	SADC Conference on Defence and Security Cooperation	Mozambique
	6-10	Management of Indigenous Forests Project Meeting	Lesotho
	13 - 16	National HIV and AIDS Conference	Tanzania
January 2005	10-14	International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Small Island Developing States	Mauritius
	12-16	Training on Environmental Indicator Development and State of Environment (SOE)	Zambia
	18-22	World Conference on Disaster Management	Korea
	23-24	World Social Forum Feminist Dialogue	Brazil
February	2	World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) African Regional Conference	Ghana
	21-25	SADC Council of Ministers	Mauritius
28 Feb- 11 March	49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women: Beijing +10	USA	
March	1-5	Global Forum on the Review of Women's Progress on Forestry Management since Beijing 1995: Towards a Common Agenda	Uganda

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwei)	86.86
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.35
DRC	Congo Franc	413.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.10
Madagascar	Malgache Franc	9,755.00
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	106.50
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	28.30
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	19,745.55
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.18
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.19
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.19
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,045.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,720.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	6,200.00

11 November 2004

Public holidays in SADC for the period December 2004 – February 2005

9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe and Zambia
26 December	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Tanzania
27 December	Public Holiday	Botswana
1 January	New Year's Day	All SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	Mauritius
3 January	Public Holiday	Botswana and Malawi
4 January	Martyrs' Day	Angola, DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolutionary Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
17 January	Lumumba Hero Day	DRC
18 January	Kabila Hero Day	DRC
23 January	Edd-El-Hajj	Tanzania
25 January	Thaipooosam Cavadee	Mauritius
1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
5 February	Thaipooosam Cavadee	Mauritius
9 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
18 February	Maha Shivaratee	Mauritius