



# THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY

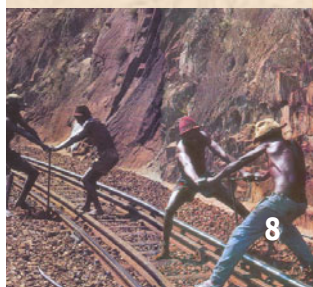


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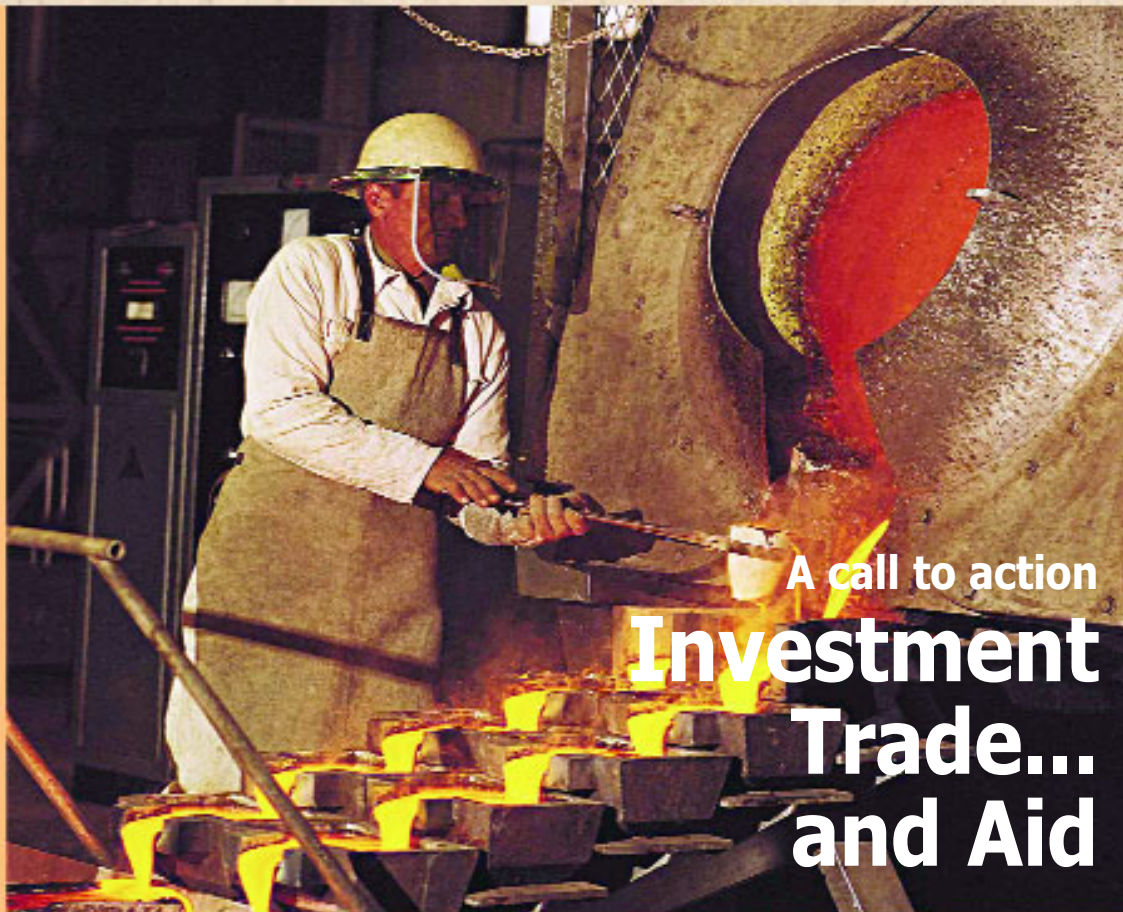
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by Munetsi Madakufamba

**THE SECOND** half of 2005 abounds with events and processes that are of crucial importance to southern Africa's development agenda.

Like other developing regions, southern Africa is more and more having to deal with the paradoxical question of choosing between development aid or investment and trade. But the reality of development and the lessons of history would suggest that soft options or quick fix solutions are least likely to address perennial poverty challenges.

In recent self-assessments, SADC has confirmed a reality that faces not only this region, but also the entire developing world, that major multifaceted interventions must be put in place, if all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are to be met.

Thus the Africa Economic Summit in Cape Town, the African Union Summit in Libya and the G8 Summit in Scotland are some of the major events that southern Africans will be looking at with a keen interest. Equally important will be SADC's Silver Jubilee Summit in Botswana and the UN Millennium Review Summit in New York.

These events, while independent of each other in ownership, are interlinked and complementary in many ways, and above all, their outcomes are always of fundamental significance to millions of southern African citizens.

The Africa Economic Summit, organized by the Swiss-based World Economic Forum, has become the annual gathering of leaders of business, politics and civil society. This year's summit sought to "reinforce the message that Africa is on the move and open for business" and highlighted the "key role of the private sector as the driver of Africa's regeneration".

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# Southern Africa needs as much aid as investment and trade

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While seeking to consolidate a stable and business-friendly political environment on the continent, the AU summit is also expected to review its three-year economic programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Concerns have been raised that the NEPAD programme has been slow in taking off, principally due to lack of financial resources despite having been enthusiastically received by the international community when it was launched.

Furthermore, the NEPAD Secretariat revealed at the Africa Economic Summit in Maputo last year that the private sector had shown little interest in its 20 priority infrastructure projects. And the US\$64 million annual budget needed to finance the entire NEPAD project has not been forthcoming either.

This is partly why Africa will be following proceedings at the Gleneagles G8 Summit with a keen interest. The UK, France, Germany, US, Japan, Italy and Canada form the Group of Seven (G7) and with Russia the Group of Eight (G8) – the world's most financially powerful countries.

The UK currently holds the rotating G8 presidency, and through the Commission for Africa, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has pledged to prioritise the continent, making Africa one of the two key themes of the Gleneagles Summit.

There is no doubt that more resolute action and delivery on commitments are required if existing partnerships are to spur Africa into achieving its development goals.

For SADC, targets under the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) cannot be divorced from NEPAD goals and MDGs, which are a set of development

objectives that world leaders signed up to at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000.

As NEPAD Executive Secretary Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu says, "NEPAD will be judged by progress towards the MDGs", so shall the RISDP.

The Millennium Review Summit will assess progress over the last five years and presumably recommend what realistic measures would be needed if the 2015 target year by which most of the MDGs, including halving of global poverty, is to be met.

Progress to date has been slow and the crucial role of the G8 in providing development aid is paramount for the RISDP, NEPAD and MDG targets to be attained.

Thus the Africa Economic Summit's "call to action" is a call for all – the private sector, civil society and governments, as much as it is for SADC, Africa and the G8.

For Africa to attain MDGs, says Prof. Nkuhlu, it "means economic development on an unprecedented scale".

Official development assistance (ODA) has not reached the UN target of 0.7 percent of national income agreed to a decade ago at the Earth Summit in Brazil.

According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in 2004 the US remained the largest aid donor in volume terms followed by Japan, France, the UK and Germany.

Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden were the only countries to exceed

Africa Economic Summit	Cape Town	1-3 June
African Union Summit	Libya	3-4 July
G8 Summit	Scotland	6-8 July
SADC's Silver Jubilee Summit	Botswana	17-18 August
UN Millennium Review Summit	New York	14-16 September

the UN target for ODA of 0.7 percent of gross national income.

OECD says while ODA to developing countries increased to an all time high of US\$78.6 billion in 2004, several factors accounted for that. These include more aid to Afghanistan and Iraq, but sadly less for Africa.

And for southern Africa's poverty eradication agenda, development aid is as important as investment and trade. This is why initiatives such as the Africa Economic Summit, which has developed a penchant for the SADC region, are of crucial importance.

Over the years, the Africa Economic Summit has grown in stature, insofar as it provides the platform for role players to evaluate the business opportunity that the continent offers while critiquing policy constraints that hinder trade and investment.

The region abounds with examples of successful public-private sector partnerships, so highly promoted by the economic summit – the Maputo Corridor (which hosts the Mozal aluminium smelter project among others), the Trans Kalahari Highway, and many more.

But perhaps southern Africa's most untapped potential remains in its abundant natural resources,

including a wide range of minerals. SADC statistics show that mining remains the mainstay of most economies of the southern African region, contributing 60 percent to foreign exchange earnings, 10 percent to gross domestic product (GDP) and 5 percent to employment.

Nine of SADC's 13 member states are considered "mining countries".

Key metals and minerals from these countries include asbestos, coal, cobalt, copper, chromites, diamonds, gold, nickel, platinum, vanadium and zinc.

However, with the volatile nature of world mineral prices, the bulk of recent foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow has been to the oil producing countries of the region -- Angola and South Africa.

While FDI is good for growth and development, caution has to be shown to ensure that it is not just an "extraction of wealth and very little else", to use the words of South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel. This is most sensitive in the mining sector, hence the importance of emphasis on mineral beneficiation.

Similarly, access to world markets without due emphasis on industrial expansion at home and greater intra-regional trade as promoted by the SADC Free Trade Area is less likely to help the region attain its RISDP and other development targets.

On the whole, aid, investment and trade are all necessary elements of the recipe that southern Africa requires to successfully attain its broad development goals as laid down in the RISDP, NEPAD and MDG frameworks.



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# Ministers set agenda for African Union summit

by Hopewell Radebe

**AFRICAN FOREIGN** ministers who met in Addis Ababa in May have set the tone for the African Union summit to be held in Libya in July where the reform of the United Nations and the budget for the continent's programmes are expected to top the agenda of the meeting of heads of state.

A Committee of 10 composed of selected AU foreign ministers was formed following the adoption of the Ezulwini Consensus in Swaziland by the AU's Executive Council of Foreign Ministers. This is Africa's official position on the reform of the UN Security Council, development and security issues.

The Ezulwini Consensus proposes, among others, two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats for Africa as part of the reformed UN Security Council. However, the committee has not revealed the names of countries and the structure of how they would rotate or be given the permanent seats in the UN Security Council.

The AU Executive Council has also charged the Committee of 10 foreign ministers with the responsibility of popularising and mobilising support for Africa's position regarding the reform of the UN Security Council, including interaction with the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and the General Assembly President, Jean Ping.

## Pan African Parliament undeterred by insufficient funds

**TANZANIA'S GERTRUDE** Mongella, the first president of the Pan African Parliament, has reminded colleagues that Article 11 of the treaty establishing the parliament enables the legislature to;

provide oversight for the budget of the African Union, mobilise for harmonisation of policies towards regional integration; and, make recommendations that promote human rights, democratic institutions and good governance.

Forty-six countries have ratified the parliament's protocol to date, each electing five parliamentary members including at least one woman.

Since the opening of the parliament's second sitting at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Johannesburg early this year, the representatives have been discussing the problem of finance, and they have called for the institution to be given adequate resources to achieve its objectives of promoting democracy, unity and development.

Parliamentarians have proposed that a Trust Fund be established as an additional source of funding for its activities.

Mongella said the body operated without a budget last

year, during its first year of existence, and the recent session ended a week early to save some money.

The AU had budgeted about US\$5 million this year to fund the parliament. It was expected that a substantial amount of that money would be used to create 37 positions needed to drive the parliament's work. However, the leadership says more money is needed to meet other challenges.

Insufficient funds have not deterred the Pan African Parliament from striving to encourage parliamentarians around Africa to spearhead ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Mongella urged the 256 parliamentarians to ensure that their work goes beyond being a talk-shop so they can advance the issues that face millions of Africans.

"For most poor people and especially women in Africa, parliaments still remain a far removed assert from their day-to-day realities and challenges," she said.

She said the credibility of the Pan African Parliament should not rest on the representational quality but on the issues it espouses, the causes it champions and the changes it seeks to bring to the lives of people across Africa.



Gallagher Estate in Midrand, South Africa. Interim home of the Pan African Parliament

The AU summit is expected to pronounce on the formula and criteria of payments that will be applicable for member states based on a variety of issues including economic strength and political stability in terms of adherence to the principles of good governance prescribed by the AU founding document.

The search for ways to stimulate regional development blocks and inter-regional trade mechanisms in Africa continues to be a priority for the AU. The biggest obstacle facing the continent has been that many African countries still conduct more trade with their former colonial masters than with each other.

The AU is trying to change this situation by making trade within Africa easier through reducing bureaucratic obstacles. The summit will receive progress reports on this issue, with the continent's leaders expected to vote on recommendations that, among other things, call for the relaxation of legislation that restricts trade among neighbours.

It is believed that the AU Executive Council will also recommend that the regional economic blocks focus on building relations with and entering into special agreements with major economic role players in other continents, particularly the Middle East and Asia.

The council has in the past urged the continent to explore other avenues that will expand trade and stimulate economic growth. The idea included the diversification of trade agreements to no longer focus solely on fighting for access to European markets.

The ultimate objective is to eventually bring all African economic blocks together and merge these into one big economy. The AU believes that with African economic blocks negotiating as one powerful entity, it will be easier to bargain and gain mileage on the table for various countries than negotiating with individual 54 countries at the same time.

## Chissano appointed UN special envoy

**UNITED NATIONS** Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed former Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano as a special envoy to champion consensus on the proposed UN reforms.

As one of five special envoys for different regions of the world, Chissano will meet the heads of state and government in several African countries to convey Annan's agenda and discuss other matters in the runup to the UN General Assembly in September.

The UN has produced a document to generate support for its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and proposed UN reforms.

Chissano has visited Zimbabwe and his itinerary includes Algeria, Egypt, Libya, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Chissano, who stepped down as Mozambique's president in January this year, has also been appointed Annan's special envoy tasked with ensuring "peaceful and credible" presidential elections in the West African state of Guinea-Bissau.



## A global partnership Trade is key to development goals

ONE OF the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – to develop a global partnership for development – reflects concerns regarding international trade and the marginalisation of African economies.

Trade is seen as a critical requirement for African economies to achieve the development goals agreed by world leaders in 2000 as targets for 2015 in health, education, environment and gender issues.

The first goal is to halve the number of people living in absolute poverty by 2015, with a baseline of 1990.

Thus the marginalisation of African countries in the international trade regime is a challenge to a continent that is trying to overcome underdevelopment and strengthen its position in the global economic arena.

African leaders have acknowledged that the responsibilities of African states include:

- diversification;
- increased competitiveness of exports;
- improvement of infrastructure;
- promotion of intra-African trade;
- reduction of export taxes; and
- improvement of trade agreements at regional and continental levels.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which identifies trade as a critical ingredient in sustainable development, sees a pivotal role for the international community in promoting African participation in international trade.

NEPAD has identified actions that should be taken by the international community to stimulate trade and thus development, such as the facilitation of market access for African producers, and the removal of non-tariff barriers so that African states have improved market access where they possess the comparative advantage of industrialised countries.

African economies are vulnerable because of their dependence on primary production and resource-based sectors, and their narrow export base, thus

the harmonisation of NEPAD and MDG objectives to promote economic growth with development is critical.

For sub-Saharan Africa, the 2015 targets can be attainable only with a radical change in international trade and firm commitment to the MDGs.

This can only be accomplished by dedicated African leaders supported by a developed world committed to pledges of trade liberalisation and additional aid.

NEPAD is the African Union's framework for development.



### Toward a common position on MDGs

THE AFRICAN Union Commission and the NEPAD secretariat are preparing an Africa Report on the progress and constraints to reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the continent.

The report will contribute to the development of an African Common Position (ACP) on MDGs to be submitted to the AU Summit in July this year for consideration as Africa's input into the Millennium Review Summit at the UN headquarters in New York in September, on the fifth anniversary of the launch of the MDGs.

To provide an accurate analysis of the progress and constraints to reaching the MDGs in Africa, a wide range of interests need to be consulted to broaden ownership and to render the MDGs more meaningful to the development agenda.

The AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat will develop the report through close collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as SADC, as well as UNDP and other bilateral partners.



MDGs target 2015 to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.

### Namibia calls for fairness in fish trade

NAMIBIA HAS called on the World Trade Organisation to ensure that the process of globalisation of the fish trade is fair to both developing and developed countries.

The WTO governs the global fish trade.

The Ministry of Fisheries in Namibia, which has significant fish exports, has called for the creation of procedures, rules and regulations and common standards for transactions in the fish trade.

Developing countries export more than 50 percent of fish to the rest of the world.

Fisheries play an important role in the SADC region in terms of formal and informal employment, food security and generation of economic benefits.

### Survey proposes African ICT database

A CONTINENTAL survey has recommended that NEPAD should establish a database on Information Communications Technology (ICT) in Africa.

For ICT to take firm root on the continent, the report cited the need to establish a regional ICT think tank and continental regulatory associations to harmonise Africa's regulatory framework.

In assessing the current status of e-strategies across most of Africa, the study found that enabling laws to drive the initiative at national level are largely non-existent.

Mauritius has been identified as a good example of national e-strategy implementation with its vision to become a "cyber island".

The study noted that e-strategies are in the early stages of development in most countries while ongoing projects such as e-learning, e-health and e-government are often implemented without a framework.

The purpose of the study was to assess the current situation of ICT on the continent with the aim of identifying technical and regulatory obstacles that jeopardise the rapid development of infrastructure, services and applications. It also sought to identify technical alternatives for building the infrastructure.

Based on its findings, the report stressed the need for a cooperation mechanism among relevant institutions driven by a regional approach to developmental assistance.

There is also need to develop an Africa-wide strategy, action plan and implementation for ICT development. This would be complemented by harmonised policy and regulatory frameworks throughout Africa.

### Capacity building for civil society

NEPAD HAS launched a two-year programme to improve the capacity of civil society to engage in the public participation process.

The implementation of NEPAD projects and programmes require that the public should be part of the information-gathering and decision-making cycles that directly affect them.

The project, called Calabash, consists of a suite of capacity-building activities and outputs. The plan should be ready by July 2005.

# Crop harvests reduced this season in southern Africa

**MOST OF** southern Africa is facing reduced crop harvests as a result of poor rains in the latter half of the 2004/05 season.

The areas affected include much of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, southern Angola, southern and central Malawi, northern Namibia, northern South Africa, and southern Zambia. In contrast, the productive central areas of South Africa had good rains and have experienced

## UN envoy visits the SADC region

**UNITED NATIONS** special envoy, James Morris, recently visited five southern African countries to assess how the UN can complement national efforts aimed at addressing food shortages in some parts of the region and the impact of HIV and AIDS. Morris visited Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe where he held talks with the respective governments. The UN envoy held consultations with SADC Executive Secretary, Prega Ramsamy, in Botswana.

A number of countries in southern Africa have been faced with challenges in meeting their food requirements over the past few years due to reduced harvests as a result of cyclone-induced floods and successive droughts.

However, the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) directorate says the region has seen a steady improvement on the food security situation with the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance declining from 15.2 million people in March 2003 to 5.4 million by March 2005.

Final figures of how many people will require assistance in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are expected by the end of June with early indications pointing to a figure that could eventually rise to 10 million people, says the FANR.

above-average crop performance this season.

Maize production in particular has been adversely affected and is forecast to decline by between 10-30 percent in most countries, except South Africa.

Crop forecasting and estimation surveys, which will provide a more accurate indication of food crop production and available food supplies for the 2005/06 consumption year, are underway in most countries of the region.

The results of the assessment will form the basis for plans that articulate appropriate interventions and other programming decisions by donors, governments and other humanitarian organisations.

However, the current cereal production (maize, wheat, rice, sorghum and millet) is forecast at 25.08 million tonnes. This is two per-

cent lower than the 2004 harvest of 25.60 million tonnes.

The expected maize harvest in South Africa is estimated at 11.79 million tonnes. The other main maize producers such as Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia are expecting very poor harvests, according to the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) directorate.

Reduced production resulted mainly from the poor rains during the second half of the season between January and March 2005. Added to this is the problem of inadequate access to fertiliser and improved seeds, especially for smallscale farmers in countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe, says FANR.

Current forecasts indicate an aggregate regional maize production of about 20.04 million tonnes, which is two percent down on the 2004 harvest of 20.44

million tonnes but nine percent higher than the last 5-year average output of 18.31 million tonnes.

Increases in maize harvest are expected in Angola, Lesotho, United Republic of Tanzania and South Africa due to relatively better rains during the 2004/05 season than 2003/04 season.

An analysis by FANR of the regional food balance indicates a maize surplus of between 2.30 million tonnes to 2.45 million tonnes. On average the 2005/06 maize surplus is expected to be higher than the 2004/05 surplus of 1.10 million tonnes.

The analysis shows maize deficits in all SADC member states except South Africa. Of significance for the region is the fact that the surplus in South Africa is sufficient to cover deficits in all SADC member states.

Depending on the price offered, says FANR, member states with maize deficits could potentially reduce costs by buying from South Africa. The SADC directorate adds that "Hopefully this could also be the source of food aid by the donor community."

## One year ago...

## Dar es Salaam declaration outlines way forward on food security

**JUST OVER** a year ago, SADC leaders met at an extra-ordinary summit in United Republic of Tanzania where they adopted a comprehensive Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

The declaration and action plan reaffirm the region's commitment to ensuring accelerated agricultural development and sustainable food security, "as a matter of urgency through multi-sectoral strategic interventions in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the Declarations of the World Food Summit in 1996 and 2002, and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)".

Addressing the summit, host President Benjamin Mkapa used the African proverb that says, "Where there is no shame there is

no honour", in calling on his fellow leaders to bring honour to SADC by ensuring that the region feeds itself on a sustainable basis.

The Dar es Salaam Declaration identifies a number of priority areas on which SADC should focus in the short term (2004-2006) and medium to long term (2004-2010).

Short term measures include the need for member states to ensure availability and access of key agricultural inputs to farmers.

In particular, the summit underscored the need to provide targeted support to vulnerable farmers with key inputs such as improved seed varieties, fertilizers, agrochemicals, tillage services and farm implements which are critical to increased agricultural production in the region.

Among other medium-to-long-term measures, the leaders undertook to ensure that all member states must "progressively increase financing to agriculture by allocating at least 10 percent of... national budgets within a period of five years in line with the African Union Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security of July 2003."

In its communiqué, the summit directed the SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers to initiate urgent follow-up activities in order to expedite the implementation of the declaration and the action plan.

The leaders agreed to "review progress on the implementation of the declaration at the end of every two years from the date of signature."



## "Bending the arc" NEPAD, UN join forces to lobby G8 Summit

THE EXECUTIVE head of the NEPAD secretariat, Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, has said Africa must speak with one voice to ensure a productive outcome from the annual summit of Group of Eight (G8) leaders at Gleneagles, Scotland on 6 July.

"It is critical that the partnership between Africa, the G8 and the countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is consolidated. Anything less will constrain Africa's ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

At a meeting scheduled for 4 July at London's Guildhall, the NEPAD secretariat will join forces with the United Nations, civil society and private sector leaders to deliver a united message to the G8 on the eve of their annual summit in Gleneagles.

The London meeting is timed to coincide with the annual summit of the African Union in Libya.

A broadcast link will connect the two events. The theme is "Bending the Arc – the Business of Attaining the MDGs in Africa".

"In convening 'Bending the Arc' in London, NEPAD is currently working with the African Union Commission to carry out a series of consultations with business, civil society and governments across the continent to raise awareness of the MDGs. These consultations will inform an African Common Position (ACP).

"Bending the Arc is an opportunity to present the ACP to international partners and to coordinate our efforts in pursuit of a new, more equitable partnership to ensure that African nations achieve the MDGs."

"It is imperative that all stakeholders mobilise forces for the massive scaling up of innovation and

investment that will be required for the achievement of the MDGs", said Mark Malloch Brown, chief of staff to the UN secretary-general and administrator of UNDP.

"That means not just governments and international organisations but most particularly the private sector and civil society for whom the MDGs will become a primary focus for growth, productivity and good governance.

"In the context of Africa, NEPAD is leading the way."

Findings from Bending the Arc will be presented to the UN General Assembly when it meets in September to review progress on the MDGs. (NEPAD)

## Debt cancellation activists welcome relief but call for more

FINANCE MINISTERS from the Group of Eight (G8) industrialised countries have recommended the immediate cancellation of 100 percent of multilateral debt owed by some of the world's poorest nations, under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

The deal covers US\$40 billion of debts owed by 18 countries to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank. Nine more countries are expected to qualify within 18 months, taking the total cost to about US \$100 billion.

Fourteen African countries qualify because they have reached the HIPC completion point. Four of these are SADC member states including Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia who would qualify immediately, and Malawi which could benefit next year.

The British relief agency, Oxfam, welcomed the agreement but said it did not go far enough, noting that the cancellation only covered between 10 and 20 percent of what was required and did not extend to all the countries needing it.

"This is a positive step forward but debt cancellation is just part of what needs to be done. We call on the

G8 leaders to also increase aid to these countries, without which many poor countries are unlikely to escape chronic poverty," Oxfam spokesperson, Harriet Binet, said, adding that an

additional \$50 billion in aid is needed to achieve the MDGs.

Greater effort should be directed towards dismantling international trade barriers, which disadvantaged producers in underdeveloped countries, she added.

Oxfam has argued that while rich-country members of the World Trade Organisation heavily subsidise their own domestic producers, they force developing countries to open their markets and slash tariffs that would have protected their farmers.

World Bank figures suggest that giving developing countries greater access to rich markets could earn them about \$150 billion a year.

"Poorer countries would rather trade themselves out of poverty than rely on handouts," Binet said. "It is critical that trade injustices are immediately addressed by industrialised countries."

The UK-based Jubilee Debt Campaign said in statement that around 60 countries needed total debt cancellation, far more than the 18 proposed. Multilateral debt cancellation for these countries would release over \$10 billion per year for poverty reduction, rather than the \$1 to \$2 billion under the current initiative.

The other countries qualifying for immediate debt cancellation are Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda. (IRIN)

## "Silent tsunamis"

### From short-term emergencies to basic development needs: Aid to Africa could double over the next decade

by Ernest Harsch

AFTER A decade of decline in aid flows to Africa, the tide seems to be turning.

According to UN estimates, US\$23.1 billion in official development assistance (ODA) was committed to the continent in 2003, a striking 46 percent more than just three years earlier.

All indications point to even higher levels in 2004 and 2005.

Yet this is no reason for complacency, the French president, Jacques Chirac, told the World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland, earlier this year.

Africa and other developing regions, he said, are suffering chronic "silent tsunamis" that claim untold numbers of lives through famine, infectious diseases and violence.

If Africa is to reduce its high poverty rates, it needs substantially more assistance – in fact a doubling of aid over the next decade.

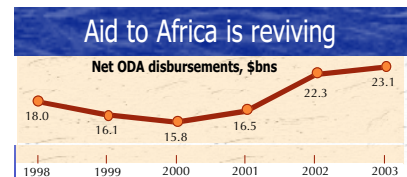
With the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Mr Chirac told the gathering of world political and corporate leaders, "Africa has begun to change... the

financial community must show massive commitment in return."

Whatever the immediate impact on limited relief budgets, the generous and rapid response to the tsunami by governments and citizens in the richest countries demonstrated the longer term possibilities for renewed aid flows.

"The rich countries are capable, when they want to, of mounting an extraordinary response to the needs of the poor, in no time at all," commented Professor Jeffrey Sachs, who heads the UN Millennium Project. "The tsunami has changed our mode of calculation."

For proponents of African development, the challenge now appears to be tapping into this potential for international solidarity – and to do so in a sustained fashion that looks beyond short-term emergencies and towards the continent's basic development needs. (Africa Renewal)



Source: Africa Renewal, from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) data, except for 2003, which is a preliminary UN estimate.

## "We must run while others walk" Tanzania's ruling party selects its candidate for October elections

**TANZANIA'S GOVERNING** party is preparing for national elections in six months time by naming its presidential candidate and drafting an ambitious election manifesto based on economic growth and poverty reduction.

In a carefully considered process that involved the selection of one man from a field of 11, based on qualities such as the ability to promote and protect national unity, peace and stability and boldness in fighting injustice and oppression, the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) selected its next leader and presidential candidate for the 30 October elections.

He is Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, 54, the current Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In the previous CCM leadership contest in 1995, Kikwete ran a close second to the current Tanzanian president, Benjamin William Mkapa.

Ten years after he emerged from the party youth wing to contest the leadership for the first time, Kikwete stayed the course to win the nomination in a majority decision of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the party in Dodoma on 4 May.

Each competing candidate had to submit nomination papers by 15 April containing 250 signatures of CCM members in at least 10 regions of the country, including two from Zanzibar.

The selection process involved deliberations of the party Central Committee and its ethics committee to reduce the 11 contestants to five, followed by a vote in the National Executive Committee (NEC) to further reduce the number to three.

The 1,675 delegates to the Extraordinary General Meeting then voted for the candidate of their choice and, urged by their President to choose a candidate who could appeal to the youth, gave Kikwete a clear majority with 1,072 votes in the first round, avoiding the need for a run-off.

Soon after receiving his party's nomination, Kikwete pledged to implement the CCM manifesto which prioritises the fast-tracking of economic development to achieve 10 percent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2010, up from the current 6.7 percent.

The manifesto, which contains a number of ambitious economic proj-

ects and gives priority to scientific research and development as well as tourism, also calls for an active front in the fight against poverty.

"We should adhere to the call by the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Nyerere, that we must run while others walk," the manifesto says, echoing a famous statement by the founding president, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, that became the title of a well-known biography.

Now the CCM candidate, Kikwete has promised to maintain Tanzania's record of national unity, democracy and good governance.

The youthful-looking Kikwete is a well-known international figure, described as incorruptible and charismatic.

A Muslim from the coastal constituency of Chalinze, north of Dar es Salaam, Kikwete has won the confidence of most religious groupings in a secular country that fierce-

ly protects and supports the rights of all religions.

In Tanzania, a society has been constructed in which an individual's religion is a private matter of spiritual development and not a factor that describes or divides his or her friendships and political alliances.

The party has named the current vice-president, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, as Kikwete's running mate. They will face the candidates of other parties in the 30 October election, including Professor Ibrahim Lipumba and Juma Duni Haji of the Civic United Front (CUF), the main opposition party.

Amani Abeid Karume, the president of Zanzibar, easily won the nomination as CCM candidate to lead the islands for a second term. Zanzibar has its own president, with no jurisdiction over the mainland, and the incumbent was returned unopposed as the party candidate to contest the elections in Zanzibar on the same date.

The inspiration of the founding president of Tanganyika and the

United Republic of Tanzania was apparent in the run-up to the deliberations surrounding the selection of the CCM candidate. Mwalimu Nyerere's speeches were given significant airtime on national radio during the weeks before the party meeting, reminding the nation of the qualities of a good leader.

And then, at the Dodoma meeting, a hush fell over the delegates, followed by gasps and a wave of astonished laughter, when there emerged on-stage a slight man with greying hair, carrying a walking stick – a well-turned out look-alike of the popular leader who died in 1999.

The challenge for the next Tanzanian president to be elected on 30 October 2005 is to maintain the peace and stability prevailing in the country, while at the same time sustaining the momentum of economic growth that has been realised under President Mkapa's leadership.

## Parliamentary elections in Mauritius on 3 July

**NOMINATIONS FOR** the forthcoming legislative elections in Mauritius closed on 6 June with a record 676 candidates registering to contest the poll.

Close of nomination has paved way for a month-long campaign ahead of voting scheduled for 3 July. The last election was in September 2000, won by the ruling alliance comprising of the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) and the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM).

Prime Minister Paul Berenger called the election at a rally organised by the MMM/MSM alliance to mark the 1 May labour holiday.

MMM is led by Berenger while the MSM is headed by current Deputy Prime Minister Parvind Jugnauth, son of Sir Anerood Jugnauth, the current president of the republic who was elected by the National Assembly in 2003 for a five-year term.

Berenger has confirmed that if the ruling alliance is victorious in the

3 July poll, an agreement exists in which he would retain the post of prime minister for two-and-a-half years before ceding it to the current deputy prime minister.

The 676 candidates represent the ruling alliance, the opposition Alliance Social (a coalition of Mauritius Labour Party and the Mauritian Social Democratic Party), and 71 other political parties.

Several independent candidates also registered with the Electoral Supervisory Commission for a right to contest for seats in the National Assembly.

Each major alliance registered 60 candidates to fight for the 20 constituencies (three members per constituency), and two members for the offshore island of Rodrigues.

Mauritius has a unicameral parliament comprising 70 members – 62 are elected by popular vote in a system known as block voting where each voter casts three ballots for three candidates from each constituency,

and the remaining eight are culled out of a list of "best losers".

In the 2000 elections the ruling MSM/MMM alliance swept the island's elections, garnering 54 seats against six for the Alliance Social.

The winning party or alliance forms the next government.

## Zimbabwe's development cabinet

**THE NEW** cabinet, announced by President Robert Mugabe following parliamentary elections in March has been given the mandate to spearhead the economic development of Zimbabwe in the next five years.

President Mugabe described the cabinet as a "development cabinet" that will give impetus to the economic turnaround programme focusing on agriculture, industry, mining and infrastructure development.

# Benguela Railways and the development of southern Africa

by Amos Chanda



**THE AGREEMENT** between Angola and Zambia to reconstruct the lifeline Benguela railway is the latest example of practical commitment to regional integration in southern Africa and economic development on the continent.

The US\$60 million project to rebuild the Benguela rail line is a direct dividend of the peace process that ended a protracted civil war that, for 27 years, tore apart and slowed down Angola's otherwise vibrant economy

On 30 March, Angola and Zambia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on relinking of the two countries' rail systems and thus provided a framework within which the rail project will be undertaken.

The Benguela railway is one of many Southern African Development Community (SADC) projects that have been designed to fit into the development goals set out in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

"The rail line will be run by a private firm called Northwest Rail under a partnership with Angolan and Zambian firms, said Ambassador Bob Samakai, the permanent secretary in the Zambian Ministry of Communication and Transport.

Both Angolan and Zambian authorities see the reconstruction of the Benguela railway as a window of economic opportuni-

ty that will boost both countries' export earnings as well as guarantee millions in transport savings.

"Apart from boosting the resurgent copper mining industry on the Zambian Copperbelt, the Benguela railway route will not only transport metal exports to Europe and North American customers, but will also serve as a major step in the regional integration programme under SADC," said Ambassador Samakai.

The railway will relink the two countries after three decades of abandon and damage inflicted during civil conflict between Angolan government forces and the former rebel União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (Unita). The conflict ended in 2002.

The rail line suffered great damage and became a dangerous route as warring guerrillas attacked crew and looted goods in transit to and from the sea port.

Benguela is an essential, cheaper route for Zambian copper exports and machinery imports, which at the moment suffer long and often expensive rail and road routes from South Africa through Zimbabwe or Botswana.

But Benguela is a direct route to the Angolan seaport on the Atlantic Ocean through which Zambian goods could be exported and imported at a cheaper cost than the more distant South African ports.

The project comes at a time when Zambia's copper production is on the increase following the rise of copper prices on the global market.

Copper is Zambia's chief export and major foreign exchange earner of up to 70 percent.

Two new largescale greenfields have begun operations in north-western Zambia on the border with Angola while other previously loss-making mines have recovered and have begun to post profits following successful privatisation.

The rail line will service chiefly the Kansanshi and Lumwana copper, cobalt and gold mines in Zambia's Northwestern province where Canadian and Australian mining companies have begun operations to extract the metals.





# The shortest route to the coast



*THE BENGUELA railway bisects central Angola, connecting the hinterland with the Atlantic port of Lobito. Before Angola's independence, the railway was the main outlet for copper and other minerals from Zambia's lucrative copperbelt and from the Congo's mineral-rich southern province of Katanga. After independence in 1975, the railway was a target for sabotage by apartheid South Africa and stopped cross-border transport in 1983, effectively cutting off the shortest trade route between the independent states of Central Africa and the coast.*

BENGUELA RAILWAYS has its origins in an 1899 law which authorized the Portuguese government to build a railroad from the coastal region then called Benguela, stretching 1300 kms to Angola's eastern border. Given the political and economic interest in the fast flow of minerals from the interior, the concession for building and exploiting the railroad was granted to a private operator, a British citizen Robert Williams, in a kind of 19th century Build Operate Transfer (BOT).

Construction lasted for 26 years, beginning on 3 March 1903 and reaching completion on 1 February 1929. There were many difficulties and delays due to the nature and topography of the region to be crossed. The railway offered the transport of ores from the interior, the spread of imported products to the interior, and communication across four Angolan provinces.

After independence from Portugal on 11 November 1975, Angola's new government continued to monitor the Benguela railway and gave it financial support, as the backbone of the country's transport system (in volume of investment and source of foreign currency). Government also rec-

ognized the potential of the railway in the development of southern Africa, through the Lobito Corridor project.

Apartheid South Africa began to sabotage the railway to prevent the economic growth of the countries involved, and by 1983, the line was closed to international traffic, thus weakening the Angolan economy by some US\$60 million dollars in lost revenue in addition to \$70 million damage to infrastructure and equipment.

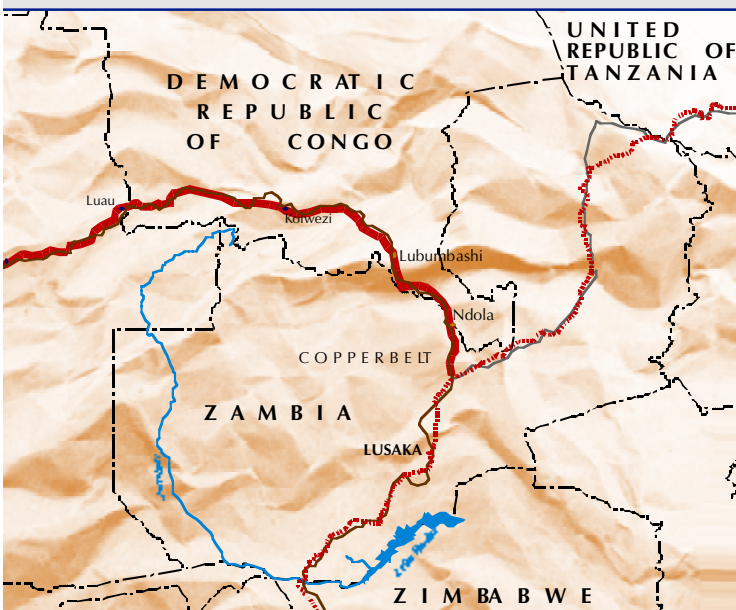
Despite efforts during the 1980s to reopen the railway for transportation of civilian traffic, it has remained closed. The rehabilitation plan at that time included the development of the Lobito Corridor, rehabilitation of the railway, upgrading of Lobito's harbour and a hydroelectric dam, additional transport capacity and improvement in telecommunications.

The objective of the sabotage was, at national level, to prevent the movement of supplies to the interior, to damage the revenue of the company and the government, and to run down the port of Lobito. At international level, this succeeded in preventing Zambia and Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) from using

Lobito for export of minerals, and in escalating the transportation costs for those countries, to prevent support for the African National Congress (ANC). International transportation on the line has been suspended for more than 20 years, since January 1983, and national traffic since 1987.

The then South African Defence Force (SADF) launched dozens of operations in Angola after entering the country in August 1975, on the eve of independence, and after 1983, the war in southern Angola escalated into high-technology, high-casualty, confrontational warfare. The end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994 and an internal peace agreement in 2002 finally brought peace to Angola.

Almost 200 railway workers were killed in the first 12 years after independence and more than 400 injured, with 250 listed as missing. The human cost of keeping the trains rolling was high. The worst year for casualties on the railway was 1984, the year that the first peace agreement was signed with South Africa. There were more than 3,000 acts of sabotage against the railway from 1976 to mid-1987. The cost of the damage to infrastructure and equipment on the Benguela railway from 1976 to 1987 was estimated at US\$76.7 million.



Damage to the Benguela Railway from 1976 to June 1987

Year	Mines detected detonated	Explosives attacks other	Deraillments	Damaged locomotives wagons	Destroyed sleepers rails
1987	16	116	9	24	8,920
1986	47	138	22	54	5,819
1985	111	163	79	238	11,596
1984	180	195	108	292	3,592
1983	134	113	77	216	1,196
1982	176	82	84	296	971
1981	193	87	82	?	86
1980	141	209	56	?	2,033
1979	45	233	31	?	4,589
1978	14	137	16	?	2,402
1977	17	106	7	?	?
1976	8	143	13	?	?
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>41,984</b>

Source: P Johnson and D Martin, *Apartheid Terrorism: The destabilization report*, Commonwealth secretariat with James Currey, 1989; *Benguela Railways and the development of Southern Africa*, Editorial Vanguarda, 1987.

## Gobabeb becomes SADC institution

SADC HAS designated Namibia's Gobabeb Research and Training Centre as a Centre of Excellence in support of the UN Convention on Biodiversity, the UN Convention on Combating Desertification and the UN Convention on Climate Change.

The Gobabeb Research and Training Centre is situated in the middle of the Namib Desert. The inauguration of the training institute as a SADC Centre of Excellence will now allow researchers and

scholars from SADC member states to do research or undergo training in fields such as environmental research, natural resource management, land management and desertification.

During the inauguration ceremony, Namibia's Prime Minister Nahas Angula said granting Gobabeb this status had come at the right time, when the unique life forms of the Namib Desert were being threatened by human actions.

"The illegal collection of succulent plant species by plant collectors and the illegal trade in such plants is another threat to the Namib ecological system," said Angula.

In providing research and training on how to fight desertification and promoting biodiversity, Gobabeb could play a major role in poverty reduction and enhancing the livelihoods of SADC citizens,

said Angelo Mondlane, Head of Strategic Planning, Gender and Policy Harmonisation at the SADC Secretariat.

He said it is gratifying to note that Gobabeb is already heading the Environmental Long-Term Observation Network of Southern Africa (ETASA), in which all SADC members participate. *(Namibian)*

## New internet registry for Africa

AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION in global internet technology is set to increase with approval of a regional Internet registry for Africa.

The internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) board of directors has approved AfriNic as the registry for Africa. AfriNic now has the responsibility of allocating internet numbers to service providers in Africa and the Indian Ocean region.

Previously all internet numbers representing African domain names had to be allocated by reg-

istries in other regions, mainly in North America and Europe.

The first meeting of AfriNic as a fully-fledged Regional Internet Registry was held in Mozambique in April. The organisation was urged to devote greater resources to training so that it can develop a greater skills base on the continent. The Mauritius-based organisation currently has only three staff members and has plans to hire a webmaster and a systems engineer.

The latest development is set to save Africa millions of dollars annually in registration fees. *(SABCNews.com)*

## South Africa to produce medical isotope

THE RADIOACTIVE isotope fluorodeoxyglucose is to be produced in South Africa for the first time, allowing patients who previously had to travel overseas to obtain accurate diagnoses to benefit from the latest full-body imaging technology.

Radiological Society of South Africa president, Richard Tuft, says the introduction of positron emission tomography (PET) scans, which specialists use to diagnose diseases, will help keep South Africa at the forefront of global advances in medical imaging.

PET scans are often used in combination with computed tomography (CT) scans to enable doctors to provide appropriate treatment following diagnosis and help avoid invasive procedures.

If surgery is required, the scans help surgeons determine the best way to perform the operation. For cancer patients, PET and CT scans help determine the exact stage a tumour has reached. This affects the type of treatment to be applied as well as the likely effects of therapy. They can also detect the presence of any residual disease after treatment. *(Business Day)*

## Bright red bike ambulances

IN A large warehouse in Zwelitsha in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, 80 bright red motor-bikes are being assembled to perform a special service.

They are being used in the tsunami-ravaged areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia, as ambulances and mobile clinics.

Since many clinics and roads were destroyed as a result of the tsunami, the off-road bike is ideal for the terrain, said the London-based inventor of the Ranger Lifecycle, Mike Norman, who won the Worldaware Technology Award for Development in 1999 for the extraordinary vehicle.

The bikes are fitted with sturdy sidecars which can be custom-designed to serve in remote rural areas as ambulances, clinics, pool repair vehicles, bread and grocery delivery vehicles, water purification units, and for HIV and AIDS education operations, media workshops and garden service businesses. *(Cape Argus)*



## Low cost building materials

ZIMBABWE'S SCIENTIFIC and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC) has developed low-cost roofing tiles and a cheaper earth ramming technology.

The Micro Concrete Roofing (MCR) tiles and the rammed earth construction technology are set to revolutionise the construction sector in Zimbabwe and the region, making housing more affordable.

The MCR technology originated in Latin

America and SIRDC has adopted this through technology transfer arrangements.

Fifty percent cheaper than the conventional roofing tiles, MCR is light-weight, translating into considerable savings on roofing timber, and is easy to lay.

With increased and rapid urbanisation, housing provision has become a major challenge in most cities and towns, with affordability the main issue. *(SIRDC)*

# Investment and development in the southern Africa power sector

AS A step towards ensuring availability of energy to the region, the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) will host a regional electricity investment conference in Namibia in September 2005, as mandated by SADC ministers responsible for energy.

The theme of the conference is "Emerging Investment Opportu-

nities for Sustainable Development in the Southern African Power Sector".

Southern Africa's power utilities have reaffirmed their commitment to address the diminishing generation capacity. The SAPP executive committee met in Lesotho in April and agreed to work together to meet the region's energy needs.

## Projected Annual Demand for Electricity in Megawatts

Country	Utility	2003	2005	2007	2009
Angola	ENE	586	846	846	846
Botswana	BPC	343	369	407	441
DRC	SNEL	994	1063	1 138	-
Lesotho	LEC	98	107	115	124
Malawi	ESCOM	217	241	265	293
Mozambique	EdM	330	360	383	407
Namibia	Nampower	464	575	683	807
South Africa	ESKOM	30 977	32 542	34 305	35 988
Swaziland	SEB	1017	1 113	1 202	1 290
Tanzania	TANESCO	796	895	995	1 105
Zambia	ZESCO	1 386	1 545	1 650	1 762
Zimbabwe	ZESA	2 454	2 660	2 884	3 126
Total		39 662	42 316	44 873	46 189

Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP)

## US\$10 billion required to avert power crisis

THE SOUTHERN Africa Power Pool says SADC states will need to invest more than US\$10 billion to counter the threat posed by a looming electricity deficiency, an amount that is considered out of reach for a number of member states.

The SADC summit in Mauritius in August 2004 expressed grave concern over revelations that the region would run out of surplus energy generation capacity by 2007 unless a significant number of new projects are taken up.

Despite the overwhelming sum required for SADC to stay lit, researchers believe the task is not impossible, and can be achieved through unified action. The launch of a major regional electricity project in the DRC is one of several initiatives planned to ensure sustainable supply of energy in the region.

The Western Power Corridor (Wescor) project comprises a 35,000 megawatt hydroelectric power sta-

tion at the Congo river's Inga Falls, which is targeted initially to supply power to Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia and South Africa, while the rest of the region is expected to benefit in the longer term.

The Mauritius summit also took on board energy projects for capacity expansion for the period 2005-2010 and up to 2020 from member states, which are exploring strategies to ensure sustainable energy supply, including power projects meant to complement traditional sources of energy, such as thermal and wood fuel, to sustain growing populations and economies.

The Inga Falls project is believed to be the largest single hydropower initiative in the world, and when operating at full capacity, is expected to surpass Mozambique's Cahora Bassa, which is one of Africa's biggest hydroelectric stations producing an estimated 2500 megawatts. (*The Southern Times*)

The committee is revising the SAPP Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding, for signing by energy ministers in September.

Signing of the revised MOU will coincide with the tenth anniversary of SAPP, which was created in August 1995.

The MOU is expected to address the reforms that have taken place in the SADC organisational structure, power sector reforms and restructuring in member countries, as well as the recognition and admission of new members into the SAPP.

The committee has also agreed to revise the SAPP Pool Plan of 2001 and develop a Strategic Plan.

The Pool Plan will provide a detailed regional perspective by addressing the optimisation of regional resources and identification of least cost generation and transmission projects worth promoting for the benefit of the region.

The strategic plan will give an overview of country priority projects.

## Namibia feels pinch of power demand

NAMPPOWER HAS announced that Eskom, its main supplier of electricity, has warned of a possible reduction in supply due to increasing demand elsewhere in the SADC region.

Namibia has activated its old power stations in Walvis Bay and Windhoek as an interim measure. However, the output from the two power stations remains insufficient to meet the growing national demand for electricity.

Namibia plans to source alternative power from Cahora Bassa in Mozambique as well as Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The government is also focusing on major projects such as the Kudu gas-to-power project, the Lower Kunene hydropower scheme and the Caprivi Link interconnector into Zambia. (*The Star Business Report*)

## Zambia private sector in energy generation

Private sector companies are expected to spend about US\$600 million on the development of a hydroelectric power venture on Zambia's Lunsemfwa/Luangwa river in Central and Eastern provinces.

The Zambian government has also allowed two private companies to explore hydropower potential on the Kalungwishi river in Northern province.

Zambia has an installed electricity generation capacity of 1,786 megawatts out of which 1,676 megawatts is hydropower. The country has an undeveloped hydropower generation potential of over 6,000 megawatts and plans are underway to develop a number of hydropower stations. (*The Post*)

## South Africa switching on to green

THE BUILDING housing the Pan African Parliament in South Africa has switched to "green" electricity in a symbolic commitment to renewable energy.

Power is provided to the building by Amatola Green Power, one of two suppliers of "green electricity" through the national grid. The electricity is derived from renewable resources such as biomass wastes in the sugar, wood and paper industries, wind and solar energy.

As much as 75 percent of South Africa's total energy generation is coal-based, one of the least environmentally friendly sources of energy.

The South African government has indicated that it intends to increase its reliance on renewable energy from 9 to 14 percent by 2013. (*Daily Mirror*)

## Eskom partners ZESA

ESKOM HOLDINGS, South Africa's power utility, has entered into partnership with the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) to provide technical support in refurbishing generation infrastructure in order to increase power output.

# Mozambique, South Africa sign no-visa agreement

THE SIGNING of a no-visa agreement between Mozambique and South Africa has opened the way for either country's citizens to travel freely, and represents a major step towards the implementation of the regional trade protocol.

With effect from 18 April, citizens of either country now need only a valid passport to cross the border for up to 30 days, and the

period can be extended if there is a good reason such as when one is seeking medical attention.

The free movement of people and goods is one of the pillars of SADC whose member states signed the Trade Protocol in 1996 and began implementation in 2000, to establish a Free Trade Area by 2008. Free movement of people is an essential prerequisite for intra-regional trade.

## South African private sector challenged

SOUTH AFRICA'S public enterprises minister, Alec Erwin, has expressed concern about whether the private sector has fully absorbed the implications of the massive infrastructure investment programme of more than US\$27 billion announced last year.

The broad infrastructure investment package has been refined and is slowly taking shape. Projects in the electricity, transport and defence sectors will also be announced shortly.

This will be a major drive to bring far more capital from the private

sector into the country's infrastructure than has ever been done in South Africa's economy.

While the four big state-owned enterprises – Transnet, Eskom, South African Airways, and Denel – will remain in government hands, the private sector will be involved.

There will be space for independent power producers to get involved in the new gas turbine plants which will require US\$1.1 billion worth of private investment. (*The Star Business Report*)

## Germany to support Namibia's land reform

THE FORMER colonial power is ready to support Namibia's land reform with the aim of overcoming historical imbalances in land distribution.

The German ambassador to Namibia, Wolfgang Massing, said support for land reform is an integral part of a broad-based approach to natural resources management and rural development under the German-Namibian Development Co-operation Programme.

Massing explained that German support for land reform is taking a two-pronged approach.

The first is support to the process of elaborating a comprehensive land-reform policy, and addressing capacity gaps which are hampering

implementation of the land reform activities of ministries involved in communal land management, land tax or deeds registration.

The second priority is the improvement of infrastructure to allow for productive use of the land.

Massing said it is obvious that the ambitious land reform programme of the Namibian government needs adequate capacity to be implemented successfully, adding that the German government is committed to expand its support in the coming years. (*Nampta*)

## SADC countries VISA requirement table

Country	Countries requiring visas
Angola	All
Botswana	Angola, DRC, Madagascar
DRC	All except Zimbabwe
Lesotho	Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique
Madagascar	All
Malawi	Angola, DRC
Mauritius	Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Swaziland, South Africa
Mozambique	All except Malawi, Mauritius and South Africa
Namibia	DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius
South Africa	Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
Swaziland	Angola, Botswana, DRC, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique
Tanzania	Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa
Zambia	Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique
Zimbabwe	Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique

Source: Various SADC embassies

## Lesotho set to expand diamond mining

LETSENG DIAMONDS, the only operational diamond mine in Lesotho, is set to double its capacity with plans underway to ensure that a new plant will be commissioned by 2007. The increased capacity will enable it to produce 100,000 carats a year.

The company is exploring various options including public listing to finance the expansion of its operations. The Lesotho government holds 24 percent of the shares and also earns royalties.

Last year Letseng mine produced 37,000 carats at an average value of US\$1,200 a carat, giving it a revenue of US\$44 million.

Overall diamond mining is expected to expand in the country with other companies preparing to open for business this year. One such project is Liqhobong, which is under construction and is expected to begin production by the middle of this year. (*Business Day*)

## Central bank to be tougher with inflation

THE RESERVE Bank of Zimbabwe has said that it will adopt more stringent policies to ensure the reduction of inflation, the country's biggest economic challenge at present.

Another challenge is the generation of sufficient foreign currency, for which demand has persistently outpaced supply at the auction floor.

Economists say that foreign currency shortages at the auction floor have risen to 94 percent of demand, which has resulted in the re-emergence of the parallel market which is putting further pressure on inflation.

Some financial analysts have predicted that the inflation will remain in the three-digit region for the greater part of this year, before shifting to two digits in the last quarter.

The Reserve Bank has targeted an annual inflation rate of below 80 percent by year-end, before achieving the ultimate target of a single-digit inflation by mid-2006. (*The Herald*)

CURRENCY								
Country	Currency	(US \$1)						
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwe)	87.89	Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	4.21	DRC	Congo Franc	505.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.09	Madagascar	Magache Franc	9,150.00	Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	111.00
Mauritius	Ruppee (100 cents)	28.95	Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	19,750.00	Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.08
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.12	Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.09	Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,105.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,650.00	Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 cents)	6,200.00			

April 2005



# Beijing Plus 10 – Investing in women's future

**TEN YEARS** after SADC and the rest of the UN community committed to accelerating the elimination of gender inequality through targeted action aimed at women's empowerment, world leaders and gender activists have conducted a global review of progress.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is facilitating the global review of commitments made during the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.

SADC governments have been actively involved in this process since the preparatory phase began in 2004, and have produced status reports on action taken in adherence to the Beijing commitments, addressing progress, challenges, constraints and forward-looking strategies.

The SADC Secretariat also produced a 10-year progress report, which drew its inspiration from the country reports. This fed into

the UNECA-led Africa Review of Beijing Plus 10, held in Addis Ababa in October 2004, whose report was a part of the global review process.

Following the global review whose theme was "Beijing at 10 – Achieving gender equality, development and peace", the office of the UN Secretary General has prepared a seven-point strategy on investments and policies for the coming decade to:

- strengthen girls' access to education;
- guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- invest in infrastructure to

- reduce women's and girls' time burdens;
- guarantee women's and girls' property and inheritance rights;
- eliminate gender inequality in employment;
- increase women's share of seats in national parliaments and local government; and
- redouble efforts to combat violence against girls and women.

The strategic parameters for future action have thus been outlined, and SADC

governments have the task of moving from commitment to action. Investing in women's future is the overarching vision, and this implies broadening the approach towards the critical areas that SADC governments identified in 1995.



The gender festival organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) and Feminist Activist Coalition (FemAct) will take place 6-9 September 2005 in Dar es Salaam, with the theme "Gender, Democracy and Development: Popular Struggles for an Alternative World".

## SADC Gender Unit has a new head

**THE SADC** secretariat has a new head of the Gender Unit, Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela.

The Gender Unit was established in 1997 after a Council of Ministers recommendation. The Unit's function is to advise all SADC institutions on gender issues, and work with other officers in the secretariat to ensure that a gender perspective permeates the SADC Programme of Action and Community Building Initiative.

Mathiba-Madibela has worked in the policy and coordination area for eight years. She joins SADC from UNAIDS Botswana where she worked as a project manager. Before joining UNAIDS, she worked for the national HIV and AIDS Control Programme.

Her vision is to contribute to the advancement of women in the SADC region by providing strategic direction, effective management and leadership of the gender programme that is geared towards gender equality, regional integration, policy harmonization, institutional



Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela

capacity building, partnerships, advocacy, and lobbying.

Her message to the gender networks in the region is that they must be "more organized than ever before. They need to develop more effective advocacy and lobbying strategies that will make a difference in as far as gender and development is concerned.

The need to exploit each other's strengths as partners is still necessary, and we need to harness that further.

"The social movement must genuinely reflect on the review of the Beijing +10 and take the relevant measures to address the gaps, and failures. Where we have made successes, it is important to build on such investments."

Born in Botswana in 1970, she holds a Masters Degree in Social Policy and Administration from the University of Nottingham UK with specialities in gender and health, and a Bachelors degree in Social Work from the University of Botswana.

## Gender parity and protocol

**THE SADC** Gender Unit is putting two key recommendations to Heads of State or Government at their meeting in August 2005.

The two recommendations are to increase the target of 30 percent women in all areas of decision-making by 2005 to 50 percent in line with the African Union, and to elevate the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development to a Protocol.

The move comes amid concerns from gender activists in southern Africa that the non-legal-binding status of the SADC Gender and Development Declaration leaves room for non-compliance. By signing the declaration in 1997, the Heads of State or Government committed to:

- place gender firmly on the agenda of the SADC Programme of Action and Community Building Initiative;
- ensure equal representation of women and men in the decision-making of member states and SADC structures at all levels;
- achieve at least a 30 percent target of women in political and decision-making structures by year 2005;

- promote women's full access to, and control over productive resources such as land, livestock, markets, credit, modern technology, formal employment, and a good quality of life in order to reduce the level of poverty among women;
- repeal and reform all laws, amend constitutions and change social practices that still subject women to discrimination;
- enact empowering gender-sensitive laws;
- protect and promote the human rights of women and children;
- enhance access to quality education by women and men, and removing gender stereotyping in the curriculum, career choices, and professions;
- recognise, protect, and promote the reproductive and sexual rights of women and girls;
- take urgent measures to prevent and deal with the increasing levels of violence against women and children; and
- encourage the mass media to disseminate information and materials in respect of the human rights of women and children.



## Food security: Partnership or patchwork?

*ECOSYSTEM SERVICES in Southern Africa - A Regional Assessment* says the food insecurity in southern Africa has more to do with lack of access to food, rather than inadequate food production.

This is caused by a range of regional, global, political and economic factors, resulting in 25 percent of the population being undernourished.

The report also reveals a downward trend in the amount of protein produced per capita in the last 25 years, which is now below the recommended minimum while the carbohydrate supply is barely adequate.

The report explores how the ecosystem services can benefit human wellbeing including the important and growing nature-based tourism sector, contributions to the diet of rural people and traditional medicines used by the majority of southern Africans.

Examining the region's air quality, energy from natural resources, biodiversity and fresh water supplies, the report poses two scenarios for the next 30 years.

The "partnership" future establishes cohesive alliances, effective governments and experiences a high degree of regional co-operation and economic growth.

The "patchwork" future experiences a sluggish economic growth and worsening food production deficits.

Malnutrition, HIV and AIDS and the projected climate change during the first half of the 21st century could worsen the food security situation and reduce the region's chances of meeting the Millennium Development Goals which include halving the number of hungry people by 2015.

Produced by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, South Africa, 2004 as a contribution to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

## Land and water management in SADC

A NEW book on land and water provides a synopsis of related management research and development challenges in 10 SADC member states.

The book identifies the main challenges facing the region as policy, organizational issues, research and development, and communication-related matters.

Titled *Regional Situational Analysis: Land and Water Management in the SADC Region*, the book recognises that there is much experimentation with new land and water management technologies and methodologies.

The chapters examine issues such as government commitment to agricultural research and development in general and land and water management in particular.

Projects/practices on land and water management are also analyzed, with details on relevant technologies and difficulties experienced in their wider uptake by small-scale farmers.

Recommendations and strategies include research and training needs to increase the skills available for research and development.

The 164-page book is published by the SADC Secretariat's Land and Water Management Applied Research Programme, and edited by C. Nhira and A. Mapiki.

The publication was produced with support from the 8th European Development Fund, and is distributed free to interested regional stakeholders. It is available as a book or CD ROM from The Corporate Communications Unit of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone. Contact [pndebele@sadc.int](mailto:pndebele@sadc.int) or [mkgosidintsi@sadc.int](mailto:mkgosidintsi@sadc.int)

## PUBLICATIONS

### 2004 Official SADC Trade, Industry and Investment Review

Gaborone, Botswana, Southern African Marketing Company, 2004

304pp.

This 8th edition of the annual publication contains information that highlights business opportunities in the SADC region. It covers sections on SADC's corporate profile; Directorate reports; SADC projects; country profiles; Trade, Industry and Investment Opportunities; Key business contacts and the trade exhibition calendar. Available from Southern African Marketing Company (Pty) Ltd. P.O. Box 201112, Gaborone Botswana. [samarketing@mega.bw](mailto:samarketing@mega.bw)

Website [www.sadcreview.com](http://www.sadcreview.com)

### Mainstreaming Gender in Environmental Assessment and Early Warning

Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP, 2005

82pp

This report covers key questions relating to gender mainstreaming into UNEP's early warning and assessment programme. It analyses key issues in the areas of gender and the environment as they relate to water, poverty, security, conflict and early warning. The report also outlines challenges and opportunities for further strengthening UNEP's work in the area of gender and the environment.

Available from UNEP P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100,

Kenya. [roainfo@unep.org](mailto:roainfo@unep.org)

Website <http://www.unep.org>

### Monitoring Regional Integration in Southern Africa Yearbook Vol. 4 - (2004)

Edited by Hansohm, Dirk [et al]

Windhoek, Namibia, NEPRU, 2004

241pp.

This yearbook centres on the belief that confronting the rhetoric of policy makers with the empirical reality on the ground can strengthen the process of integration. It assesses the state of integration and the pace and direction in key economic and political areas of integration. Available from Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU) P.O. BOX 40710 Windhoek, Namibia. [nepru@nepru.org.na](mailto:nepru@nepru.org.na)

Website [www.nepru.org.na](http://www.nepru.org.na)

### Report of the first National Conference on Gender and HIV/AIDS

Buescher, Ludger and Muchiru, Simon.

122pp.

Gaborone, Botswana, Women Affairs Department, 2004

The publication provides an understanding of the social dynamics of HIV and AIDS and the relationship between gender and HIV and AIDS. Available from Women Affairs Department, P/Bag 00107, Gaborone, Botswana [mlegwaila@gov.bw](mailto:mlegwaila@gov.bw)

Website [www.gov.bw](http://www.gov.bw)

### The SADC/EU Project on HIV and AIDS: Making a Difference

Gaborone, Botswana, SADC, 2004

27pp.

The publication provides an overview of the "Making the Difference Project". It provides an analysis of the situation facing the region and the rationale for a strengthened SADC response. Available from SADC HIV and AIDS Unit, SADC Secretariat, P. Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana.

[registry@sadc.int](mailto:registry@sadc.int) Website [www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)

### Towards a Common Southern African Peacekeeping System

De Coning, Cedric

Umhlanga Rocks, South Africa: African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), 2004

9pp.

The paper critically looks at Africa's future peacekeeping uncertainties from three dimensions: global trends and developments, the regional African framework with special focuses on the African Union, and the sub-regional SADC context.

Available from: Training for Peace, ACCORD, P. Bag X018, Umhlanga Rocks, 4320, South Africa. [cedric@accord.org.za](mailto:cedric@accord.org.za)

Website [www.accord.org.za](http://www.accord.org.za)

### Trade, Development, Cooperation. What Future for Africa?

Edited by Melber, Henning

Uppsala, Sweden, Nordic Africa Institute, 2005

45pp

Among other topics the book looks at the dilemma faced by Africa in the area of development cooperation. The role of key international financial institutions in the line of trade, development and cooperation is analysed. It highlights how globalisation and regionalisation is affecting Southern Africa in times of trade liberalisation.

Available from: Uppsala, The Nordic Africa Institute.

### Working with Men to End Gender-based Violence

Braude, Wolfe [et al].

Braamfontein, South Africa, Interfund, 2004

115pp.

The report locates the idea of working with men within the broader achievements, challenges and priorities identified by state and civil society in seeking to address the huge problem of gender-based violence.

Available from Interfund, 76 Juta Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa [Alicia@itfd.co.za](mailto:Alicia@itfd.co.za)

Website [www.itfd.co.za](http://www.itfd.co.za)



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**EVENTS DIARY 2005**

June	
1-3 South Africa	<b>Africa Economic Summit</b> 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	<b>Gender Training on Policy and HIV and AIDS</b> 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.
8-9 Lesotho	<b>SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers</b> The ICM is comprised of at least two ministers from each SADC member state. Its role is to ensure proper policy guidance and coordination of cross sectoral activities of SADC. The meeting in Maseru will review activities of SADC directorates to ensure rapid implementation of programmes that would otherwise wait for the Council of Ministers.
20-22 Lesotho	<b>Regional Adjudication on the SADC Media Awards</b> To adjudicate on the entries for the 2005 competition.
29-30 Malawi	<b>Fifth Consultative Partners Meeting of the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa</b>
July	
3-4 Libya	<b>African Union Summit</b> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government from the AU's 53 member countries. The summit agenda includes African representation on the UN Security Council, and UN reforms.
6-8 Scotland	<b>G8 Summit</b> Leaders of the Group of Eight nations comprising Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the USA will meet at G8leagues in Scotland. Under UK presidency, the summit will focus on Africa's challenges and global climate change.
12-16 Botswana	<b>NEPAD sub-regional environment meeting</b> One of a series of sub-regional consultative conferences, this meeting will focus on southern Africa, attended by experts and a NEPAD task force on development of a sub-regional environment action plan.
11-22 Botswana	<b>The Politics of HIV and AIDS Healthcare</b> Organised by the Nordic-SADC Journalism Centre, the workshop aims to equip journalists with skills to understand, analyse and report professionally on issues relating to anti-retrovirals.
August	
17-18 Botswana	<b>SADC Silver Jubilee Summit</b> The Summit of Heads of State and Government is the ultimate policy-making institution of SADC. The Gaborone Summit is historic as it will be the climax of celebrations to mark the organisation's 25 years of progress. The Summit will witness the official handover of the rotating SADC Chair from the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Paul Berenger, to Botswana's President Festus Mogae. SADC Council of Ministers meet in advance of Summit to prepare policy recommendations for adoption.
31 - 02/09 Botswana	<b>World Information Technology Forum 2005</b> The Government of Botswana, in collaboration with the International Federation for Information Processing, will host a forum on global trends in ICTs.
September	
6-9 Tanzania	<b>2005 Gender Festival</b> Organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme under the theme "Gender, Democracy and Development: Popular Struggles for an Alternative World", the festival brings together gender-focused groups to discuss the progress made on gender equality, social transformation and participatory democracy.
13-16 South Africa	<b>Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference</b> The theme of the conference is "Sustaining World Health Through Environmental Epidemiology: Setting a New Global Research Agenda". This is a forum for governmental, industrial and community representatives to discuss issues pertaining to environment and health.
14-16 UN, New York	<b>Millennium +5 Review Summit</b> The United Nations General Assembly will undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made worldwide towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders in 2000.

# 30 years

Mozambique Independence  
1975 - 2005

## Bridging the Ruvuma, bridging unity

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 governments have signed an agreement of intention for physically bridging the river that divides (or unites) their people.

The "Unity Bridge" is a 600-metre, bridge-road link between the two countries. Almost 30 years in conception, the bridge could be a reality as early as 2008.

The Unity Bridge project is on the short-term action plan submitted by the SADC to the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The project is expected to boost development, not only in the riparian regions of Mtwara in Tanzania and Cabo Delgado in Mozambique, but in the SADC region as a whole as it is an important component of the Mtwara Development Corridor, a spatial development initiative that includes Malawi and Zambia.

Apart from being geographically linked, 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 early 1970s until independence in 1975, and it also contributed with troops to help Mozambique fight against aggression from neighbouring Rhodesia and South Africa.

The US\$33-million bridge and road will be bankrolled by both governments. The Tanzanian president, Benjamin Mkapa has stressed that neither Mozambique nor Tanzania is so poor that it cannot afford to finance such an important and unifying project.



**MOZAMBIQUE:** from Ruvuma to Maputo. The transition to independence began in 1974 after 10 years of armed struggle, with the signing of an agreement with the colonial power, Portugal. Then commenced the victory march the length of the country by the liberation army of Frelimo, led by Samora Machel, who became the first president of Mozambique on 25 June 1975. The photo shows Machel (centre) arriving in then Lourenço Marques at the end of his journey from the Ruvuma river in the north of the country to the Maputo river in the south. To the left of Machel (in a suit) is the man who later succeeded him as president, Joaquim Chissano. To Machel's right is the former Frelimo vice-president, Marcelino dos Santos. Behind dos Santos is the current President of Mozambique, Armando Guebuza (dark suit). Others include Machel's assistant Fernando Honwana (at back), and journalist David Martin (front).

## The Congo (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) as it was at independence from the Kingdom of Belgium in 1960



Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the Congo, with UN secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjöld, after their conference at UN headquarters in New York on the critical situation in the Congo, 24 July 1960. "Lumumba was not a communist. He was a nationalist, prepared to accept help from any quarter provided that it was unconditional help which did not compromise sovereignty."  
Ludo de Witte, *The Assassination of Lumumba*, Jacana 2001

## Public Holidays in SADC June – August 2005

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	International Trade Fair	Tanzania
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
1 August	Parent's Day	DRC
8 August	Peasant's Day	Tanzania
8 August	Heroes' Day	Zimbabwe
9 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
17 August	SADC Day (commemoration)	All
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia