



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY



SADC Today, Vol 10 No. 6 June 2008

INSIDE...



6

POLICY	3
FOOD SECURITY	4-5
DEVELOPMENT	6
ENERGY	7-10
TRADE	11
BUSINESS	12
ELECTIONS	13
GENDER	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16

Food prices could derail Africa's growth, or boost it

AFRICA'S GROWTH rate could be derailed by the global rise in food prices, the AfDB chairperson, Donald Kaberuka, told the Bank's annual meeting held in Maputo in May. He said the food predicament is an additional hurdle that will put Africa's ability to manage risks and overcome new threats to great test, but added that this challenge can be turned into an opportunity where farming finally becomes a viable business rather than a meagre livelihood. (See *Food Security*, page 4-5)



Economic growth essential but must be sustainable

ECONOMIC GROWTH in SADC Member States is necessary but not sufficient to make real impact on poverty eradication, especially when such growth is erratic.

This was said by the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Donald Kaberuka, in a keynote address to the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development held in Mauritius in April.

Kaberuka said while economic growth - often simply measured by changes in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - is essential, it should be sustained "over several years... broad based and non-exclusive."

The Mauritius conference gave fresh impetus to regional integration, adopting a pro-poor regional poverty Reduction Framework.

As explained by SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Salomao, the implementation framework "articulates those activities that will have direct impact on poverty which are currently not or inadequately addressed in the implementation" of SADC's Regional Indicative

Strategic Development Plan and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ.

The conference also endorsed the establishment of a Regional Poverty Observatory which will institutionalise the monitoring and evaluation of poverty interventions, as well as tracking of Millennium Development Goals.

Governments, private sector and some 120 civil society organisations represented in Mauritius shared Kaberuka's call for a development-conscious state.

A capable developmental state is necessary to support businesses and farmers, particularly during this era of an "overloaded, frontloaded" global agenda manifesting in Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and other global contexts.

To this end, civil society organisations made representation urging member states to "adopt a common approach to EPAs... and agree to only those provisions that are pro-poor as opposed to a wholesale approach that may negate... objectives of job creation and poverty alleviation."

continued on page 2

Economic growth essential but must be sustainable

continued from page 1

A number of SADC countries have been registering positive GDP growth rates in recent years. Despite this, over 40 percent of SADC citizens still live in acute poverty, according to Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa, who is also SADC chairperson.

Mwanawasa said "poverty can be ended by sharing rising wealth," adding that there was a great sense of optimism in most countries that are currently achieving progress in ending poverty, no matter how modest the progress might be.

"The challenge is to make this progress to happen even faster," said the Zambian president.

Most southern African economies are dualistic and characterized by, on one hand, a foreign-dominated formal sector and, on the other, a marginalized, underdeveloped informal and mostly peasant indigenous sector.

As noted by economist Godfrey Kanyenze, the formal sector emerged as a foreign implant whose *modus operandi* was generally linked to external factors thereby preventing the need for an internal accumulation and transformation process to emerge that would have captured the majority of the labour force into the capitalist process of accumulation.

Kanyenze further argues that this has had the effect of impoverishing and marginalizing the indigenous population, thereby leading to the creation of weak class formations and weak internal markets with low effective demand, in turn constraining the growth of vibrant intra-regional trade.

Furthermore, with few exceptions such as South Africa, SADC Member State exports are mainly primary and unfinished goods with about 90 percent of SADC exports comprising of mineral and agricultural goods, and its imports are mainly capital and intermediate goods, according to official statistics.

To ensure long-term sustainability, Member States would need to diversify their economies as a way of cushioning themselves from inevitable exogenous shocks such as sudden changes in world commodity prices.

Brazil offers one of the best examples of successful diversification. The South American country has been for many years the world's largest producer of coffee. Since the 1990s, however, coffee is no longer central to the Brazilian economy. The country diversified into other areas including manufactured goods, propelling itself into being the tenth largest economy in the world.

Closer to home, countries such as Mauritius have achieved sustained growth on the back of a diversified economy, one that relies on tourism, textiles, sugarcane

and a steadily developing manufacturing base.

Apart from diversification, SADC Member States face the challenge of deepening intra-regional trade.

Kanyenze observes: "As former colonies, the integration of the economies of SADC member states with the world capitalist system was determined by the mercantilists' imperialist interests of the European powers, which created vertical linkages between the European metropolises/centre and the SADC region/periphery."

The dominance of an exogenously planted formal

sector has meant that African countries in general and SADC in particular trade more with Europe than among themselves.

As such, a lot rests on the SADC Free Trade Area to be launched later this year to correct this historical imbalance.

The role of informal cross border traders, who are part of the regional and global value chains, is very important if intra-regional trade is to have relevance in a region where the informal economy is still as significant as the formal economy.

There can be no illusions about the daunting challenges facing the region today, and Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam summed it up when he said:

"The task is certainly immense but so is our responsibility to the millions who live in absolute poverty in our countries..."

"The ultimate objective of power over destiny of the people we lead is precisely to put those people first and take decisions that will make a difference to their lives and those of future generations." □



Brazil offers one of the best examples of successful diversification. The south American country has since the 1990s been the world's largest producer of coffee.

However, the country diversified into other areas including manufactured goods, propelling itself into being the tenth largest economy in the world.

Closer to home, countries such as Mauritius have achieved sustained growth on the back of a diversified economy, one that relies on tourism, textiles, sugarcane and a steadily developing manufacturing base.

Mauritius conference affirms strategies for sustainable development

THE SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development held in Mauritius in April provided a platform for a wide spectrum of stakeholders to dialogue, but it did more than that.

The intention of the conference was to focus on southern Africa's main challenge - poverty - with leaders reaffirming commitment to multi-pronged strategies for sustainable development.

The conference noted that comprehensive strategies to eradicate poverty are already in place at the national and regional levels. What is lacking is holistic implementation and a collective regional approach.

To this end, the conference declaration urged "all SADC Member States to fully implement their strategies aimed at poverty eradication..." adding that this would be done "in pursuance of our commitment" to SADC's long-term development frameworks for deepening regional integration.

The long-term frameworks are the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO).

The conference agreed on the need to combat and eradicate poverty in "all its manifestations and dimensions as a matter of utmost urgency through regional cooperation and integration, sound political and economic governance, the pursuit of appropriate trade and growth policies and gainful participation in the world economy and ... recommit to mobilize the necessary resources."

Poverty statistics for Africa in general and SADC in particular have been repeated endlessly to an extent that the numbers have become mind-numbing and almost meaningless. However, this was one international

conference on poverty that avoided that same ground, rather concentrating on priority areas that require urgent attention.

In light of recent challenges exacerbating poverty in the region, the conference identified six priority areas, summarized in the declaration as:

- Achieving food security in a situation of growing global food shortages;
- Addressing the adverse impact of climate change in the fight against poverty;
- Increasing capacity in power generation and transmission as well as secure greater use of renewable and alternative sources of energy;
- Achieving higher economic growth through accelerated regional integration, pro-poor trade liberalization and economic development;
- Developing and sustaining human capabilities through sustained access of the population to quality and appropriate education, training welfare and social development, nutrition, health and sporting services as well as information in Member States; and
- Accelerating development, rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure for regional integration.

The conference, attended by political leaders from the region and beyond, international cooperating partners, private sector and civil society representatives, agreed to an array of measures necessary to address these priority areas.

To achieve food security, the leaders agreed to "sustainably improve" the production capacity and productivity, facilitating cross-border and internal flows



Development and maintenance of ICT hubs, such as this one in Port Louis, remains important for regional integration.

of food products based on improved infrastructure and networks.

A Task Force of Ministers of Trade, Agriculture and Finance will be set up to encourage regional collaboration in this regard and the task force was mandated to "immediately focus on the current food crisis."

Regarding climate change, the leaders committed to prepare and implement national and regional adaptation and mitigation plans.

And to achieve sustainable pro-poor economic development, the conference noted the need to promote relevant financial sector development including micro-finance and development of small and medium enterprises with particular emphasis on gender.

Further, priority must be given to accelerating regional integration including intra-regional trade liberalization, cross-border investment and value addition by improving the business and investment climate, the leaders agreed.

The conference resolved to "enhance, expand and upgrade infrastructure" with emphasis on labour-intensive methods and Public Private Partnerships.

Relevant education and skills development at all levels will be promoted to ensure higher general efficiency, productivity and boosting the required innovative processes by, among others, bridging the digital divide.

Wide access to health services including primary healthcare should be emphasized in all Member States while it is equally urgent to step up efforts to combat HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases.

The conference underscored the need for strategic partnerships with private sector and civil society to mobilize financial and technical resources "to combat poverty at its roots".

The conference further resolved to "work towards the establishment of a Regional Poverty Observatory to monitor progress made in the implementation of actions in the main priority areas of poverty eradication."

And with all the measures in place, the conference emphasised the need to acquire and develop adequate capacity both at the SADC Secretariat and in Member States to ensure effective implementation of poverty eradication programmes. □

Rising global food prices

A challenge or an opportunity for southern Africa?

by Richard Nyamanhindi

HEADS OF State and Government of SADC Member States meeting in Mauritius at the SADC conference on poverty and development, committed themselves "to focus immediately on the current food challenges by increasing agricultural production."

This, they said, should be done through "encouraging regional collaboration, by sustainably improving production capacity and productivity, and facilitating cross-border and internal food flows, based on improved infrastructure and distribution networks."

SADC is fully cognisant of the need for sustainable food security in the region in order to achieve its vision of economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice, and peace and security for its people.

The mandate of SADC's Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate is to develop, promote, coordinate and facilitate policies and programmes aimed at increasing agricultural and natural resources production, and productivity and trade with the overall goal of improving food security and fostering economic development.

Thus an opportunity exists for the region through the FANR and other organs of SADC to put in place measures that would allow farmers in the region to take advantage of the global food price increases to produce more for the region and beyond.

On the other hand, millions of people in southern Africa are currently food insecure, requiring food assistance and the global rise in food prices has



Current food challenges can be addressed by improving agricultural productivity.

raised the cost for some Member States to import food.

The available figures as of March 2008 show that there has been an increase in the imports of cereals in the region.

Prices of main cereals this marketing year have been much higher than at the same period last year due to strong international and regional demand and weak supplies.

Current prices of maize, the most important staple foodstuff in most countries of the sub-region, are generally above their corresponding levels a year earlier.

What this means is that the region should seize the opportunity afforded by the food predicament to increase production.

The SADC region has plenty of arable land, generally favourable climatic conditions and the expertise to expand agricultural production, and these can be maximised to

avoid imports and produce a surplus for export.

However, with the threat of frequent droughts in the region caused by a number of factors including global warming, the region needs to continue to invest heavily in irrigation.

There is also a need to diversify food production, especially in the area of small grains, which are drought resistant so that there is reduced dependence on imports.

However, for the region to increase production there is an urgent need to review and track progress toward commitments adopted by SADC leaders four years ago in the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

In Dar es Salaam in May 2004, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate agricultural development, upon which more than 70 percent of the people

in the region depend for food, income and employment.

The multi-sectoral Dar es Salaam Declaration's strategy contains an agreed set of short-term (2004-2006) objectives. These include the provision of key agricultural inputs; agro-industrial development and processing; control of crop and livestock pests and diseases; crop, livestock and fisheries production; and water management and irrigation.

In the medium-to-long-term commitments (2004-2010), SADC leaders agreed to address the sustainable use and management of natural resources; disaster preparedness; research, technology development and dissemination; agricultural financing and investment; training and human resources development; gender equality; and human health and mitigation of HIV and AIDS, and other chronic diseases.

As Member States step up the implementation of the Dar es Salaam Declaration and Plan of Action, there still is need to buttress the medium-to-long-term measures that were agreed on as a way of eliminating deficits in the production of staple foods such as maize, wheat and rice.

The coordination of collective and timely actions in response to the region's challenges in food production can be provided by the FANR Directorate of the SADC Secretariat.

FANR can also play a significant role in creating a conducive environment for regional integration and prosperity through the establishment of institutional and policy frameworks and harmonisation of rules and regulations for the conservation of the region's plant and animal genetic resources. □



Vast arable land and favourable climate present opportunities to improve food security in the region, as shown by these rice fields in Madagascar.

Improved prospects for food security in southern Africa this season

by Tigere Chagutah

IN SOUTHERN Africa, the 2007/08 agricultural season is coming to an end with harvesting and movement of produce to markets underway.

Although the planting rains started later than usual, excessive precipitation persisted during December and January throughout the region causing serious flooding in many low-lying areas.

This was particularly the case along the river basins in Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Madagascar.

Since February the rains have diminished, and unfavourably dry weather has returned to some countries including Zimbabwe, parts of Botswana, southern Malawi, southern Mozambique, eastern Swaziland and central Zambia.

Pockets of moderate food insecurity are projected in areas affected by localized flooding that was followed by the unexpected dry spell between February and March 2008.

Despite these weather vagaries, overall prospects for the sub-region as a whole are considered favourable, marking a recovery from the 2006/7 drought-affected season.

However, significant rises in international prices of fuel and fertilizers have affected the use of key inputs in agriculture, somewhat dampening yield prospects.

Post-harvest assessments conducted by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) in April reveal that a majority of households in most parts of Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and northern Mozambique will be food secure during this year. But data

is still awaited from other SADC countries.

In South Africa, the area put under maize this season is officially estimated at about 3.2 million hectares, a 9.7 percent increase from last year.

South Africa's National Department of Agriculture's Crop Estimates Committee estimates output to reach 10.765 million tonnes, a 51.1 percent increase over last year's harvest.

In Malawi, large input subsidy schemes and favourable

rainfall for most parts of the country has contributed to initial preliminary production estimates of maize, rice, and cassava that are higher than the previous five-year average.

Maize production is estimated to reach 3.283 million tonnes, which represents a 50 percent increase against the average, but a five percent decrease from last season.

In Namibia, preliminary forecasts suggest that overall

area planted has decreased by 14 percent compared to the 6-year average, mainly because of the delayed onset of rains and localized flooding.

Despite this reduction in area planted, the cereal production forecast stands at 125,000 tonnes, about 5 percent above the 6-year average and 10 percent above last year when production was affected by drought and an erratic rainfall pattern. □

Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security

THE DAR es Salaam Declaration of May 2004 identified a number of priority areas on which SADC Member States agreed to focus in the short term (2004-2006) and medium-to-long term (2004-2010) so as to achieve food security for the region.

The short-term measures included the need for Member

States to ensure availability and access of key agricultural inputs for farmers.

The summit also underscored the need to provide targeted support to vulnerable farmers with key inputs such as improved seed varieties, fertilizers, agrochemicals, tillage services and farm implements.

In addition, SADC leaders undertook to ensure that all Member States would "progressively increase financing to agriculture by allocating at least 10 percent of national budgets within a period of five years in line with the African Union Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security of July 2003."

Progress on implementation of the Dar es Salaam Declaration

Commitment	Implementing status
Allocation of 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture and rural development	Although most countries have significantly increased their budget allocations to the agricultural sector, the amounts have not risen to the agreed 10 percent, with a few exceptions of Zimbabwe and Malawi.
Development of a regional food reserve facility	Research was carried out in 2006 on the modalities and strategies for the development of a regional food reserve facility, but little has happened since then to make this project a reality.
Improvement of market access	With the volatility in the prices of agricultural commodities on the world market, there has not been much change in accessing those market. Locally, access to markets is hampered by poor feeder roads in some Member States hence the need to accelerate infrastructure development.
Water management and irrigation	Irrigation projects are being implemented in the SADC Member States, although the potential has not been fully tapped with projects moving at a snail pace.
Provision of agricultural inputs	Initiatives at national level are taking place to ensure viability of seed and fertilizer. Cooperation has also been taking place between Member States to ensure that access is widened in those countries facing shortages.

Source FEWSNET, SADC Today

Development starts in the countryside -- Guebuza

THE STARTING point for development in Mozambique must be the rural areas, President Armando Guebuza said in his opening address to the annual meeting of the African Development Bank held in Maputo in May.

"We shall overcome the challenges of economic emancipation by making the rural areas the nuclei of planning and development," Guebuza said, adding that transport and communications infrastructure is needed to bring regions together and "to link centres of production with centres of consumption."

He warned that the problems of rural poverty cannot be solved "by the simple liberalization of prices.

"On the contrary, reality shows us that measures to liberalise and make flexible the economy can in the countryside generate the opposite effects, in the absence of structural measures that seek to deal with the causes of the isolation of rural areas from the rest of the national economy."



President Armando Guebuza

But the free functioning of markets "presupposes the existence of infrastructures that facilitate these linkages."

He said development must have strong participation by beneficiaries, including the private sector. Turning to the sharp rises in oil and grain prices, Guebuza warned that these "have an impact on the productive sector, on the balance of payments and on the state budget.

"This is not just a problem of food security. We are facing a large-scale social and economic problem.

"We must act more speedily than the speed at which oil prices are rising," he said.

The Minister of Planning and Development, Aiuba Cuereneia, who is the current chairperson of the AfDB Board of Governors, noted that the price of a tonne of rice has risen from 373 US dollars at the start of the year to 760 dollars now.

Wheat has reached the price of 412 dollars a tonne, and even maize, the staple food for much of Africa, has risen by 29 per cent, from 171 to 220 dollars a tonne. (AIM *Telinforma*) □

"The time has come for agriculture in Africa to become a viable business"

THE PRESIDENT of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Donald Kaberuka echoed Guebuza's approach, saying that the state must play a key role if a green revolution in Africa is to succeed, and private investment is not sufficient by itself.

There must be both "crowding in of more private investment and a greater role for the state."

"Private investors can probably do their own irrigation," he said, "but they need infrastructure, input and product markets that function, research institutions that deliver and policies that are stable. Only the state is well equipped to provide the latter.

"In the years of structural adjustment, it seems a lot of capacity in this sector (agriculture) was cut to the minimum".

Kaberuka said that although the food predicament is an additional hurdle that will put Africa's ability to manage risks and overcome new threats to great test, it should be seen just as a challenge that can be overcome.

"Perhaps, for our rural farmers, if given quality support, this can turn out to be an opportunity which they have been waiting for, where farming, large and small, finally, be-

comes viable businesses rather than a source of scrapping a meagre livelihood.

"The time has come for agriculture in Africa to become a viable business."

Kaberuka said that short, medium and long term responses to food security involve a global coordination amongst the bank's agencies in concert with governments to:

- ensure that markets function effectively;
- give more capacity to agriculture ministers;
- put in place policies that are pro-women;
- establish the African seed mechanism for which funding has been secured, as well as some degree of fertiliser subsidy; and
- build infrastructure such as roads and irrigation schemes. □

Japan to double aid to Africa over next five years, with focus on infrastructure

JAPAN HAS promised to double official assistance to Africa over the next five years to about US\$1.9 billion per year by 2012, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda told the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in May.

Fukuda said Japan will also provide up to US\$4 billion of soft loans to Africa over the next five years in a "proactive and flexible" manner.

He laid great importance on the development of infrastructure, saying the experience of Japan and other Asian countries shows that improvements in transportation infrastructure play a critical role in attracting private investment.

"Japan wishes to engage in efforts to diligently join the unconnected road networks, and wishes to combine these efforts with improvements to ports in order to form a network, a network that will enable Africa as a whole to move forward with greater dynamism," he said.

This should be "the people's infrastructure" bringing prosperity to communities and the people living there, Fukuda said, adding that Japanese companies will have greater interest in Africa when the infrastructure is improved and this will in turn facilitate the transfer of technologies and managerial experiences.

At the TICAD summit, the African Union (AU) chairperson,

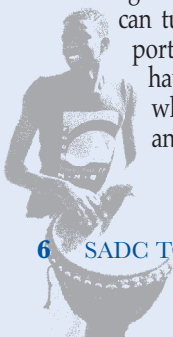
AfDB finances "very strong", Kaberuka

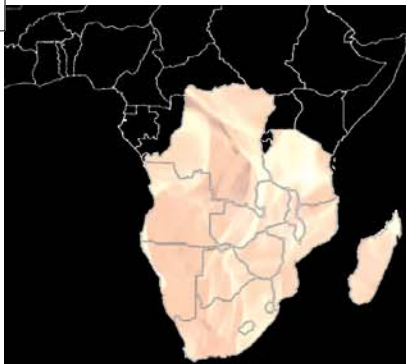
DESPITE INTERNATIONAL financial crises, the finances of the African Development Bank "remain very strong, and our risk bearing capacity remains robust," Kaberuka said, adding that the AfDB would soon open offices in Angola and Algeria, bringing the full complement of 25 in a complex process of decentralisation. □

President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, highlighted the imperative to encourage major companies in the rich countries such as Japan to accelerate development in Africa through investment.

Kikwete cited statistics showing that Japanese companies are not yet significant investors in Africa; he said that of the US\$108.5 billion invested across the world between 2002 and 2006, only 0.4 per cent went to Africa.

Of the total Japanese investment in Africa, 85 per cent went to two countries (South Africa and Egypt) and the remaining 15 per cent was distributed among the other 52 African countries. □





ENERGY

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Energy trading gains momentum

by Richard Nyamanhindi

ENERGY TRADING allows countries to buy and sell surplus electricity through an ever-widening network of electrical lines and relay substations, thus strengthening access to power supply for business and residential purposes through cross-border trade.

Trade has been brisk among most of the mainland SADC Member States and energy trading was up by 20 percent in March, according to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

The increase in trading was facilitated by the coming online of key regional interconnectors that went down the previous month, in a situation that left the SAPP network operating as three separate islands.

Projects such as the recently concluded five-year agreement between Eskom of South Africa and the Mozambican government to supply an additional 250MW of power from Cahora Bassa hydroelectric power station has further increased energy trading between those two countries.

The agreement was signed in Mozambique at the beginning of April, allowing Cahora Bassa to avail 250MW to Eskom from its fifth generator, bringing the total amount Eskom can import from Cahora Bassa to 1500MW.

The power will be supplied over a network extending through Zimbabwe and Botswana to the South African grid via the High Voltage Direct Current line.

EDM, the Mozambican electricity utility, will also receive 50MW additional capacity from the fifth generator at Cahora Bassa.

This year will also see the completion of two interconnector projects between Zambia and Tanzania, and another one between Zambia and the DRC, a situation that will make it possible for an additional 660MW in the region.

Combined with this have been improvements in regional cooperation through inter-government agreements such as the ZESA-NamPower accord to revamp Hwange power station last year.

There is no doubt that these projects have reduced inadvertent power flows and power oscillations that had affected the region from the start of this year.

With most SADC Member States except the island states of Mauritius and Madagascar involved in the regional power pool, financing for capital-intensive energy producing projects will need to be facilitated as agreed at the meeting of the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Implemen-

tation of Power Sector Projects held in Botswana in February.

Energy-producing facilities, be they hydroelectric, coal, solar or nuclear, are tremendously expensive undertakings. Member states have found there is power of another kind in numbers, and they have combined to pool resources.

South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland, for example, have become the tri-nation members of the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative (LSDI), named after the Lubombo mountain range shared by those countries.

The three nations have benefited from the energy needs of the new Mozal Aluminium Smelter, located on the outskirts of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.

The three nations' utility companies formed a new company MO-TRACO to build and run the power line, giving permanent employment to 800 people and creating 9,000 jobs during the construction phase.

Petroleum is a second key energy source that is being processed and used to meet southern Africa's needs, and to fuel expanding industries.

Mozambique's state-owned fuel retailing company, Petromoc, undertook a successful joint venture

deal with the South African energy firm Sasol in 2002, thus increasing energy trade between the countries.

"From Mozambique's point of view, joint ventures offer the capital we need to exploit our growing market of private and industrial petrol consumers. The partners gain ground-level access to this burgeoning market," said the Mozambican Minister of Energy, Salvador Namburete recently.

Coal is the third leg of the region's energy infrastructure. Swaziland's once-thriving mining sector has been reduced to a single coal mine. However, production is still reasonably good due to increased trade with South Africa.

The region's energy sectors face the same challenge as other segments of different nations' economies: how to empower a greater number of previously disenfranchised business people so they might reap the benefits of this lucrative field.

However, if energy trading is going to continue benefiting the region, there is need for a follow-up on international pledges made to finance regional infrastructure projects including under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). □



SADC region gets more interconnected

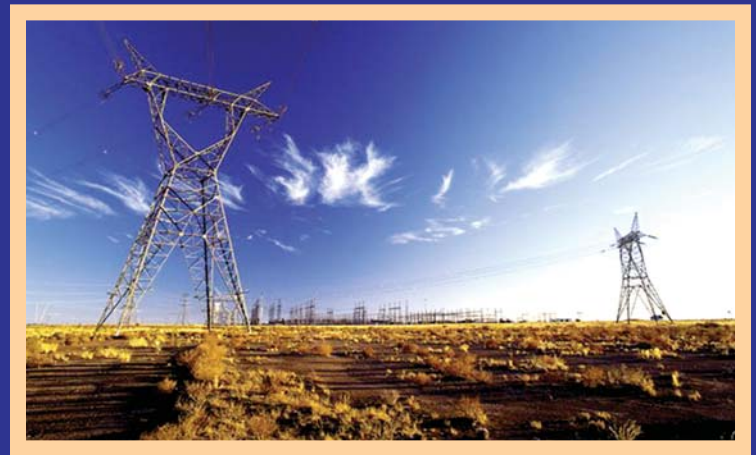
Four countries in the SADC region are to embark on a project to construct a 330KV inter-linked power transmission line that is aimed at improving distribution of electricity among the power utilities.

The Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) of Zimbabwe, Botswana Power Corporation (BCP), NamPower of Namibia and Zambia Electricity Supply Limited (ZESL) are to sign a memoran-

dum of understanding for the project.

This will involve the construction of a high voltage alternating current power line from Hwange through Victoria Falls to the Zambezi substation in Namibia.

The project is aimed at inter-connecting the electricity networks of Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the DRC, Mozambique and South Africa to create an alternative route for power imports and exports. □



SADC ministers deliberate on regional energy shortfalls

by Richard Nyamanhindi

Regional energy ministers have agreed to revive the regional energy planning network to complement the energy recovery roadmap established a few weeks ago to address the power shortages facing the region.

The plan will contain prioritised programmes and activities covering the entire energy sector and is to be reviewed every five years.

It seeks to integrate energy conservation, regional energy linkages, Biomass Energy Conservation and Power Surplus Capacity utilisation among others as measures to mitigate energy shortages.

The SADC ministers responsible for energy, who met in Kinshasa, DRC at the end of April, also noted the importance of reviving the Energy Planning and Environmental Management Training Programme, which ended in February 2008.

The meeting was chaired by Zambia's Minister of Energy and Water Development, Kenneth Konga and was preceded by a preparatory meeting of regional Senior Energy Officials on 28 and 29 April.

The energy ministers took note of the difficulties that the region is experiencing towards the fulfilment

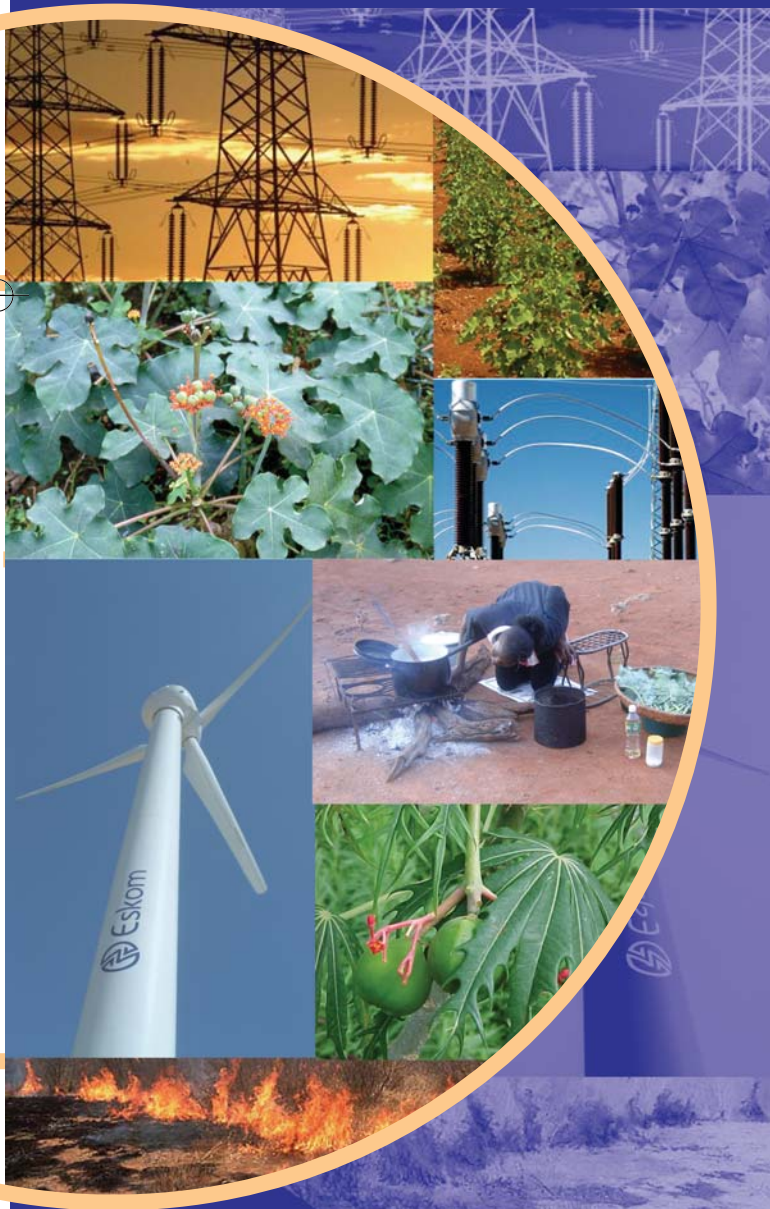
of its mandate of providing reliable and affordable energy to its people which was particularly fuelled by the diminished installed capacity in the power sector.

In light of these problems, the ministers reviewed the SADC Regional Energy Programme, particularly taking into cognisance the forthcoming energy consultative meeting later in the year, which is meant to update the SADC Energy Activity Plan that will be implemented by December 2008.

"The plan would contain prioritised programmes and activities covering the entire energy sector that includes conservation and increasing capacity and would be reviewed every five years," a press statement by the Ministers after the meeting noted.

Furthermore, the ministers deliberated on the energy activities geared towards the revival of the Regional Energy Planning Network, where the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and individual national utilities will develop a plan on energy usage and conservation.

However, in view of the significance of alternative sources of energy such as biomass in the energy supply mix, the ministers directed



CAHORA BASSA REFURBISHMENT MEANS MORE POWER TO THE REGION

Mozambique's Hidroelétrica de Cahora Bassa (HCB), the company running the Cahora Bassa dam, is currently refurbishing the power station, which will enable it to increase the electricity output it sells to the regional countries.

Much of Cahora Bassa's power generating capacity of 2,075 megawatts is sold to South Africa.

The refurbishment will cost HCB US\$60 million, and under a new five-year agreement Cahora Bassa will export a further 250 MW

to South Africa, bringing the total amount to 1,500 MW.

HCB will also supply an additional 50 MW to Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM) from the fifth giant turbine at the dam. EDM receives 400 MW from HCB.

There are five giant turbines at Cahora Bassa each capable of generating 415 MW.

Like other countries in the region, South Africa has been grappling with power shortages, which caused severe blackouts in January, forcing mines to suspend operations for various days over safety concerns.

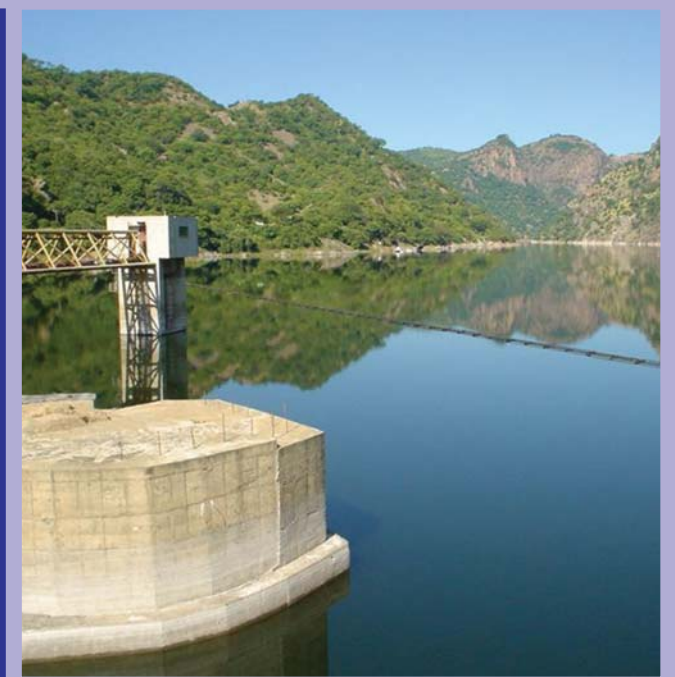
The move is likely to ease South Africa's power shortages and enable it to free more power to its neighbours that had been cut earlier on in the year.

HCB power is supplied to the region over a network extending through Zimbabwe and Botswana to the South African power grid.

Cahora Bassa's power is also sold to Botswana (40 MW), Zimbabwe (200 MW), which leaves 80 MW for other customers such as Malawi and Zambia. Tanzania, which is currently importing electricity from Zambia, has also expressed an interest in buying power from Cahora Bassa.

The South African utility company, Eskom, is also negotiating with the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) for the refurbishment of three power stations with a combined generation capacity of 500 MW.

Mozambique is also currently seeking funding for the building of a new dam on the Zambezi River 60 km downstream from Cahora Bassa, which Eskom has agreed to fund. □



the SADC Secretariat to work towards consolidating efforts to identify funding for the proposed Phase IV, which is meant to ensure energy service delivery and environmental management at the rural level.

In noting the rising petroleum prices, the SADC Energy Ministers directed that an elaborate regional bio-fuels programme be instituted immediately.

Of concern to the Ministers was also the report of the Ministerial Taskforce, which met in Botswana in February and after having deliberated on the status of the Power Surplus Capacity in the Region they noted the following:

- ◆ Available capacity in April 2008 was 47,067 MW vis a vis available capacity of 43,518 in December 2007;
- ◆ The difference between installed and available capacity is currently about 8,000 MW;
- ◆ A total of about 1,700MW was commissioned in 2007 in Angola, South Africa and Swaziland against a target of 1,925MW;
- ◆ In 2008, SAPP has planned to commission 1,757MW against a planned target of 2,014MW;
- ◆ Long-term projects shall be implemented between 2008 and

2025 and shall provide additional power amounting to 44,000 MW.

The Ministers considered and approved the structures proposed to accelerate implementation of power projects, which include project teams, comprising of utilities and independent players in the power supply industry.

They also noted the need to strengthen existing structures such as the Energy Ministerial Task Force, the SADC Secretariat, and subsidiary institutions of SADC such as SAPP and RERA.

The next meeting of the Ministerial Task Force on Energy will be held in South Africa in December 2008. □

Renewable sources

Where the wind blows, energy will follow

SOUTH AFRICA'S first wind farm has begun generating power at the village of Darling, near Cape Town.

The wind farm was officially opened by the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Buyelwa Sonjica, who pressed a symbolic switch to start the four turbines spinning.

She acknowledged that there have been many barriers "but we need to make sure the project is not delayed any more. It

has been a long road to reach this milestone."

The minister said the wind farm has shown that renewable energy projects are "do-able", adding that the launch is timely "when we are experiencing challenges to our supply."

She said that wind power could meet nine percent of the country's energy needs and considerably more in the coastal provinces. The South African government has al-

located R1 billion for renewable energy projects.

Electricity generated by the farm will be sold to Cape Town at a premium price as part of a long-term deal for energy provision.

The chief executive of Darling Wind Power is an Austrian engineer, Hermann Oeisner, who has lived in South Africa for more than 20 years and whose determination finally saw the establishment of the wind farm.



Wind power currently accounts for almost one percent of electricity generation worldwide. Denmark leads the way with wind providing 27 percent of its energy needs, followed by Spain and Portugal at nine percent. □

Slow progress on phasing out leaded petrol in SADC

A MAJORITY of southern African countries are still using leaded petrol after expiry of the agreed deadline to use more environmentally friendly fuels by the beginning of 2006.

Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia have stopped using leaded fuel in line with a commitment made by African countries in 2002 to use only unleaded petrol, which is less harmful to the environment and human health.

Mauritius was the first SADC Member State to phase out leaded fuel in August 2002.

In line with the commitment made in 2002, the Zambian government recently advised all stakeholders in the petroleum sector that from April 2008 they planned to provide a complete range of lead-free fuels to suit all motor vehicles.



Unleaded petrol is less harmful to the environment and human health.

Two types of lead-free petrol will be available on the Zambian market and these are unleaded petrol and lead replacement petrol (LRP).

With this new development, only Unleaded 91 and LRP 91 petrol will be sold in Zambia.

Both fuels are rated at 91 in the fuel octane rating.

The move to remove lead from petrol in SADC gained momentum after the 2002

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in South Africa, which resulted in the launch of a Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles.

The partnership seeks to improve air quality across the developing world by encouraging the deployment of cleaner fuels, such as unleaded and low sulphur petrol and diesel, and improved technologies such as catalytic converters that can significantly cut exhaust fumes.

Progress towards a complete phase-out of leaded fuel in the SADC region has however been slow, with most countries saying they are not ready for the switch to the so-called "cleaner" fuels.

For example, Mozambique and Zimbabwe say they will phase out leaded petrol only after they first deal with logistical problems. □

Bio-fuels to boost the Mozambican economy

THE MOZAMBIKAN government has set aside unused agricultural land for the cultivation of jatropha – a plant used for the production of bio-diesel.

Jatropha has the added advantage of being drought-resistant, it needs very little water to flourish and thus can be grown on previously unused land.

The plant has been thriving in Mozambique, with current investors harvesting just seven months after planting. Convinced of the success of the investment, 2500 ha have been planted.

In addition to direct economic benefits, the projects have created hundreds of new jobs.

Although the levels of production are still small, most investors are hoping to get into the export business soon, and be players on the world market for bio-ethanol and bio-diesel. □

Free trade on the horizon

by Munetsi Madakufamba

THE LAUNCH of a SADC Free Trade Area in August this year will usher in a new era of economic integration with an enlarged market of more than 200 million people.

The Free Trade Area will be officially launched in August during the SADC Summit to be hosted by South Africa, which takes over the rotating SADC chair.

When SADC leaders signed the Trade Protocol in 1996, they signalled their intention to bring down tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in the region. That process would begin in September 2000 when two-thirds of Member States had ratified the protocol.

Thus over the last eight years, Member States have been implementing the Trade Protocol with a 2008 target to ensure 85 percent of all product lines are trading at zero tariffs. The process involved, among other issues, agreeing on rules of origin and removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The rules of origin are now in place and the SADC Certificate of Origin is now increasingly getting recognition in Member States.

At the start of 2008, some Member States were reportedly lagging behind with regard to removal of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade although the SADC Secretariat remains confident that come August, all parties to the Trade Protocol would have complied.

However, not all of the 14 SADC Member States are parties to the Free Trade Area as Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo are currently not applying the Trade Protocol, and have asked for more time.

For SADC Member States, the Free Trade Area brings both opportunities and challenges.

Many SADC economies are too small to support a large range of viable productive investments and as such, the Free Trade Area will pro-

vide the opportunity for an enlarged domestic market that can foster economic growth through the economies of scale and improved efficiency.

At 25 percent, intra-SADC trade is still low and is largely concentrated in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

Official statistics further show that SADC countries are attracting only 1 percent of global foreign direct investment, a performance that is greater than most sub-regions in Africa, but still low.

Against this background, SADC's move towards a Free Trade Area becomes an attractive option insofar as it will increase the region's competitive advantage and trade performance as well as enhance chances to attract foreign direct investment.

The opportunities are not limited to the Free Trade Area. SADC's strategic plan envis-

ages deeper economic integration and cooperation through the creation of a Customs Union in 2010, a Common Market by 2015, a Monetary Union by 2016 and a Single Currency by 2018.

However, progress towards deeper economic integration is hampered by lingering fears among many countries. These include the need to protect infant industries and fears that goods from large exporting countries such as South Africa may swamp markets of smaller economies leading to collapse of their industries.

Beyond these fears, some Member States are facing constraints and challenges in their quest to liberalise trade especially in circumstances where they relied heavily on customs revenue. In such cases, a direct compensation mechanism may be necessary to cushion national budgets and prevent Member States from plunging into a debt trap.

Other constraints hindering intra-regional trade include high transaction costs owing, for instance, to inadequate transport, information, communications and energy infrastructure as well as restrictive customs and immigration procedures.

It therefore comes as no surprise that SADC has accorded high priority to the implementation of infrastructure projects to support deeper economic integration as was the case at the 2007 SADC Summit in Lusaka where leaders discussed such issues.

Once fully functional, there is no doubt that the Free Trade Area will lead to continual innovation, better products, increased savings and investment, better paying jobs as well as enable more goods to reach SADC consumers at lower prices. □



US\$20 billion needed for transport infrastructure

SADC IS seeking US\$20 billion for surface transport systems and ports development projects as it lays the road map for accelerated intra-regional trade and a customs union by 2010.

The regional bloc has come up with priority investment areas in designated trade corridors and is drafting the way forward with the assistance of international co-operating partners on the SADC corridor development programme.

At a high level ministerial SADC corridors review meeting recently held in Namibia,

delegates explored institutional structures required to effectively implement infrastructure development of corridors at national, trans-boundary and regional levels.

SADC's acting chief director Remmy Makumbe said that road, rail and ports development and expansions will require US\$20 billion, funding of which is expected to come from Member States and co-operating partners.

Makumbe said that intra-SADC trade will necessitate a vibrant transport infrastructure, adding that countries

along the shorelines and the six landlocked SADC Member States should be able to join forces and create a seamless transport infrastructure between ports and the SADC hinterland.

"We are also looking at the status of implementation of the corridors we have in SADC and to what extent have programmes to develop these corridors been implemented," Makumbe said, adding that in the medium term, the region has targeted to spend US\$20 billion for surface transport alone. □

China to construct railway across southern Africa

PLANS ARE underway by the Chinese government to construct a railway line across southern Africa from Angola on the western seaboard to the United Republic of Tanzania on the eastern coast of the sub region.

The railway line, which will run from Luanda to Dar es Salaam, will reduce the dependence on Durban and Mombasa as key landing ports for traders from the east.

Surging oil prices set to affect business in the region

BUSINESSES IN the SADC region are bracing for a difficult second half of the year as rapidly rising oil prices look likely to dent prospects for higher economic growth.

Economists have urged businesses to be more innovative and adopt more energy efficient production methods in the wake of rising global oil prices that peaked at US\$139 a barrel early June.

The problems facing the oil markets are creating a high level of uncertainty and pushing up prices around the world.

Southern African economies are already feeling the inflationary pinch, in part because of increasing transport and other operational costs.

Consequently, rising oil prices may slow the regional economy this year, which the African Development Bank forecast in May would expand at the pace of 6.5 percent per annum. □

In 2001, China pledged to finance the rehabilitation of the 1,860-kilometre-long Tanzania-Zambia Railway (Tazara) built by the Chinese government in an aid grant in the 1970s.

The railway links the Indian Ocean port city of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and its terminal of Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia, which will then be extended, passing through the southern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo and ending up in Angola.

Zambia, is bound to benefit immensely from the railway line as its main export product, copper, is currently being transported from the Copperbelt to Dar es Salaam and to Durban in South Africa.

With plans underway to rehabilitate the port of Dar es Salaam, the railway line will also help to place the Tanzanian port city as the main hub on the East African seaboard.

The railway line is expected to reduce cargo trans-

portation time from Angola and the Great Lakes region to world markets.

Currently, cargo from Angola has to go round the Cape before heading out to markets in the east.

The China International Fund Ltd is undertaking a US\$300 million rehabilitation of the Benguela railway line in Angola, which was destroyed during the civil war, a development that is set to increase trade between Member States in the region. □

COSAFA secures 16 million rands sponsorship

THE COUNCIL of Southern Africa Football Association (COSAFA) has secured 16 million rands to stage this year's COSAFA championship.

COSAFA President, Seke-tu Patel, confirmed the development from Seychelles, adding that logistics were in place to successfully stage the prestigious regional championship.

He said a consortium of regional companies had put their resources together to ensure that the championship was held this year.

"I am happy to announce that the COSAFA championship will finally take place. I know there has been a lot of doubt among our member associations and countries whether the championship will take place or not."

The COSAFA president said that it had been difficult to raise the funds considering that the regional football governing body had other commitments to stage the men's under-17, under-20 and women's championships.

"We just need to secure a long-term sponsorship by finding one major sponsor rather than relying on support from different companies," Patel said.

South Africa is the reigning champion after they defeated Zambia 4-3 on penalties in 2006.

Namibia launches 5-year development programme

NAMIBIA HAS launched a five-year country strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme which aims at human development and poverty alleviation.

The National Planning Commission (NPC) of Namibia and the Delegation of the European Commission (EC) to Namibia formally launched the programme, which will run between 2008 and 2013.

The EC will provide external assistance of 104.9 million Euros in that period. A substantial part of the funds will be allocated to rural development and human resources development.

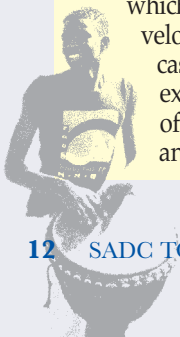
Angola, Zimbabwe and Zambia have each won the championship three times while South Africa has won it once.

The COSAFA tournament is very important as the region prepares for the 2010 World Cup Soccer Showcase. □

In rural development, support will be extended to rural economic activities with a view to benefit from improved market access and poverty alleviation.

In human resources development, support will increase the supply of skilled labour to meet labour market demands and support national development goals.

Despite positive Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates in Namibia, the country still requires external resources to address poverty reduction, human resources development, HIV and AIDS pandemic and other pressing development challenges. □



SADC deploys 400+ observers for Zimbabwe presidential run-off

SADC HAS doubled its election observer mission for the Zimbabwe presidential run-off election on 27 June.

The run-off became necessary after the 29 March election did not produce an outright winner. This is in line with the country's electoral law which requires the winning candidate to have a fifty-plus-one majority of valid votes cast.

Having sent the largest mission numbering 163 members to observe the 29 March harmonized elections, SADC sent an even bigger team to cover the run-off election.

"We had targeted 300 observers but we will have more than 400 on the polling day," said Rtd Lt-Col Thanki Mothae, the director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation directorate at the SADC Secretariat.

Mothae was speaking as the advance team of the SADC Electoral Observer Mission (SEOM) arrived in the country in early June. He urged the observers to be objective and observe the laws of Zimbabwe when they are carrying out their duties.

"The main purpose of the SADC mission is to help the people of Zimbabwe through this electoral process so that it runs peacefully and smoothly.

"We are not here to take sides. We are not here to create confusion but to help the people of Zimbabwe, therefore the observers should observe the laws of Zimbabwe when discharging their duties and avoid making individual statements," he said.

Mothae also highlighted that as the SEOM they will be working under the auspices of SADC, in line with the SADC

Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

Angola leads this election observer mission, as the current head of the Troika for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

An Election Observer Advance Team consisting of technical staff from SADC Member States was deployed in the country at the beginning of June to prepare the ground for the SEOM.

The advance team was led by Natangwe Elia Angula who is SADC Senior Strategic Analyst for the Directorate of Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The technical team studied the logistical aspects that are necessary in the election such as the number of polling stations, communication and transport.

"It was after that preliminary assessment that we were able to determine the number of observers needed and informed the member countries to nominate their observers," Mothae said.

In early May a SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation was also in Zimbabwe to access the political situation and the preparations for the presidential election run-off.

The committee, which was accompanied by SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Salomão, urged the parties contesting the run-off to participate in the election in full observation of the country's laws and the SADC Principles and Guidelines governing the conduct of democratic elections.

The presidential run-off is between the incumbent President Robert Mugabe of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu PF) and Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the main faction of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T).

A preliminary statement issued by SEOM before the announcement of results of the first round of elections concluded that Zimbabwe's harmonised polls on 29 March were "a peaceful and credible expression of the will of the people of Zimbabwe".

These elections comprised four ballot papers for presidential, local council and two houses of parliament (National Assembly and Senate).

A SADC summit held in Zambia on 13 April com-

mended the people of Zimbabwe for the "peaceful and orderly manner in which they conducted themselves before, during and after the elections."

The summit also commended the government of Zimbabwe for ensuring that elections were conducted in a peaceful environment and urged ZEC to verify and release results expeditiously in "accordance with the due process of law".

The presidential election results were announced by ZEC on 2 May following what the commission said was a necessary meticulous verification process.

The ZEC has announced new regulations for the presidential run-off, which are intended to speed up the release of the results. □

Angolan parliamentary poll in September

ANGOLAN PRESIDENT José Eduardo dos Santos has confirmed that parliamentary elections will be held on 5 September 2008 "across all national territory".

The announcement in June followed a meeting of the Council of the Republic, a cross-party body chaired by the president, which gave final approval for the elections after being briefed on arrangements and preparations.

The elections will be the first since the formal end of the 27-year civil war in 2002, and have been delayed for more than a year to allow for completion of voter registration, a difficult logistical ex-

ercise in a country still undertaking post-war reconstruction.

Dos Santos, 65, is leader of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and became president of the country in 1979, after the death of the founding father of Angola, Dr Agostinho Neto.

The last national elections took place during a ceasefire process in 1992 when the late Jonas Savimbi of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) stood against dos Santos and lost the first round before refusing to contest a run-off.

The next presidential election is expected in 2009. □

SADC ministers accelerate progress towards gender equality

by Petronella Mugoni

SADC MINISTERS responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs met recently in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, to discuss the draft Protocol on Gender and Development. The objective of the meeting was to prepare for presentation of the protocol to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the 14 Member States in August.

The agenda, with the theme "SADC Accelerating Progress in Achieving Gender Equality", allowed the gender ministers to reflect on the results of the regional meeting of SADC senior officials held in Livingstone, Zambia, in December 2007 with the objective of fine tuning the contents of the protocol.

Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba said in his opening address that progress has been made in sensitising citizens on gender issues, but there is still need for a legally binding instrument to accelerate the process.

Pohamba's statement was presented by the former gender minister, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who is now the Minister of Environment and Tourism,

The gender ministers' discussion resulted from the decision of SADC leaders at their Summit last year in Zambia to defer signing the draft protocol until wider consultations could be held, especially on implementation of targets.

The draft was referred back to SADC ministers responsible for gender for further national consultations.

Underscoring the importance of reviewing the draft so as to reach a consensus before the protocol is resubmitted to Summit in 2008, the SADC Gen-

der Unit prepared a roadmap towards approval of the protocol, with time-bound actions to be undertaken before re-submission.

The meeting of SADC ministers in Windhoek was the third step in the agreed process.

Namibia reaches target of 30 percent women in National Assembly

NAMIBIA HAS become the fourth country in the region to achieve 30 percent female representation in parliament.

Three more women were appointed to parliament in Namibia in May, bringing to 24 the number of women out of a total 78 members in the National Assembly.

This gives women 31 percent of the seats, up from the previous 27 percent.

The women were appointed on party lines to replace three members of parliament who had died or resigned, two from the ruling SWAPO party and one from the opposition.

Under Namibia's electoral system of Proportional Representation (PR), the electorate votes for party lists containing candidates presented by each party. If a candidate cannot take up their seat then the next person on the list is normally appointed.

Some political parties in countries using the PR system select women candidates for every second or third place on their list to ensure equitable representation.

Namibia has shown a consistent commitment to ensuring women's equal participation in politics and decision-making as evidenced by the upward trend in the number of women in parliament.

The first step was the meeting of senior officials in December 2007, while the second consisted of national consultations with all stakeholders from January to March 2008.

Before the document can be presented at the Summit, however, it must be discussed

at a meeting of justice ministers, which is the fourth step in the roadmap.

A protocol is the most binding of SADC legal instruments and shows the full commitment of SADC governments to address challenges faced by women in the region. □

Tanzania in fulfilling this quota.

The voluntary party quota, and the PR system, is also used in South Africa and Mozambique, and thus it is no coincidence that these two have the highest representation of women in parliament in the region.

Tanzania has a constituency system of First Past The Post (FPTP) contested by both men and women, but the constitution guarantees that one-third additional seats are reserved for women, appointed under a PR system based on the number of seats each party wins in the election. □

Women Representation in SADC Member States in the Last Two Elections

Country	Election Year	Women MPs %	Election Year	Women MPs %	Electoral system
Angola	-	-	1992	9.5	PR
Botswana	1999	18.2	2004	11.1	FPTP
Congo DRC	-	-	2006	12	FPTP
Lesotho	2002	12	2007	23	FPTP
Madagascar	2002	-	2007	7.9	FPTP
Malawi	1999	8.3	2004	17	FPTP
Mauritius	2000	5.7	2005	17	FPTP
Mozambique	1999	28.6	2004	33.3	PR
Namibia	1999	19.2	2004	24.4	PR
South Africa	1999	30	2004	37.8	PR
Swaziland	1998	7.3	2003	19	FPTP
Tanzania	2000	16.3	2005	30.3	FPTP; PR*
Zambia	2001	12.7	2006	14.7	FPTP
Zimbabwe	2005	15.8	2008	13	FPTP

Compiled by SARDC WIDSAA 2008

*Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania guarantees at least one-third seats for women under additional PR system

Key: PR - Proportional Representation
FPTP - First Past The Post





THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY
SADC Today, Vol 10 No 6 June 2008



SADC TODAY is produced as a reference source of activities and opportunities in the Southern African Development Community, and a guide for decision-makers at all levels of national and regional development. Articles may be reproduced freely in the media and elsewhere, with attribution.

EDITOR

Munetsi Madakufamba

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Bayano Vally, Tomas Vieira Mario,
Richard Nyamanhindi, Patience Zirima, Petronella Mugoni, Patricia Munemo,
Takura Chamuka, Clever Mafuta, Tigere Chagutah,
Phyllis Johnson, Shiela Chikulo, Emmanuella Matorofa

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Head of Corporate Communications Unit, SADC
Leefa Penehupifo Martin

SADC TODAY is published six times a year by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) for the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, as a reliable, knowledge source on the Southern African Development Community. The contents consider the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as integral to the region's development.

© SADC, SARDC, 2008

SADC TODAY welcomes contributions from individuals and organisations within the SADC region in the form of articles, photographs, news items and comments, and also relevant articles from outside the region. A standard fee is paid for articles, photos and illustrations used in the publication. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items, and to edit to fit the space available. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions or opinions of SADC or SARDC.

Subscribe today

SADC TODAY is available through an annual subscription fee. For six issues a year, the fee is US\$75 for outside Africa, US\$55 for the rest of Africa and US\$45 for SADC. Your subscription will enable you to receive the newsletter by airmail or email. For more details on subscriptions, please contact the Editor.



SADC Today is supported by the
Southern Africa Trust



SADC TODAY is published in English, Portuguese and French and is available electronically at www.sadc.int www.sardc.net.

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Tonely Ngwenya

PHOTOS & ILLUSTRATIONS

p1, T Chamuka (SARDC), SA Tourism; p3 M Madakufamba (SARDC);
p4 (top) SARDC (bottom) M Madakufamba; p6 Cite Ferhat Momedé;
p8-9 Eskom, NamPower; p10 R Nyamanhindi (SARDC)

ORIGINATION & PRINT

DS Print Media, Johannesburg

Correspondence should be addressed to:
The Editor, SADC TODAY

SARDC, 15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel 263 4 791141 Fax 263 4 791271
sadctoday@sardc.net

or

SADC HOJE

SARDC, Rua D. Afonso Henriques, 141, Maputo, Moçambique
Tel 258 1 490831 Fax 258 1 491178
sardc@maputo.sardc.net

Information 21 Websites
www.sadc.int www.sardc.net www.ips.org www.saba.co.za

Thanks to the following airlines for assisting with distribution of SADC Today:
Air Botswana, Linhas Aeresde Moçambique, Air Namibia, South African Airways,
Air Mauritius, TAAG Angolan Airlines, Zambian Airways and Air Zimbabwe

EVENTS DIARY 2008

June

2-4, Zambia

14th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)

On this occasion, the ICE membership will be expanded to co-opt other relevant ministries including those with specific responsibilities towards the Free Trade Area.

4-6, South Africa

World Economic Forum on Africa

The 18th World Economic Forum on Africa will discuss the impacts of global businesses on the continent. Discussions will review the latest initiatives to tackle the business climate, physical and social infrastructure as well as insights into emerging priorities of new business leaders.

7-12, South Africa

12th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment

The conference is the highest organ of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), whose members are African ministers responsible for the environment. AMCEN has led the process for the development of the action plan for the Environment Initiative for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and meets to discuss and agree on programmes and initiatives to facilitate the effective implementation of its mandate towards environmental protection in Africa.

17-20, Swaziland

SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM)

The ICM is comprised of least two ministers from each SADC Member State. Its role is to ensure proper policy guidance and coordination of cross-sectoral activities of SADC. The meeting will review the activities of SADC directorates to ensure the rapid implementation of programmes that would otherwise wait for the Council of Ministers.

30-1 July, Egypt

11th Africa Union Summit

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government from the African Union's 53 member countries will meet in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt for its eleventh ordinary session. This year's theme is, "Meeting the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation". The meeting will be preceded by the Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives and the Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

July

1-2, South Africa

International Conference on Knowledge and Information Intermediaries

The conference is meant to put a spotlight on the role of research brokers and intermediaries and the contribution they can make in supporting and enabling evidence-based pro-poor policy and practice. Under the theme, "Locating the power of in-between", the conference is organised by the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa and the Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom (UK).

2-4, France

10th Africa Energy Forum

Launched in 1999, the Africa Energy Forum is Africa's premier annual power and gas investment and business forum, where governments and power utility companies discuss the international energy situation with focus on Africa's power and gas sectors.

50 years

15 April 1958
First Conference of
Independent African States

45 years

25 May 1963
OAU >>>>> AU

Africa Day: Marking the progress of the continent

AFRICAN LEADERS and political activists gathered in Ghana on 15 April 1958, for the first conference of independent African states, hosted by Kwame Nkrumah, just one year after leading Ghana to independence on 6 March 1957.

This conference was significant in that it represented the first Pan-African conference held on African soil, representing the collective expression of African resistance to colonialism, and was hosted by the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from a colonial power.

The previous conference, in 1945, was held in London where Nkrumah helped George Padmore to organize the fifth Pan-African Congress, where he drafted the "Declaration of the Colonial Peoples of the World".

Nkrumah returned home in 1947 to engage in active politics and formed the Convention People's Party in 1949, saying: "In all political struggles there come rare moments, hard to distinguish but fatal to let slip, when all must be set upon a hazard, and out of the simple man is ordained strength."

Just a year after Independence, he hosted the First Conference of Independent African States. There were eight, including Ghana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. These were the total representation for Africa at the United Nations.

Representatives of the National Liberation Front of Algeria and the Union of Cameroonian Peoples also attended.

The conference called for the founding of African Freedom Day, a day to "mark each year the onward progress of the liberation movement, and to symbolise the determination of the people of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation."

Five years later another historic meeting took place in Ethiopia, after many more countries had gained political independence.

On 25 May 1963, leaders of 32 independent African states met in Addis Ababa to form the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which is now the African Union (AU).

By then, more than two-thirds of the continent had achieved independence.

At this historic meeting, the date of Africa Freedom Day was changed from 15 April to 25 May and Africa Freedom Day was declared African Liberation Day, now celebrated across the continent as Africa Day.

The commemoration provides a platform for remembering African history, from the rich pre-colonial development period through the dark days of slavery and colonialism right up to the liberation of southern Africa and the end of the apartheid system in South Africa in May 1994, more than 30 years after the formation of the OAU and its Liberation Committee.

Nkrumah hoped the OAU would become the foundation for an African Union government, and it did, 40 years after he led the people of the former Gold Coast to independence as Ghana.

The African Union is now established with a permanent Commission to run its operations, a development arm called the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and a Pan-African Parliament.

African Unity

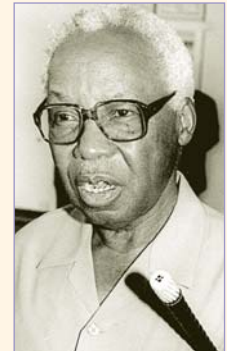
"To many people, the unity of African states which we regard as the primary basis of our African policy appears visionary and unattainable. We do not hold this view. The unity of African states can be a reality and it will be achieved earlier than many of us suppose." Nkrumah



Nkrumah



Lumumba



Nyerere

AT THE end of 1958, Kwame Nkrumah hosted another conference, the All-African People's Conference, in Accra, attended by men who were to become notable political leaders, including Patrice Lumumba, Julius Nyerere and others. They returned home determined to end colonial rule and to make their territories base areas for the liberation movements.

Nkrumah addressed many of Africa's contemporary challenges in his books, written in the 1960s, including *I Speak of Freedom*, *The Struggle Continues*, and *Africa Must Unite*. He could see many of the challenges ahead when he wrote that "Ghana's independence is meaningless unless it is linked with the total liberation of Africa... and with the projection of the African personality in the international community."

In the latter he wrote of the dangers of balkanisation, including potential division and conflict, the vital need for political unification, and All-African economic planning.

In *Challenge of the Congo*, Nkrumah showed "how meaningless political independence could be without economic freedom and how necessary it was for African solutions to be found for African problems."

Public holidays in SADC June - August 2008

1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
24 June	Fisherman's Day	DRC
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
30 June	Independence Day	DRC

1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
3 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
7 July	International Trade Fair	Tanzania
8 July	Unity Day	Zambia
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
19 July	President's Day	Botswana
20 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 July	Public Holiday	Swaziland

1 August	Parents' Day	DRC
4 August	Farmers' Day	Zambia
8 August	Farmer's Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
11 August	Heroes' Day	Zimbabwe
12 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Mauritius
26 August	Heroes' Day	Namibia