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THE SADC market has more than trebled during the organisation's 25-year history, creating one of the conditions necessary for a Free Trade Area, which the region plans to achieve by 2008.

From a population of some 60 million in 1980 when the organisation was formed as the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the market has now risen to more than 200 million consumers.

The sharp increase in population is attributed to natural growth as well as new member states that have joined over the years, increasing from nine founding nations to the present 13 member states.

SADC's long term objective is to have a Common Market in 2015 which would mean a common external tariff and ultimately a common currency one year later, in 2016.

The region plans to transit through a Customs Union in 2010, in an incremental manner, preceded by the Free Trade Area.

However, all this will depend on the successful implementation of the Trade Protocol, which started in 2000. The protocol provides for a gradual elimination of customs duties or tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade. By 2008, all goods traded in SADC should be substantially duty-free.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, said the consumers would be the greatest beneficiaries of a Free Trade Area "because they usually get better products at lower prices."

He explains that, "at the country level, there will be more market opportunities in terms of demand and access as well as more competition that will provide better goods and services to the consumers."

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Footprints and challenges of regional development

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Energy

The creation of the Southern Africa Power Pool has ensured a consistent and reliable supply of electricity to all member states including those that do not generate their own.

New projects such as the Western Corridor Power Project, which has just been extended to all SADC countries, will ease the region's energy worries.

Spatial development corridors

In its 25-year history, SADC has transformed the traditional transport corridors into Spatial Development Corridors, creating vast opportunities to both domestic and foreign investors.

Beira, Maputo and Walvis Bay corridors are some of the successful examples, while the Mtwara Corridor, intended to link the Tanzanian port with Mozambique, Malawi and eastern Zambia, is one of many in the region which are still nascent.

Traditionally, the landlocked countries in SADC have relied on transport routes to the east coast on the Indian Ocean. However, the Walvis Bay Corridor – linked by the Trans-Kalahari and Trans-Caprivi highways – now provides an alternative gateway to the Atlantic Ocean in the west.

The Mozambique Aluminium Smelter Project (Mozal), a part of the Maputo Corridor, represents one of the biggest investment ventures in recent years, employing thousands of Mozambicans and a significant number of other staff from the SADC region.

Human resources

While unemployment remains high in a number of SADC countries, the intra-regional movement of skills and the external "brain drain" has left member states seriously vulnerable in essential sectors such as engineering and health.

SADC cannot afford to continue using its scarce resources on training people whose expertise will benefit countries that least need them. To discourage them from looking north for greener pastures, the experts need not only better challenges at home, but, even more important, more favourable working conditions.

HIV and AIDS

The greatest threat to the region's human resources is the HIV and AIDS pandemic. SADC is the worst affected region in the world and its leaders have responded by adopting a common vision and platform of action.

The Maseru Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted in July 2003 identifies priority areas that include access to care, testing and treatment; prevention and social mobilisation; resource mobilisa-

tion; a development-oriented approach; monitoring and evaluation.

Agriculture and food security

Over the two-and-half decades of SADC's involvement in regional development, agriculture has remained the backbone of the economies of most member states.

While the agricultural sector is now relatively developed, better farming methods and more investment is required especially to procure modern equipment and machinery.

The recurrence of the drought cycle over the last couple of decades has seriously exposed the region and has served as a sharp reminder that new policies are needed to ensure sustainable food security.

SADC leaders have responded with the Dar es Salaam Declaration

on Agriculture and Food Security of May 2004, which seeks to overhaul agricultural production. One of the most critical provisions of the declaration is to move away from over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture and put more arable land under irrigation.

In addition to increased investment in irrigation equipment, the related challenge is to build more dams, although these may adversely affect the flow of water downstream, in the same or neighbouring countries.

The other challenge has always been to ensure that natural resources such as land and water are utilised in a sustainable manner, and the region is firmly behind the international concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Protocols

Since its emergence in 1992, SADC has adopted a total of 30 protocols and declarations to harmonise policies and legislation in a number of areas including natural resources.

Most of these protocols are now in force. However, more needs to be done to ensure synthesis with national policy.

Peace and security

The greatest achievements are the attainment of independence in Namibia in 1990, and the demise of apartheid in South Africa in 1994, which brought the end of civil war in Mozambique in 1992 and Angola in 2002.

Having gone through several transformations, including the recent restructuring of its institutions, SADC can look back to the achievements of the past 25 years to spur further regional integration and development.

The Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) is the roadmap to the destination of a Common Market in 2015.



Single Southern African currency possible by 2016

THE GOVERNOR of the Reserve Bank of South Africa, Tito Mboweni, has expressed confidence that a common currency is possible for SADC by 2016.

After hosting a meeting of Central Bank governors from the region in Cape Town, he said the region is serious about the introduction of a single currency managed by a single central bank.

The monetary union would be introduced in 2016, following the implementation of a common market the previous year, with free movement of labour and capital.

Mboweni acknowledged the challenges and said there is much to be done if the targets are to be met.

"We start from a position where we say that the conditions are not right for fully fledged integration, but we want to reach there, so we need to take these steps," he said in an interview with *Business Times*.

Key convergence targets are:

- Single-digit inflation by 2008 and a 5 percent ceiling by 2012;
- Budget deficits below 5 percent of GDP by 2008 and within a one percent band around 3 percent by 2012;
- Nominal value of public and public-guaranteed debt below 60 percent of GDP by 2008; and
- Import cover for three months by 2008 and six months by 2012.

The Governor has established a four-member, full-time secretariat in his office to drive South Africa's preparations for integration.



Rolling out SADC's 15-year blueprint

by Munetsi Madakufamba

THE IMPLEMENTATION of the SADC development strategy for 2005 is now in motion following approval of its annual budget and business plans by the Council of Ministers at its first meeting of the year in February in Mauritius.

The Council approved a massive US\$37.5 million budget, representing a more than 100 percent jump from the previous year.

Speaking after the meeting, the SADC Executive Secretary said the huge jump in the annual budget has been necessitated by the new rollout strategy of the organisation's two development plans, and the enlarged staff structure at the Secretariat.

SADC is coming to the end of a long restructuring exercise which has centralised operations at the Botswana-based Secretariat, and has given birth to two long-term plans -- the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

A Consultative Conference of SADC partners which was due to be convened in Mauritius on 25-27 April to rally financial support for

New recruitment procedures

THE SADC Council of Ministers has approved new recruitment procedures that are based on a quota system. No member state can hold more than one position in the top seven -- the posts of executive secretary, deputy executive secretary, chief director and the four directors. Further, at least one of the top three posts must be held by a woman. For vacant positions, member states are now required to submit four candidates of which 50 percent shall be female.

SADC Targets

SADC regional development fund and self-financing mechanism	2005
Elimination of exchange controls on intra-SADC transactions	2006
Free Trade Area	2008
SADC Customs Union, common external tariff	2010
Common Market agreement	2015
SADC Central Bank, preparations for single SADC currency	2016

the two development plans has been postponed to October. The venue is yet to be decided.

Ramsamy said the postponement was a result of two reasons -- the level of confirmed representation from donors was not senior enough to match that of SADC which is at ministerial level, and to allow member states sufficient time to make input into the technical documents.

"Now we are going to go on a campaign to encourage our cooperating partners to send delegations at ministerial level," said Ramsamy. He added that this postponement is not going to hamper the implementation of the development plans as SADC does not rely entirely on donor funds.

With regards to the looming power shortages in the region, the ministers instructed the Southern African Power Pool to organise a Regional Electricity Investment Conference in Namibia in June 2005. The conference is expected to mobilise resources to fund power generation and transmission projects.

The SADC Summit in August last year expressed grave concern that the region will run out of surplus energy generation capacity by 2007 if no new projects come on board. A steering committee was thus set up comprising energy ministers from Angola, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Council also directed that the Western Corridor Project -- a joint venture power initiative involving Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and South Africa -- be extended to all SADC countries. This should be

supported by a SADC-wide representation of ministers on the steering committee.

The ministers noted that current multilateral negotiations between the European Union (EU) and individual regional groups such as SADC are divisive.

The EU is negotiating economic partnership agreements with individual groupings as opposed to the larger African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries.

The negotiations have presented a number of challenges including the fact that a number of SADC countries are members of other regional groups that are also participating in the process. These include the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the East African Community (EAC).

A committee of ambassadors accredited to Botswana was

formed to play an advisory role to the Secretariat and member states. Botswana is SADC's chief negotiator to the EU on the economic partnership agreements.

The negotiations are to be concluded in 2008, which will coincide with the creation of a SADC Free Trade Area.

SADC-India Forum

COUNCIL APPROVED the holding of the inaugural session of the SADC-India Forum on 28 April in Mauritius, at ministerial level. The agenda includes:

- agriculture, in particular irrigation, agro-engineering, dry land farming, and seed technology;
- trade and investment;
- water resources management;
- promotion of small and medium scale industries and entrepreneurial development;
- drugs and pharmaceuticals;
- human resources development; and
- information and communication technologies.



SADC business plans 2005/2006

IN A move to unbundle and operationalise the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), SADC has developed business plans and budgets for 2005/2006 focusing mainly on the four directorates and two units. The business plans outline priority areas for the period 2005/6, which will be a stepping stone towards achieving the long term objectives of the 15-year strategic plan. The SADC Council of Ministers approved the business plans, at their meeting in February in Mauritius.

Trade, Industry, Finance & Investment Directorate

Immediate challenges of the directorate include strengthening market integration, enhancing productive competitiveness, as well as financial and capital markets development. Equally important is the move towards monetary cooperation, macro economic convergence, promotion of intra-SADC investments and foreign direct investment.

TIFI intervention areas 2005/6

goods and services market integration;
financial and capital market development;
attainment of deeper monetary cooperation;
attainment of macro-economic convergence;
increasing levels of intra-SADC Investment and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); and
effective participation in compliance with international agreements.

Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Directorate

The directorate focuses mainly on five sectors – food security, crop development, livestock development, natural resource management and research and development.

The food security challenges facing SADC require increasing productivity, eliminating food deficits and increasing trade in agricultural products.

FANR intervention areas 2005/6

ensuring food availability;
access to food;

improving food nutritional value and safety; and
disaster preparedness for food security.

Social and Human Development & Special Programmes Directorate

Key sectors in this directorate are health systems, education, human resources development, culture and sport, information and employment. Its long term goal is to coordinate all human resources development in the region.

SHDSP intervention areas 2005/6

developing and sustaining human capabilities;
developing positive cultural values, attitudes and practices;
increasing utilisation of human capabilities; and
availability and access to information.

Infrastructure & Services Directorate

The primary function is to promote the provision of adequate, interconnected and efficient regional infrastructure. Key sectors are transport, communications and meteorology, energy, tourism and water.

IS intervention areas 2005/6

provision of adequate, integrated and efficient transport infrastructure and services;
provision of adequate, integrated and efficient communications and meteorology infrastructure services;
promotion of tourism as a means for sustainable development and regional integration;

facilitating the adoption and implementation of the strategic plan; and
integrated water resources management and related infrastructure development that contributes to regional integration and poverty eradication.

Statistics Unit

Summary intervention areas 2005/6

development of legal framework in statistics;
harmonisation of statistics in the SADC region;
provision of relevant statistics for regional integration; and
statistical capacity development in SADC.

HIV and AIDS Unit

Summary intervention areas 2005/6

policy development and harmonisation;
capacity building and mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into all SADC policies and programmes;
facilitating technical response, resource networks, collaboration and coordination; and

facilitating monitoring and evaluation of the regional multi-sectoral response.

Gender Unit

Summary intervention areas 2005/6

development of an explicit regional gender policy framework and harmonization of gender policies;
gender mainstreaming of SADC structures and institutions;
development and implementation at the regional level of women's empowerment in various sectoral areas;
communication, information-sharing, coalition-building and networking;
training and capacity-building of national machineries personnel, national and regional trainers, decision-makers and other critical stakeholders on concepts, analysis, sensitization and empowerment skills;
monitoring and evaluation of the Beijing Platform for Action, SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and its addendum, CEDAW, the African Charter on Women.



SADC Council of Ministers Meeting, Grand Baie, Mauritius

SADC support for NEPAD agriculture programme

MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, finance, trade and industry in SADC member states have pledged their support to NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

This is a NEPAD initiative to promote interventions that best respond to the continent's agricultural challenges.

During the southern African launch of CAADP in Maputo, the ministers agreed to establish a CAADP coordinator at the SADC Secretariat, as well as a high-level advisory board linked to national bodies to ensure action.

The NEPAD Secretariat agreed to follow up with immediate consultations to ensure that resources are identified for the appointment of a SADC-based CAADP coordinator.

The action plans presented by delegates at the Maputo meeting ranged from the expansion of smallscale irrigation and water harvesting, to land reform, building capacity for

farmers organisations, and a budget tracking system.

SADC officials indicated their commitment to align agricultural budgets to the CAADP framework so that at least 10 percent of national budgets is directed to agriculture.

Agricultural development features prominently in SADC's regional strategic plan, which provides a framework for economic integration and social development in the region.

The African Development Bank (ADB) has pledged to continue to provide financial support to SADC member states for their efforts to reduce poverty and ensure food security.



Action to fast-track key NEPAD projects

A HIGH-LEVEL workshop on building capacity in Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to advance implementation of key NEPAD infrastructure projects, held in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, discussed:

Identification or confirmation of priority projects ready for implementation, including capacities, resources, and other support required, with set and agreed timeframes, including the political interventions necessary to speed up implementation;

An Action Plan on capacity-building for RECs and relevant institutions for implementation of priority NEPAD projects within the agreed timeframe;

Definition of responsibilities among various stakeholders – RECs, AU Commission, NEPAD Secretariat, donors and other development partners – to ensure implementation;

An Action Plan for the establishment of REC task teams to oversee NEPAD implementation in each region, with defined target dates; and

Definition of responsibilities among stakeholders to ensure that teams are established as planned.

NEPAD e-School demo ready for launch

THE NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is ready to move to the demonstration phase. This was agreed at the second workshop of the coordinating body, in Pretoria.

The demonstration phase will be piloted in 20 countries over a period of 12 months. This involves briefing participants on the type of equipment, software, training and capacity-building required to have all the attributes of a NEPAD e-School.

The first demonstration schools will be launched in April, in the regions of north Africa, Francophone west Africa, Anglophone west Africa, and east, central and southern Africa. At least four schools will be ready in each region.

The purpose of the demonstration is to accrue a body of knowledge to inform the roll-out of a broader NEPAD e-Schools Initiative.

The workshop agreed on an implementation framework, including co-ordination at continental level by the e-Africa Commission, and responsibilities of the countries at local level.

The financing for this project has been secured from the Information Society Partnership for Africa's Development (ISPAD), which has agreed to fully finance the process. They will also take responsibility for the training, under the leadership and guidance of the e-Africa Commission.

Japanese, ADB support NEPAD projects

THE JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the African Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to work together to support NEPAD in the implementation of its projects.

The decision follows a consultative meeting with representatives of NEPAD to explore collaboration between JICA and ADB in infrastructure development, capacity-building, agriculture and rural development, water, education, health, governance and private sector.

The JICA team suggested three ways of promoting JICA-ADB collaboration:

ADB participation in formulation study teams for JICA infrastructure projects planned for 2005;

JICA to align ongoing projects with related ADB-supported projects and NEPAD; ADB and JICA to formulate a new project jointly under the continental framework of NEPAD.

JICA and ADB agreed to make follow-up actions to accelerate their collaboration in support of NEPAD and contribute towards the shared aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa.

Southern Africa hit by another dry season

LATEST REPORTS from across the SADC region indicate that many parts of the region received good rainfall during the first half of the rainy season but the second half has been characterised by poor rains in the southern part of the region.

According to SADC estimates released in early April, the affected areas include central and southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, southeast Zimbabwe and northern South Africa.

Normal rainfall was received in Angola, DRC, Lesotho, Namibia, central South Africa and Swaziland. However, rainfall distribution was poor in Lesotho and Swaziland.

"The low rainfall levels have affected the region negatively and this has implications for cereals and pulses with pasture for livestock being affected in areas with more extreme rainfall deficit," says SADC in a statement on rainfall update.

"The rainfall season in the southern parts of the region is drawing to a close and very little rainfall is expected," says the statement.

The period January to March, which is the second half of the rainfall season, is often critical to the region's staple crop, maize, as this is when the crop is tasselling and in need of moisture.

SADC estimates that South Africa will have a bumper harvest "as a result of good overall rains in the agriculturally productive areas of the country".

However, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe will experience poor harvests.

The dry conditions over southern Africa come at a time when models indicated a weak *El Nino*. A strong *El Nino* is associated with drought while the reverse, *La Nina* is associated with wet and even flooding rains.

Droughts have occurred periodically in southern Africa throughout recorded history.

Extensive droughts have afflicted the region in

1946-47
1965-66
1972-73
1982-83
1986-88
1991-92
1994-95
2001-2003

Mozambique fears poor harvest in south

SOME PARTS of southern Mozambique are facing drought, and the irregular rainfall may lead to a poor harvest of maize.

"We're worried because we're approaching the end of the rainy season and the expected improvements are not happening," said Mário Ubisse of the Early Warning System department in the Agriculture Ministry.

This is affecting some districts in Inhambane province, where signs of drought are obvious. However, this scenario conflicts with central and northern Mozambique where above normal rainfall has caused floods in the Zambezi valley.

South Africa posed for record maize harvest

South Africa could reap 11.14 million tonnes of maize this year, 18 percent more than last season and the most in 11 years, according to a report published in Johannesburg in March. The Crop Estimates Committee, said that commercial maize growers will harvest 11.14 million tonnes, of which 6.63 million tonnes will be white maize and 4.51 million tonnes yellow maize.

This season's crop will be the highest since 1993-94 when commercial farmers reaped 12.1 million tonnes of maize. National stocks were 5.23 million tonnes at the end of January, according to GrainSA. *Xinhua*

Region's food security shows signs of improving

FOOD SUPPLY assessments for southern Africa indicate a maize surplus of 1.27 million tonnes for the 2004/2005 marketing year, according to the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources directorate.

The overall cereal deficit is about 1.69 million tonnes, which is a notable improvement from the 2.96 million tonnes deficit of the 2003/2004 marketing year.

The countries that are still experiencing food shortages are Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, with a

combined estimate of five million people affected.

Although the region has suffered from persistent droughts and floods, improvements in yields have been attributed to extra measures that member states are taking in line with the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

The landmark declaration was endorsed by an extra-ordinary summit of SADC leaders when they met in the Tanzanian capital on 15 May 2004.

A diversified, nutritious indigenous diet: key to disease prevention

THE SADC region has stepped up its efforts to promote healthy lifestyles among people living with HIV and AIDS.

Focus has been directed towards making nutrition a top priority in dealing with the pandemic and other chronic diseases.

Emphasis is being put on the fact that although the virus can weaken the immune system, it is possible to strengthen it by practising healthy eating habits. This includes indigenous unrefined foods, which are rich in all nutrients that are needed to strengthen the immune system.

In southern Africa, where the majority of HIV and AIDS patients lack access to anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs), traditional nutritious foods are the best way to boost immunity. Even where ARVs are available, a healthy diet is essential to its use.

Traditional foods, however, remain shunned by many young people in society. The challenge is to break away from these preconceptions that suggest that traditional foods are inferior.

Zimbabwe holds inaugural food fair

DELEGATES ATTENDING the inaugural Zimbabwe Food Fair held in Harare in early 2005 stressed the importance of nutrition through the theme "promoting a diversified diet for better nutrition and health."

The fair, the first of its kind in the country, is a result of discussions and intense lobbying on this topical issue in an effort to fight the spread of chronic diseases and shows the desire to implement some of the recommendations of a SADC Health Ministers Consultative Meeting of 2003.

The food fair, which was officially opened by Vice-President Joyce Mujuru, will become an annual event.

Drought-tolerant, insect-resistant maize seed

THE SCIENTIFIC and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC) in Zimbabwe is developing two special maize breeds which are drought-tolerant and insect-resistant.

The initiative to produce crop varieties that will boost production started in 1995, following a report on how biotechnology can benefit rural farmers. Trials started in 1997.

The technical executive director, Leonard Madzingaidzo, said "this is homegrown sophisticated research being done by local expertise." No chemicals are used,

except those commonly recommended. "People should also note that this is not genetically modified maize seed," he said.

Production and marketing of the drought-tolerant seed varieties is expected to begin in 2007. Disease-free sweet potato planting material, also developed by SIRDC through its Biotechnology Research Institute, is already available commercially. (*The Herald*)

Pan-African cassava

NEPAD, IN conjunction with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture based in Ibadan, Nigeria, has launched a Pan-African Cassava Initiative. The initiative came out of consultative workshops in west, east, central and southern Africa and aims to help national governments formulate their own cassava programmes.

The goal is to mobilise resources from Africa's partners to support research and development of cassava, the continent's second most widely consumed staple food, after maize. The root crop is easy to grow even in very difficult climates, and is widely cultivated by smallholders, especially women, across several of Africa's ecological zones. (*Africa Renewal*)

Genetic potential of ancient African rice

THE FIRST African to win the prestigious World Food Prize is a plant scientist from Sierra Leone. The official prize citation states that, "he captured the genetic potential of ancient African rices by combining African and Asian rice species, dramatically increasing yields and offering great hope to millions of poor farmers."

Monty Jones was honoured for his breakthrough work in developing the New Rice for Africa (NERICA), a drought-resistant, high-yielding, protein-rich type of rice. Nerica has been embraced by NEPAD as an example of the kind of innovative efforts that can help to spur Africa's agricultural development and reduce hunger. (*Africa Renewal*)

Namibia's aquaculture promising

WITH SUFFICIENT funding, aquaculture (fish farming) can boost food security in Namibia and has the potential to increase foreign exchange earnings from exports.

The industry has recorded success in South Africa, Norway and Spain from mainly trade in salmon, catfish, tilapia and oysters.

These countries shared their experiences at a conference held in Namibia in February. The conference focused on the lack of training and skills in Africa, especially international marketing skills tailored to this fledgling industry.

Namibian entrepreneurs interested in this industry said that their main limitation was funding for aquaculture projects.

Search for AIDS cure

THE UNIVERSITY of Namibia has joined the daunting quest to find practical scientific remedies for HIV and AIDS.

The initiative will entail unearthing biological compounds that contain a wide spectrum of medicinal properties that are capable of curing viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases.

Science students from the university have teamed up with their counterparts from the University of Cape Town to embark on this historical scientific undertaking.

Based on the analysis, samples will be tried on animals and if they are successful further research will be done before they consider using them in medicines for humans. (*New Era*)

Medicine in March entitled "Effectiveness of Mass Oral Cholera Vaccination in Beira, Mozambique" looks at doubts raised about the level of protection these vaccinations give people with HIV.

Prevention is much cheaper than cure. In Mozambique it costs US\$37 to treat each cholera patient while the vaccination works out at about two dollars. (*AIM*)

Breakthrough for sugar company

A SOUTH African company Tongaat-Hulett Sugar will scoop an international first when one of its mills begins producing white refined sugar directly from the mill, thereby eliminating the need for a refinery.

The group is investigating opportunities to export the technology to Brazil, where the development of the sugar industry is experiencing annual cane expansions equivalent to the entire South African crop. It is expected that the first large-scale production of white refined cane sugar directly from the company's mill will be manufactured by November this year.

At the moment, the sugar division sends its raw sugar to a central refining facility, which will continue in the medium term. (*Business Day*)

Effective cholera vaccine

RESEARCH FINDINGS have revealed hope of an effective cholera vaccine which appears to work even for people infected with the AIDS virus.

A new generation of orally administered vaccines have been developed to tackle cholera in sub-Saharan Africa, and research published in the *New England Journal of*

Southern African Development Community SADC

THE SOUTHERN African Development Community (SADC) covers the African continent south of the equator, and is a regional building block for the African Union. This regional community was formed in Arusha, Tanzania in 1979 and launched in 1980 in Lusaka, Zambia as the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). Member states transformed SADCC into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) under the SADC Treaty in 1992. The SADC secretariat is located in Gaborone, Botswana.

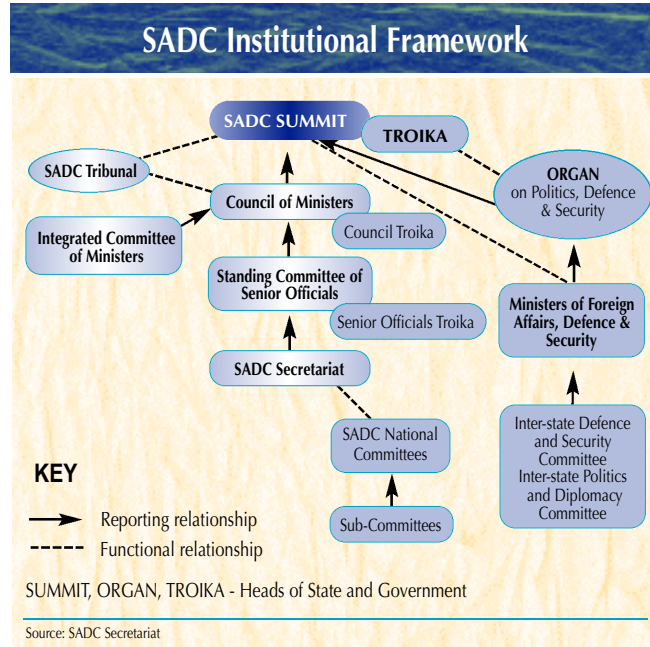
SADC Member States

Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe Candidate member, Madagascar

The Declaration "Towards the Southern African Development Community", adopted in Windhoek, Namibia, on 17 August 1992, by Heads of State or Government of member states, calls upon all countries and people of southern Africa to develop a vision of a shared future within a regional community. SADC Day is celebrated on 17 August every year.

SADC Vision

The SADC vision is of a common future, a future in a regional community that will ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice, and peace and security. This shared vision is anchored in common values and principles, and historical and cultural affinities, among the peoples of southern Africa.



SADC Objectives

The objectives of SADC as stated in Article 5 of the Treaty are to:

achieve development and economic growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of southern Africa and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration;
 evolve common political values, systems and institutions;

Member states have agreed to co-operate in the areas of

food security, land and agriculture infrastructure and services
 trade, industry, finance, investment and mining
 social and human development and special programmes
 science and technology
 natural resources and environment
 social welfare, information and culture
 politics, diplomacy, international relations, peace and security.

SADC Treaty 1992 (as amended)

promote and defend peace and security;

promote self-sustaining development on the basis of collective self-reliance, and the interdependence of member states;

achieve complementarity between national and regional strategies and programmes;

promote and maximise productive employment and utilisation of resources of the region;

achieve sustainable utilisation of natural resources and effective protection of the environment;

strengthen and consolidate the long-standing historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the people of the region.

In addition, member states are committed to ensuring that poverty alleviation is addressed in all SADC activities and programmes with the ultimate objective of eradicating it.

HIV and AIDS is a major threat to the attainment of the objectives of SADC and therefore is accorded priority in all SADC programmes and activities.



Protocols

Member States have concluded Protocols in various areas of co-operation, which define the objectives and scope, and institutional mechanisms for co-operation and integration. These protocols are approved by Summit on the recommendation of the Council, and each protocol is then open to signature and ratification by each member. This makes it a legal document which all member states have agreed to and are expected to adjust their national laws in compliance.

A protocol enters into force 30 days after the deposit of the instruments of ratification by two-thirds of SADC member states, and is binding only on the member states that are party to it. After a protocol has entered into force, a member state may become a party only by accession.

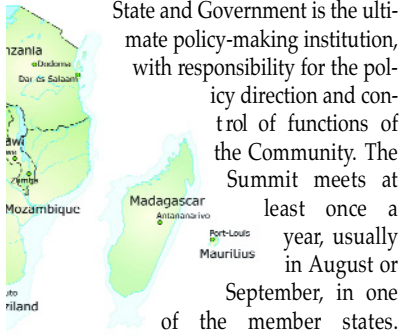
Each protocol must be registered by the SADC Executive Secretary, the Secretariat of the United Nations Organization and the Commission of the African Union.

Stakeholders

In pursuance of the objectives of its Treaty, SADC seeks to involve fully, the people of the region and key stakeholders in the process of regional integration. SADC is committed to cooperation with key stakeholders in contributing to the objectives of the Treaty in the areas of co-operation, in order to foster closer relations among the communities, associations and people of the region.

Summit

The Summit of SADC Heads of



State and Government is the ultimate policy-making institution, with responsibility for the policy direction and control of functions of the Community. The Summit meets at least once a year, usually in August or September, in one of the member states. During the Summit, the outgoing Chairperson hands over to the Deputy, and a new Deputy is elected to chair the following year.

The Troika

The Troika is made up of the immediate past, current and forthcoming SADC Chairpersons, and enables the implementation of tasks and decisions as well as the provision of policy direction to SADC institutions in the period between the regular Summits. The Troika system operates at the level of the Summit, and also for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, the Council of Ministers and the Standing Committee of Officials.

Council of Ministers

Ministers from each member state sit in Council, usually from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economic Development, Planning or Finance. The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations to Summit. Council meets before the Summit and at least one other time during the year, and is chaired by the country that is chairing SADC.

Integrated Committee of Ministers

This is a new institution aimed at ensuring proper policy guidance, coordination and harmonisation of cross-sectoral activities. It is constituted by at least two ministers from each member state and it is responsible to Council.

Standing Committee of Officials

The Standing Committee consists of one Permanent/Principal Secretary or an official of equivalent rank from each member state. This Committee is a technical advisory committee to Council, and meets in advance of Council, chaired by the same country that is chairing SADC.

Tribunal

Once established, the Tribunal will ensure adherence to, and proper interpretation of, the provisions of the SADC Treaty and subsidiary instruments, and adjudicate upon disputes referred to it.

SADC National Committees

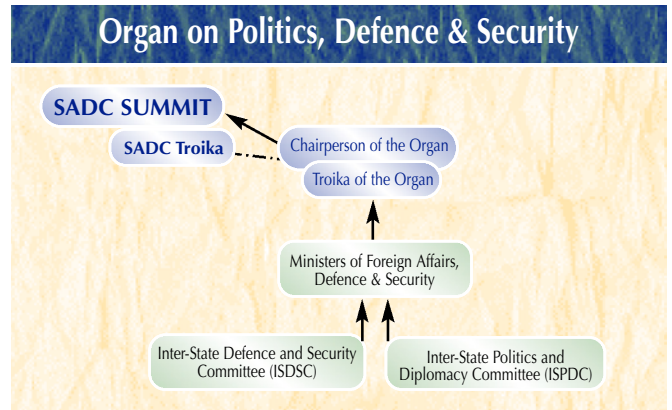
These Committees are composed of key stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society in SADC member states. Their main function is to provide inputs at the national level into the formulation of regional policies, strategies and planning, as well as to coordinate and guide the implementation at national level. The Committees are also responsible for the initiation of projects.

Secretariat

This is the principal executive institution of SADC, and is responsible for strategic planning, co-ordination and management of SADC programmes, and implementation of the regional strategic plan. The senior official is an Executive Secretary and its headquarters are in Gaborone, Botswana.

In contrast to the country-based coordination of sectoral activities, SADC has now adopted a more centralised approach through which the 21 Co-ordinating Units have been grouped into four Directorates:

- Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI)
- Infrastructure and Services (I & S)
- Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR)
- Social and Human Development and Special Programmes.



Organ on Politics, Defence & Security

The Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, signed in August 2001, was ratified and entered into force on 2 March 2004, giving a legal framework to the Organ, whose objective is to promote peace and security in the region.

Strategies and programmes are elaborated through the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) on Politics, Defence and Security.

The Organ functions at the level of Heads of State and Government with a Chairperson and a Troika of three leaders (the current, past and next chairpersons) reporting to the SADC Summit.

Chairperson and Deputy are elected for one year on the basis of rotation from among the members of the SADC Summit, except that the Chairperson and Deputy of the Summit cannot be simultaneously Chairperson of the Organ. The Chairperson of the

Organ consults with the SADC Troika and reports to the full Summit.

Ministerial Committee is made up of the ministers responsible for foreign affairs, defence, public security and state security from the countries party to the agreement. It meets at least once a year but can meet more often at the request of the ISPDC or ISDSC.

Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) meets at least once a year, and is made up of ministers responsible for foreign affairs. This committee performs functions relating to politics and diplomacy, and reports to the Ministerial Committee.

Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) meets at least once a year, and is made up of ministers responsible for defence, public security and state security.

The committee performs such functions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the Organ relating to defence and security. It also reports to the Ministerial Committee.

SADC leadership 2004-2005

FOLLOWING THE SADC Summit in August 2004, the SADC Chairperson is Prime Minister Paul Berenger of Mauritius. Joining him on the SADC Troika are the immediate past SADC Chairperson, President Benjamin Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania and, as Deputy, President Festus Mogae of Botswana. The President of Botswana will become Chairperson at the SADC Summit in Gaborone in August 2005.

The SADC Organ is made up of the current Chairperson, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the previous Chairperson, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of Lesotho and as Deputy, President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia.



SADC Mission congratulates the people of Zimbabwe for "peaceful, transparent, credible, and well-managed elections, which reflect the will of the people"

SADC ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION Preliminary Statement by the Hon. Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka on the Zimbabwe Parliamentary Elections held on 31 March 2005

AT THE invitation of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Elections Observers Mission (SOEM), observed the 6th Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Zimbabwe from 15th March to 2nd April 2005.

As provided for in the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, it is my singular honour and privilege to seize this opportunity to announce to this august gathering the SADC's preliminary views on the outcome of its observation mission. A detailed report addressing specific items of the Terms of reference (TORs) for the Mission shall be released within the next 30 (thirty) days.

Let me at the outset begin by extending, on behalf of SADC and, indeed, on my own behalf, congratulations to the people of Zimbabwe following the holding of a peaceful, credible, well managed and transparent elections.

The people of Zimbabwe have expressed their will in an impressive manner that will go a long way in contributing to the consolidation of democracy and political stability not only in Zimbabwe but also in the region as whole. SADC wishes therefore, to commend the people of Zimbabwe for high levels of political tolerance and maturity displayed. This, in SADC's view, bodes well for nurturing a culture that tolerates multipartyism, as an essential building block for democracy.

The Mission was officially launched on 15 of March 2005 on the arrival of the leader of the Mission and the Executive Secretary of SADC. However, SADC had pre-election observers constituted by the Diplomatic Missions accredited to Zimbabwe. The following Member States were represented in the Mission: Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia. The Mission set up an Operations Room staffed by professionals from the

Office of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the SADC Secretariat to coordinate the activities of the members deployed across the country.

Guided by the SADC Principles and Guidelines as its terms of reference, fifty-five observers were deployed throughout the length and breadth of Zimbabwe in both rural and urban areas to observe the elections. Field teams supported by a fleet of 16 all terrain vehicles, were deployed to Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central, Bulawayo, Midlands, Matebeleland North, Matebeleland South, Masvingo, Manicaland and Harare from the 23rd March to 1st April 2005. The ongoing work of the SADC Ambassadors accredited in Harare laid the foundation for the election observer mission.

The Mission travelled extensively in the rural and urban areas covering 95% of the total national constituencies and attended over 2000 meetings and political rallies organized by political parties and independent candidates. The leader of the Mission travelled to all corners of the country by road and by air visiting rural areas such as Mutoko in Mashonaland East, Shamva in Mashonaland Central, Odzi in Manicaland, Great Zimbabwe in Masvingo and Gwanda in Matebeleland South. In general the pre-election phase was characterized by peace, tolerance and political vigour of the party leaders and candidates. No violence was observed countrywide except for few incidences, which were followed up and reported to police.

With regard to the polling process, it is SADC's overall view that the elections were conducted in an open, transparent and professional manner. The polling stations opened and closed at the appointed times and SADC was impressed by the orderliness and patience of voters, who we believe, were able to express their franchise peacefully, freely and unhindered. The picture that emerged at the close of poll was an election day, which was peaceful. This confirmed the determination of the people of Zimbabwe to do their best to imple-

ment the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections in the region.

The vote counting process was conducted meticulously and lawfully. It is worth noting that all stakeholders from party agents, monitors, presiding officers and local observers performed their duty as expected and no one could leave the room before the counting was finalized.

In the discharge of its duties the SADC Mission interacted with political parties and independent candidates. It also met with the African Union, the Election Commissions Forum of SADC Member States, national delegations, Civil Society organizations and opinion-makers, members of the media from within and beyond the region. These interactions served to gain an insight of the political environment and to compare notes on various aspects of the election process. SADC was humbled by compliments extended by the people of Zimbabwe wherever its members were present. SADC would like to thank all those who, in one way or another, have been of assistance to the members of the Mission.

During the deployment, SADC Mission observed:

- High level of political maturity;
- Peaceful atmosphere in which supporters of different parties were sharing transport, interacted and joked at each other;
- Most members of the police were helpful;
- The use of translucent ballot boxes was a step forward in ensuring transparent voting process;
- The use of Shona, Ndebele and English languages in the instructions for voting posted inside the voting booth ensured an informed decision;
- SADC presence inspired confidence in the voters;
- Cooperation of election authorities and other institutions in providing clarifications for complaints;
- Learning and familiarization with the spirit and the letter of the SADC Principles and Guidelines;
- The police apprehended unlawful members of all political parties.

It is SADC's greatest hope that the spirit of co-operation and political tolerance and responsible role of political parties, which prevailed thus far, will continue to thrive amongst all parties and role players in the post election phase as part of reenergizing the

momentum for nation building and reconciliation. However, SADC Mission noted issues and areas that will require recasting and or improvement. These include:

- Improvement of equitable access to the state media by all political parties;
- The need to simplify the procedure and to ensure that authorizations for voters education are provided easily and timeously by the relevant institutions;
- The need for wide publication of updating and verification of voter's roll;
- Need to ensure that all police and presiding officers are informed of the role and rights of observers; and
- Ensure that complaints are backed by sound and verifiable facts to facilitate follow up and fast decision-making.

SADC Mission was concerned about the number of people who were turned away from polling stations. After consultations with the ZEC and the Registrar of voters, the Mission was informed that most of them were turned away because they did not have valid IDs, they did not check the voters roll within the stipulated period, did not register, or had gone to wrong constituencies and polling station. This situation affected all political parties and constituencies. Notwithstanding these reasons it is the Mission's view that the voters' registration process requires improvement.

The Mission received 10 complaints from the opposition party alleging covert intimidations, use of food as political tool, delays in authorizing rallies, access to state media, lack of compliance with the SADC Guidelines, inflated voters roll and unlawful arrests. The mission followed up all the allegations with the relevant institutions and feedback was given to the complainant. It is a strongly recommended that, once all the facts have been gathered, they should be presented to the Electoral Court for determination. However, these complaints and allegations do not compromise the will of the people of Zimbabwe.

It is also the Mission's view that, although there were efforts to ensure equitable access to the public media,

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Challenges for Namibia's new government

Namibia's incoming President, Hifikepunye Pohamba, sworn in on 21 March, acknowledged during the election campaign that one of the challenges before him is maintaining the legacy of his predecessor, President Sam Nujoma.

Nujoma led his country to independence from apartheid South Africa on 21 March 1990 following a liberation war that lasted 24 years. He is revered for nurturing Namibia's young democracy, bringing about unity and peace among its multi-racial population, as well as maintaining a stable and prosperous economy.

A key challenge for the incoming president is to complete the land reforms started when he was Lands and Resettlement Minister in the outgoing government. Like most other southern African countries, Namibia is trying to ensure that land, a strategic resource, is equitably distributed among all social classes and used productively.

Pohamba's new cabinet effectively eliminated seven ministries and

one agency by merging some functions, and created 10 new ministries and agencies in their place. Six ministries and one agency have also been reorganised.

He appointed Nahas Angula as Prime Minister and Libertina Amathila as Deputy Prime Minister. Marco Hausiku has retained his position as Minister of Foreign Affairs. The outgoing Prime Minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab, was elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

Amathila was one of 10 women appointed to senior positions in the new administration, including five cabinet ministers, three deputy ministers and the deputy speaker of parliament.

Pohamba also upgraded gender to a full ministry of gender equality and child welfare.

PROFILE

Hifikepunye Pohamba President of Namibia

THE SECOND president of the Republic of Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba, has dedicated his life to the liberation and development of his country.

Born on 18 August 1935 in Okanghudi in northern Namibia, Pohamba was educated in missionary schools and shares similar liberation struggle credentials with the first president, Sam Nujoma.

In 1960, Nujoma, Pohamba and others founded the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) that fought for Namibia's independence from South African occupation.

Pohamba was first arrested in 1961, then went to Dar es Salaam, and returned to Windhoek in 1962. Two years later, when Zambia became independent, he was sent to Lusaka to open a Swapo office.

He was elected to the central committee in 1970 as deputy secretary for administration. He represented the party in north-west Africa, and became the chief representative in east Africa in 1973. He did his military training between 1974 and 1978 in Tanzania and Zambia, and he also studied in Russia, pursuing social and political studies.

Pohamba became a member of the Political Bureau of Swapo and Officer-in-Charge of Swapo in Zambia as well as Secretary for Finance. He continued to serve as secretary for finance after moving to the Swapo provisional headquarters in Luanda. He headed the Swapo elections directorate in 1989, and was elected to the Constituent Assembly.

At independence in 1990, he became the first Minister of Home Affairs until 1995 when he was appointed Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources. In 1999 he was appointed Minister without Portfolio, until 2001, when he became Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation. In the party structures, Pohamba was elected as Secretary-General of Swapo in 1997, and Vice President in 2002.

Pohamba was selected as presidential candidate at the Swapo congress in May last year and he won the presidential election in November with 75 percent of the vote. Nujoma will remain president of the party until the next party congress in 2007.

Pohamba is married to Penexupiso and has six children.



The founding president of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, (right) handed over to his successor, Hifikepunye Pohamba, (left) who was sworn in as the second elected President of the Republic of Namibia on 21 March 2005, which marked 15 years of Independence.



SADC welcomes Namibia's peaceful change of leadership

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES have commended Namibia for 15 years of independence and a peaceful transition of leadership.

In a tribute to the outgoing President, Sam Nujoma, from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Tanzanian president, Benjamin Mkapa, a member of the current SADC troika, said Nujoma leaves behind "a strong democratic tradition and a country that is at peace with itself and with its neighbours."

He also commended Nujoma for stepping down in a timely manner. "You are peacefully leaving office when the people of Namibia still love and respect you. You rightly join the ranks of retired elder African statesmen, and in Africa we love and respect our elders."

The new president of the normally arid country was inaugurated in a ceremony blessed by rainfall and attended by eight SADC heads of state as well as the chairperson of the African Union.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by King Letsie of Lesotho, Swaziland's King Mswati, and Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Festus Mogae of Botswana, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Zambia's Levy Mwanawasa, Angola's Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, the current chairperson of the African Union.

Zimbabwe elections "reflect the will of the people"

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there is still much to be done in this area to improve the access to the state media by the opposition. There were also concerns expressed by the opposition regarding the indelible ink and it is right that these should be examined by the relevant electoral authorities. An allegation of particular concern to the Mission was the reference to the use of food as an electoral tool, which the Mission was not in the position to confirm. This should be investigated further by the relevant authorities.

The Electoral Authorities of Zimbabwe displayed not only a professional discharge of duty but also a high sense of gender equity and youth representation in the election process. This effort deserves commendation and Zimbabwe should be encouraged to stay steadfast in this path.

Once again, SADC Mission congratulates the people of Zimbabwe for peaceful, transparent, credible,

and well-managed elections, which reflects the will of the people.

In line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines, Mission would like to urge all political parties and candidates to respect the will of the people and, any complaint should be pursued with the Electoral Court.

We would like to reiterate SADC's commitment to continue supporting the people of Zimbabwe in national reconstruction and development efforts. *3rd April 2005*

Zimbabwe elections outcome

Description	Seats
ZANU PF	78
MDC	41
Independent	1
Total contested	120
Total women elected	19
Filled by council of chiefs*	10
Appointed by President as provincial governors*	10
Other presidential appointees*	10
Full legislative house	150

* non-constituency

Mozambique provides business opportunities for rapid economic expansion

THE NEW government in Mozambique has unveiled an ambitious five-year plan for rapid economic expansion to improve social and rural development, and to strengthen "the national business class".

The objective of the programme, presented to the national assembly by the government of President Armando Guebuza, is to reduce poverty and regional disparity, and fast-track the country toward a higher level of socio-economic prosperity.

After approval by the assembly, it will provide the framework for all annual planning and national budgets.

The new plan proposes to create an environment favourable to investment and business, and "conducive to expanding the private initiative, action and investment of citizens and their institutions."

The five-year plan proposes to reduce the levels of absolute poverty in the country, "through the promotion of rapid, sustainable and wide-ranging economic growth, focusing attention on creating an environment favourable to investment and to developing the national business class."

The government pledges to "pay greater attention to activity aimed at the accelerated and sustainable development of the rural areas, and will multiply initiatives aimed at creating wealth in the countryside, as its fundamental strategy for the struggle against poverty."

Bourse planned for Angola

ANGOLA PLANS to open its first stock exchange in the third quarter of this year, according to the country's ministry of industry. Ten 10 companies will trade on the bourse with a combined market value of more than US\$6 billion.

The ministry said that in the SADC region only Angola, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo do not have stock markets. *(Business Report)*

Women "will be at the centre of attention... seeking to ensure that they enjoy equality of opportunities and rights, raising their educational level, and strengthening their role as educators of future generations."

The far-reaching plan which aims to address inertia in the economy and the society, says the role of the State is to encourage the growth of human capital, and of economic and social infrastructure, and to provide basic services.

TECHNOLOGY

SA call centres can now say hello to the world

SOUTH AFRICA has put itself on the map as a viable competitor in the lucrative business of offshore call centres. This has been made possible through a radical shake-up of the telecommunications sector.

The government's removal of regulations that have for a long time protected the monopoly of the country's biggest player in telecommunications, Telkom, has opened up opportunities for call-centre players to compete without any artificial price constraints.

Two changes were crucial: operators can now legally use the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), and are no longer forced to route their calls over Telkom's network.

This gives private operators full control over the call quality and saves them from paying Telkom's tariffs, a move that could revolutionise the industry.

Following this development, international enthusiasm has been swift in the industry. In 2004, despite being limited by the cost of calls, the Western Cape province won 11 international call centre or business process outsourcing deals. These deals created 2,000 jobs and generated investments.

Liberalisation in this industry is vital for giving foreign companies

In addition to poverty reduction, the five-year plan emphasises "the necessary efforts to consolidate national unity, peace and democracy; the self-esteem of citizens; the struggle against corruption and red tape; and the strengthening of national sovereignty and international cooperation."

It also promises to revise the country's labour legislation to ensure "greater flexibility of the labour market".

more freedom in how they operate. International investors now have a choice of operators and this will likely boost their confidence in the industry. *(Business Day)*

Tanzania embraces ICTs

THE TANZANIAN Ministry of Industry and Trade is encouraging the use of Information and Communication Technology as a basic tool in business, saying that those who do not utilise it effectively will definitely be left behind in today's competitive business world.

The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) has been training business people in ICT skills such as office automation, computerised accounting and website design and development. *(The Express)*

Banks forum on ITs

ANGOLA HOSTED the fifth International Forum on Information Technologies of the SADC banks in March. The meeting discussed the updating of information technology systems of SADC central banks, as well as improvement, supervision and monitoring of the monetary activities in SADC countries.

ENERGY

Westcor energy project for all SADC

THE SADC Council of Ministers has resolved that the crucial Western Corridor Project (Westcor) should be extended to all 13 Member States.

The energy project is a joint venture currently involving Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Namibia and South Africa, to strengthen the flow of electricity through the region by tapping the huge potential of the Inga rapids on the Congo river.

Council directed, at its meeting in Mauritius in February, that there should be a SADC-wide representation of ministers on the steering committee of the project.

Eskom seeks Zim power

SOUTH AFRICA'S Eskom Holdings has offered to buy as much as 900 megawatts of power from Zimbabwe once the expansion of that country's biggest power station is complete. Zimbabwe, working with Chinese investors, plans to boost the generating capacity of the Kariba hydroelectric power station and the coal-fired Hwange station. *(Business Report)*

Angola discovers new oil site

ANGOLA'S STATE-OWNED oil company, Sonangol, and British Petroleum (BP) have announced the discovery of a new oil well named Palas-1, in the deep waters of the Angolan offshore. According to a press release, this is the fifth discovery after the Pluto, Saturn, Mars and Venus oil discoveries. Palas-1 is located in a new potential area that is expected to produce about 5,330 barrels of oil per day. *(ANGOP)*

CURRENCY

Country	Currency	(US \$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lweie)	82.90
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	5.90
Mauritius	Ruppee (100 cents)	28.85
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	5.78
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,720.00

February 2005

Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.36
Madagascar	Magache Franc	9,150.00
Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	18,350.00
Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	5.78
Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	6,200.00

DRC	Congo Franc	484.00
Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	108.05
Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	5.78
Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,108.00

Revisiting the SADC arts, culture festival

ALTHOUGH THERE has been no official critical evaluation of the SADC Arts and Culture Festival that has been made public, it is a well-known fact that it has been difficult for SADC to achieve the original objectives of the festival.

One such objective was to use the festival to build the SADC community. To achieve this objective the festival was to become a very regular occasion that brings the ordinary people of the member states together.

The SADC Music Festival held in Harare in 1995 was the first in the implementation of the idea of the SADC Arts and Culture Festival. Since 1995 the Community has held four other festivals namely the SADC Theatre Festival in Maputo, the SADC Dance Festival in Harare and the SADC Multi-discipline Arts Festival in Johannesburg.

Through this event the people of the SADC would know each other's cultures and appreciate their common origin. The SADC Arts and Culture Festival was therefore expected to enable the community to regularly celebrate its rich cultural diversity. The event was also expected to foster the growth of cultural industries that would contribute to the economic development of the community.

Through Arts and Culture Festivals the world at large was expected to patronise and consume effectively the arts and culture of the region. These cultural events were expected to become major tourist attractions. It was expected that through the missions of the SADC member states in different parts of the world, a calendar of SADC Arts and Culture Festivals would be distributed to tour operators, cultural promoters and artists organisations.

By participating in the SADC Arts and Culture Festival, artists from the region were expected to form partnerships that were to initiate viable international perform-



ing arts tours. Through the festival the artists were expected to attract the attention of promoters who would then organise regular and viable performing arts tours in different member states.

Many of the above mentioned objectives have not been achieved. The festivals have not been regularly held. And when they have been held, they have not been adequately promoted. The people of the SADC have not crossed borders in large numbers to consume the arts and culture of the community.

In many cases it is only the artists who have crossed borders to attend SADC Arts and Culture Festivals. In fact the festivals have remained low key and insignificant to the mass media of the SADC, the tourism industry and cultural promoters.

The cost of holding these festivals has become unbearable to most member states, while the idea of accommodating the private sector in funding the festivals has not been well promoted.

In the early 1990s when the committee of officials in the then SADC Sector of Culture and Information debated the idea of the SADC Arts and Culture Festival, there were strong views against the festival being organ-



Stephen Joel Chifunyise

ised by departments of ministries of culture on their own.

It seems that the initial efforts to involve artists and their national organisations in the development of these festivals has predominantly become the responsibility of the governments of member states. In many cases it is only the hosting member states where artists and their organisations are engaged in the organisation of the festivals and their review. In participating member states there is little engagement of artists and their organisations in the selection of participants and the production of programmes to be presented at the festival.

This poor involvement of artists and their organisations in

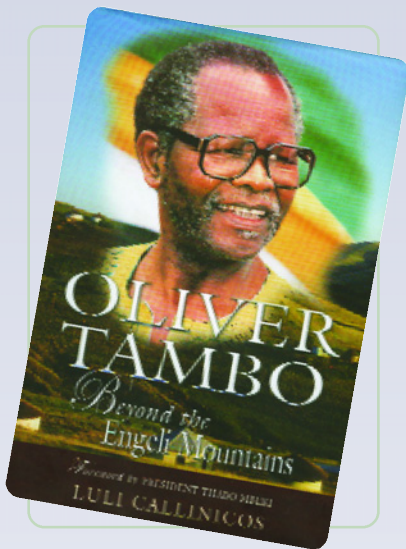
the planning and review of the SADC Arts and Culture Festival has been responsible for the rather bureaucratic and over-centralised manner in which this event is planned and managed. As a result artists find it difficult to see these festivals as their events.

There are no clear processes for the artists to influence governments concerning the content and format of the festivals. Most national arts organisations only become involved a few weeks before the staging of the festival.

This is often limited to identifying participating artists. Even this process is often limited to a few urban groups that are chosen without involving their national arts organisations for the publicity of programmes created for the regional cultural events.

In many respects therefore, SADC has found it difficult to make the SADC Arts and Culture Festival a major concern of national arts associations.

The author, Stephen Joel Chifunyise, is a playwright, theatre expert and former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education Sport and Culture of Zimbabwe and was on the organising committee of the SADC Arts and Culture Festival.



THIS LONG overdue biography of the architect of the struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa was well worth the wait. It is an accessible and comprehensive insight into the life of Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo, based on his family archives and some of his own recollections prepared several years ago.

"A biography is a genre that is not quite a history nor quite a novel," says the author, Luli Callinicos, and she succeeds in capturing both that "other country", the past, and a particular life within it.

President Thabo Mbeki, who worked closely with Tambo throughout their 30 years of exile, describes him as the "key architect of our revolution who carried the South African nation to the eve of freedom and democracy." Mbeki says in the Foreword to the book that Tambo's "life and character are a metaphor of our struggle."

OR Tambo played a central role in developing the ANC and shaping its constitutions from the 1940s through the 1980s, placing respect for human rights at the centre of ANC policy. He led the ANC through the struggle in exile while his legal partner and friend, Nelson Mandela, languished on Robben Island, and he masterminded the Harare Declaration in 1989, the roadmap of the negotiations to end apartheid. Tambo saw the process begin and made it home to South Africa, but succumbed to illness in April 1993, at the age of 75.

With some very historic and rare photographs, many of them from the Tambo family album, this book is a collector's item.

Published by David Philip Publishers, an imprint of New Africa Books in Cape Town, 2005.

Cronica dos dias de Roma Negociacoes de paz de Mocambique

THIS IS the first account by a Mozambican of the peace negotiations in Rome that lasted for two years and produced an accord to end the war in Mozambique. The author, Tomas Vieira Mario, is a journalist who covered the talks from start to finish, kept a diary and developed a deep understanding of what transpired. The peace accord on 4 October 1992 was signed by Afonso Dhlakama, the president of the rebel force

RENAMO and the government's chief negotiator Armando Emelio Guebuza, who was elected president of Mozambique in December 2004.

Mozambique Peace Negotiations – Chronicle of the days in Rome published in Portuguese by the Centre for Foreign and International Studies (CEEL) of the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI), Maputo, 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

The Role of Regional Economic Communities in the Implementation of NEPAD: the Case of the Southern African Development Community

Gaborone, Botswana, SADC, 2004
14pp.

This paper illustrates the relationship between SADC and NEPAD in the development process of the African region. Among other initiatives, issues addressed include energy, transport, tourism, water, agriculture, health, HIV and AIDS and environment.

Available from SADC P. Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana Registry@sadc.int
Website www.sadc.int

Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO)

Gaborone, Botswana, SADC, 2004
85pp.

This document sets the framework and targets for creating a peaceful and stable political and security environment for southern Africa. SIPO is drawn from the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the Mutual Defence Pact.

Available from SADC

Education in Exile: SOMAFCO, the African National Congress School in Tanzania, 1978 to 1992

Morrow, Sean; Maaba, Brown and Pulumani, Loyiso
Cape Town, South Africa, HSRC, 2004
232pp.

The book contains debates and difficulties surrounding the formation of the school in exile where the majority of the participants were away from family and other support structures. It examines the curriculum and the methods and philosophies of teaching with all their contradictions and paradoxes.

Available from HSRC Press, Human Sciences Research Council, P. Bag X9182, Cape Town, 8000 South Africa publishing@hsrc.ac.za
Website www.hsrcpublishers.co.za

From Zaire to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Nzongola-Ntalaja, Georges
Uppsala, Sweden, Nordic Africa Institute, 2004
25pp.

An examination of the political and social situation in the DRC since 1997. Also looks at prospects for a successful political and social transition.

Available from The Nordic Africa Institute, P.O. Box 1703, SE-751 47, Uppsala, Sweden nai@nai.uu.se
Website www.nai.uu.se

Namibia 2004: Millennium Development Goals
Windhoek, Namibia, The National Planning Commission, 2004
40pp.

The report reviews the status and trends in terms of progress, the main challenges and opportunities in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It shows the achievements Namibia has made so far in attaining the MDGs.

Available from Office of the President, The National Planning Commission, Government Office Park, P. Bag 133356, Windhoek, Namibia
Website www.grnet.gov.na

Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, African Union, 2004
33pp.

The declaration emphasises the need for close cooperation between the AU and international as well as regional organisations.

Available from The African Union, P.O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia webmaster@africa-union.org
Website www.africa-union.org

Techno-Hype or Info-Hope? Southern African Civil Society Tackles the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

Armstrong, Chris
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa, 2004
89pp.

This report records some of the valuable lobbying activities performed and experiences gathered by various stakeholders in the run up to and during the Geneva phase of WSIS. The goal of this report is to provide some insight into the impact these activities have had on the WSIS to date.

Available from Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa, P.O. Box 10707, 100 ES Amsterdam, The Netherlands niza@niza.nl
Website www.niza.nl



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EVENTS DIARY 2005

April 4-6	Ethiopia	African Union Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Millennium Development Goals
8-9	South Africa	SADC- Southern Africa Editors Forum HIV and AIDS and Gender Workshop (SAEF) The meeting is to develop ethical guidelines on reporting HIV and AIDS
6-10	Nigeria	First African Youth Summit on Globalization Bringing together African youth from all over the continent who are actively responsible in their NGOs and IGOs to deliberate on a broad African analysis of globalization.
11	South Africa	International Conference on HIV and AIDS, Food and Nutrition Security Organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute, the conference provides a forum for scholars and practitioners to share research and operational experience.
26-1/05	Zimbabwe	Harare International Festival of the Arts A multi-cultural celebration of the arts encompassing theatre, visual arts, dance and music from all over Zimbabwe, the southern African region and elsewhere in the world.
28	Mauritius	SADC/India Forum A ministerial interaction between SADC and India based on a partnership arrangement reached in 2003.
May 16-27	UN, New York	Forum on Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous people The forum will focus on eradication of poverty and hunger, and achieving universal primary education.
17-19	South Africa	Export Africa 2005 Exhibition The first multi-sectoral export exhibition showcasing Africa's exporters and manufacturers to potential trading partners from across the globe.
June 1-3	South Africa	Africa Economic Summit Organised by the World Economic Forum, the summit brings together private sector, civil society and political leaders to discuss trade and investment opportunities in Africa.
1-15	Tanzania	Gender Training on Policy and HIV and AIDS The course focuses on enhancing the capacities of senior-level actors, policy makers and managers working in HIV and AIDS issues in the region on gender and policy issues.
12-16	Qatar	Second South Summit The summit brings together Heads of State and Government from most of the developing nations, to meet in Doha, Qatar to discuss South-South cooperation in trade and investment.
20-22	Lesotho	Regional Adjudication on the SADC Media Awards To adjudicate on the entries for the 2005 competition.
29-30	Malawi	Fifth Consultative Partners Meeting of the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa
July 3-4	Libya	African Union 5th Ordinary Session of the Assembly Annual meeting of African Heads of State and Government.
6-8	Scotland	G8 Summit Under the United Kingdom presidency, the summit will focus on African challenges and climate change.
10-13	Canada	15th World Conference on Disaster Management Delegates will examine traditional concepts and methods of managing disasters. The theme is "The Changing Face of Disaster Management - Defining the New Normal".

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Information 21 Websites

www.sadc.int www.sardc.net www.ips.org www.saba.co.za

SADC TODAY is supported by the Belgian government under the SADC Information 21 project, whose aim is to strengthen regional integration through information and knowledge-sharing, based on the longstanding historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the peoples of the region, and to advance SADC's agenda into the 21st century.

20

25 years of SADC – rooted in strong historical bonds

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION and integration in southern Africa owes its origins to historical, economic, political, social and cultural factors that have created strong bonds of solidarity and unity among the peoples of southern Africa.

These factors have contributed to the formation of a distinct southern African personality and identity that underpins political and economic co-operation.

The formal establishment of structures to promote regional co-operation and integration started as an initiative of the Frontline States, the original members of which were Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia. This initiative was directed initially towards the political liberation of the region.

From 1975, when the FLS grew to five members following the independence of Mozambique and Angola, the leaders met regularly to coordinate efforts, resources and strategies, in support of the national liberation movements of southern Africa that were fighting against colonialism, racism and white-minority rule. They also had to confront the military and economic destabilization of majority-ruled states by apartheid South Africa. The intensification of the struggle on both fronts strengthened bonds of solidarity and the need for collective action.

Most of the countries of southern Africa had achieved political independence by 1980, but against a background of poverty caused by colonial economic policies that favoured the minority, damaged economic infrastructure, and the threat of powerful and hostile white minority-ruled neighbours. Thus, the leaders saw the promotion of economic and social development through co-operation and integration as the next logical step after political independence.

Accordingly, based on the outcome of the July 1979 Arusha Conference which agreed on a strategy to launch the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the nine majority-ruled states – Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and the soon-to-be independent Zimbabwe – met at Summit level in April 1980 in Lusaka, and declared their commitment to pursue policies aimed at economic liberation on the basis of a sustainable, integrated development of their economies.

The Summit adopted the Lusaka Declaration entitled, “Southern Africa: Towards Economic Liberation”.

SADC celebrates silver jubilee

After 25 years of existence, SADC is celebrating a distinct southern African personality and identity that underpins political, economic and social co-operation, which are at the centre of the achievement of the region's goals.

"For the past 25 years, SADC has endeavoured to create a dynamism which has resulted in a sense of regional belonging and unity for the people of the region," said a message from the SADC Chairperson, Prime Minister Paul Berenger of Mauritius, to mark the occasion.



April 1980. Presidents Kenneth Kaunda, Ketumile Masire and Julius Nyerere with the Prime Minister-designate of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, at the founding Summit of SADCC in Lusaka.

Public Holidays in SADC May – July 2005

1 May	Labour/Workers Day	All
2 May	Public Holiday	Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
2 May	Maulid Day (subject to sighting of moon)	Tanzania
5 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
25 May	Africa Day	Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
24 June	Fisherman's Day	DRC
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
4 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
5 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Saba Saba	Tanzania
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
18 July	President's Day	Botswana
19 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 July	Public Holiday	Swaziland