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The year 2009 in retrospect

by Kizito Sikuka

THE CURTAIN comes down on a historic year for southern Africa, which has seen significant advances towards regional integration and African unity.

Two key indicators were the launch of the Chirundu One Stop Border Post and a ground-breaking agreement between three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to form a single Free Trade Area by 2012.

The Chirundu One Stop Border Post between Zambia and Zimbabwe was formally opened for business in December, setting a new benchmark for regional integration among SADC Member States and a test case for the continent as a whole.

This is the first One Stop Border Post on the continent and others, such as Namanga between Tanzania and Kenya,

are watching for lessons learned as they prepare to open the next one.

SADC selected Chirundu a few years ago as one of the border posts for the pilot phase of the One Stop border initiative that aims to facilitate trade and free movement of goods and services among the 15-member regional community.

With the One Stop Border Post, travellers are cleared just once for passage into another country in contrast with the current situation in which travellers have to be sanctioned on both sides of the border often generating lengthy delays.

In the long run, the project seeks to harmonize customs and immigration laws at border posts within the SADC region.

In another major milestone for 2009, SADC agreed on a plan of action with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COME-

SA) and the East African Community (EAC) to establish an enlarged Free Trade Area (FTA) encompassing 26 Member States by 2012.

This follows recommendations made at the inaugural Tripartite Summit held in 2008 by leaders from the three groupings to merge their FTAs into one grand market, in line with the continental integration envisaged by the African Union.

Secretariats from SADC, COMESA and EAC agreed on a plan of action in November and leaders are expected to approve and endorse the plan at their forthcoming Tripartite summit scheduled for early 2010.

A single FTA will open borders to literally half of the continent, spanning the entire southern and eastern regions of Africa.

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The year 2009 in retrospect

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This will be, by any standards, a formidable economic community with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$625 billion and a combined population of more than 500 million.

The FTA will help to resolve the long-standing conundrum of overlapping membership, which has presented headaches for the three RECs in their quest towards deeper integration, as technically a country can belong to only one Customs Union.

The launch of the FTA by 2012 will result in the three groupings coalescing into a single free trade area with the ultimate goal of establishing a single Customs Union.

Among other developments in 2009, southern Africa was not spared from the effects of the global economic crisis.

The SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration said the global economic crisis has had a negative impact on the economies of most countries in the region, a development that has impacted on regional macroeconomic convergence.

Mining, agriculture and tourism were the most affected sectors, thus hampering growth in Member States.

SADC leaders said at their Summit in Kinshasa in September that the effects of the crisis must be closely monitored with a view to implementing measures aimed at minimizing its impact on the region.

Regarding political developments, the region witnessed stability in most parts of southern Africa with five countries holding general elections.

The people of Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa went to the polls in 2009. Ruling parties in the respective countries were returned by the electorate with a resounding two-thirds majority, in electoral processes that were witnessed by the African Union and SADC election observers.

The latter ruled that all five elections complied with the

SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

In Zimbabwe, the SADC-sponsored talks managed to broker a deal to form an inclusive government led by President Robert Mugabe with former opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai as Prime Minister.

The inclusive government, sworn into office in February 2009, has been credited for addressing many of the country's political and economic challenges since its formation in February, although illegal international sanctions remain in place, imposed by the European Union and USA.

Peace returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo with SADC leaders expressing their confidence in the country by hosting the 2009 annual Summit in Kinshasa.

SADC elected DRC as chair of the 15-member organization for the period 2009/10, taking over the rotating chair from South Africa.

Political parties in Lesotho were urged to continue with the peace dialogue to find a lasting solution to the challenges facing the country.

However, a major setback for SADC emerged again in March when Madagascar slid into political turmoil.

This was after opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from President Marc Ravalomanana in a public demonstration backed by the military, similar to the method used by Ravalomanana when he seized power a few years earlier from his predecessor, Didier Ratsiraka.

SADC-led mediation efforts have seen both leaders together with two former Madagascan presidents including Ratsiraka agreeing to set up a transitional government to govern the country until fresh elections are held in 2010. However, implementation of this agreement continues to be a challenge as the year draws to a close.

On the environment front, southern Africa was in agreement with the rest of Africa on a common position for the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December.

Key points are that Africa will not accept a new pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol, and that Africa requires a scaled-up finance, technology and capacity support for adaptation and risk management.

The spirit and the principles of the Bali Action Plan must also be respected and guide all negotiations, Africa said.

The year 2009 also saw SADC Environment and Natural Resources Ministers launch SADC's report on the state of the region's environment, the *Southern Africa Environment Outlook*.

The outlook says that climate change caused by global warming is well underway, with average temperatures in the region having risen by 0.5 degrees Celsius over the last century, with the 1990s deemed the warmest and driest decade ever.

On South-South cooperation, SADC together with the rest of Africa strengthened its relations significantly with China and South America.

Under the Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Asian nation pledged, among other things, a US\$10 billion loan to African countries to construct 100 clean energy stations during the next three years.

African and South American leaders met in Summit in September and approved a plan to establish an African-South American Bank to finance development in respective continents as well as to promote trade.

On energy development, SADC continued to experience serious shortfalls as it advances towards the desired surplus power generation, expected in 2013 if short term power projects are implemented on time.

The Southern African Power Pool in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat hosted a Power Sector Investors Roundtable in Livingstone, Zambia to attract investment to the energy sector for completion of some key projects within the next two years.

SADC Energy Ministers meeting in April called for a united stand in confronting the challenges, saying "no one country can individually tackle

power shortages" presently being felt across the region.

Regarding gender development, southern Africa, one of the world's leading regions in advancing the involvement of women in decision-making, witnessed the appointment of the first woman Vice-President in Malawi, Joyce Banda, and the first woman to occupy the post of Speaker of the National Assembly in Botswana, Margaret Nasha.

The appointment of Banda and Nasha signals another step towards gender equality in the region. However, the low number of women who made it into Parliament in the recent elections is a setback in a region committed to reach 50 percent parity in decision-making by 2015.

As a means of tracking implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development approved in 2008, the SADC Gender Unit and Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs launched their 2009 edition of the *SADC Gender Monitor in October*.

The *SADC Gender Monitor* also reviews progress towards the targets of the Beijing Platform for Action, set at the Fourth World Women Conference in 1995.

SADC leaders endorsed the candidature of Malawi to assume the chair of the African Union from Libya, whose tenure expires in January 2010. The chair rotates according to regions and the next chairperson should come from the SADC region.

The year 2009 also saw Zimbabwe assume the COMESA chair at the launch of its Customs Union in June.

With 2009 having come and gone, attention now turns to 2010 with high expectations on the 2010 Soccer World Cup finals to be hosted for the first time in Africa by South Africa and the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola, hosted in southern Africa only for the second time.

Both countries have made strong efforts to engage neighbouring countries to ensure that both events have regional ownership and support. *sardc.net* □

Three decades of global fight against gender discrimination

EXACTLY 30 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly made an overarching global commitment towards ensuring rights for the world's women.

This commitment made through the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1979, and defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

All countries in SADC have since ratified CEDAW and efforts have been made to harmonize statutory laws with the Convention.

CEDAW is regarded as an international constitution for women and aims to end exclusion of women from politics, law, justice, employment, work, the economy, social services, health, education, culture and religion.

In order to end discrimination against women, Member States are committed to:

- Incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in legal systems, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones which prohibit discrimination against women;
- Establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure effective protection of women against discrimination; and
- Ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations and enterprises.

Thirty years on, the southern African region has made significant strides in ensuring gender equality and non-discrimination of women in all sectors of society.



Women from different parts of southern Africa celebrate three decades of the global fight against gender discrimination.

Policy frameworks and programmes towards gender equality and women's empowerment have been instituted at both regional and country level.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development signed in 2008 is one milestone as it is the most comprehensive regional instrument towards realizing gender equality and women's empowerment.

The protocol encompasses provisions made in CEDAW as well as other regional, global and continental instruments for achieving gender equality, such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals and the African Union Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa, into one regional instrument.

The adoption of the Protocol has seen increased regional momentum towards achieving gender equality and ending discrimination against women.

Other achievements include the securing of provisions for equality or non-discrimination of women in SADC Member State constitutions. Most SADC Member

States now have gender or women's empowerment policies in place.

Over the last decade, there has been an increase of women in decision-making positions in the region in most SADC countries with five countries (Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania) having more than 30 percent women in their parliaments.

Botswana has appointed Margaret Nasha as the first woman to occupy the post of Speaker of the National Assembly.

In Malawi, Joyce Banda was appointed as the first woman to the post of Vice President while Zimbabwe has had a woman Vice President since 2004. Mozambique and South Africa have had a woman Prime Minister and Vice President, respectively.

However, the majority of countries in the region still have very few women in political positions, as evidenced by the recent elections in Botswana in which women occupy 6.5 percent of seats in parliament, the lowest figure in the region.

To address this situation, the region is developing a

strategy to serve as a guide for Member States to achieve the 50/50 target of women in politics and decision-making positions by 2015.

Countries in the region have also enacted or amended legislation on issues of gender violence, including provisions against marital rape.

Institutional measures such as arms of government responsible for women affairs have been put in place to implement plans towards gender equality.

Despite achievements, the region still faces challenges to attainment of gender equality objectives because in practice women still suffer gender discrimination and violation of rights.

This is often because of ignorance of the law; economic hardships; cumbersome court procedures; insufficient information on existing rights; and lack of awareness of existing laws that make it difficult for women to exercise their rights.

Customary law is also still practised by many people in southern Africa and continues to govern their daily lives. Rights under customary law do not usually coincide with universally defined rights.

Other challenges affecting achievement of women's rights include HIV and AIDS which place a heavy toll on women's labour through increased unpaid care work. Poverty also remains high and disproportionately affects women and children who are already vulnerable, with a corresponding negative impact on their ability to meet basic needs.

Despite these challenges, southern Africa has made significant progress towards achieving gender equality targets since 1979. □

Chirundu One Stop Border Post commissioned

THE CHIRUNDU One Stop Border Post between Zambia and Zimbabwe has formally opened for business, setting a new benchmark for regional integration among SADC Member States.

SADC selected Chirundu a few years ago as one of the border posts for the pilot phase of the One Stop Border initiative that aims to facilitate trade and free movement of goods and services among the 15-member regional bloc.

The Beitbridge border post linking South Africa and

Zimbabwe is another port of entry that has been chosen by SADC for the pilot phase but work is yet to start.

Beitbridge and Chirundu are considered to be among sub-Saharan Africa's busiest ports of entry with hundreds of commercial trucks passing through the two border posts everyday.

Under the One Stop Border Post scheme, travellers are cleared just once for passage into another country.

This development is expected to address delays,

which are experienced at most border posts as well as promote the smooth flow of goods through the removal of "restrictive" operational procedures.

In the long run, the project seeks to harmonize customs and immigration laws at border posts within the SADC region.

Officially commissioning the One Stop Border Post in December, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and his Zambian counterpart, Rupiah Banda, hailed the development saying it is a major step towards total regional integration.

Mugabe said the OSBP concept would greatly reduce the cost of doing business on the continent.

"This is a practical demonstration of regional integration at work."

He said, establishment of the OSBP at Chirundu is a trade facilitation programme in the North-South Corridor, an initiative identified by three of Africa's main regional communities namely SADC, COMESA and the EAC.

The North-South Corridor seeks to link Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and the southern ports of Durban and Port Elizabeth in South Africa with robust infrastructure. It also aims to link other ports such as Walvis Bay (Namibia), Beira (Mozambique) and Lobito (Angola).

"This will be a major stride towards the integration of Africa as envisaged in the Abuja Treaty on the creation of the Africa Economic Commission," Mugabe said, adding that the new development will result in cost savings of up to US\$486 million annually, which can be channelled to other economic uses.

President Banda concurred saying the One Stop Border Post is a landmark achievement in the history of economic integration in the region.

He said such infrastructure development is crucial for growth as a region with inefficient transport and border clearance systems will find it difficult to trade competitively thus affecting economic prospects as well as the prosperity of its citizens.

"In this region we cannot afford to continue doing business as usual without the complete overhaul of our infrastructure and the harmonization of our trade policies," he said.

"If we improve our infrastructure, we will be able to meet the challenges of inter-regional trade and reap for us the benefits thereof."

Zambia and Zimbabwe in collaboration with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, Japan International Co-operation Agency and the World Bank spearheaded the implementation process.

SADC is expected to soon roll out the concept to other regional ports of entry, as it seeks to harmonize customs laws and promote the movement of goods among Member States in preparation for the SADC Customs Union expected in 2010 as well as to consolidate gains of the SADC FTA launched in August 2008.

SADC executive secretary Tomaz Salomão, COMESA Secretary General Sindiso Ngwenya, and the EAC Secretary General Juma Mwapacho witnessed the commissioning of the Chirundu One Stop Border Post. □



Trucks ready to cross the Chirundu One Stop Border Post which links Zambia and Zimbabwe as it officially opens for business.

SADC to launch Customs Union in 2010

SADC WILL in 2010 move a major step towards deeper regional integration when the 15-member bloc launches a Customs Union, which aims to promote the free movement of goods, services and capital across Member States.

The establishment of a Customs Union follows the successful launch of a SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) in August 2008, which started with the signing of a regional Trade Protocol in 1996. The

Trade Protocol came into effect in 2000.

A Customs Union is an advanced stage of integration when compared to a FTA as it does not require tariffs or quotas on goods originating from within the region.

The SADC region has a combined population of more than 250 million and the establishment of a Customs Union will usher in one of the largest free trade zones on the African continent. □

SADC-COMESA-EAC Free Trade Area set for 2012

THREE OF Africa's main sub-regional bodies have agreed on a plan of action to establish an enlarged Free Trade Area encompassing half of the continent's countries by 2012.

Secretariats from SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) approved the plan in early November in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

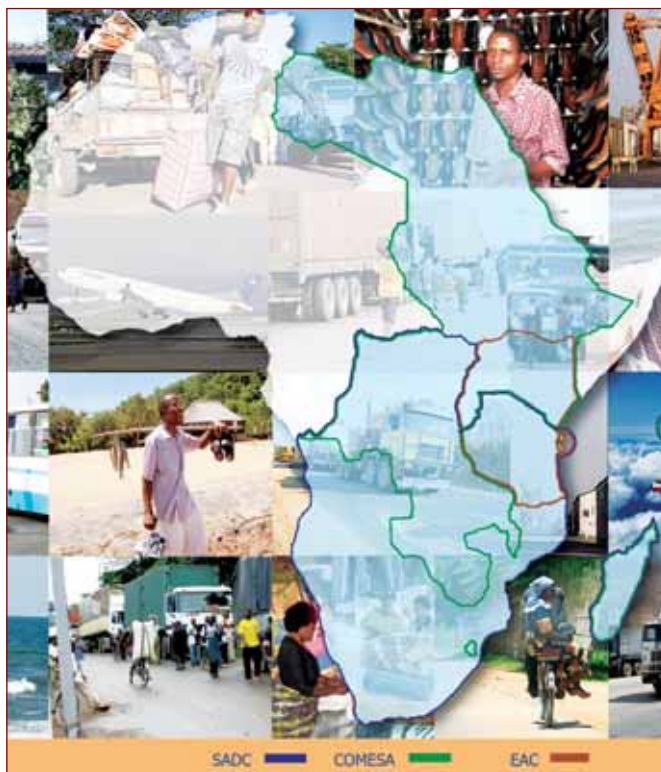
This was after leaders from the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) directed the Secretariats at their inaugural Tripartite Summit in 2008 to develop a roadmap for the implementation of the merger for consideration at the next meeting set for 2010.

After a period of intensive consultations with various stakeholders, the three Secretariats have now prepared all the legal documents necessary to establish a single FTA and have identified key steps needed to be taken by Member States to ensure this goal becomes a reality.

The creation of a single FTA encompassing 26 of a total of 54 African countries represents yet another important milestone for Africa as it moves towards total continental integration as envisaged by the African Union (AU).

According to a statement from the Dar es Salaam meeting "it is expected that when the Tripartite Summit meets, in April or May 2010, the Heads of State and Government will clearly pronounce themselves on the way forward with establishing the single FTA."

The draft document agreed by the three Secretariats has 14 annexes covering various comple-



SADC-COMESA-EAC Free Trade Area to boost trade in Africa.

mentary areas that are necessary for effective functioning of a regional market.

The main proposal is to establish the FTA on a tariff-free, quota-free, exemption-free basis by simply combining the existing FTAs of SADC, COMESA and EAC.

SADC launched its FTA in August 2008 while other two regional communities established theirs a few years ago.

By the year 2012, it is expected that all the three FTAs will not have exemptions or sensitive lists thus promoting the free movement of goods and services across the three communities.

Provisions have however, been made for those that wish to continue maintaining sensitive lists, especially with some big partners.

The document also calls for the immediate promotion of trade facilitation, harmo-

nization of customs laws and coordination of industrial and health standards to combat unfair trade practices and import surges.

Such cooperation will also ensure the use of simpler and straightforward rules of origins that recognize inland transport costs as part of value addition in production and the transfer of information across the region.

The three Secretariats say the FTA will be underpinned by a robust infrastructure programme targeting such sectors as energy, transport and telecommunications to make sure the regional market is accessible and competitive.

There should be a "preparatory period for consultations at the national, regional and Tripartite level from early 2010 up to June 2011", to ensure the successful implementation of the FTA.

It is expected that by June 2011, there will be a final agreement on the FTA, which will be ready for signing and adoption in July the same year.

Member States will have about six months to finalize and ratify the agreement so that a single FTA is launched in January 2012.

A single FTA will open borders to literally half of the continent, spanning the entire southern and eastern regions of Africa.

This will be, by any standards, a formidable economic community with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$625 billion and a combined population of some 530 million.

An enlarged FTA will ensure that goods produced in the region will enjoy trade preference compared to those from outside the SADC-COMESA-EAC region.

The FTA will permanently resolve the long-standing overlapping membership conundrum, which had presented headaches for the three RECs in their quest towards deeper integration.

Technically, a country cannot belong to more than one Customs Union, yet the three RECs have either already established or are working towards creating their unions, with SADC expected to launch its own in 2010.

As such, the launch of the grand FTA by 2012 will result in the three sub-regions coalescing into a single free trade area with the ultimate goal of establishing a single Customs Union in the near future.

SADC is made up of 15 members, COMESA and the EAC have 19 and five respectively. Some of the members belong to more than one of the three RECs. □

China and Africa strengthen cooperation under FOCAC

CHINA AND Africa have agreed on a new plan of action for the next three years in a bid to strengthen cooperation.

The Sharm el-Sheikh Action Plan 2010-2012, which was adopted together with the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration, will focus on trade, agriculture, infrastructure, climate change and social welfare among other issues.

China and Africa approved the new measures at the recent fourth ministerial Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Egypt in early November.

Under trade cooperation, China announced a US\$10 billion loan to Africa and plans to support Chinese financial institutions in setting up a special loan of US\$1 billion for small and medium enterprises on the continent.

"For the heavily indebted poor countries and least developed countries in Africa having diplomatic relations with China, we will cancel their debts associated with interest-free government loans due to mature by the end of 2009," Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said.

He said relations between China and Africa are "transparent" and "never attached to any political strings."

China pledged to further open its market to African products and phase in zero-tariff treatment to 95 percent of the products from the least developed African countries starting with 60 percent of the products within 2010.

This development is expected to boost China-Africa trade over the next few years.

Last year, China-Africa trade exceeded the US\$100 billion target set for 2010. At least US\$56 billion of the total vol-



President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao of China at the 4th Forum on China-Africa Cooperation which was attended by a number of African Heads of State in Egypt.

ume accounted for imports from Africa, up by 54 percent over the previous year.

By mid 2009, more than 1,600 Chinese enterprises had also started business in Africa with a direct investment stock of US\$7.8 billion.

China made a commitment to build 100 clean energy power stations in Africa to increase the uptake of solar power, bio-gas and small hydro-power, and construct about 2,200 km of road and 3,300 km of railway.

Chinese companies are already involved in various infrastructure developments in Africa.

With regard to climate change, FOCAC pledged to establish a China-Africa partnership in addressing climate change.

"We will hold senior officials' consultations with African countries from time to time, and enhance cooperation on satellite weather monitoring, development and utilization of new energy sources, prevention and control of desertification and urban environmental protection," the Sharm el-Sheikh Action Plan said.

Global warming as a result of climate change has caused various effects on the environment with average temperatures in the SADC region, for example, having

risen by 0.5 degrees Celsius over the last century, and the 1990s deemed the warmest and driest ever, according to the recent Southern Africa Environment Outlook recently released by SADC and SARDC.

On agriculture, China said it will increase the number of agricultural technology demonstration centres to 20.

The Asian nation will send 50 agricultural technology teams to Africa and train 2,000 agricultural technology personnel in order to help strengthen Africa's ability to ensure food security.

China made an undertaking to build 50 China-Africa friendship schools and train 1,500 school principals and teachers in African countries.

By 2012, the number of Chinese government scholarships to Africa will increase to 5,500 while training of teachers will be about 20,000.

China and Africa aim to launch a joint science and technology partnership, under which the two will exchange information on how to improve their ICT.

Under healthcare, "we will deepen cooperation in medical care and health. We will provide medical equipments and anti-malaria materials worth 500 million yuan to the 30 hospitals and 30 malaria prevention and treatment

centres built by China and train 3,000 doctors and nurses for Africa."

The Chinese Premier said the new measures will deepen relations between China and Africa, and consolidate gains made over the past years.

"Whatever change may take place in the world, our policy of supporting Africa's economic and social development will not change," Wen said.

A number of African Heads of State including Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Paul Kagame of Rwanda attended the fourth ministerial meeting of FOCAC.

Mugabe attended the summit in his capacity as COMESA chairperson while Kagame is chair of the East African Community.

FOCAC also reviewed the implementation of various agreements signed since 2006 and expressed satisfaction that most projects have been implemented on time while a few others will "be complete by year end."

At the last FOCAC Summit in 2006, China and Africa adopted a number of resolutions to promote cooperation between the two continents.

The fifth ministerial conference of the FOCAC will be held in China in 2012, according to the action plan. sardc.net □

Africa needs US\$93 billion for infrastructure

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA needs to double its infrastructure spending to US\$93 billion a year, 15 percent of regional output, to drag its road, water and power networks into the 21st century, a World Bank report says.

The research compiled by the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) identified the continent's inadequate electricity grids as its most pressing challenge, with 30 countries facing regular blackouts and high premiums for emergency power.



Sub-Saharan Africa to boost its road network.

Despite the gulf between its target figure and the US\$45 billion spent now, the report said governments could narrow the funding gap to US\$31 billion

by making US\$17 billion in relatively simple efficiency gains, such as making more electricity users pay their bills.

The report said that infrastructure improvements to date, mainly in telecoms, had accounted for more than half of the meagre growth rates of recent years on the continent. Frequent blackouts and poor roads still cause headaches and unnecessary costs for business and trade.

If all sub-Saharan Africa's 48 countries caught up with Mauritius, the Indian Ocean Island that leads the region in infrastructure terms, overall growth would rise by 2.2 percentage points, it added.

"In most African countries, particularly the lower-income countries, infrastructure emerges as a major constraint on doing business, depressing firm productivity by about 40 percent."

In the power sector, sub-Saharan Africa needs to build 7,000 megawatts of capacity a year to meet the demand of the region's 800 million people, who currently have access to the same amount of power as Spain, with a population of just 45 million.

In other comparisons highlighting the extent of the problems, the report said the region had less than a quarter of the paved roads found in other parts of the developing world – but three-quar-

ters the number of mobile phones.

"Whether for power, water, road freight, mobile telephones, or Internet services, the tariffs paid in Africa are several multiples of those paid in other parts of the developing world."

For instance, moving a tonne of goods one kilometre in Africa costs between four and 14 cents, compared to between one and four cents in other developing regions.

African taxpayers are funding two-thirds of the current spending, with the rest coming from outside sources, such as private investors or overseas aid. Private investment is highest in technology and telecoms, the report said. *New Era* □

Zimbabwe to craft infrastructure master plan

ZIMBABWE IS working on a national infrastructure master plan to cover current needs, medium-term solutions and long-term vision.

The infrastructure cluster, an interministerial coalition, recently met in Harare and dissected cross-cutting issues pertaining to infrastructure maintenance, rehabilitation and development.

Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara is leading the process of crafting the country's new infrastructure master plan.

"To drive our industrial growth and ensure capacity utilization rises and international money inflows and rises in disposable incomes, we need to solve challenges around infrastructure," Mutambara said.

The infrastructure master plan will mainly focus on energy, telecommunications, transport systems, information communication technology and water systems among other areas.

As the government grapples with current Western-led economic sanctions, the Ministry of Finance has not

had enough funds to allocate for infrastructure development in the 2010 National Budget.

Ministry of Finance Acting Director (Budgets), Fidelis Ngorora said the bulk of funding in the 2010 budget will be earmarked for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the country's existing infrastructure.

"This would encompass infrastructure such as roads, energy projects, Hwange and Kariba as well as our water systems. We want to channel resources to the key enablers such as energy, water and transport, but we will also look at health and safety issues, cholera mitigation as well as sanitation issues," he said.

Zimbabwe's infrastructure master plan would also propose the approach to be taken in dealing with infrastructure and viability problems at state enterprises as well as the parastatals.

The Zimbabwe government has over the years failed to complete several infrastructure projects across the country owing to financial limitations. *The Herald* □

DRC refurbishes its railway system

THE DEMOCRATIC Republic of the Congo has signed an agreement with Belgium to refurbish the Kinshasa urban railway system.

The aim of the project is to improve mobility across the capital and in the outlying districts.

The total cost of the work is estimated at \$US10.4 million and will be spread over four years.

This amount includes logistics support, the acquisition of new carriages and locomotive, and the refurbishment of buildings.

Congolese Minister of Transport and Means of Communication, Matthieu Pita said, "The present urban railway is the embryo of a high-capacity mass transit system of tomorrow, and it is around this axis that bus transport services will also be organized." □

Southern Africa has potential for Geothermal “clean energy”

Untapped Geothermal potential offers an alternative energy source as southern Africa moves towards the use of clean energy. As the energy sector is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming, renewable sources such as geothermal are considered a solution to substitute carbon-intensive energy. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) established under the guiding principles of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Convention on Climate Change encourages the funding of geothermal projects.

by Eglina Tauya

RECENT GEOLOGICAL surveys have provided evidence that Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania have huge potential for geothermal energy, which could reduce heavy reliance on hydropower and fossil fuel in those countries and the region.

According to an assessment by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility, there is 4,000MW of electricity ready for harvesting along the Rift Valley.

Like other renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydro, geothermal offers significant potential in terms of climate change mitigation.

“Geothermal is 100 percent indigenous, environmentally friendly, and a technology that has been under-utilized for too long.

“It is time to take this technology off the back burner in order to power livelihoods, fuel development and reduce dependence on polluting and unpredictable fossil fuels,” says the UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner

Only Kenya has begun tapping this renewable resource in the Rift Valley, with a goal of generating 1200 MW by 2015.

Based on preliminary exploration, current estimates indicate a geothermal potential of 650MW in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The government of Tanzania is interested in the use of small-scale geothermal



Geothermal energy such as that derived from hot springs is an alternative source of energy for southern Africa as it moves towards the use of clean energy.

plants for rural electricity mini-grid systems, although this has not yet started.

The geothermal field in the vicinity of Lake Natron in Tanzania would allow base-load power to be fed into the main grid system of the Tanzania Electricity Supply Company.

In Malawi, 21 major hot springs are reported in the Chitipa-Karonga area down to Chipudze in the southern region. Almost all the known geothermal energy sources of the country are of the convective type.

For Mozambique, the most promising areas for geothermal energy development are in the northern and central provinces.

The local availability of geothermal fluids confirms the possibility of small-scale power generation, and warrants more detailed studies and eventual exploratory drilling.

At least 38 thermal springs have been identified in Mozambique mostly within the Rift Valley just north of Metangula where vigorously

boiling water is reported on the edge of Lake Niassa.

There are several springs lower in temperature (below 60 degrees Celsius) found along and to the west of major faults in the Espungabera-Manica areas, near the border with Zimbabwe.

South Africa is also relatively well-endowed with eighty-seven thermal springs documented to day of temperatures ranging from 25 degrees Celsius to 67.5 degrees Celsius.

Of the 87 thermal springs, 29 have been developed for direct use, mainly as family leisure and recreational resorts, using the water for health or spa purposes.

Since coal is abundant and relatively cheap, coal-burning power stations are the major suppliers of South Africa's energy requirements. Until recently, very little attention was devoted to research on renewable energy resources such as geothermal.

A recently launched research project in South Africa is aimed at investigating the feasibility of generating power using a thermal

spring binary system as well as from hot granites.

In Madagascar, eight sites have been identified. France is financing a prototype (micro-geothermal) pre-feasibility study for a 50 –100 KW facility using a low-temperature geothermal resource to supply electrical energy to isolated villages.

Zambia has several sites planned for construction but the projects have stalled due to lack of funds.

The Botswana government has called for companies to tender for the provision of consultancy services to conduct a pre-feasibility study for the construction of a solar geothermal power plant in the country.

With so much energy available and Africa's populations in dire need, UNEP is ready to support drilling.

The African Rift Valley Geothermal Development Facility backed by the UNEP and the World Bank, will support drilling in the Rift Valley countries starting as early as 2010.

According to Monique Barbut, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, “The work in the Rift Valley is demonstrating that geothermal is not only technologically viable but cost effective for countries in Africa where there is an overall potential of at least 7000 MW.”

The World Geothermal Congress to be held in Bali, Indonesia in April 2010 will provide an opportunity for southern Africa to gain confidence into tapping this clean and renewable energy source. □

in" energy

Southern Africa turns to wind for alternative energy

SADC MEMBER States are slowly turning to wind power to boost production and meet the ever-growing demand for electricity in the region, as the need for cleaner and alternative energy sources gains momentum.

Among the countries leading the search on how to harness the huge wind potential that lies untapped in the region are Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania.

Wind energy, which involves using air to turn turbines and generate electricity, is regarded as one of the most reliable and clean forms of power that does not pollute the environment compared to other forms such as coal.

Wind farms are also relatively easier to construct as it takes only a year to build one with a capacity of 100 megawatts (MW).

Because of this, SADC Member States are scaling up their efforts to exploit this alternative source of energy that has emerged as one of the most lucrative sources of "carbon financing" under the Clean Development Mechanism.

South Africa plans to commission at least 400 MW of wind power by independent power producers within the next three years.

Most of the plants will be located along the West Coast that has the potential to gen-

erate significant amounts of electricity.

Eskom, the national power utility, believes that the wind revolution in the country has the capacity to generate 10 times the official wind energy estimates.

South Africa has two major wind projects at Klipheuwel and Darling, both in the Western Cape.

Klipheuwel, the first wind power plant in Sub-Saharan Africa, has the capacity to deliver enough power for 2,500 households while the Darling plant, which is the country's first commercial wind farm with four wind turbines, has potential to produce about 5.2 MW of electricity.

In the north of Madagascar, a massive wind farm is due for construction in 2010 as the country aims to stabilize its local energy supply.

The island nation depends on petroleum for energy, a situation that leads to excessive air pollution.

Hence the country plans to build its first wind farm in Ramena near Antisarana that will be connected to the national grid.

The wind farm project is regarded as a first step in a larger programme that will see the entire island draw its energy from the wind and reduce carbon emissions.

Namibia has announced plans to build a wind farm at

Walvis Bay to generate 300 MW of electricity.

The wind farm, to be established in phases and expected to be operational by 2011, will be Namibia's second plant.

The first plant, still under negotiation, is to be located in Lüderitz, according to NamPower.

In Mozambique, Energy Minister Salvador Namburete has revealed a joint wind project with Italian investors to implement a wind farm in Matutuine district. The farm has the capacity to produce more than 20 MW of power.

Tanzania plans to build a 50 MW wind farm in the central region of the country. The project, which is due to be operational in 2015, is being advanced to 2010 to ensure adequate power.

While wind power projects are not being implemented on a large scale in other SADC countries, efforts are underway to explore ways to harness wind energy.

In Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe, wind energy is being utilized for pumping water for livestock as well as domestic supply in rural areas. sardc.net □

EC announces funding for energy projects

THE EUROPEAN Commission has announced a loan of 100 million euros for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to carry out projects in the energy sector, as part of the Second Energy Facility Programme.

The invitation for proposals was made at an energy seminar for stakeholders in Maputo, Mozambique in November.

In 2005, the European Commission (EU) launched the Energy Facility Programme, an initiative aimed at providing assistance to ACP countries in preparing and carrying out energy projects as part of the 10th European Development Fund.

As a result of that project, the EC ranked Mozambique as the country with the greatest success in the first phase, having submitted nine projects of which seven were approved.

Following the First Energy Facility programme, Mozambique put forward projects worth 24.5 million euros, which are currently at different stages of execution, Mozambique's Energy Minister Salvador Namburete said at the seminar.

In the previous stage, the EC funded projects in the areas of rural electrification, new and renewable energies, construction and maintenance of small dams, mini hydroelectric facilities, institutional support, technical assistance to the Energy Ministry, the Energy Fund and state electricity company EDM. Macauhub □



Southern Africa ready for Angola 2010

by Patson Phiri

FOUR SOUTHERN African countries will raise the regional profile at the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations finals set for January 2010 – Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

Angola qualified for the finals as the host nation while the other three SADC countries booked their places through the qualifying rounds.

A total of 16 African countries will take part in the biennial tournament, which will be staged exactly five months before the 2010 Soccer World Cup finals in South Africa.

Only South Africa as the host will represent the SADC region at the World Cup tournament after other countries from the region failed to qualify for the global event.

The Malawi team, commonly known as the "Flames", won their place for Angola on the last day of qualification despite losing away to Burkina Faso.

Their passage to the Africa Cup of Nations was sealed when the only other side, Guinea, who had a real chance of snatching the last spot to Angola, was beaten 3-0 by an impressive Ivorian team.

The result meant that Malawi finished in third position with four points. The top three teams from the five groups qualified for Angola 2010.

Malawi's qualification was greeted with joy in Blantyre and other cities as it is only



In action is Tico Tico of Mozambique and at the right is Flavio of Angola, some top players from southern Africa due to play at the Africa Cup of Nations tournament.

the second time the country has qualified for the African tournament since its inauguration in 1956.

Malawi qualified together with Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast in a group where the latter also qualified for the World Cup finals in South Africa.

Mozambique's "Black Mambas" sealed their place at the African finals with a win over Tunisia in front of a capacity crowd in Maputo.

Dario Monkeiro's second-half goal secured Mozambique's first appearance at the Africa Cup of Nations since 1986.

Mozambique together with Nigeria and Tunisia qualified for the African finals. From this group, Nigeria won the sole ticket to the World Cup finals.

The last southern African team to qualify for Angola is Zambia. Zambia secured its place on the last day after a draw with Rwanda.

Unlike most southern African countries, Zambia has taken part in most Africa Cup of Nations finals.

Zambia has been to the finals for a record of 14 times. Egypt and Algeria join Zambia from their group in going to the Africa Cup of Nations, with Algeria representing the continent at the World Cup finals in a few months time.

The draw for the Africa Cup of Nations was held on 21 November in Luanda, pitting Angola against Mali, Algeria and Malawi.

Mozambique is in the same group as Benin, Egypt and Nigeria. Zambia has been drawn to face Cameroon, Gabon and Tunisia.

The top two teams in each of the four groups will qualify for the second stage.

Zambian coach Herve Renard expressed optimism

that his team will do well at the tournament.

"We are not afraid of meeting any of the big teams at the Africa cup. We will take them just like any other team," Renard told SANF in an interview.

The Africa Cup of Nations has remained an influential tournament since its inauguration in 1956 when a meeting held in Lisbon between seven delegates resulted in the formation of the Confederation of African Football.

The initial tournament took place the following year in Khartoum, Sudan and has since then grown into one of Africa's leading sporting events.

South Africa is the only southern African country to have won the African Cup of Nations, when it hosted the finals in 1994. Angola is the second SADC country to host the finals. □

Botswana courts teams to the World Cup

BOTSWANA HAS set aside about 1 million pula to attract teams that have qualified for the 2010 Soccer World Cup finals in South Africa and 2010 Africa Cup of Nations in Angola to camp in the country.

Environment, Wildlife and Tourism Minister Kitso Mokaila told Parliament that his ministry is working closely with the Youth, Sports and Culture Ministry to implement the programme.

He said the government has already started refurbishing facilities such as stadiums and airports to attract visitors.

Mokaila added that these developments are meant to complement the objective of bringing the teams, more tourists and business opportunities.

He said football events were mainly urban-based and therefore rural areas could only benefit by extension.

A total of 32 countries from all the five continents will take part in the World Cup finals in South Africa, the first to be played on African soil.

More than 90,000 soccer fans and officials, mainly from qualifying countries, are expected to come to South Africa for the finals, according to the world football governing body, FIFA.

This is in addition to as many as 400,000 tourists from all over the world who are expected to visit Africa during the tournament.

For Angola 2010, 16 African teams will take part in the biennial tournament. *BOPA* □



PALANQUINHA

SADC 2010 Investment Promotion: "One Team – 15 Nations"

A SADC 2010 investment promotion programme has been launched against the backdrop of the Africa Cup of Nations soccer finals set for Angola in January and the Soccer World Cup finals in South Africa in June – July.

The programme provides a framework to guide, inform and coordinate the activities of the region as a whole to "ensure all 15 Member States benefit from the international exposure that these two events offer in terms of foreign direct investment."

The project seeks to ensure that all SADC countries play an active role in preparations for the two events, particularly the World Cup that is being staged for the first time in Africa.

SADC 2010 runs under the theme "One Team – 15 Nations", and is being implemented by the SADC Secretariat through a steering committee, expert resources and an advisory group.

The investment promotion programme is the culmination of more than four years of consultations and is premised on three main thematic clusters – investment in regional infrastructure, trade and tourism.

South Africa and the International Football Association (FIFA) have publicly acknowledged that the success of the World Cup

finals will depend largely on how prepared the whole SADC region is.

As many as 500,000 tourists from all over the world and more than 90,000 soccer fans and officials mainly from qualifying countries will visit South Africa for the month-long event, according to FIFA. Millions more will watch the event on television.

To prepare for such a huge influx as well as a large number of investors who usually use such major events to scout for investment opportunities, SADC has taken a proactive stance to tap into the lucrative business prospects offered by the two events.

"The SADC 2010 programme is to run from September 2009 to December 2011. By the end of its implementation the programme is expected to have succeeded in raising the visibility of SADC, the organization, both regionally and internationally, as well as to have attracted measurable sustainable investment into the region, contributing to the economic well-being of its people," the SADC 2010 plan says.

To ensure that the objective of the programme as defined in the three main thematic clusters is achieved, SADC will make sure that the transport corridors known as Spatial Development Initiatives (SDIs) are developed and that the



SADC goes with the theme "One Team – 15 Nations" towards an investment promotion programme in southern Africa.

Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) is well resourced to adequately supply power to South Africa and the rest of the region before, during and after the games.

Telecommunications will be improved while the development of Trans Frontier Conservation Areas will be encouraged among Member States.

"The SADC 2010 programme will also promote the benefits of the Free Trade Area, Finance and Investment Protocol, and the UNIVISA."

"By promoting these programmes and their benefits, the campaign hopes to attract sustainable investment into the region, both prior and during the games and lasting well beyond 2010."

SADC said it has decided to jointly coordinate and implement the 2010 plan because if it was left to Member States to drive the campaign "there is the likely drawback of certain Member States not selling themselves as successfully as others".

"Promotion at solely Member States level also runs the risk of overshadowing the very purpose of SADC and its reason for being."

A combined population of more than 250 million and an

estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$471 billion make the SADC region a valuable investment destination.

SADC is working with various stakeholders such as tourism boards, the media and sports organizations to ensure that there is a sense of ownership within the programme.

Some of the activities lined up ahead of the two major sporting events include a music festival and the publication of an investment newsletter for the SADC region.

South Africa won the right to host the 2010 Soccer World Cup final in May 2004. The World Cup final is the second most prestigious and lucrative sporting event in the world, surpassed only by the multiple events of the Olympic Games.

The tournament has enormous socio-economic impacts on both the host nation and surrounding countries.

Angola is hosting the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time. South Africa is the only other SADC country that has staged the tournament, in 1994 when it won the cup, again becoming the first southern African country to achieve such a feat. □



The vuvuzela will be a prominent feature at the South Africa 2010 world cup.

Region takes concrete steps to combat trafficking of persons ahead of 2010

by Patience Zirima

SOUTHERN AFRICAN countries have stepped up efforts to combat trafficking of persons ahead of the FIFA 2010 World Cup to be held in South Africa.

The World Cup brings with it expectations of increased economic activity in South Africa and the region, but also fears that women and girls will be more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Due to the expected increase in cases of trafficking of women and children from the region into South Africa, SADC has come up with various regional and national measures to fight trafficking.

In May 2009, SADC Member States reviewed and adopted the Ten Year Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children in the SADC region.

At a regional level, this forms the basis for action by Member States as the plan lays out methods and areas of cooperation to combat all areas of human trafficking.

The plan is based on key issues as outlined in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; a protocol to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized

Crime; the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children of the African Union; and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

The UN protocol came into force in December 2003 and became the first global instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons.

It defines trafficking as the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through the threat or use of force or other form of coercion, through abduction, fraud, deception or the abuse of power, or through using payments or other benefits to induce vulnerable people to consent to being trafficked for the purpose of exploitation".

The Protocol seeks to close gaps in existing international and national legislation and offer greater protection to trafficking victims.

Of note too is that the Protocol intends to assist victims "with full respect of their human rights" and to promote international cooperation against trafficking.

The Protocol urges signatory governments to adopt comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, to provide aid, counseling and repatriation assistance to victims, to step up

training programmes for law enforcement and immigration officers and to improve information exchange and cross-border cooperation to prevent trafficking.

At the regional level, the SADC Action Plan calls on Member States to:

- Ratify and implement the various UN, AU and SADC protocols that deal with trafficking in persons;
- Offer training for skills enhancement and capacity building to law enforcement officials, customs and immigration officials, social workers, the judiciary civil society and the private sector to deal with trafficking
- Develop and disseminate regional public awareness materials on trafficking in persons;
- Strengthen mechanisms to support victims and protect witnesses and whistleblowers;
- Develop the regional Management Information Systems (MIS) to establish levels, trends and patterns of trafficking in persons in the region; and
- Monitor implementation of the Plan of Action at regional and country levels.

South Africa, the anticipated destination country for trafficked persons does not have comprehensive legislation against trafficking although this is covered under other laws and the country is however, in the process of drafting legislation now.

Only Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia have anti-human trafficking legislation. Since only a few countries in the region have anti-trafficking legislation, alarms have been raised at the region's preparedness to respond to trafficking.

In Swaziland, the government established the Inter-Agency Task Force on People Trafficking and People Smuggling which is working on establishing interim measures for the reporting, investigation and prosecution of trafficking as well as appropriate support for victims of trafficking.

The task force has also embarked on awareness-raising and education campaigns on human trafficking and the anticipated legislation.

Various campaigns have been launched against human trafficking 2010 including the Red Light 2010 Campaign, a group of organizations working together to combat human trafficking, exploitation and abuse of women and children in southern Africa.

The regional campaign committee is led by Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) and regional partners.

The campaign seeks to respond to the negative impact that the FIFA 2010 World Cup may have on vulnerable women and children in southern Africa. □

First woman speaker for Botswana Parliament

THE FIRST woman to occupy the post of Speaker of the National Assembly in Botswana, Margaret Nasha, is a veteran politician who has fought for gender equality and women empowerment.

Under her leadership at the Caucus for Women in Politics, the government passed the Marital and Children's Bills which elevat-

ed the rights of married women and children.

Dr Nasha has served in various diplomatic positions including High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Chairperson of the SADC group of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, and member of the Commonwealth Executive Committee of High Commissioners.

In 1994, she was appointed as a Specially Elected Member of Parliament and was Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration in the previous government.

In the cabinet, she has held a range of portfolios including minerals, energy and water resources, local government, and lands and housing. □

SADC elections impress observers

SADC AND the African Union described the recent elections in southern Africa as being in conformity with regional standards and principles.

Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa went to the polls in 2009. South Africa held its elections in April while Malawi conducted its polls in May.

Botswana and Mozambique held elections in October, and Namibia in November.

The African National Congress (ANC) led by Jacob Zuma won South Africa's fourth democratic election since the end of the apartheid regime in 1994.

SADC said in its preliminary statement that the polls were conducted in compliance with guidelines adopted by SADC Member States.

"It is our considered judgment that the election process was conducted in a free, fair, transparent and credible manner," the statement said.

The AU concurred, saying it was also impressed by the enthusiasm displayed by South African voters as well as the peaceful manner in which the elections were held.

"The AU observer mission was impressed by the skilful and efficient organization of the elections by the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa."

In Malawi's general elections President Bingu wa Mutharika of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the poll with more than two-thirds majority.

SADC said the polls were peaceful, transparent and credible despite some concerns raised.

"SADC was impressed by the patience of voters who were able to express their franchise peacefully, freely and unhindered."

The AU paid tribute to the way the people of Malawi conducted their elections.

"The smooth conduct of the elections and the vibrancy of the electorate gave honour not only to the people of Malawi but Africa as a whole."

With regard to Botswana, SADC said, "We are happy with the elections and have not received any complaints of intimidation from any of the political parties."

The AU also commended the election in which the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) led by President Seretse Khama Ian Khama was re-elected for the next five years.

In Mozambique's presidential and parliamentary election, President Armando Guebuza and his Frelimo party won with over 75 percent of the votes cast.

Despite concerns raised by the opposition, election observers said the elections were held in conformity with regional standards and principles, and the results were confirmed by the Constitutional Court.

"The pre-election phase was characterized by a peaceful, tolerant, and yet enthusiastic political atmosphere. There was clear evidence of vigour and enthusiasm among political parties as they conducted their campaigns," SADC said.

The AU added that free and fair elections will promote peace and stability in the region.

In Namibia, both SADC and the AU also praised the elections saying "no acts of intimidation or violence were observed or reported during the elections."

"Generally, the election was characterized by a peaceful, tolerant and yet enthusi-



People casting their votes at different elections held in southern Africa.

astic political atmosphere," said the SADC statement.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the ruling South West Africa People's Organization won the elections with a two-thirds majority.

At least two southern African countries will go to the polls in 2010. Most

certain are the United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritius.

Angola, Lesotho and the Democratic Republic of Congo are also expected to hold elections next year. Angola was expected to hold presidential polls in 2009 but rescheduled to 2010. □

Organ satisfied with progress on region's political challenges

THE SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation has expressed satisfaction at the way the region is addressing the political situation in Lesotho, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

In a communiqué released following the recent SADC Troika summit in Mozambique, southern African leaders said the region is committed to finding a lasting solution to the political and security challenges in Lesotho and Madagascar, as well as implementation of the Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe.

"Summit noted with appreciation the progress made by the Joint Mediation Team on Madagascar led by SADC Facilitator Joaquim Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique in promoting dialogue among the four political leaders in order to restore the constitutional normalcy in Madagascar," the Troika said in a statement.

The political turmoil in Madagascar emerged again earlier this year after opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from President Marc Ravalomanana in a public demonstration backed by the military.

On the situation in Lesotho, the Troika said much progress has been made in promoting dialogue among all stakeholders.

"Summit noted with appreciation the role of the Christian Council of Lesotho in facilitating dialogue among the Basotho political stakeholders."

With regard to the situation in Zimbabwe, the Troika said the inclusive government has achieved a lot since its formation in February, adding that no amount of disruption should reverse the gains.

"Summit further noted the Inclusive Government's achievements made in the political, social and economic fronts during the nine months since its inception in February," the Troika said. □

Statistics for development

LACK OF statistical development is hampering human development in southern Africa and awareness of the use of statistics is essential to track progress and strengthen decision-making.

The need to build capacity in the development and use of statistics in southern Africa, and the rest of Africa, was one of the conclusions of a recent international statistics meeting, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

The meeting held in Dakar, Senegal underscored capacity-building in human and financial resources, statistical tools, and new and relevant technology as crucial to obtaining access to timely, accurate and relevant statistics.

Development partners were encouraged to support capacity in developing countries to allow the generation of nationally appropriate and accurate statistics as opposed to estimates.

Underscoring accuracy and relevance, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade drew the attention of development partners to the improper use of computer-generated data and international rankings that do not reflect the reality in developing countries, leading to questionable results.

In his opening remarks, Wade said statistics only have value if they are used, that is, if they are provided to the user in time to make decisions.

He also rejected the definition of poverty based on income of US\$1 per day as not a representative of the reality in which daily work outside the formal economy is not properly valued.

An alternative definition of poverty proposed to development partners includes: lack of access to safe drinking water, food, decent shelter, basic healthcare, primary education and a healthy environment.

In response to why investing in advocacy is important for statistical development in southern Africa, the Malawi Commissioner of Statistics, Charles Machinjili said this would help to get statistics used and by improving awareness and use of statistics, a culture of evidence-based decision-making would be strengthened.

The huge communication gap between producers and users of statistics was noted, and statisticians were encouraged to go beyond the production of statistics to strengthen linkages with policy makers, researchers, media and the private sector.

The role of statistics is not only to provide public data but to produce public knowledge, meaning the focus should not all be on producing the figures but on transforming the figures into knowledge understood by various sectors of society.

Thus, the importance of organizations that can play an intermediate role between producers and users was underscored.

A key output of the meeting was the Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics, in which participants agreed on the need to focus attention on implementation of strategic plans with sustainable funding and technical capacity from development partners by 2014.

The conference sought to consider the state of statistical development in various coun-

tries and regions, to identify challenges, determine what needs to be done, and agree on steps and responsibilities of various partners, and was attended by statisticians, policymakers, research institutions, civil society and cooperating partners from developed and developing countries including all member states of SADC.

It was organized by a consortium involving the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Bank, United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), European Commission and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in collaboration with the government of Senegal.

PARIS21 is an international partnership of policymakers, analysts and statisticians with the secretariat hosted by OECD in Paris, France.

The work of the secretariat is guided by a steering committee, an international group of stakeholders with representatives of developing countries from each region of the world, bilateral donors, and multilateral institutions.

One of the co-chairs of the steering committee is Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General, Statistics South Africa.

The Dakar conference discussed statistics relevant to the targets of the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) under three sub-themes – Demand for Better Statistics and Use of Data, Strategy for Statistical Development, and Partnership for the Development of Statistics.

The high demand for statistics was noted for emerging issues such as climate change,

food security, and financial crisis, issues that are not included in current national statistics.

These statistics could include data on indicators such as changes in ocean temperature, rise in sea level, impacts on biodiversity, and migration resulting from natural disasters.

Since the impact of these changes cross national boundaries, statisticians were encouraged to share data so that the problems can be analysed at the most appropriate level of geography – affording a regional analysis.

Participants agreed that national systems of data collection should be the foundation of the international statistical system, and statistical strategies should be developed at regional level to coordinate and harmonize the national statistical development strategies. *sardc.net* □



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2009 / 2010 EVENTS DIARY

December 2009

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World AIDS Day

On 1 December every year, SADC and the rest of the world commemorate World AIDS Day. The theme for this year is "Universal Access and Human Rights".

7-18, Denmark

15th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties

The 15th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP15) will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark. Attended by Heads of State and Government, the meeting aimed to find solutions to the impact of climate change indicated by the rise in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising sea level due to increased emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

January 2010

7, Mozambique

Meeting of the SADC Political and Diplomatic Committee

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation has called a meeting of the SADC Political and Diplomatic Committee to consider the agenda and make preparations for participation in the African Union (AU) Summit and Executive Council. The meeting will discuss support for the candidature of Malawi for the AU chair as per the decision of the SADC Summit held in DRC in September 2009.

10-13, Angola

Africa Cup Of Nations

The Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) is hosted in southern Africa for the second time, when the 16 qualifying nations will meet in Angola to determine Africa's champions. Four national teams from the SADC region qualified for AFCON – Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

17-22, Ethiopia

Second Meeting of the Statistics Commission for Africa

STACOM-Africa II will consider progress in various areas aimed at supporting African countries to produce and use quality statistical data in support of national and regional development..

25 Jan - 2 Feb,
Ethiopia

14th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit

Heads of State and Government will gather for the 14th Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by the usual technical meetings and Council of Ministers meetings. The Summit will run under the theme "Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development".

February

SADC Council of Ministers

SADC Council of Ministers meets twice a year to review progress in implementation of various programmes on regional development, integration and trade among Member States. This year focus will centre on the Soccer World Cup 2010 to be held in June – July, and the SADC Customs Union 2010 to be implemented this year.

30 years

The legacy of Lancaster House: Land in principle but not in detail

THIRTY YEARS ago, on 21 December 1979, an agreement was signed in London that set in motion a series of events that put Zimbabwe on the course to where it is today.

The signatures appended reluctantly to that agreement beneath the chandeliers of Lancaster House ended the war in a place that some called Rhodesia and signalled a different route to independence for a country that the majority called Zimbabwe.

The 103 days of pressure and posturing conducted by the adroit Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, Lord Carrington, from 10 September until 21 December 1979, were notable by the avoidance of the main issue in a 90-year-old dispute.

The parties simply agreed to disagree on the core issue of land, and went on to reach agreement on all surrounding matters, including the sensitive question of a ceasefire and a brief return to British rule before elections and independence.

Land was discussed instead at strategic meetings on the sidelines, and concluded at one such meeting convened at the residence of the Commonwealth Secretary General, Sonny Ramphal.

His deputy (and successor as Secretary General), Chief Emeka Anyaoku, said in his memoirs* that, "The two leaders of the nationalist movements (Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo) strongly objected to the proposal that the future government of the country should commit itself to paying full compensation to the white farm owners on a 'willing seller/willing buyer' basis.

"For them, this amounted to mortgaging the future resources of Zimbabwe to buy back land that had been forcibly taken away from their people in the first instance. "They argued that the land ownership structure was unacceptable to them, and that their people had taken up arms to fight the liberation war in order to regain the land.

"They certainly were not prepared to pay to recover what has been 'stolen' from them, as the land had not been paid for when their people were forced off it.

"I took the point and reported these conversations and my impressions to Sonny Ramphal, while updating him on how far I was able to persuade them to go along with certain elements of the proposals," Anyaoku said.

"Sonny Ramphal then made approaches to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Jimmy Carter of the United States, both of whom indicated that they would be willing to provide assistance to independent Zimbabwe that would enable the new government to buy back land from white farmers on a 'willing seller/willing buyer' basis.

"The British and American offer was conveyed to the nationalist leaders and, on the basis of this, it became possible to move the negotiating process forward."

Ramphal blames Thatcher for not instituting the fund. "In those first 10 years after independence, all of this should have been worked out in London. But it was not," he said, adding that, "Robert was interested in the details as well as the principle regarding land at Lancaster House."

Carrington was clear on where British interests lay, and that the nationalist forces fighting for independence had the upper hand. "It was exhausting Rhodesia, and in this context that meant it was particularly exhausting the white Rhodesians."

Ian Smith, the erstwhile Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, felt the sting of Carrington's tongue when he accused the Foreign Secretary of having blood on his hands. "If there is blood on anyone's hands, it is yours," Carrington retorted angrily.

In his memoirs*, Carrington described the many weeks at Lancaster House as a "tempestuous and testing time" and said he was not optimistic at the outset. But he added that he "was struck by the normality and poise of both Nkomo and Mugabe after their very long periods in gaol." ...

"The agreement set out a simple sequence – simple in concept, likely to be troubled in execution. There was to be a ceasefire: the guerrilla forces were to stand down, move to assembly points, accept disarmament.

"There was to be a reversion to the constitutional situation before the unilateral declaration of independence by Smith; and then there were to be elections in Rhodesia, based on universal suffrage, with all parties permitted to take part and with independence and recognition of a balanced constitution granted by the British crown thereafter."

AMONG THE first people to realise that the causes of the war had been removed was Josiah Magama Tongogara, who was a key figure in reaching agreement at Lancaster House. The ZANLA Commander and Secretary for Defence of ZANU PF regarded Lancaster House as a "second front" brought about by the people of Zimbabwe and their liberation forces, and by the end of November he was firm in his conviction that they had "scored a tremendous victory... in the near future the people of Zimbabwe will be proud to have their new Zimbabwe and this will never be reversed any more."



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC December 2009 -February 2010

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|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 December | Immaculate Conception Day | Seychelles |
| 9 December | Independence and Republic Day | Tanzania |
| 10 December | International Human Rights Day | Namibia |
| 16 December | Day of Reconciliation | South Africa |
| | Incwala Day | Swaziland |
| 22 December | National Unity Day | Zimbabwe |
| 26 December | Family Day | Namibia |
| 25 December | Christmas Day | SADC |
| | Vendredi Noël | Madagascar |
| | Family Day | Mozambique |
| 26 December | Family Day | Namibia |
| | Day of Goodwill | South Africa |
| | Boxing Day | Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Zimbabwe |
| 1 January | New Year's Day | SADC |
| 4 January | Martyrs Day | Angola, DRC |
| 12 January | Zanzibar Revolution Day | Tanzania |
| 15 January | John Chibembwe Day | Malawi |
| 16-17 January | Lumumba Hero Day | DRC |
| 18 January | Kabila Hero Day | DRC |
| 20 January | Army Day | Lesotho |
| 1 February | Abolition of Slavery Day | Mauritius |
| 3 February | Heroes Day | Mozambique |
| 4 February | National Armed Struggle Day | Angola |
| 5 February | Chama Cha Mapinduzi Day | Tanzania |
| 14 February | Chinese New Year | Mauritius |

*Emeka Anyaoku, *The Inside Story of the Modern Commonwealth*, Evans, 2004

**Reflections on Things Past: The Memoirs of Lord Carrington*, Collins, 1988

D. Martin / P. Johnson, *The Struggle for Zimbabwe: The Chimurenga War*, Faber/ZPH, 1981