



SADC regional development strategy 2005

Business plans and budgets presented to the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Mauritius in February will launch the implementation of SADC's strategy for development of southern Africa.

The implementation strategy is based on two road maps – the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) on Politics, Defence and Security.

The RISDP and SIPO are long term plans that were separately launched last year. Business plans for each sector or theme have been developed to unbundle the long-term plans and clearly define the responsibilities of each role player as well as the resources required during the implementation phase.

One-year budgets for these business plans and for the SADC institutions 2005/6 financial year are to be approved by the Council of Ministers at its first meeting of the year, on 21-25 February in Grand Baie. They will also

review progress on preparations for the SADC Consultative Conference to be convened on 25-27 April also in Mauritius.

Under the theme, "Partnership for the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan", the consultative conference will seek to build a new partnership involving key stakeholders such as international cooperating partners, civil society, NGOs and the private sector. The conference is expected to agree on the overall goal of the new partnership, its objectives and guiding principles.

In the first quarter of this year, implementation of RISDP and SIPO is expected to roll into motion.

"The [business] plans will help the SADC Secretariat, the member states and other stakeholders to understand the feasibility of achieving desired results from activities performed by directorates and units based on current resource constraints," said Prega Ramsamy, SADC Executive Secretary.

SADC marks silver jubilee

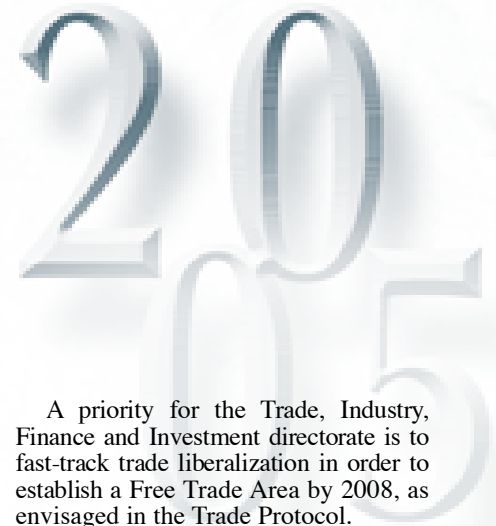
This is a special year for SADC as the organization celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2005. Arguably the most successful regional grouping in Africa, SADC prides itself in a history of unparalleled expansion in socio-economic and political integration.

Inspired and driven by the Front Line States, the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was formally constituted in Lusaka in April 1980 with the principal objective of reducing economic dependence, especially on apartheid South Africa. Focusing on project development in transport and communication, and later food security, energy, industry and trade, the coordinating conference was largely successful in promoting self-reliance among its members.

In response to changing regional and global trends, SADCC transformed to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through the Windhoek Declaration and Treaty of 1992. This far-reaching transformation advanced the regional agenda from one of loose cooperation to deeper regional integration buttressed on legally binding sector protocols.

To date about 30 legal documents including sector protocols have been endorsed, with a significant number already being harmonized with national policies. Even more crucial, the market size has more than doubled over the years to 210 million consumers in 13 member states. The challenge is to produce internationally competitive commodities to satisfy the enlarged economic space.

The Trans Kalahari Highway, which links southern Africa from the east coast



A priority for the Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment directorate is to fast-track trade liberalization in order to establish a Free Trade Area by 2008, as envisaged in the Trade Protocol.

A mid-term review done last year recommended further simplification of the rules of origin in order to make the private sector respond more positively to market access opportunities.

The Trade Protocol also provides for the establishment of a Customs Union by 2010. To this end, the SADC Subcommittee on Customs Cooperation adopted a Customs Union Road Map last year, to prepare customs administrations for 2010.

The sub-committee established a Conformity Assessment Mechanism, consisting of strategic components that form a checklist against which implementation of the Protocol can be assessed.

In order to put in place the various customs instruments as well as harmonise regional training of customs officials and stakeholders, the sub-committee has developed and adopted training modules.

Priorities for the Economic Partnership Agreements to be negotiated with the EU were defined last year and negotiations were expected to begin in January 2005. Intense preparatory work was done by member states and the SADC Secretariat, with the latter setting up a special unit to coordinate and facilitate the negotiations.

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SADC TODAY

Southern African Development Community
Vol. 7 No. 6 February 2005

SADC TODAY is produced by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) six times a year on behalf of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions and opinions of the SADC Secretariat or SARDC. Materials from this newsletter may be reproduced freely by the media and others with attribution to SADC TODAY.

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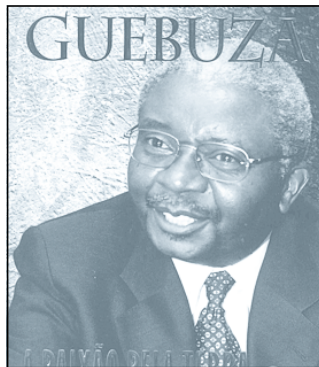
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DS Print Media, South Africa

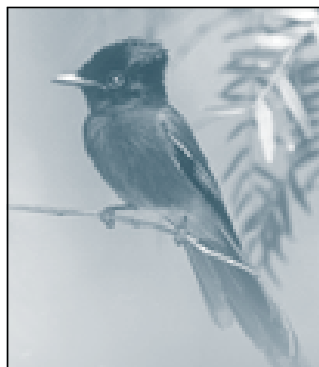
SADC Today is funded by the Belgian government under the SADC Information 21 project, whose aim is to strengthen regional integration through information dissemination. Contributions are welcome from individuals and organisations within the SADC region in the form of articles, news items, and comments, and also from outside the region. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items and edit for space available.

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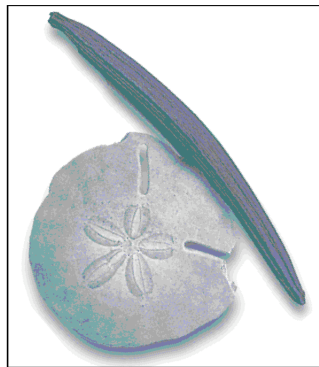
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A new partnership for the regional development plan

SADC has defined its short, medium to long-term vision through the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), launched in Arusha in March 2004. The missing piece in the regional plan has been a partnership that can drive, sustain and monitor its implementation.

SADC Consultative Conference to be held on 25-27 April 2005 in Mauritius will do just that – develop a new partnership with clear roles for key stakeholders, including international cooperating partners, SADC Secretariat, member states, civil society, and the private sector.

The main theme is “Partnership for the implementation of the RISDP”, while the sub-themes are:

- ◆ trade, economic liberalisation and development;
- ◆ infrastructure support and regional integration;
- ◆ development and sustenance of human capabilities;
- ◆ sustainable food security; and
- ◆ implementation of the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ.

Crosscutting issues such as HIV and AIDS, gender, and statistics will be discussed in the context of the sub-themes.

The role of partners

The role of the Secretariat in the implementation of the RISDP is that of coordination and facilitation. This entails ensuring that there is alignment with a number of other national, sub-regional and continental as well as global initiatives that interface and have potential synergies with the SADC plan. These include:

- national Vision documents;
- the African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD); and
- the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The actual implementation on the ground lies

with stakeholders. Thus, a greater involvement of member states is critical for the success of the RISDP.

At country level, the National Committees are responsible for implementing and monitoring SADC programmes, as well as ensuring broad and inclusive consultations as necessary.

It is essential therefore to ensure that the National Committees are not only established but are also adequately resourced and capacitated for them to be effectively functional.

The SADC Secretariat and the National Committees are expected to work with key stakeholders such as NGOs and the private sector in partnerships that vary depending on the type of programmes, objectives and scale of implementation. For instance, non-state actors can come in as members of technical committees or programme steering committees, implementing agents or contractors.

The private sector and NGOs can add tremendous value in the development of some programmes, sourcing funding and undertaking the implementation. Thus, the creation of private sector or industry regional associations is absolutely essential.

In line with this initiative, a SADC Business Forum was launched last year. The forum is a grouping of regional business organisations that will act as an apex dialogue partner of SADC.

The first president and host of the business forum is the Pretoria-based Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), represented by Ajay Vashee, the current president of SACAU. The

It is essential therefore to ensure that the national committees are not only established but are also adequately resourced and capacitated for them to be effectively functional.

vice-presidency is with the Mining Industry Associations of Southern Africa.

In addition, the securing of adequate funding poses a major challenge upon which the effective implementation and rollout of the RISDP depends. The resources would have to come from both internal and external sources.

While there is no doubt about member states’ commitment to funding the RISDP, resource constraints facing the majority of them mean that cooperating partners will be called upon to play a critical role. The magnitude of the RISDP is such that more substantive participation by cooperating partners is needed than before.

Thus an even greater coordination responsibility lies with the Secretariat, whose capacity should be strengthened for that purpose. □

Structure of the Consultative Conference

The consultative conference will have a combination of plenary and interactive working group sessions based on the sub-themes.

Plenary sessions will be convened for the official opening and closing; deliberations on the implementation of the RISDP within the framework of the new partnership; and reporting back by interactive working groups.

Deliberations in the interactive working groups will take into account cross-cutting issues such as HIV and AIDS, gender and statistics. □

Thus, the creation of private sector or industry regional associations is absolutely essential.

Peace and security at the core of development

by Bayano Valy

SADC defence experts have called for closer links between the regional institution's political and economic planning bodies to strengthen the implementation of the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO).

Described by SADC Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, as a "compass that will guide our quest for peace and security in our region," SIPO is the region's guideline for implementation of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Meeting for a two-day conference in December in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, heads of defence and security agencies and foreign affairs ministries, chiefs of operations for defence, police and security, among others, said that for SIPO to work, there has to be direct link with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the region's blueprint for development.

This means that in planning for development, policy planners have also to factor in defence and security as this leads to peace, and by extension development. This can take place if security and development sectors are linked organically.

In other words, SIPO should not be independent of the RISDP but should be aligned with it "because the function of defence and security in the development process is to guarantee that the development plans are realised in a climate of peace and security."

The SADC region has tabled plans for the development of new projects, such as the Western Corridor Power Project (WESTCOR) that will carry power from a hydroelectric scheme at the

Inga falls in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Angola, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa; and Mepanda Uncua Power Project for the downstream development of Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique, among others, which can accrue benefits for the peoples of the region only if there is political stability.

Apart from the DRC where there are still pockets of instability in the eastern regions of the country, southern Africa lives in relative peace and security. This perception has to continue if SADC is to attract investment and it is "necessary that the investments are not threatened."

SADC cannot afford to make "strategic miscalculations," said João Ndlovu, head of the political, defence and security affairs unit in the SADC Secretariat, adding that the region needs a well-coordinated defence and security cooperation that will guaran-

tee the protection of its peoples and investments.

One scenario he gave to illustrate his point is that of water: he said that if, for example, a country upstream decided to divert the course of a river, this would have social, economic and political consequences downstream.

Probably the downstream country would be forced to take drastic steps that, if badly managed, would end up in conflict. Here the role of the defence and security sector in the Early Warning System is very crucial because it "can keep the state informed on the possibility of excess water of which consequence technical decisions can be taken which might have political repercussions."

Meteorologists can only give technical advice, but the politics of the measure have to be handled by the defence and security sector, and hence

the insistence on close collaboration between all the areas and the organic link of SIPO and RISDP within the SADC structures.

The conference hailed the success achieved so far. International partners have agreed to once again fund the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) based in Zimbabwe, which was closed in 2002.

"There are very encouraging promises for us to restart activities at the Centre," said Ndlovu.

It is hoped that the RPTC will play a fundamental role within the context of the SADC Brigade, a regional standby force that is to be created as a recommendation of the African Union. □

SIPO objectives

The core objective of SIPO is to create a peaceful and stable political and security environment through which the region will endeavour to realise its socio-economic objectives. SIPO provides general guidelines that spell out specific activities, in accordance with objectives of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as strategies for their realisation and public security.

The SIPO is divided into four main sectors: Political; Defence; State security; and Public security. The overall objectives of all four sectors include:

- ◆ protecting the people and safeguarding the development of the region against instability arising from the breakdown of law and order, intrastate conflict and aggression;
- ◆ promoting the development of democratic institutions and practices within the territories of state parties and encouraging the observance of universal human rights as provided for in the respective charters and conventions of the AU and the UN; and
- ◆ developing peacekeeping capacity of national defence forces and coordinating the participation of state parties in international and regional peacekeeping operations. □

Heads appointed for 3 of 4 directorates

The SADC Secretariat has appointed three of the four directors to head the four main pillars of its new structure at the headquarters in Gaborone. This is part of the restructuring process that started four years ago when institutions were centralised for better management. The directors assumed office in January 2005. The new structure will be fully operational once the fourth director (Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment) has been appointed. The three directors are profiled here.

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR)

Margaret Milley Nyirenda, Director

The FANR cluster comprises the following areas of cooperation: food security, agricultural research and training, crops, livestock production and animal disease control, environment and land management, inland and marine fisheries, forestry and wildlife. Most of these are related to agriculture and influence its performance.

Margaret Nyirenda has extensive experience in management policy formulation and implementation, and project evaluation. Her work experience began in 1977 and she worked for the government of Malawi for 20 years in various ministries, including agriculture.

She was senior economist in the department of Economic Planning and Development from 1984 to 1989, when she became chief executive of the Malawi Mudzi Fund, a pilot scheme which later merged into the Malawi Rural Finance Company, covering the entire country.

From 1992 to 1997, Nyirenda was deputy chief economist in the Ministry of Finance and chief economist of the agriculture, food security and nutrition sections in the Department of Economic Planning and Development.

She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Malawi, holds a post-graduate diploma in Production and Development Economics from the University of Wales, a Master of Science degree in Agriculture Economics from the same university, and a Masters degree in Public Policy and Management from Harvard University in the USA.

Nyirenda joined the SADC Secretariat in 1997 and worked as Senior Economist and Desk Officer for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources sector until March 2002. After the restructuring of SADC, she became Supervisor (acting director) of FANR until her appointment as the substantive director.

Nyirenda was born in Malawi in 1955.

Infrastructure and Services

Remigious Makumbe, Director

The Infrastructure and Services directorate encompasses the energy, tourism, transport, communications and meteorology, and water sectors. The development of infrastructure and services is critical for promoting and sustaining regional economic development, trade and investment.

Remigious Makumbe is an engineer who began his career at the National Railways of Zimbabwe where he remained for 15 years, holding several positions including acting as an assistant general manager for operations.

He then moved to the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC) technical unit in Mozambique where he was Railway Technical Expert. While at SATCC, he was involved in the formulation of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology, and the development of the SADC Transport Investment Act.

Makumbe holds a Master of Policy Studies degree from the Universities of Fort Hare and Zimbabwe, a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Economics and Transport Economics from the University of South Africa, and a Bachelor of Science Honours in Electrical Engineering from the University of Zimbabwe.

He joined the Southern African Railways Association in 1998 as Executive Director and coordinated initiatives to establish a cost-effective railway service for the SADC region.

Makumbe was born in Zimbabwe in 1955.

Social and Human Development and Special Programmes

Stephen Sianga, Director

This cluster covers areas of human resources development, health, employment and labour,



Margaret Nyirenda Remigious Makumbe Stephen Sianga

and culture, information and sport. It also caters for special programmes. SADC member states accord priority to social and human development in view of its crucial role both as a factor and as a broad measure of development.

Stephen Sianga served as director at the National Commission for Development Planning in Zambia between 1989 and 1995, where he coordinated the development of Zambia's third national development plan on human and social development in education, health and social welfare.

From 1995 until 2002 he was Special Advisor and Senior Economist on human resource development at the SADC Secretariat. In 2003, he became Supervisor (acting director) of the SHDSP directorate, before his appointment as director in January 2005.

Sianga has extensive experience in social and human development through professional attachments with various international organisations such as World Health Organisation, International Labour Organisation and United States Agency for International Development.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Development Studies, and other post-graduate qualifications in human resource development, management training and population planning. He has a Masters degree in Economic Management and Strategic Planning from Berlin, Germany.

Sianga was born in Zambia in 1955.

Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI)

Director to be appointed

The TIFI cluster comprises of trade and industry, mining, finance and investment. These sectors are intrinsically interrelated and can easily influence development and poverty reduction in the region. □

Guebuza – A Passion for the Land

by Bayano Valy

This biography traces the steps of the new Mozambican president, Armando Guebuza, from cradle to the presidential chair.

Prefacing the book, the outgoing president, Joaquim Chissano, said "... Guebuza is an indispensable political and cultural reference for all those who want to know Mozambique's contemporary history."

He said Guebuza distinguished himself "as one of the important pillars of Mozambique's peace process, as the government's chief negotiator in the peace dialogue, undertaken over slightly more than two years in Rome, Italy."

The book consists of eight chapters depicting Guebuza's life. Chapter one deals mostly with his birth and infancy.

In chapter two, the author, Dr Renato Matusse, gives a brief account of Guebuza's meeting with Frelimo's first president, Eduardo Mondlane. In retrospect, Mondlane's lecture to a church audience was a sign of things to come.

However, it was while in the Mozambican Secondary School Students Association (NESAM) that Guebuza started to gain political consciousness. He became chairman in 1963, and that was also the year he joined Frelimo.

Chapter three describes Guebuza's flight to Zambia. His first attempt fails when he and his group are captured by the infamous colonial Portuguese secret police, PIDE, in the then Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and returned back to Mozambique. Ironically, it is in detention that he mixes and mingles with other political detainees, and this further fuelled his nationalistic passion.

He is released, and by the second time of trying he eventually reaches Zambia via Swaziland, South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

In chapter four, we see Guebuza involved in the struggle proper against colonialism, and from post to post his importance within the movement grows. He becomes Mondlane's private secretary and rises to political commissar.

Chapter five deals with Guebuza's role in the transitional government arising out of the 1974 Lusaka Accord signed with the Portuguese authorities.

He was appointed Minister for State Administration charged with organising the nascent bureaucratic machinery, creating independent Mozambique's first police force.

The first president of Mozambique, the late Samora Machel, appointed him as Minister of the Interior, where his knowledge amassed in creating the police came into play. He was instrumental in the creation of the Dynamising Groups (grassroots groups closely linked to Frelimo).

The central message in chapter six is Guebuza's role in shaping the country's direction in state and public security. We see Guebuza adding to his ministerial post that of political commissar for the police and the armed forces.

In chapter seven, Guebuza as Minister of Transport and Communications is pivotal in the privatisation process of state companies linked to his portfolio, which began in the late 1980s. He was instrumental in advancing the concept of development corridors, as he sought regional cooperation in the then Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

Guebuza succeeds Chissano

Armando Guebuza won 63.74 per cent of the votes cast in Mozambique's general elections in December 2004, against 31.74 per cent for his closest rival, the Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, thus earning the right to succeed Joaquim Chissano as president.

Frelimo captured 160 seats in the 250-seat National Assembly against Renamo's 90. This will be fundamental for the passing of bills and should six Renamo deputies defect, Frelimo would have an absolute majority.

The outgoing government managed to reduce Mozambique's dependency on donor funds from 60 to 50 percent of the state budget, and the new president will marshal his knowledge. Guebuza said his first main challenge would be to "boost the self-esteem of Mozambicans to do things on their own, and trust their own ideas."

Other challenges include sustaining economic growth and reducing poverty, public

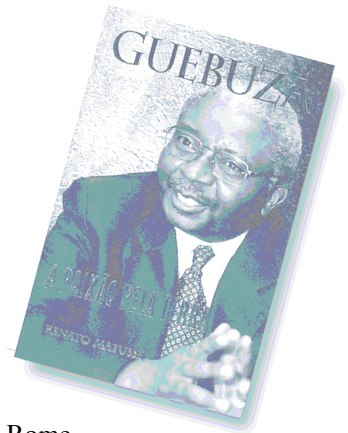
It is here we read that he led the government delegation to the negotiating table in Rome,

as chief negotiator with the then rebel movement Renamo. He discharged his duties to the point of reaching an agreement with Renamo that culminated with the Rome Peace Accord in 1992.

His negotiating skills were recognised by the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania, who appointed him to chair the Committee on the Root Causes of the Conflict in Burundi.

Chapter eight describes Guebuza's trajectory as leader of the Frelimo parliamentary bench in the Assembly of the Republic, Mozambique's parliament, and his subsequent election to party secretary-general in December 2001 when Chissano announced he was stepping down. □

Guebuza: A paixão pela terra is published by Macmillan Moçambique, 2005, in Portuguese. Email macmillanmoc@teledata.mz



sector reform, private sector development, unemployment, and HIV and AIDS.

Mozambique has 33 percent women in parliament

Mozambique's general elections in 2004 have returned more women than in 1999, raising the representation of women in parliament to 33 percent (from 31 percent).

Frelimo has 66 women elected to parliament of a total of 160 deputies. This is 41.2 percent. The number of women on the government side of the house in 1999 was 55.

During the internal election process for party representatives, Frelimo where possible adopted a "zebra" system, alternating men and women on the party lists. Women headed Frelimo lists in six of the 13 constituencies.

SADC regional development strategy 2005

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For the harmonization of SADC Mining Policies, Standards, Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks, an experts meeting convened last year proposed a model framework which "will be considered by an ad hoc meeting of mining ministers before March this year."

Food security remains a top priority for the Food, Agriculture and natural Resources (FANR) directorate in 2005. The situation in most countries is improving from previous years, and member states are continuing to honour their commitments made in the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security. The declaration seeks to boost agricultural production in the region.

A tracking system to monitor the implementation of commitments in the Action Plan was recently adopted. Efforts are underway to establish a Regional Food Reserve Facility as agreed in the Dar es Salaam declaration. In line with the declaration, a Regional Migrant Pest Control Strategy is being drafted to quell quelea birds, red locusts, army worms and larger grain borer.

In an endeavour to open up new markets for farmers in the region, a

SADC marks silver jubilee

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in Mozambique to the west coast in Namibia, is just one of many infrastructure projects that SADC has spearheaded.

On the political front, stronger democratic institutions have emerged as demonstrated by increasingly regular multi-party elections in the region. Political challenges, however, remain in Angola where first post-civil war elections are due to take place, and Democratic Republic of Congo whose elections are scheduled later this year.

The greatest challenge has been poverty eradication, and with it, HIV and AIDS. Overall, regional economic performance has not been sufficient to uplift the standard of living of the majority of citizens. But recent structural reforms which have culminated in a centralized management structure and a more elaborate vision have put SADC on a path of global competitiveness. □

meeting was organized last year to create awareness on Farming for Energy.

"The production of ethanol (from sugarcane) and bio-diesel (from any oil bearing crop) could create massive rural employment and at the same time increase the region's capacity to produce power," noted the SADC Executive Secretary.

Regarding environment and land management, a partnership involving SADC, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) is working on the second Southern Africa Environment Outlook report which is expected to be launched at the Consultative Conference in April.

Among other things, the report will give the current state and trends in various aspects of the environment, the pressures and policy responses to environmental issues in the region. It will "present the future outlook of environment in the region basing on scenario analysis and give recommendations towards contributing to poverty reduction."

Top priority for the Infrastructure and Services directorate is to avert a possible energy crisis given that the region is forecast to run out of its generation surplus capacity by 2007. New projects are thus being developed to avert the shortage.

The directorate is promoting road infrastructure development focusing on upgrading "regional missing links", bridges and rehabilitation of roads within the framework of the Development Corridors Strategy.

The best practice of this strategy is the Maputo Development Corridor that has seen substantial investment in transport and communications infrastructure, creation of enterprises including the anchor project, the Mozambican Aluminium (Mozal) Smelter in Maputo, as well as jobs created along the corridor. Similar corridors are being created elsewhere in the region.

Other projects are on establishing cost effective and efficient communications systems and water supply that are necessary to buttress industry and commerce in the region, as well as attracting tourists to the region.

As a way of promoting intra-SADC tourism and expediting regional integration, work is underway to create a UniVisa. A study is to be commissioned on harmonization of Immigration Laws, Regulations and Procedures.

With regards to the Social and Human Development and Special Programmes directorate, efforts are being intensified to "address the challenge of improving the availability of educated, skilled, healthy, informed, culturally responsive and productive human resources."

To this end, a SADC Intra-Regional Skills Development Programme was developed to improve the availability of skilled and competent specialists within the priority development areas of the SADC region. □

Finance and Investment Protocol

Senior Treasury Officials met twice last year to consider the draft Finance and Investment Protocol (FIP), before presenting it to Ministers of Finance. The strategic objective of the FIP is to contribute to the establishment of a Regional Common Market where there would be free movement of capital, labour, goods and services.

The FIP will facilitate regional integration, co-operation and co-ordination within finance and investment areas in the SADC region. The documents developed by various Finance and Investment technical committees have been converted into annexes, which form an integral part of the Protocol. The annexes will therefore be binding upon Member States.

A draft Implementation Framework for the FIP has also been developed, taking into account the targets set in the RISDP.

Energy

By the year 2007, the SADC region will run out of generation surplus capacity if no new generation projects are put in place by then. The Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) has come up with a list of short and long-term projects to avert this imminent crisis. The projects include the:

- ♦ interconnection of Malawi to SAPP via Mozambique;
- ♦ interconnection of the United Republic of Tanzania to SAPP via Zambia;
- ♦ upgrading of the existing Zambia-DRC link;
- ♦ interconnection of Angola via the proposed Western Power Corridor Project; and the establishment of the Zambia-Namibia link.

Four countries, one people, one deve

A new development corridor holds the promise of prosperity for a hitherto underdeveloped region in the heart of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The leaders of four SADC member states met in the last days of 2004 to sign a legal framework that should make the Mtwara Development Corridor a reality and improve the lives of the people who live in the northern provinces of Malawi and Mozambique, the northern and eastern provinces of Zambia, and the southern regions of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The purpose of the Mtwara corridor initiative is to promote trade, investment and tourism in the four countries and boost development through integration of roads, electricity and other infrastructure.

Recognizing the huge development potential and the need to address poverty in the area, the four governments decided seven years ago to work together to open up and develop the corridor as a regional project.

"We are also conscious of the fact that our people along this corridor, in all the four countries, are in reality one people, an African people, separated only by colonial borders that we inherited," Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa said at the launch. "This corridor must be the beginning of joint efforts to bring them even closer as people, and as partners in development."

Mkapa added that it is a matter of "great personal satisfaction and pleasure" to have a legal document that "formally binds our countries and illustrates to our

people and our external development partners our firm commitment to move from intent to action."

However, he cautioned that, "the political will we have displayed today now has to translate in a measurable and timed implementation process."

The inaugural summit and launch of the Mtwara Development Corridor was hosted by President Bingu wa Mutharika in Lilongwe, and attended by, in addition to Mkapa, the Presidents of Zambia and Mozambique, Levy Mwanawasa and Joaquim Chissano respectively.

Mkapa said the four leaders were committing themselves unreservedly to work together as governments, "in partnership with bilateral and multilateral donors and the private sector to unlock the development potential of this corridor" through the building or improvement of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, railway lines, telecommunications, and airports.

"We are also committing ourselves to a public-private partnership to exploit the abundant natural resources along the corridor, such as minerals, energy, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. We are confident that the economic linkages that will emanate from all these activities will open many opportunities for self-development for our people.

He urged support for "this regional endeavour for poverty reduction and growth" that will help to fast track regional integration, saying there are two key issues to be urgently addressed in the four countries. These are to ensure that formalized trade between and among the countries is given priority; and to ensure the identification by each country of anchor projects within its zone.

"These projects should have a direct regional connectivity, benefiting more than one country; and have direct and speedy

Bridging the Ruvuma

"...a historical task as well as a development imperative" Mkapa

by Bayano Valy

Mozambique is separated from the United Republic of Tanzania by the Ruvuma river, without a bridge to span their long, shared history. That is now being rectified and the two countries have taken steps towards physically bridging the river that divides (or unites) their people.

The Unity Bridge, more than 30 years in conception, could be a reality as early as 2008.

The presidents of the two countries met in Pemba, capital of the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, to sign an agreement of intent for building the 600-metre-long bridge that will link the two countries. The project, including five kms of access roads on each side of the bridge, is expected to cost US\$33 million.

The first concept was concluded in 1977, two years after Mozambique's independence, and was improved in 1981. A memorandum of agreement on joint implementation was signed in 2002. It is hoped that works on the bridge will start in September 2005, and last two and a half years.

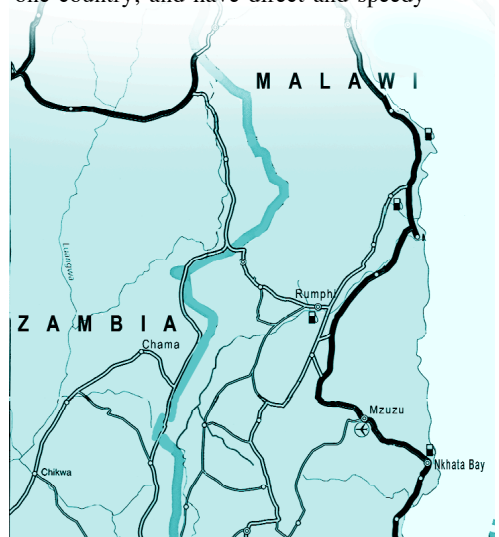
Speaking during the event in Pemba, the former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano stressed that, apart from being geographically connected, Mozambique and Tanzania have historical, cultural, social, political and economic links that extend far back into colonial and pre-colonial history.

The United Republic of Tanzania hosted and supported Mozambican freedom fighters in the 1960s and 1970s until independence in 1975, and also contributed troops to help Mozambique fight against aggression from neighbouring Rhodesia and later South Africa.

Mkapa said the bridge is "a historical task as well as a development imperative" and stressed that neither Mozambique nor Tanzania is so poor not to afford to finance such an important and unifying project.

Chissano described the bridge as "a significant step towards the materialisation of what was one of the great dreams of our states' founders, the late presidents Samora Machel and Julius Nyerere – a road link between our countries."

"The benefits of the Unity Bridge will not be limited to bringing closer the peoples of our region, but also of the whole of Africa with all the resulting positive spins towards development," said Chissano.



ment corridor > Mtwara

economic impact on the incomes and welfare of the people residing in the areas.”

President Mwanawasa said the initiative was in line with SADC's policy of promoting cross-border trade through the integration of transport networks, and would benefit several provinces of Zambia by promoting the development of local agriculture, fishery, tourism and mining sectors.

He said that, as a landlocked country, Zambia must pursue a policy of regional cooperation as the only way to maximize the use of transport infrastructure and institutional capacities.

The host, President Mutharika of Malawi, stressed that the success of the corridor will depend on strong private sector confidence and participation.

Short Term Action Plan

The Unity Bridge is one of the Short Term Action Plan projects submitted by SADC to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to carry out a technical and economic feasibility study, including preliminary design, for the construction of a new road link between Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Several other regional projects under the Short Term Action Plan will impact on the Mtwara corridor. These include plans for a coordinated transportation system for goods and passengers for the three countries bordering the lake that each of them calls by a different name – Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa.

Others are projects for one-stop border posts, vehicle overload control management, a road safety programme, upgrading of airport security, maritime advisory services, and development of a regional strategy for ship-waste reception facilities in ports.

Development projects under the Mtwara Corridor Spatial Development Initiative include:

- ◆ the Unity Bridge across the Ruvuma river between Negomano in Mozambique and Mtambaswala on the Tanzanian side;
- ◆ the Mbamba Bay road, almost 900 km from Lake Malawi/Nyasa to Mtwara, that would efficiently connect Malawi, Tanzania and northern Mozambique;
- ◆ an oil pipeline on the same route from Mtwara port to Mbamba Bay;
- ◆ a heavy capacity ferry linking Mbamba Bay with Nkhata Bay across the lake in Malawi; and
- ◆ the deepwater harbour and port at Mtwara to be expanded and operations improved.

There are also plans for interconnection of the power grids of Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania; and exploitation of the huge Mchuchuma coal reserves for power generation that could supplement energy supplies for Malawi and Mozambique.

Potential tourism development

The Mtwara Corridor has unique potential for tourism with pristine beaches and clear Indian Ocean waters, a marine park as well as inland conservation areas and freshwater recreation areas on the lake.

- ◆ Mnazi Bay Marine Park is a rich marine ecosystem with a high level of biodiversity (more than 400 marine species identified to date) stretching south from Mtwara to the Mozambique border.
- ◆ Mikindani, with its famous slave market and prison ruins, was the terminus for the slave caravans from inland across the lake and deep into central Africa from the late 15th-18th centuries.
- ◆ Three small game reserves along the Tanzanian side of the border, as well

the largest in the world, the Selous Game Reserve a bit further north, and just south of the border in Mozambique is the remote Niassa Game Reserve.

- ◆ Stretching several hundred kms between the two reserves is a natural elephant corridor, the West Corridor, which is a Wildlife Management Area with village level control and management.
- ◆ The people of the Makonde plateau are well known for their elaborate traditional ebony woodcarvings.
- ◆ More than a dozen dinosaur species were excavated from the vast dinosaur beds at Tendunguru almost a century ago, including a complete skeleton of the largest known dinosaur, the brachiosaurus brancai, now on display at the Museum of Natural History in Berlin.
- ◆ Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa, 560 km long, maximum width 75 km, maximum depth 706 metres. The southernmost of the deepwater lakes is associated with the formation of the Rift Valley, and is used primarily as a source of freshwater and for transportation, tourism and fisheries. A bit further north at the top of the lake is the Kitulo plateau, known as the “Serengeti of flowers”, soon to become a national park.
- ◆ There is potential for tourism on both sides of the Ruvuma, with sites from Mozambique's war of liberation, notably at Nachingwea, which was the main military training camp for the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo). For this reason, the area was restricted to visitors during the 1960s and 1970s. □



African leadership at the South Centre

Professor Yash Tandon has been appointed Executive Director of the South Centre in Geneva, effective January 2005.

Prof. Tandon is a Ugandan national resident in Zimbabwe since 1982, where he established SEATINI – the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute.

SEATINI is an African initiative to strengthen Africa's capacity to take a more effective part in the emerging global trading system and to better manage the process of globalisation. It seeks to build the capacity of African trade negotiators to better negotiate in the World Trade Organization (WTO) for a fair, equitable and balanced system of international trade.

Its mission is strengthening Africa in World Trade: For an open, equitable, rule-based, transparent, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable trading system.

Prof. Tandon previously taught at several universities, including Makerere in Uganda and the University of Dar es Salaam, and has written extensively on African political economy, and international relations.

He is a founder member of the International South Group Network (ISGN), which seeks to raise issues of common concern such as trade, aid, debt, gender relations, environmental issues and conflict resolution.

Prof. Tandon joins the South Centre at a time when it is focusing on the acute need for greater capacity in the South to build equitable trading relations, and to strengthen negotiating capabilities with the international financial institutions.

The South Centre grew out of the work and experience of the South Commission, and from

recognition of the need for enhanced South-South cooperation. It was established in 1995, and its founding Chairperson was the late Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The report of the South Commission emphasized that the South is not well-organized at the global level and has thus not been effective in mobilizing its considerable combined expertise and experience or its bargaining power.

The South Centre is therefore intended to meet this need for analysis of develop-

ment problems and experience, as well as to provide intellectual and policy support required by developing countries for collective and individual action in the international arena.

The South Centre is an intergovernmental body of developing countries, currently with 48 member countries. The Centre serves the South as a whole, regardless of membership and tries to ensure access to all developing countries. The current Chairperson is the former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, from Egypt. □

South Africa's Moosa lands IUCN's top post

Southern Africa has again proved its might in conservation by having one of its own, South Africa's Mohammed Valli Moosa, elected President of one of the world's most influential environmental organisations, IUCN-The World Conservation Union.

He was elected by 432 votes to 199, in a resounding endorsement of the confidence the global conservation community has in his experience, insight and abilities. He defeated his opponent Parvez Hassan from Pakistan.

Dr Hillary Masundire, a Zimbabwean, retained the Chair of the Commission on Ecosystems Management. He was unopposed. The two were elected during the IUCN 3rd World Conservation Congress held in Bangkok, Thailand in late November 2004.

Moosa, South Africa's former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, is set to lead and support the Union of more than 1,000 governmental and non-governmental member organisations over the next four years.

According to an IUCN statement, Moosa's election portrays the confidence of IUCN members in his abilities to increase the relevance and impact of the world's largest conservation network as the Union continues to expand its membership, engages with new sectors including the business community, and addresses new conservation issues such as poverty reduction.

"Nature conservation is everybody's business. We will succeed if we continue to broaden our scope and involve more people. I would like each and every individual to be more conscious of nature conservation; we must imbue it in our practices and personalities," Moosa said after being elected.

He was born in 1957 in Johannesburg, and attained a Bachelor of Science majoring in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Durban-Westville in 1978. He has served a number of national and international bodies including the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and the South African Business Trust.

He attracted international acclaim as a key negotiator during the drafting of South Africa's new constitution, and through his competent mediation at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and the 5th IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban in 2003, both of which were held in South Africa largely due to his initiative and effort.

Southern Africa, demonstrating its unified force, put its weight behind him for the position. The rest of the African continent supported Moosa to ensure the position came here for the first time in the IUCN's history. □

Unpacking the MDG on gender parity in education

The challenge of meeting the 2005 benchmark of achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education remains daunting for some SADC countries, while others have either achieved or are on the path to achieving the goal. Saeanna Chingamuka and Washington Midzi analyse.

The benchmark was set in 2000 when eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted by world leaders as a framework for measuring global development progress up to 2015.

The goal, which is second on the list, is aimed at eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015. This is interlinked with the third MDG that focuses on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Indicators in achieving the second and third MDGs include ratios of girls to boys from primary to tertiary education, net enrolment ratios, and female literacy in proportion to males (15-24 year-olds), among others.

While parity in itself is a critical goal, it must be coupled with full gender equality in all facets of education at all levels.

According to a UNESCO 2003/2004 report, "Full gender equality in education would imply that girls and boys are offered the same chance to go to school and enjoy teaching methods, curricula, and academic orientation unaffected by gender bias."

While guided by the MDGs, education policies of SADC countries can draw inspiration from the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which contains the most comprehensive set of legally enforceable commitments on gender equality to education. All SADC countries have ratified CEDAW.

The 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development reinforces CEDAW, by recognising the need to strengthen "access to quality education by women and men, removing gender stereotyping in the curriculum, career choices and professions".

An overview of progress by SADC countries shows that gender parity in primary education has been achieved in countries such as Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Swaziland, however, stands out as the only country that has achieved parity in secondary education.

There are, however, setbacks in sustaining gender parity in education or accelerating progress where the goal has not yet been achieved. In most SADC countries, economic hardships compounded by the persistent droughts and the AIDS pandemic, among others, have contributed to the declining education standards, enrolment and literacy levels.

Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe introduced and maintain the re-admission of girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy as a measure towards achieving gender balance and equity in the education sector as well as offering equal opportunities for education.

Zambia has implemented an affirmative action policy, which includes a 50:50 enrolment ratio between girls and boys at Grade 1 as well as special bursary schemes for girls at primary and secondary school levels, a move meant to achieve gender equality in primary education.

The enrolment trend in Namibia is encouraging with total primary and secondary school enrolments in 2001 showing an 8-percent increase from 1997 figures, and a 43-percent increase from figures at independence.

According to the 2003 United Nations Human Development Report, Lesotho is in a position to achieve the gender parity in education target. More girls than boys are enrolled in all levels of education and the girl to boy ratio increases at higher levels of edu-

cation at 1.74 for 2000/01 tertiary enrolments, compared to 1.02 for primary enrolment.

In some countries such as Zambia, the Ministry of Education reports indicate a decline from 75 percent in 1990 to 70 percent in 2002 in literacy levels among 15-24 year-olds. The rates for females fell from 71 percent in 1990 to 66 percent in 2000. The high cost of education and the economic uncertainty caused by structural adjustment programmes have been partly blamed for this roll back.

Throughout the region, girls in rural settings are more likely to have a heavy workload at home. With the current food insecurity threatening the region, girls' assistance is normally required at home and in the fields.

One of the greatest challenges is HIV and AIDS, which poses a threat to the education system in the region. Money that is meant for education is often channelled to palliative care for an ill person, or it is used for daily expenses. Girls are often the first to drop out of school to care for the ill.

Goal 2: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015.

2005 is particularly significant as a UN Summit shall be convened in September to review progress since the 2000 Millennium Declaration, and SADC governments are expected to report on their achievements.

It is thus urgent that effective responses be devised where significant progress has not occurred in achieving the gender parity in education and, where parity has been achieved, full gender equality to all facets of education must be sustained and strengthened. □

Tsunami lessons for southern Africa

by Mukundi Mutasa

The *tsunami* that devastated coastal areas in Asia at the end of 2004 has left in its wake many lessons for southern Africa, not only about early warning but also about natural protection.

The huge tidal waves that rolled over the seas from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India all the way across the Indian Ocean to the East African coast, resulting from an earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale, caused massive destruction and loss of life, especially on the Asian coasts.

The death toll from the *tsunami* ("horror wave" in Japanese) passed 250,000 and many missing people could not be accounted for.

The disaster claimed the lives of 10 Tanzanians caught unaware on the seashore near Dar es Salaam, as well as two on the low-lying islands of the Seychelles. In Madagascar, at least 1,200 people were displaced. Eleven South Africans who were in the Asian

countries were confirmed dead and four unaccounted for, while 2,900 were traced. Two Zimbabwean tourists in Asia were feared dead.

The waves that hit Dar es Salaam were weakened as they had travelled almost 5,000 km from the earthquake's epicentre at a speed of 1,000 km/hr. The damage done to the African seashore was therefore less extensive compared to the Asian region. The Tanzanian government reacted swiftly to avoid further damage in Zanzibar by alerting people to stay away from the beaches.

The SADC region also responded with assistance to the disaster in Asia. Mozambique, a country that was devastated by the *El Nino* catastrophic floods in 2000, donated a "symbolic" amount of US\$100,000 towards the humanitarian aid appeal, and the African Union (AU) pledged the same amount.

The South African Red Cross Society launched a fundraising appeal to raise R10 million (approx. US\$1.6 million). In other southern African countries, donations were made through local Red Cross societies and the International Red Cross regional office in Zimbabwe.

While humanitarian resources poured into the devastated areas, there were indications that this would impact on the extent of development resources available globally. However, it is expected that more resources will flow into systems for disaster management, early warning, and coastal resources.

Environmentalists say the *tsunami* was a disaster waiting to happen, not because it could be predicted but because the damage could have been contained with better care of our environment, especially the consequences of ripping out mangroves and destroying coral reefs, which experts say help to protect the coasts from the sea and storms.

A programme director at World Wildlife Foundation International said places that had healthy coral reefs and intact mangroves were far less badly damaged than places where the mangroves had been replaced by beach-front hotels and prawn farms.

"Coral reefs act as a natural break-water and mangroves are a natural shock absorber, and this applies to floods and cyclones as well as *tsunamis*."

This was also the view of Professor M.S. Swaminathan, India's leading agricultural scientist who is chairing a government inquiry into coastal developments. He said the mangrove forests in some regions of Tamil Nadu acted as a shield and bore the brunt of the waves.

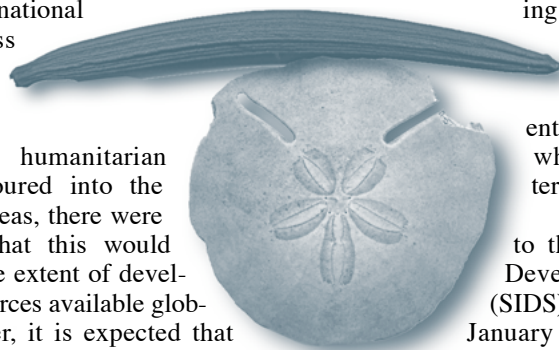
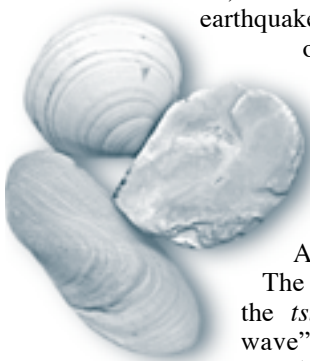
"The dense mangroves stood like a wall to save coastal communities living behind them," Swaminathan said.

"But in other areas... where the forests have been cut down and there is sand mining and developments, the devastation was more widespread."

The disaster has exposed the absence of a global early warning system in the Indian Ocean, although a system is present in the Pacific where such disasters are common.

Delegates to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Summit held in January in Mauritius, bemoaned this absence of an effective and efficient warning system. The lessons learned from the *tsunami* devastation pushed the issue of early warning to the top of the summit's agenda.

The Mauritian prime minister, and current SADC chairperson, Paul Berenger, said, "These disasters have once again demonstrated the extreme vulnerability of small islands, (and) developing states... The damage will take years to repair." □



Speeding for *tsunami* support

Southern African countries are responding to calls for humanitarian assistance to countries in Asia most affected by the *tsunami* that struck at the end of 2004. These efforts are being coordinated by the respective Red Cross Societies in SADC countries. South Africa also sent a field hospital and is diverting part of the road speeding fines collected in the country, to the *tsunami* relief fund. A number of Namibian health practitioners have volunteered to help in the affected region. Zimbabwe has established a *tsunami* disaster fund to collect donations, with the main focus on Indonesia, the country worst affected by the disaster. Other SADC countries have also supported the relief fund.

SADC anthem... evoking the African rhythm

At their Summit in August 2004, SADC Heads of State and Government approved the SADC anthem whose lyrics and melody express the hopes and aspirations of the region.

The anthem is based on an African rhythm, which was identified as commonly and traditionally practiced by Africans in the SADC region.

SADC News Agencies Pool (SANAP) to be launched

Journalists from across the region met in South Africa in January to discuss plans for the launch of a regional news agency, the SADC News Agencies Pool (SANAP).

With its headquarters in Mozambique, SANAP is expected to improve the dissemination of news across borders in the region and strengthen the presentation of information from an African perspective.

Although national news agencies have previously tried to arrange bilateral agreements for news sharing, there were many impediments. In many cases, the exchange of information was informal and under-resourced. Information gaps remain in most SADC countries, where people may not know much about what is going on in neighbouring countries.

Media workers generally welcomed plans to strengthen news sharing in southern Africa. The Managing Editor of the Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA), Farai Munyuki, who has been a proponent of regional exchange for many years, expressed the hope that "a regional news hub will facilitate a greater sharing of information."

John Mukela, Executive Director of the Southern African Media Training Trust based in Maputo, said that while some SADC countries have made significant advances in technology, thus facilitating greater information sharing, others still lag behind. (*The Herald*). □

Although the combination of English lyrics with African rhythms and melodies was a challenge, the task was successfully accomplished. The melody brings out the African drum pattern, which reinforces the African character in the anthem.

Summit approved that the anthem is to be played in all member states at all major SADC events, and in all primary and secondary schools on SADC Day (17 August) and SADC Creators' Day (14 October). □

SADC launches the 2005 essay competition

SADC has launched the 2005 Secondary Schools Essay Competition in an effort to attract youth participation in support of regional integration.

Inspired by the celebration, this year, of SADC's silver jubilee following 25 years since the launch of its predecessor, the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980, the topic for the 2005 competition is, "In the 25 years since it was formed, what has the Southern African Development Community (SADC) achieved and what more would you like it to do to bring the economies and the people of southern Africa together?"

The length of the essay should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words and can be written in English, French or Portuguese. Interested students are encouraged to submit their essays to the SADC National Contact Point Offices or Ministries of Education in their respective countries. The closing date for submission of entries is 31 May 2005.

Three winners of the essay competition will have a unique opportunity to receive their prizes at the official opening of the SADC Summit in Gaborone, Botswana in August this year.

No more public gigs from Mama Africa

Miriam Makeba, South Africa's world-renowned songstress, has announced that she is retiring from her popular public performances after decades of entertaining her legions of fans.

She said she would be concentrating on special occasion gigs as fans reminisced on her unique track record that applauds a gifted vocalist.

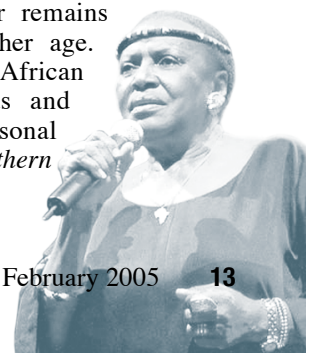
Makeba's last public performances were appropriately in Zambia, former headquarters of the liberation struggle against apartheid in South Africa. She performed alongside local artists on New Year's Eve and was hosted at State House by the First Lady, Maureen Mwanawasa.

Remembering her history, Makeba took the time during her show to pay tribute to Zambians for their role in

South Africa's struggle against apartheid. She also expressed her concern for the increasing rates of HIV and AIDS infections among the youth in the region.

Makeba's music sends its listeners on a sentimental journey back to the heyday of the 1950s when she teamed up with the Manhattan Brothers taking her to a bright career spanning decades of musical exploits in Africa and abroad.

Mama Africa, as she is known, has proved to be a talented maestro whose flair remains undaunted by her age. Her authentic African melody persists and forms a personal trademark. (*Southern Times*) □



Mauritius a "cyber-island"

Mauritius is to become the first country in the world to get complete nation-wide broadband access. Potential users among the 1.2 million population will be able to connect to wireless internet at home, at work, at school or on the beach – through a network of "smart antennas" within a wide range of coverage.

ADB Networks, which is the main independent service provider headquartered on the island, has ordered the installation of a nomadic broadband wireless access from a US company.

The chief executive of ADB, Rizwan Rahim, said his company had looked at other high-speed broadband options, "in our scenario, DSL and cable modem were not viable options.

The rugged terrain of Mauritius requires a solution with no line of sight and cost effective deployment."

Rahim said the broadband service can be delivered "where it didn't exist, virtually overnight," with portable, plug-and-play service throughout the island, as soon as the customer receives the modem, usually the same day they order the service. He said pricing is competitive. (*New Ziana*) □

Looking east for ADS

Three countries in the SADC region now have Approved Destination Status (ADS) which facilitates tourism arrivals from China, and some are strengthening flight connections for this purpose.

Air Zimbabwe initiated direct flights to Beijing in December, and South African Airways operates code-sharing flights with Cathay Pacific to Hong Kong, with connections to Beijing.

The chief executive of the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB), Peter Mwendu, says his country is also considering direct flights to Beijing to take advantage of its new status to attract the potential influx of Chinese tourists to visit its conservation and wilderness areas such as the famous Serengeti National Park, the Selous Game Reserve (the largest in the world) and many others, as well as the island of Zanzibar.

For this reason, TTB is making plans to participate in the Beijing International Travel and Tourism Market (BITTM), China's only outbound tourism exhibition, set for April this year.

The BITTM is strictly a business fair, with a projected attendance of 20,000 Chinese travel and tourism professionals, including the China International Travel Service (CITS), the largest operator on the Chinese market.

Market reports show that Chinese outbound tourism in 2003 generated over 23 million departures, with over US\$16 billion in overseas expenditure. Some 80 foreign destinations received Chinese government approval for ADS status this year, including the United States, Australia and Europe, except for the United Kingdom which was cautious about immigration and illegal aliens. (*Southern Times, BBC World*) □

South Africa to resolve land issue

South Africa is confident of resolving black citizens' land claims by the end of the year, settling the emotive issue in the formerly white-ruled country, government officials have said.

"Despite numerous challenges, the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights is confident to settle all the outstanding land claims (within deadline)," it said in a statement, following its first meeting of the year.

Critics have said the government has been too slow in dealing with land reform and that urgent action is vital to avoid people-driven land repossessions such as those that occurred in Zimbabwe.

A decade after the end of apartheid minority rule, most commercial farmland in Africa's biggest economy is still owned by white farmers and the government is working to provide land to people dispossessed under former rulers. (*Southern Times*) □

Africa lures G8 support

The United Republic of Tanzania was scheduled to host a four-day meeting in Dar es Salaam in January to focus on agricultural development in Africa, under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad). The meeting with the Group of 8 (G8) countries was to identify key factors in the development of agriculture in Africa, with 18 African countries in attendance. Nepad is a pan-African framework of the African Union, aimed at continental renewal. Its priority is to eradicate poverty and place African countries on a path of sustainable develop-

ment. SADC Heads of State and Government held an extraordinary summit in Dar es Salaam last year to plan their own framework for food security and agricultural development. (*Xinhua*) □

From emergency work to recovery

Angola has shifted its development priorities from war to peace, and from emergency to recovering. Announcing government plans for 2005/6, the Social Welfare Minister, João Baptista Kussumwa, said that de-mining,

resettlement, social reintegration of former soldiers and people living with physical disability will be the priorities. He added child development care, elderly protection and return of refugees as other top tasks for 2005. (*ANGOP*) □

Budgeting for HIV and AIDS

Revisiting state budgeting models and processes to meet new priorities in financing HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, support and care for the infected and affected, is an urgent priority for southern Africa.

This was a factor in the landmark declaration by SADC Heads of State and Government in Maseru, Lesotho in July 2003 (Maseru Declaration) which, among other things, seeks to intensify resource mobilisation through allocating at least 15 percent of annual state budgets to improve the health sector, adopting a multi-sectoral approach.

A recent study on *Funding the Fight: Budgeting for HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries* provides the findings of a comparative budget analysis for HIV and AIDS, undertaken in four African countries (Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Kenya) and five countries in Central America.

The study found that African governments are committed to combating the spread of HIV and AIDS on the continent, but have too little of their own funds to spend on intervention programmes.

The report reveals that the priority given to HIV and AIDS programmes in national budgets varies significantly. Health budgets in the African countries, except South Africa, tend to rely primarily on donor funds whereas in the Central American countries, with the exception of Nicaragua, the budgets are primarily financed through state revenue.

The study notes that although countries in both regions have developed comprehensive national strategic HIV and AIDS plans and programmes, these were poorly costed and budgeted. Governments have inadequate systems to track the allocation of resources for HIV and AIDS.

One of the main findings was that most countries in Africa, until recently, have focused on prevention rather than treatment, and African countries have been slower in committing themselves to providing antiretroviral (ARV) treatment to people living with HIV and AIDS.

Another important finding from the report is that the increasing allocations being made for HIV and AIDS might be squeezing out other health priorities. In all countries, the researchers observed that while HIV and AIDS allocations have been increasing, this has not been matched by a commensurate increase in allocations to the health sector overall.

The report calls for budget reforms and greater transparency of government allocations for, and actual spending on, HIV and AIDS.

“Effective government responses to AIDS require us to know where the money is coming from, where it is going, and how well it is being spent,” says the report, which also urged African countries to increase their own financial commitments to HIV and AIDS interventions.

The study, undertaken by independent research institutes in each country, was jointly coordinated by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) and Centro de Analisis e Investigacion (FUNDAR) in Mexico. (Reviewed by Chipso Muwezwa) □

Funding the Fight: Budgeting for HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries. Teresa Guthrie and Alison Hickey (Eds), 2004. IDASA, 6 Pin Street, Cape Town, South Africa.

Email: nomzi@idasact.org.za, Website: www.idasa.org.za

Mozambique national study to be published in Portuguese by SARDC, 2005. *Financiando a Luta Contra a Sida: Relatório sobre Moçambique*

Recent publications and acquisitions

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SADC diary

2005	Event	Venue
February	2 World Summit on Information Society African Regional Conference	Ghana
	21-25 SADC Council of Ministers	Mauritius
	22-24 Joint SADC/Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Meeting on Sustainable Land Management	Ethiopia
	23 EU/AU Senior Officials Troika	Luxemburg
28 Feb-11 March	49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women: Beijing + 10	UN, New York
March	1-5 Global Forum on the Review of Women's Progress on Forestry Management since Beijing 1995	Uganda
	10-11 Consortium Meeting for the SADC Rhino Conservation	Zimbabwe
	14-15 SADC/NEPAD Agricultural Research Stakeholder Meeting	Botswana
	31 SADC/IUCN/UNDP Review Meeting on Biodiversity	Botswana
April	6-7 SADC Environment Education Support Project Steering Committee	Mozambique
	11-22 Commission on Sustainable Development	UN, New York
	25-27 2005 SADC Consultative Conference	Mauritius
	28 SADC/India Forum	Mauritius

Currency checklist

Country	Currency	(US\$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 Iwei)	85.94
Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.35
DRC	Congo Franc	449.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	5.77
Madagascar	Magache Franc	9,400.00
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	108.00
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	28.24
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	8,600.00
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	5.90
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	5.82
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	5.77
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,049.50
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,710.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	6,200.00

7 January 2005

Public Holidays in SADC March - April 2005

3 March	Martyrs' Day	Malawi
8 March	Women's Day	Angola
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
21 March	Human Rights Day	South Africa
21 March	Ougadi	Mauritius
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
25 March	Good Friday	All except DRC, Mozambique, Mauritius
26 March	Public Holiday	Botswana
26 March	Holy Saturday	Zambia
28 March	Easter Monday	All except DRC, Mozambique, Mauritius
28 March	Family Day	South Africa
4 April	Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Angola
7 April	Mozambican Women's Day	Mozambique
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
30 April	Education and Youth Day	DRC