



# THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY



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## Towards a free trade area in southern Africa

by Munetsi Madakufamba

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is moving steadily towards a free trade area in 2008 with significant progress having been made in phasing out tariffs. More work remains to be done on the removal of non-tariff barriers to trade among SADC member states.

A midterm review of the SADC Protocol on Trade, undertaken recently to assess progress on its implementation since 2000, has revealed some key successes and challenges that SADC member states have encountered as they seek to achieve trade-driven growth and development.

The review says that the majority of member states are on course in terms of tariff phasedown. The target is to have 85 percent of all products traded in the region at zero tariff by 2008.

The midterm review of the protocol assessed the adherence by member states to the agreed tariff reduction schedules, application of rules of origin including difficulties that may be encountered by business, non-tariff barriers, special arrangements on textiles and clothing, and on trade in sugar.

The exercise was also meant to assess whether the protocol has made an impact in investment promotion and industrial linkages.

The Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) of SADC, which met in June in Maseru, noted that "non-tariff barriers are a serious impediment to the growth of intra-regional trade."

The ministers agreed that through close collaboration among customs authorities, private sector and other stakeholders, creative ways can be "put in place to increase transparency, improve the monitoring capacity and eliminate non-tariff barriers in the SADC region."

On the complex issue of rules of origin, member states have agreed to revise and simplify the current rules on a selected number of product lines.

"The revision exercise, including identification of product lines where the rules are considered restrictive, will be undertaken by an expert group in consultation with stakeholders in member states," the ICM agreed.

Special agreements are being negotiated for sticky product lines such as sugar, textiles and clothing. The sensitive nature of these goods has forced the Trade Negotiations Forum to remove them from the general list so that they are negotiated separately.

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# Towards a free trade area in southern Africa

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The Trade Protocol was signed in 1996 and went through a meticulous negotiating process before implementation began in 2000 with 11 member states participating.

Angola later acceded to the protocol and the Secretariat has been providing technical assistance to the government in the preparation of its tariff reduction offers for consideration by other member states. The Democratic Republic of Congo is yet to accede.

The protocol has enormously widened economic space in SADC, opening trade to a market of more than 200 million potential consumers in the region. One of the benefits of a SADC Free Trade Area is the availability to the consumer of goods that are competitive in terms of quality and prices.

The removal of tariffs as well as non-tariff barriers is expected to reduce the cost of imports from elsewhere in the region, thus benefiting the regional consumers directly. More investors are expected to take advantage of a larger market created by the Free Trade Area.

However, the Free Trade Area is likely to result in a positive trade creation effect as well as a negative trade diversion effect. The challenge is to minimize the negative impact, especially on the weaker economies of the region.

Intra-regional trade is currently estimated at 25 percent of all international trade and is expected to rise to 35 percent by 2008. However, the bulk of current intra-regional trade is concentrated in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

Furthermore, SADC intra-regional trade is skewed in favour of South Africa, the biggest economy in the region.

The Trade Negotiating Forum has observed that the midterm review has not been able to give the “fuller picture of the impact of the implementation of the trade protocol due to back-loading of tariff phase downs by some member states and also due to the short time period on which the review is based and on which data is lacking.”

On the basis of this observation, the ICM has

recommended that another review, prior to the target date for achieving the Free Trade Area in 2008, is needed to focus on the impact of the protocol on investment flows, risk of polarization and balance of benefits.

## Key strategies being pursued

- o Gradual elimination of tariffs
- o Adoption of common rules of origin
- o Harmonisation of customs rules and procedures
- o Attainment of internationally acceptable standards, quality, accreditation and metrology
- o Harmonisation of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures
- o Elimination of non-tariff barriers
- o Liberalisation of trade in services.

## Major implementation challenges

- o Strengthen the supply side of economies
- o Implement trade protocol within framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- o Ensure that tariff reduction does not negatively impact on weaker/less developed member states
- o Cushion vulnerable groups such as the rural and urban poor, small businesses, informal traders and women, as well as ensuring that these groups benefit from the trade protocol.

## Customs cooperation and trade facilitation

Common interpretation and application of legal provisions by customs officials in their daily duties of facilitating international trade is critical in any Free Trade Area.

The SADC Sub-Committee on Customs Cooperation has been working on ensuring that this requirement is fulfilled in line with provisions of the SADC Protocol on Trade. The committee has since succeeded in coming up with regulations on SADC Rules of Origin; Rules of Origin Manual for Customs Officers; and Rules of Origin Manuals for Traders.

## Finance and Investment Protocol

It was reported at the Integrated Committee of Ministers in June that the development of a draft Finance and Investment Protocol is in progress.

The strategic objective of the protocol is to contribute to the establishment of a Regional Common Market where there would be free movement of capital, labour, goods and services. The establishment of such a market is the end goal of SADC in the economic arena.

The protocol will facilitate regional integration, co-operation and coordination of financial and investment policies in the SADC region.

The Memoranda of Understanding that have been developed by various finance and investment technical committees have been converted

into annexes, which form an integral part of the protocol.

## WTO development agenda negotiations

The 6th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Ministers Conference will be held in December 2005 in Hong Kong. The conference, while not expected to conclude the current Doha Development Negotiations, will review progress made and agree on the key modalities to enable the conclusion of the negotiations possibly in 2006.

The Integrated Committee of Ministers of SADC has directed that a special ministerial meeting, involving all relevant sectors as well as the region's negotiators in Geneva, be convened to prepare the region's position for the Hong Kong ministerial conference.



The sticky subject of sugar ...

## Economic partnership agreement negotiations

FOLLOWING THE SADC/European Commission negotiations on an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in July 2004, where a Joint Road Map was agreed upon, senior officials from both sides met in December 2004 to agree on a work programme for 2005.

The main purpose of the meeting was to agree on priority areas for negotiations. SADC has proposed to start off with negotiations on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, and technical barriers to trade. These two issues continue to act as major impediments to market access for a number of SADC countries wanting to enter the European market.

The central role of regional integration as stipulated in the Cotonou Agreement and its linkages with efforts to reduce poverty, as indicated in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), were compelling factors for including it as a major area to be covered in the negotiations.

The senior officials meeting in December also agreed on establishing the Regional Preparatory Task Force, an organ that will be responsible for the formulation of projects identified during the negotiation process and soliciting appropriate financing for them.



# Implementation of Dar es Salaam Declaration key to achieving food security

**SADC HEADS** of State and Government adopted the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security on 15 May 2004, as a commitment towards dealing with the challenges in agricultural production and provision of food in the region. The leaders agreed to develop and implement short, medium and long-term action plans to address these challenges so as to accelerate food production, guarantee food security and reduce poverty in the region. They agreed to assess progress after two years.

Food security continues to be the region's most pressing challenge and SADC member states are committed to effectively implement the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security so as to yield a lasting solution to the current situation.

The declaration identifies short-term targets in the areas of irrigation development, provision of inputs, control of pests and diseases, agricultural processing and production.

The short-term targets are for two years (2004-2006), and progress will be reviewed at the end of every two years from the date of signature.

**IN THE** medium-to-long-term commitments (2004-2010), SADC leaders agreed to address:

- o sustainable use and management of natural resources;
- o disaster preparedness;
- o market access;
- o research, technology development and dissemination;
- o agricultural financing and investment;
- o training and human resource development;
- o gender equality;
- o human health and mitigation of HIV and AIDS; and,
- o other chronic diseases.

## Irrigation development

SADC governments have undertaken to accelerate the use of irrigation technologies such as treadle and motorised pumps, canalisation and water-saving technologies, as well as to mobilise resources for agro-processing and increase the use of savings and credit schemes.

Irrigation initiatives in the region are set to benefit from a SADC Groundwater and Drought Management project. The project will be funded by a US\$7.5 million grant from the Global Environment Facility of the World Bank and by Sida.

This project will boost the implementation of irrigation projects that are already underway in countries such as Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe which have made the development of irrigation a priority in their agricultural sectors.

The project will be initiated by a pilot programme to test groundwater and drought management strategies in the Limpopo river basin in South Africa, which will facilitate research into groundwater dependent ecosystems.

## Allocation of funds for agriculture

According to the communiqué of SADC Ministers of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources who met on the eve of the Food Security summit in May 2004, concern was raised on the need for financial flows to agriculture from both public and private sources.

Some SADC governments have begun to set aside funds for agricultural projects. For instance in Namibia the government plans to spend approximately US\$10 million on irrigation development.

A challenge still remains for governments to fulfil the commitment made by member states in 2003, following the Maputo African Union Declaration, to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development within five years.

The communiqué of the ministers meeting also notes that the region is encouraged to explore innovative financing instruments including provision of credit at grassroots level.

## Provision of inputs

The region has started working on ensuring availability of agricultural inputs for its farmers. Inputs such as seed, fertiliser and machinery have in the past hindered total utilisation of production capacity in the agricultural sector in the region.

SADC governments, together with seed and fertiliser companies and other stakeholders, are working towards ensuring that all the required inputs are available in time for planting in the next season.

Logistical plans are already being put in place in preparation for the movement of seed from countries with excess supply to those where shortages exist.

The region is also working towards harmonising grain and food-aid policies so as to facilitate easy transfer of grain and agricultural inputs and to urgently improve infrastructure and trans-

portation systems at local, national and regional levels.

## Control of pests and diseases

The Dar es Salaam declaration recognises the strengthened control of crop and livestock pests and diseases as an urgent priority.

The region has drafted a regional migrant pest control strategy which will focus on the following pests: quelea birds, red locusts, armyworms and larger grain borer.

Commendable progress has already been made in the area of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) control. SADC has mobilised funds which have been used to contain the spread of FMD in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and prevent it from spreading to other countries.

## Regional food reserve facility

The establishment of a Regional Food Reserve Facility was given top priority in the Dar es Salaam declaration.

The SADC Integrated Committee of Ministers, who met in

June in Lesotho, agreed on the need to establish the food reserve facility that will allow the region to respond better to food emergencies.

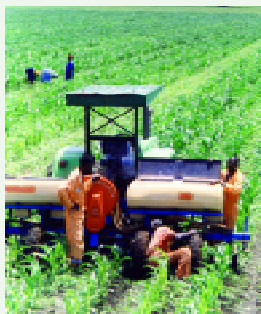
A fund for the food reserve is on the cards and will be governed by an advisory board whose composition, nature and governance will be determined at SADC Secretariat level.

SADC sought support from the World Bank in 2003 to design a Regional Food Reserve Facility.

As an initial step, the World Bank undertook short case-studies in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia to determine nature, level and modality of a possible strategic food reserve facility, drawing on experience from other regions of the world.

## Progress at a glance

Commitment	Implementing status
Provision of inputs	Initiatives at national level are taking place to ensure availability of seed and fertiliser. Cooperation between member states is underway to ensure access to inputs in countries where shortages exist.
Water management and irrigation	Irrigation projects are being implemented in member states and a SADC project on water management and irrigation is on the cards.
Develop regional food reserve facility	Research is being carried out in the region on modalities and strategies for development of the facility.
Improve market access	SADC countries are trading in cereals and livestock regionally and are lobbying for fairer trade in the international arena.
Allocate 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture and rural development	Member states are yet to meet the 10 percent target although some countries have significantly increased allocation.





# A full agenda for SADC's silver jubilee summit

SADC House in Gaborone, home of the SADC Secretariat

**SADC'S HISTORIC** Silver Jubilee Summit on 17-18 August in Botswana is set to deliberate on a wide range of pertinent regional issues including the appointment of new leadership for the secretariat.

The summit will discuss the chairperson's report, which covers key issues since the previous summit last year in Mauritius.

South Africa, which chairs the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, will also table a report for discussion.

Key issues on the political front include elections held in Botswana (October) last year, Namibia (November), Mozambique (December), and this year in Zimbabwe (March) and Mauritius (3 July).

Another other key political issue likely to feature at the summit is the electoral and constitutional process in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The country is preparing to hold a referendum on a new constitution which if adopted will pave way for elections. The poll was postponed in June for six months pending the creation of an appropriate legal environment.

The summit is expected to review progress towards a Free Trade Area in 2008 as well as current multilateral trade negotiations, including a new partnership agreement with the European Union.

Progress on implementation of the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security is expected to come under scrutiny, especially with the back-drop of current food shortages in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi,

Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The HIV and AIDS pandemic, which has severely dented development efforts in the region, will almost certainly feature during the deliberations. The region is guided by a declaration and action plan on HIV and AIDS adopted by Heads of State and Government in Maseru in 2003.

On gender and development, SADC Heads of State and Government are expected to consider a proposal to upgrade the SADC gender declaration into a protocol, thus making it a legally binding instrument.

The proposed protocol is expected to raise the target for women representation in decision-making positions from 30 to 50 per-

cent, in line with the African Union.

The summit is expected to discuss the outcome of the African Union Summit which took place early July in Sirte, Libya, and of the Group of Eight industrialized countries which among other issues made far-reaching decisions on debt relief and aid to developing countries.

Progress will be reviewed on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as will be progress towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in view of the forthcoming UN Millennium Review Summit in September.

A decision is expected on the candidate membership status of Madagascar which submitted its application in August last year and was to be assessed over one year. Heads of State and Government are expected to discuss the appointment of a new executive secretary and deputy.

A progress report will be heard on the financing, design and construction of the new SADC headquarters. SADC House has become too small for the enlarged Secretariat staff. The new headquarters will be constructed in Gaborone, which has hosted the secretariat since 1980.

Senior officials followed by the Council of Ministers will meet first to prepare the agenda for the Summit of Heads of State and Government, the highest decision-making body of SADC.

Special events are expected to take place to mark the 25th anniversary of SADC, which was launched at a summit in Lusaka on 1 April 1980. Membership has grown from 9 to 13 countries.

## AU calls for increased UN representation for Africa

The African Union has reaffirmed its desire to strengthen the leadership of the United Nations General Assembly, to enable it to fulfil its role as the most representative and democratic organ of the UN systems.

African leaders also endorsed the recommendation of the African Union (AU) Executive Council of foreign ministers calling for the allocation of two seats of permanent membership on the UN Security Council to Africa with all the privileges, including the right to veto, and two non-permanent seats.

This is intended to strengthen the UN secretariat, making it more responsive and democratic to the interests and aspirations of Africa, African leaders said during the AU summit held in July in Libya.

The leaders also endorsed recommendations to increase from 15 to 26 the number of UN Security Council members.

Six of the 11 new members would be permanent seats, including two for Africa, two for Asia, one for Latin America and the Caribbean, and one for Western Europe. The five non-permanent members would be divided between Africa (two seats), Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

"We reaffirm our commitment and determination towards granting the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) the status of a central coordination mechanism for the activities of the specialised agencies of the UN systems and its subsidiary organs in the economic and social domain with the view to enabling it to better fulfil its role in attaining the Millennium Development Goals," the leaders declared.

ECOSOCC is the AU civil society organisation, which the African leaders also want to strengthen to effectively coordinate the activities of the UN agencies and Bretton Woods institutions of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Six countries are vying to represent the AU on the Security Council as permanent members. These are Angola, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Senegal.



Country profile

# BOTSWANA

**BOTSWANA IS** a country of great contrast. To the west, the sweeping sands of the Kalahari desert spill over into Namibia. To the north, there is the stark beauty of the Okavango Delta teeming with wildlife, and the Chobe river. To the east, the arable lands and ranches with their long-horned cattle adjoin Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Botswana is today regarded as one of Africa's economic success stories, yet when the country attained its independence from the British in 1966, it was among the 25 poorest and least developed countries in the world.

The country has made great strides in development over the years in the areas of economic growth, education, infrastructure, and mining, among others.

At the time of independence, the country had very little physical infrastructure. There were few tarred roads and many parts of the country were inaccessible.

Significant changes have taken place as a result of joint efforts by the government, private sector, communities and other stakeholders. The national consultative process is rooted in the *kgotla* system of village meetings.

**Leadership**

Botswana has benefited immensely from the leadership of three presidents since independence. These are, the founding president Seretse Khama, his successor Ketumile Masire, and the incumbent, President Festus Mogae.

The electorate has put few women into parliament but President Mogae has taken action to appoint more women to both parliament and cabinet.

**Gender specialist appointed Attorney General**

**ATTALIAH MOLOKOMME** has been appointed Attorney General of Botswana.

Molokomme has been a High Court Judge in Botswana for the past two years. Prior to that, she was a senior gender programme officer at the SADC secretariat where she headed the Gender Unit, was actively involved in development of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, and established a successful regional support network of gender organisations.



**Diamonds**

The country has benefited from the exploitation of minerals, especially diamonds, and the mining sector has emerged as a major driver for the economy through exploitation of diamonds, copper, nickel, soda ash and salt.

The growth in the mining sector has led to a growth in exports and foreign currency earnings. The local currency, the Pula, is one of the strongest currencies in the SADC region.

**The world's largest producer of diamonds**

**BOTSWANA'S FINANCE** Minister, Baledzi Gaolathe, has said that this year's revenue from diamonds, which account for almost half the government's income, would exceed the budget forecast by as much as 10 percent after devaluation of the Pula. The finance ministry has forecast earnings from diamonds of US\$1.8bn for the year ending March 2006. Botswana devalued the Pula by 12 percent against a basket of currencies on 30 May to boost exports. (*Business Day Africa*)

**Exports**

Exports in other products have been boosted through benefits from multilateral trade agreements, such as successive Lome conventions on trade containing concessions for export of beef to the European Union.

The combined growth in the mining, livestock and other sectors ushered in a period of rapid growth and economic transformation.

As a result of this economic growth, Botswana has moved out of the group of the poorest and least developed countries, and is a middle-income country in World Bank classification.

**BOTSWANA FACTFILE**

Head of state	President Festus Mogae
National Day	30 September 1966
Population	1,736,000 (2002)
GDP	US\$6.5 billion (2003)
Imports	US\$3.467 billion (2004)
Exports	US\$4.459 billion (2004)
Literacy	81 percent
Urbanisation	46 percent
National HIV prevalence rate	17.1 percent
Life expectancy at birth	55.6 years
Monthly annualised inflation rate	6.3 percent (May 2005)

SADC Secretariat, Botswana Central Statistics Office

**Infrastructure and services**

The government, being the principal recipient of revenues, invested in the improvement of the physical, social and economic infrastructure. The result has been a marked improvement in the delivery of services to the population and the conditions for investment in productive activities and employment creation.

High public spending led to an expansion in public sector employment, and boosted employment in the private sector, especially in construction, retailing, districts and services related to the diamond industry.

Recent years have seen a slowing down in the rate of growth, and the challenge is to find new and productive activities to provide growth in employment and incomes.

**Drought**

A public works programme has been initiated as a response to the current drought. President Mogae declared Botswana "drought stricken" after poor rainfall resulted in widespread crop failure, and has announced relief measures that will run until June next year.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture only 72,500 ha -- a quarter of the cultivable 325,000 ha -- was planted. "This year's cereal production is now estimated at about 19,000 mt, about 10 percent of the national requirement and less than half of the 46,000 mt produced during 2003/04," Mogae said.

**National development**

Through almost 40 years since independence, Botswana has exhibited relatively sound public sector management. Government has used its foreign exchange and cash reserves to counterbalance the cyclical short-term economic fluctuations. The accumulation of foreign exchange reserves has also

enabled Botswana to liberalise its exchange controls.

Botswana has evolved a system of national development plans, based upon an overall set of objectives and strategies, and an estimated total budget leading to a series of project spending votes authorised by parliament.

This has been further developed into systems for economic planning and budget control, ensuring that development projects are selected on the basis of their economic and social returns.

**Vision 2016**

Botswana's longterm vision is captured in Vision 2016, which is 50 years after independence.

The document identifies the major socio-economic challenges faced by the country and proposes a set of strategies to meet them, based on the theme, "Towards Prosperity For All".

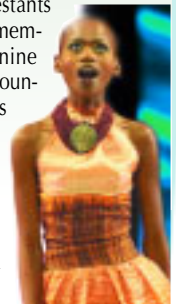
The development plans of Botswana are rooted in four national principles: democracy, development, self-reliance, and unity. The fifth principle is *botho*, which defines a process "for earning respect by first giving it, and to gain empowerment by empowering others."

**The face of Africa**

**BOTSWANA'S KAONE** Kario is the 2005 Nokia Face of Africa. She is from Maun, which she describes quite simply, "it's beautiful, it's home."

Kario, who turned 19 on the day of the pageant in South Africa, won over four other finalists including Nigerian and Zimbabwean contestants. She won a 3-year modelling contract and prizes valued at US\$30,000.

The competition attracted contestants from all SADC member states and nine other African countries. Previous winners since the competition began in 1998 were from Namibia, South Africa, Nigeria and Senegal.



# SADC attains rapid shifts in gender equality and women's empowerment processes

SOUTHERN AFRICAN countries have experienced rapid shifts in gender equality and women's empowerment processes in the last decade.

The rapid shifts have been catalysed by the frames of reference provided by the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPFA) and the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development.

Nearly all SADC Member States now have national machineries responsible for gender, and gender focal points within various ministries with a mandate to strengthen mechanism to promote the advancement of women.

Strengthening mechanisms to promote women's advancement is one of the six critical areas of concern which SADC identified to focus on among the various obstacles to women's empowerment and advancement in the social, cultural, economic, and political spheres.

At the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) held in Beijing, China in September 1995, 12 critical areas of concern were identified as obstacles to women's empowerment and advancement.

In September 1997, SADC took its cue from the BDPFA and identified, initially four, and subsequently six, critical areas of concern to focus on. These are:

Strengthening mechanisms to promote women's advancement; Addressing inequalities in power-sharing and decision-making;

Inequalities in access to economic resources; Protection of the human rights of women and girl-child; Women in the context of armed conflict and peace-building; and Gender capacity-building, training, networking, and information dissemination.

Ten years after Beijing, all SADC member states have national gender policies except Angola and Swaziland, which are in the process of developing theirs. This has been complemented by national plans of action on the implementation of BDPFA, post-Beijing, and emerging issues.

## Representation of women in decision-making in SADC Member States, 1997-2005



The vice-presidents of South Africa and of Zimbabwe, Phumzile Mlanbo Ngcuka and Joyce Mujuru, appointed in 2005 and 2004 respectively, greet Zimbabwean women cabinet ministers.

Country	Women MPs pre 1997 %	Women in Cabinet pre 1997* %	Women MPs in 2000 %	Women in Cabinet in 2000 %	Women MPs in 2005 %	Women in Cabinet in 2005 %	Date of Next Elections
Angola	9.5	4.9	15.4	11(02)	16.4	14.3	2006
Botswana	9	13.5	18.2	23.5	9.8	28.6	2009
DRC	-	-	-	-	12	-	2006
Lesotho	12 (Upper House 36) (Lower House 11.7)	14.6	10.3	12.5(02)	10.8	23.3	2007
Malawi	5.2	4.3	8.3	17.3	13.99	17	2009
Mauritius	7.6	9.8	7.6	8.0	17	4	2005
Mozambique	28.4	12.8	28.6	12.5	33	7.1	2009
Namibia	19.4	11.4	19.2	14.2	22	18.5	2009
South Africa	27.8	7.0	29.8	33	32.75	42.8	2009
Swaziland	19 (Sen.6.7) (HA 10)	7.5	7.3	13.3	16.8	18.75	2008
Tanzania	16.3	9.6	16.3	13.0	22.5	15	2005
Zambia	18.1	8.9	10.1	8.3	13.7	23.8	2006
Zimbabwe	14	8.4	10.7	24.0	10.7	13.3	2010

\*Ministerial and sub-ministerial positions.  
Compiled by SARDC WIDSAA based on figures from: SARDC Today, Vol 7, No 5, December 2004; SARDC, National reports on implementation of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, 2004 Progress Report; SARDC WIDSAA, Beyond Inequalities: Women in Southern Africa, SARDC, Harare, 2000

## Summit urged to elevate gender declaration to a protocol

GENDER AND women's empowerment organisations in southern Africa have called for the upgrading of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development to a Protocol in order to accelerate gender equality in the region.

The recommendation is on the agenda of the SADC Council of Ministers, which meets in advance of Summit to prepare policy recommendations for adoption.

Representatives of gender and women's empowerment organisations in the region met in mid-July in South Africa to share findings on how the 1997 SADC gender declaration and its 1998 Addendum on violence

against women and children have been implemented to date.

Audits on the performance of SADC countries in implementing the declaration reveal that while awareness of gender equality has increased and prompted exemplary action, in some instances that has placed SADC at the forefront of global debates, a Protocol on gender is needed to accelerate and formalize gender equality in the region.

As a legally binding instrument, a Protocol would be more effective in aligning national legislation than a declaration, which is not legally binding.

The audits reveal that policies, legal provisions, and programmes to address specific provisions in the

declaration have been put in place in most areas, but inequalities remain in existence because implementation has remained weak with many countries lacking mechanisms to help detect, control, and prevent discriminatory action that may occur in a society.

The provisions for gender equality and women's advancement in the SADC declaration are linked to many others, such as the BDPFA, CEDAW, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and the MDGs.

To enhance effective monitoring of progress, the proposed SADC gender protocol would have specific targets and timeframes for achieving gender equality.

There has been a growing acceptance of the importance of women's participation in decision-making with the majority of member states witnessing increases in the number of women in political decision-making positions since 1995.

However, only a few SADC countries have met the 30 percent target of women in political and decision-making positions by the 2005 deadline. By July 2005, only South Africa and Mozambique had passed the 30 percent target.

The challenges of promoting women's access to economic resources such as land, a key productive resource in SADC, as well as employment rights, and the removal of obstacles to other forms of economic empowerment remain top on the agenda.

Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe have established processes to engender budgets in their endeavours to reduce inequalities in access to economic resources.

Some positive developments have been recorded in legislating against discrimination in the work place and home, and all SADC member states have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

In spite of all the positive changes and the important frameworks for action which have emerged to influence the rapidly changing gender and development landscape in SADC, profound contradictions remain.

The rapid pace of socio-economic change in the gender arena is not commensurate with the formal response to address the existing gender inequalities. A number of formal policy responses have not measured up to the reality of marginalisation of women and qualitative change remains minimal for most. A good example is policies to address HIV and AIDS, most of which lack a gender and women's rights perspective.

The gendered nature and marked increase in HIV and AIDS infections, illnesses and deaths is reversing the gains made in the health, employment, and education sectors, with women and girls bearing the brunt. There is greater stress on women and girl's socially defined nurturing roles, particularly caring for the afflicted.



SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections

## Mauritius elects a new parliament and government

by Bayano Valy

A NEW government emerged from parliamentary elections held in Mauritius in July, which were won by the Social Alliance comprising the Mauritius Labour Party and the Mauritian Social Democratic Party.

The alliance won 38 seats in the 70-seat unicameral parliament, enabling the former opposition parties to form the island's new government led by veteran politician, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, the son of the first prime minister of Mauritius, Sewoosagur Ramgoolam.

The SADC Electoral Observer Mission (SEOM), headed by the South African ambassador to Mauritius, Ajay Bramdeo, declared the elections free and fair, saying the poll will contribute "to the consolidation of democracy and continue in the path of development not only in Mauritius but also in the region."

Second best with 22 seats came the governing alliance of the Mauritian Militant Movement/Militant Socialist Movement of Paul Bérenger, the then chairperson of SADC.

Hardly an hour had passed after the announcement of the official results that Bérenger appeared on national television to graciously concede defeat.

"We must respect democracy," he said, adding that "the elections took place in a calm and orderly fashion. They were an example for the SADC region and the world." In the same breath he resigned his post and announced he would meet with Ramgoolam to hand over his government's most important dossiers.

Under the Mauritian electoral system, 62 candidates out of the 70-seat chamber are elected for a five-year term by direct popular vote in a block system where each voter gets to cast three ballots for three candidates from each of the 21 constituencies, including the island of Rodrigues off the southeast coast, which elects two deputies.

The remaining eight candidates are identified from a list of "best losers" which factor in ethnic groups and religious affiliation, among other considerations. The other two seats fell to the Organisation of the People of Rodrigues (OPR).

The turnout was put at 82 percent of just over 817,000 eligible voters.

There were over 80 election observers representing the SEOM, the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the SADC Electoral Commissions Forum, and the African Union.

SEOM deployed 13 observers who observed elections throughout the country's 21 constituencies for two weeks.

Although Mauritius did not reach the 30 percent target set by SADC leaders to ensure the representation of women in all political



and decision-making structures by 2005, Mauritians managed to vote into parliament 12 women – 17 percent.

This compares favourably with the past parliament which had 8.6 percent women. There were 63

### Challenges for new government – sugar and textiles

**SUGAR AND** textiles were among the issues that could have influenced the outcome of parliamentary elections in Mauritius, according to economic analysts.

Mauritius has been posting a four percent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the past four years, one of the best in the SADC region, but this has slowed down due to changes in the international market for sugar and textiles. The European Commission plans to slash sugar prices by about 40 percent over a two-year period beginning in 2005.

Critics have noted that the move will have grave consequences for sugar industries in developing

countries. Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have well-established sugar sectors.

It was against this backdrop that within hours of being confirmed the victor of the poll, the new Prime Minister, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, placed these sectors at the top of his list of priorities.

Ramgoolam has already spoken of implementing policies to revamp the country's agriculture sector. Other priorities will be the putting into place of mechanisms to boost the establishment of small and medium enterprises to create more jobs and wealth, and perhaps cushion job losses.

### A new constitution for a democratic DRC

by Juakali Kambale

**THE DEMOCRATIC** Republic of Congo is in the process of developing a new constitution, which should pave the way for general elections scheduled for 2006.

The draft constitution was adopted by parliament in May, but before entering into force, the new constitution has to be submitted to a referendum in November this year.

Analysts say the draft constitution is the most liberal the country has ever had. According to the new constitution, the president can be elected for a maximum of two five-year terms.

Unlike the previous constitution, the president of the republic will no longer be the head of government. The president will share the executive powers with a prime minister elected from the leading political

parties in the parliament. However, the president remains in charge of defence, security and foreign policy.

The new constitution has also set a minimum age limit of 30 years for presidential candidacy. This allows the incumbent, President Joseph Kabila, who is 33 years old, to run as a presidential candidate in the forthcoming elections.

The elections, scheduled for June 2005 according to the peace agreement signed in Sun City, South Africa, have been rescheduled for next year.

The postponement is the result of a delay in providing the legal documents enabling the Independent Electoral Commission to organise the elections. The president of the commission, Apollinaire Malu Malu, requested parliament to postpone the elections by six months.

women campaigning for seats in the legislature.

Politicians and gender organizations say the reason women shy away from politics in the islands is because political life is traditionally male-dominated. "Women feel discouraged to stand on a platform and speak in public," said Marie Gislaine Henry of Social Alliance.

Furthermore, it does not help that other women look at women candidates as people who failed to play their traditional role as mothers, she said.

The elections were an important milestone in the region's drive to implement the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections adopted at Grand Baie, Mauritius, in 2004.

This important document, although not legally binding, seeks to inform the region's electoral processes, challenging member states to ensure that they really work for the enhancement of democracy within SADC, as well as aligning the electoral legislation in member countries.

In addition, two important documents, namely the Electoral Law and the Referendum Law are required before preparations for the elections begin. If necessary, the Independent Electoral Commission is allowed to request postponement by a further six months.

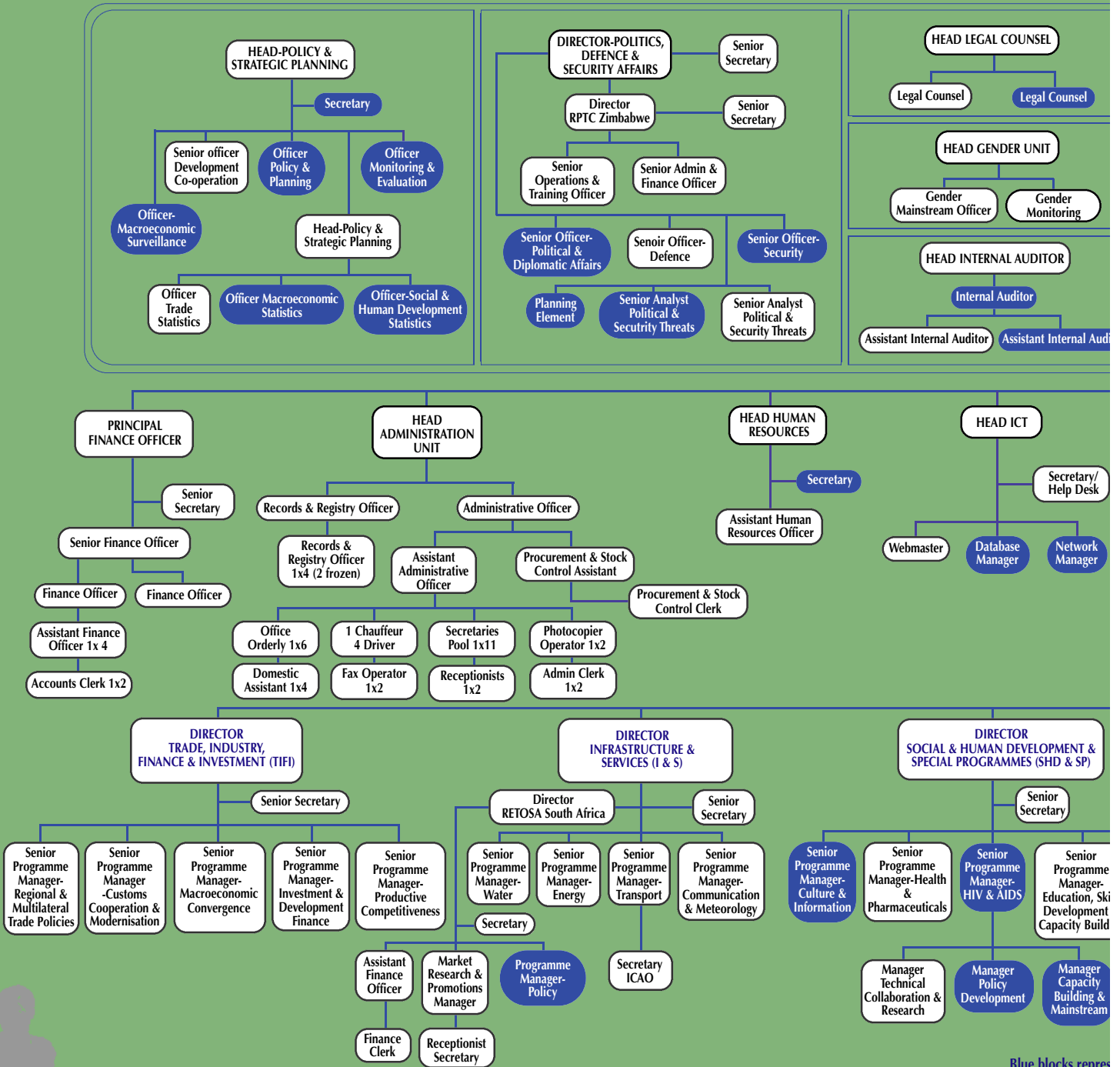
The election process has already started with registration of voters taking place in Kinshasa and the same process will soon begin in other parts of the country.

The draft constitution states that new provinces will be created. The DRC currently has a total of 11 provinces. Ten new provinces to be created under the new constitution will be widely decentralised, both politically and economically.

According to the draft constitution, 40 percent of taxes will remain in the provinces while 60 percent will be sent to the central government.

# New SADC Secretariat

As approved by SADC Council of Ministers on 25



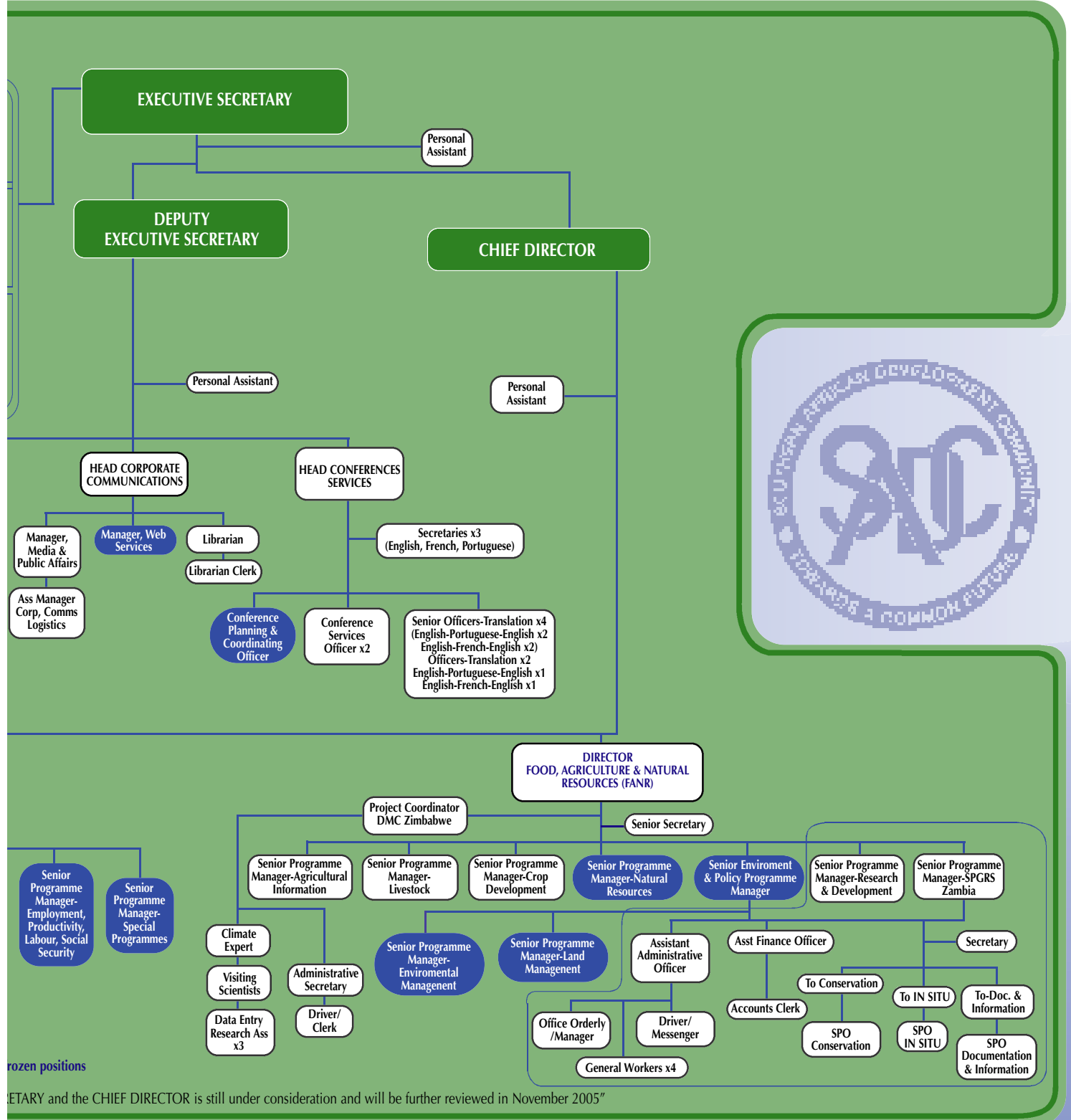
SADC Secretariat

NB \*The reporting relationship between the DEPUTY EXECUTIVE :



# Organisational Structure

February 2005, Grand Baie, Republic of Mauritius



rozen positions

ETARY and the CHIEF DIRECTOR is still under consideration and will be further reviewed in November 2005"

# HIV and AIDS, challenge for regional integration

by Tsitsi Singizi

AS SADC moves towards deeper integration, one of the major challenges is the impact of HIV and AIDS on social, political and economic development.

Regarded initially as a health issue in the early 1990s, HIV and AIDS policy is now being integrated into all sectors of development through a multi-sectoral approach.

SADC Heads of State and Government stated their firm commitment through the adoption of the Maseru Declaration on HIV and AIDS in July 2003. The declaration is

being implemented through the multi-sectoral strategic interventions contained in the SADC HIV and AIDS strategic framework 2003-2007.

The priority areas include access to care, testing, treatment, prevention, and social mobilization. The declaration also resolved to simplify mechanisms for the timely disbursement of resources to ensure that all communities have adequate access to funds to fight HIV and AIDS.

SADC member states have designed policies to tackle the pandemic, especially in the areas of prevention and treatment. Numerous projects have been

implemented on awareness and prevention, and the focus has moved to treatment and care for those living with HIV and AIDS.

SADC heads of state and government have pledged to allocate at least 15 percent of annual budgets to improve the health services. They are also committed to the eradication of poverty, which has exacerbated the impacts of the pandemic in the region.

This is in line with the Abuja Declaration, adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Special Summit on AIDS in 2001, which called for African govern-

ments to allocate 15 percent of national budgets to health spending with more emphasis on HIV and AIDS.

The OAU declaration calls for minimum spending to provide coverage of essential prevention, care, and mitigation services in an effort to reduce the spread of the pandemic.

Although the region is working towards increasing access to anti-retroviral drugs to those infected with the virus, access to nutrition remains a top priority for governments as they seek to give holistic support to people living with HIV and AIDS.

## HIV and AIDS affects land productivity in southern Africa

by Clever Mafuta

SOUTHERN AFRICA has the world's highest HIV and AIDS prevalence rates, a situation that is having negative impacts on land productivity and tenure rights, especially for widows and children.

With 70 percent of the region's population depending on land for livelihood and in view of land reforms that are taking place or being

contemplated, the impact of HIV and AIDS on land must take centre stage.

HIV and AIDS presents a challenge to all aspects of land policy as it affects people whom land policy is intended to benefit, as well as the personnel in the institutions that support the policy implementation.

As a result of the pandemic some landholders may be forced to change their land use patterns, resulting in

lower productivity as they engage in less labour-intensive practices.

Those affected by or infected with HIV and AIDS may be forced to subcontract their land resources to other users through renting, leasing or sharecropping arrangements.

According to a paper by Oxfam International and Save the Children UK, resultant losses in yields due to HIV and AIDS are caused by many factors, including reduced labour as a result of illness and the shift of attention to increased demands in caring for the sick; sale of productive assets such as seeds, equipment and cattle; and the shifting of responsibility to the elderly and the less experienced youth.

According to a SADC report, *New Approaches Needed to Food Security*, the fundamental decline in income and agricultural production experienced by HIV and AIDS affected households calls for continued consumption-oriented assistance in the form of safety nets. Exposure to poverty and inadequate nutrition can accelerate the progression from HIV to full blown AIDS.

Productivity support should focus on improving the productivity of HIV and AIDS affected households in general, with a special focus on households headed by elderly women and those with a chronically ill household head. The report also recommends interventions with a "high food access to labour ratio".

SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) emphasises a multi-sectoral approach to the pandemic, and sets out a target to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015.

## Media institutions to design workplace-based policies

SOUTHERN AFRICA is finalising a manual to guide development of workplace policies in media institutions, one of a number of projects implemented under a two-year programme by the Southern Africa Editors Forum (SAEF).

SAEF has resolved that at least 80 percent of media institutions in the region should have workplace-based policies and programmes by the end of 2006.

In addition, SAEF is working on promoting ethical coverage of the pandemic by media houses in the region.

## Nutrition vital to HIV and AIDS treatment

ZAMBIANS HAVE been urged to integrate a nutritional component into the treatment of HIV and AIDS.

The Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) says that providing free antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) alone is not sufficient for the treatment of those infected.

CHAZ says that programmes to ensure food security must be put in place to ensure access to foodstuffs required for a balanced diet for people living with HIV and AIDS, as an anti-retroviral therapy will only have the desired effect if the patients are properly nourished.

An estimated 24,000 people are on ARVs in the country and the government is working towards increasing the access to 100,000 people by the end of the year. (*The Post*)

Status of SADC legal instruments as of 25 July 2005

Name of instrument	Date of signature	Date of entry into force
SADC Treaty	17 August 1992	30 September 1993
Protocol on Immunities and Privileges	17 August 1992	30 September 1993
Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems	28 August 1995	28 September 1998
Protocol on Energy	24 August 1996	17 April 1998
Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology	24 August 1996	6 July 1998
Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs	24 August 1996	20 March 1999
Protocol on Trade	24 August 1996	25 January 2000
Charter of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA)	8 September 1997	8 September 1997
Protocol on Education and Training	8 September 1997	31 July 2000
Protocol on Mining	8 September 1997	10 February 2000
Protocol on the Development of Tourism	14 September 1998	26 November 2002
Protocol on Health	18 August 1999	14 August 2004
Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement	18 August 1999	30 November 2003
MOU on Cooperation and Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology in SADC	9 November 1999	16 July 2000
Protocol on Legal Affairs	7 August 2000	
Protocol on Tribunal and Rules of Procedure	7 August 2000	14 August 2001
Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses	7 August 2000	22 September 2003
Amendment Protocol on Trade	7 August 2000	7 August 2000
Agreement Amending the Treaty of SADC	14 August 2001	14 August 2001
Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation	14 August 2001	2 March 2004
Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other Related Material in SADC	14 August 2001	8 November 2004
Protocol on Fisheries	14 August 2001	8 August 2003
Protocol on Culture, Information and Sports	14 August 2001	--
Protocol Against Corruption	14 August 2001	--
Protocol on Extradition	3 October 2002	--
Protocol on Forestry	3 October 2002	--
Protocol on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	3 October 2002	--
Agreement Amending the Protocol on Tribunal and the Rules of Procedure	3 October 2002	3 October 2002
MOU on Cooperation in Taxation and Related Matters	8 August 2002	8 August 2002
MOU on Macroeconomic Convergence	8 August 2002	8 August 2002
Mutual Defence Pact	26 August 2003	--
Charter of Fundamental Social Rights	26 August 2003	26 August 2003
Declaration on gender and Development	8 September 1997	--
The Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children an Addendum to the Declaration on Gender and Development	14 September 1998	
Declaration on Productivity	18 August 1999	
Declaration on Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	August 2001	Do not require ratification
Declaration on HIV and AIDS	4 July 2003	
Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security	15 May 2004	

\* Highlighted entries indicate additions/changes made since August 2004





# Shared watercourses critical to water management in the region

by Clever Mafuta

THE MANAGEMENT of shared watercourses in the SADC region has strengthened integration among member states who have committed themselves to collectively implement water management policies and programmes.

Through the revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses, the region has sought to maximise on the attributes of shared water management while minimising on the potential for competition or conflict over resource scarcity.

The revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses came into force in 2003, and succeeds the 1995 Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems.

About 70 percent of southern Africa's freshwater resources occur in the region's 15 shared river basins.

Management of water resources is a key challenge for southern Africa given the regular occurrence of drought in the region. Water is a decisive economic development input factor, including its role in the generation of electricity.

The bulk of southern Africa's energy supplies come from hydro-

power, and with indications that the region may be short of electricity supplies by 2007, integrated water resources management as promoted by the revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses becomes critical.

Both water and energy fall under the SADC Directorate of Infrastructure and Services, which also has responsibilities for transport, communications and meteorology services.

Despite shortages in potable water supplies, the region's potential in generating hydropower is huge. For example, the Congo River has untapped potential for 40,000 mega watts, energy that is enough to power the whole of Africa with even surpluses to supply southern European countries of Italy and Spain. A project to tap the Congo's energy potential is gaining political momentum under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad).

The first Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems signed in 1995 was based on the Helsinki Rules which tilt heavily towards the principle of territorial sovereignty of a watercourse state. According to

these rules, an upstream state has the right to use water resources within its territory with no regard to any effects that this may have on the downstream state.

The adoption by the region, in April 1997, of the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses led to the revision of the 1995 protocol.

The main differences between the old and the revised protocols is that the latter places emphasis on watercourses as opposed to watercourse states, and calls for the establishment of river basin commissions, which

have been established for the Zambezi, Limpopo, Okavango and Orange Senqu river basins.

The SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses is being implemented through the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) for integrated water resources management and development.

A number of projects developed from the RSAP are currently running, with the most recent to get funding being the Groundwater and Drought Management Project funded by the World Bank (through the Global Environment Fund) and Sida.

## Southern Africa Environment Outlook

THE SOUTHERN Africa Environment Outlook is an ambitious new report that provides an integrated analysis of southern Africa's environment.

The report, to be launched later this year, highlights key emerging environmental issues, and presents a set of future scenarios for the region. It comes 10 years after the first comprehensive *State of the Environment in Southern Africa* published in late 1994, and five years after the first report on a single ecosystem, the *State of the Environment Zambezi River Basin 2000*.

The preparation of the report was based on a wide consultative and participatory process, during which consensus around regional perspectives and priorities were built. The Outlook was constructed around a firm data and indicator development process. Regional projects on geographical information systems and indicator development for state of the environment assessment and reporting were supportive to the process.

Experts from specialised organisations and from national institutions mandated to carry out state of environment reporting were involved in providing inputs, as well as in the review of the manuscript. This ensured regional balance and scientific credibility. Contributors, reviewers and the technical editor are all SADC nationals.

The process began in 1998, initially to build a foundation through issues identification, consensus building on the ideal framework to use in the analysis, as well as agreement on the core datasets and indicators to support the analysis.

The *Southern Africa Environment Outlook* is a SADC report produced under the Communicating the Environment Programme (CEP), a partnership of SADC with IUCN-The World Conservation Union and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

This benefited from a capacity development process driven by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) through the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN). SARDC's I Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (Imercsa) is the regional collaborating centre for the *Africa Environment Outlook*, produced at the request of African Environment Ministers, and the *Global Environment Outlook*, both produced by UNEP.

The traditional approach of environmental reporting in the region focused on national boundaries, sectors or natural resources. In this 2005 report, the issues are presented in an integrated manner, using the Drivers Pressure State Impact Response (DPSIR) framework. Drivers and pressures are defined as the root causes of environmental change, and they can be natural or human-induced. The integrated assessment and reporting approach, through the DPSIR framework, answers four questions that are key to effective decision-making. The questions are:

- o What is happening to the environment?
- o Why is it happening?
- o What can we do, and what are we doing about it?
- o What will happen if we do not act now?

## Making the Zambezi river basin agreement a reality

by Leonissah Munjoma

THE ZAMBEZI river basin states have reaffirmed their commitment to operationalise the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZamCom) through the implementation of initiatives and projects on water management in the basin.

The aim of the ZamCom agreement is to promote equitable and reasonable use of the water resources of the Zambezi river basin and is also expected to promote efficient management and sustainable development among the eight riparian states.

Officials from most of the basin states met in the tourist resort town of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in July to discuss issues pertaining to the implementation of the ZamCom agreement signed in July 2004.

They discussed important initiatives planned for the basin, including the development of the Zambezi Basin Initiative to address investment and poverty eradication issues; a new Agricultural Water Management initiative; and the World Bank's Zambezi Basin Irrigation and Rural Livelihoods initiative.

These initiatives were presented by officials from the SADC Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the World Bank.

The meeting considered issues relating to the location of the ZamCom secretariat and criteria for selection of a host country; the composition of the secretariat and selection criteria for the secretariat staff.

A road map was adopted, based on a concept note that sets out the strategic preparations that need to be undertaken and provides options and steps to be followed before the commission can become operational.



# Joint training for SADC military part of Africa's "common destiny"

SOUTHERN AFRICA has been hosting sub-regional military training in some member states, most recently in Botswana where 3,300 soldiers from 12 countries participated in the *Thokgamo* (serenity) exercise in Maun.

President Mogae said the joint military exercise demonstrated that the region has the will and capacity to secure its own future.

"Besides being positioned to react to local threats, this brigade will become the pillar of the all-African Standby Force, which is being established by the African Union."

Mogae noted that southern Africa had been the arena of armed conflict in recent memory "as our people struggled to free themselves from the shackles of colonialism and apartheid, but today we are increasingly able to enjoy the fruits of sustained peace."

## Towards cleaner fuels

SOUTH AFRICA'S petroleum giant, Sasol, is investing in the development of natural gas projects in order to offer alternative sources of energy to consumers.

Natural gas can be marketed in many parts of the world using Sasol's proven gas-to-liquid technology. This technology turns natural gas into a range of high-quality energy and chemical products, including high-performance gas-to-liquid diesel.

The diesel is low in aromatics and has almost no sulphur content, thus it produces fewer emissions and contributes to a cleaner environment.

The gas-to-liquid diesel has a far higher cetane (the diesel equivalent of octane) rating than traditional diesel, which puts it in a league of its own in performance terms.

The launch of this diesel to selected world markets will take place in 2006 and will complement efforts by a number of governments to diversify and strengthen their future energy supply. (Sawubona)

"From being a location of international concern and political rivalry, southern Africa has thus transformed into an example for others of what can be achieved through reconciliation and a common purpose."

The manoeuvres were organised by Botswana and France in terms of France's Re-Enforcement of African Capabilities in Peacekeeping Programme (RECAMP), and were commanded by Brigadier Letsogile Motsumi of the Botswana Defence Forces.

All SADC member states participated in the exercise, with the exception of Mauritius and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Windhoek Treaty signed in August 1992, which forms the legal and political foundation of the community, envisaged that member countries would develop common political values, systems and institutions as well as promote and defend peace and stability. SADC thus established the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security in June 1996.

At continental level, African countries have decided to form sub-regional military forces in North, East, South, Central and West Africa, through the African Union (AU) for use in collective security efforts.

## New rainmaking technology

SCIENTISTS IN South Africa have developed a new invention for rainmaking. This offers a new way of seeding clouds through forcing clouds to squeeze out nearly double the amount of rain.

The invention comes at a time when breakthroughs in weather modification are being seriously sought in the region. Experts say rain enhancement is based on the idea that extra water drops form around fine salt inside clouds, but that dumping salt often leads to useless salt clumps and dangerous corrosion in aircraft.

Ways of using the innovation to combat drought in the region are being studied. This can increase efficiency and is also cost effective. (Sunday Times)



## African Panel on Biotechnology



THE AFRICAN Union Commission and Nepad have established a panel of eminent scholars, industrialists and policy-makers, the African Panel on Biotechnology (APB), to design an African policy and strategy for biotechnology and to provide comprehensive and independent science policy advice to the continent.

The creation of this high-level advisory group shows Africa's determination to take a common informed approach to address issues pertaining to modern biotechnology and its applications for health, agriculture, industry, mining and the environment.

The APB will identify and recommend specific ways of building Africa's capacities to apply and safely handle modern biotechnology. (NEPAD Dialogue)

## Centres of Excellence in Biosciences

AFRICAN COUNTRIES have committed themselves to establish networks of Centres of Excellence in Biosciences for agriculture, health, environment and the mining industry, dedicated to harnessing and applying life sciences and biotechnology to remove barriers to production, health and environmental management.

The Nepad/African Biosciences Initiative (ABI) has been designed to translate these commitments into concrete programmatic actions, recognizing that life sciences and biotechnology offer enormous potential for strengthening development and innovation in Africa.

The initiative covers three flagship programmes of the Nepad sciences and technology secretariat: biodiversity science, biotechnology, and indigenous knowledge and technology. (NEPAD Dialogue)

## Seed producers urged to take advantage of science, technology

THE MINISTRY of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe is promoting research for the development of seed varieties suitable for different climatic conditions and environments in order to diversify agricultural production to all regions in the country.

Farmers in wet areas are encouraged to grow crops that are best for their conditions, while those in dry areas can plant drought-resistant crops.

A Zimbabwean seed company is currently working on initiatives for developing other seed varieties through research in Zimbabwe and in countries such as Malawi and Mozambique. (The Herald)





## The textile industry

# Intraregional investment and trade key to overcoming economic challenges

by Chengetai Madziwa

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN** countries are optimistic that increased domestic investment and production competitiveness will boost their economies, which have been negatively affected by a slowdown in the textile industry.

With the phaseout of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) quota system at the beginning of 2005, textile firms in the SADC region have begun to seek measures that promote investment within the region.

## SADC targets free movement of people in 2006

A DRAFT protocol to be presented to the SADC summit could facilitate the removal of visas and the free movement of people in the region as early as next year.

"The specific objective is to facilitate entry into member states without the need for a visa for a maximum period of 90 days per year," the Executive Secretary, Dr Prega Ramsamy, said after a preparatory meeting in Johannesburg.

He said this would pave the way for the free movement of goods and services, capital, trade and people in the region.

SADC plans to have a free trade area by 2008.

## Malawi's fiscal discipline hailed

**THE MALAWIAN** government has been hailed by the private sector for fiscal discipline in the 2004/05 financial year.

Efforts to reduce the budget deficit and measures to address the inherited domestic debt burden and arrears for the coming fiscal year 2005/06 have been welcomed.

A statement from the private sector says if government continues spending within the allocated resources, the country's economic performance will improve. Positive spin-offs already enjoyed include a reduction in interest rate from 35 to 25 percent last year.

The private sector also acknowledges that its proposals for tax reform were taken on board in the new budget. (*The Chronicle, Malawi*)

"We need to look within the region for investments which require that we have our own mills. For such investment to come, security, macro-economic stability, good governance and labour issues need to be addressed," says Agrina Mussa, President of the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The region was benefiting from the Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) of the WTO, which protected the textile industries in developing countries.

Elimination of visas is one of the proposed measures to forge deeper integration and unlock the region's development potential, including access to tourist attractions such as the transfrontier conservation areas and national parks in the region.

This will also please South Africa's World Cup organizers who had called for a regional Uni-Visa before 2010, to help to spread the economic benefits of hosting the World Cup across the region.

South Africa won the bid to host the tournament one year ago, and is expected to complete all preparations by the end of 2007.

## Mauritius to launch new bourse

**PLANS TO** launch a new stock market by June 2006 are underway in Mauritius in an effort to attract foreign investors to bring in new products and new companies into the country's various sectors, including tourism and financial services.

The bourse will replace the unregulated over-the-counter market and will run in parallel with the main Semdex market, which is trading near record highs after recent interest rate cuts.

Foreign investors are barred from over-the-counter trades, but will be welcome in the new exchange, which will require a minimum free-float of 10 percent of a firm's shares and simpler listing rules. (*Business Report*)

Through benefits from the MFA, Lesotho's textile industry emerged as the biggest sector in the country; and an estimated 83 percent of Swaziland's exports are textiles. Malawi and South Africa also have substantial textile industries.

The business community in the region argues that the WTO rules protect the domestic interests of giant producers in developed countries. They believe it is time for African countries to seek protection of their own industries and, in order to strengthen their position, the textile firms plan to form a regional trade association.

Companies in the textile industry have been urged to work hard to

## National ICT body launched

**AN UMBRELLA** organisation for companies in information and communication technology (ICT) has been launched in Namibia. The ICT Alliance Namibia will represent companies as well as computer professionals and users.

Besides the promotion of ethical and suitable use of computers in society, and while protecting users from being exploited through lack of knowledge, the aims and objectives of the ICT Alliance Namibia is to influence and shape ICT policy-making for the industry and the users as well as drive ICT policymaking in the country. (*The Namibia Economist*)

## Namibia wants black empowerment

**THE NAMIBIAN** government has begun encouraging companies countrywide to be proactive about Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). The private sector is expected to incorporate BEE in their planning strategies and structures as a means of ensuring longterm stability and becoming fully integrated into the mainstream of the Namibian economy. (*New Era*)

improve productivity in the face of stiff competition from clothing and textile powerhouses in Asia. According to the business community, this can be done more efficiently through the creation of dynamic incentives by governments for investors in the clothing and textile industry.

Asian countries have been enjoying unlimited access to the duty-free US market after the quotas were lifted. The removal of the quota restrictions under the MFA means that African producers are no longer protected from the competition presented by Asian mass producers.

"What we need now are strategies that will prepare us for drastic changes in the future," said Martin Kansichi, Malawi's Minister of Trade.

The slowdown in the textile industry has affected social development, especially where families have been left with limited income due to loss of employment where textile companies have closed down.

The most affected countries in the region, Lesotho and Swaziland, are working on diversifying their economies in order to create employment and boost economic growth.

At the regional level the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol, which envisages a Free Trade Area by 2008, is expected to strengthen economic ties between member states.

## High-speed construction

**SOUTH AFRICA'S** Gauteng province is set to become "one huge construction site" as work starts in August on a multi-billion Rand high-speed train project, described by officials as Africa's biggest ever public-private partnership. Government has awarded the tender to a local and international consortium for construction of the 80-km, high-speed train designed to link Johannesburg and its airport with the capital, Tshwane (Pretoria) in time for the 2010 World Cup. (*Southern Times*)

## CURRENCY CHECKLIST

Country	Currency	(US \$1)	Country	Currency	(US \$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lweis)	89.20	Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.40
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	6.52	Madagascar	Magache Franc	9,275.00
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	29.55	Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	24,497.50
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.53	Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.52
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,542.50	Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	17,694.15
			DRC	Congo Franc	496.00
			Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	123.70
			Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.52
			Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,130.50

August 2005



## Oil: Politics, Poverty and the Planet

ACCESS TO oil and natural gas, and their prices, are hugely important axes of geo-political strategy and global economic prospects and have been for a century. This book written by Toby Shelley, a *Financial Times* journalist who has long covered the energy sector, provides readers with essential information for understanding the shifting structure of the global oil and gas economy -- where the reserves lie, who produces what, trade patterns, consumption trends, prices. The book highlights political and social issues in the global energy sector -- the domestic inequality, civil conflict and wide-spread poverty that dependence on oil exports inflicts on developing countries and the strategies of wealthy countries (especially the United States) to control oil-rich regions.

Energy demand is on a strong upward trend. The reality of the environmental damage caused by fossil fuels cannot be doubted. What are the likely human consequences -- changing disease vectors, unprecedented flooding, mass migration? And what is to be done -- in the wealthy countries where consumerism drives increasing growth in demand, and in developing countries aiming to grow their economies faster? Are alternative energy sources a panacea?

This book addresses what is perhaps the most pervasive and destabilising of the issues facing humanity.

## The Water Business: Corporations versus People

"There is a vital role for private expertise and resources in providing water services. Unfortunately, if that role is forced down the throats of the potential beneficiaries, they often choke." Mike Muller, Director General, Department of Water Affairs, South Africa

Privatization of water supplies began in England in 1989 under Margaret Thatcher; in the next 10 years, nearly £10 billion went in profits to the new water companies. Today, two giant corporations, Veolia and Suez, control 80 percent of the international private water market and have some 300 million customers. Protests have broken out in country after country -- Bolivia, Argentina, Ghana, South Africa -- and the water giants are switching to new markets in China, North America and Europe. Meanwhile well over a billion people still lack access to clean water supplies.

This book tells the graphic story behind these facts and figures. Drawing on her own interviews with the poor, the experts and the corporate executives in Latin America, Africa and Europe, the author, Swedish journalist Ann-Christin Sjölander Holland, brings us a story much more complicated than simply public or private provision, or innovative mixes of the two. The ultimate question is this: is water a human right or just another tradable commodity?

These books are published by ZED Press in the Global Issues series.

### Environment & Urbanization

## Meeting the Millennium Development Goals in Urban Areas

ENVIRONMENT & URBANIZATION is a twice yearly journal to encourage researchers, teachers and other professionals in Latin America, Asia and Africa to write about their work, present their ideas, debate issues and exchange information.

The current edition (Vol 17 No 1, April 2005) covers topics such as urban development, governance of water and sanitation issues, innovative financing for low-income housing, the growing problem of forced evictions and the need to find alternative

solutions, including "Getting ahead of the game: A twin-track approach to improving existing slums and reducing the need for future slums". Case studies are from Brazil, Thailand, Cuba, India and South Africa

Environment & Urbanization is published by the Human Settlements Programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in UK and the Instituto Internacional de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo (IIED-América Latina) in Argentina.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, SADC Region 2004 Progress Report

Botswana, Gaborone, SADC Secretariat, 2004. 100pp.

This report presents a review and appraisal of progress in implementation of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, the African and Beijing Platforms for Action; and was prepared as a requirement to assess progress 10 years after adoption of the African and Beijing PFAs in 1994 and 1995 respectively. SADC established an institutional and operational framework to mainstream gender in the region, and adopted a Plan of Action on Gender. SADC acknowledges in the Foreword that their achievements "on gender issues have been the collective efforts by all stakeholders who have worked tirelessly at national and regional levels."

Available from: SADC Gender Unit, SADC Secretariat, P. Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana. registry@sadc.int Website: www.sadc.int

#### Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa: Questioning the achievements and confronting the challenges ten years after Beijing

Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Economic Commission for Africa, 2005.

42pp. The paper looks at progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Africa, interrogating the adequacy of actions taken to date, with a focus on the major crosscutting challenges yet to be addressed and concrete measures to be taken.

Available from: UNECA, P.O. Box 30647, Lusaka, Zambia. E-mail: srdsca.uneca@un.org. Website: www.uneca.org

#### African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact

Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, African Union, 2005. 16pp.

African states adopted the defence pact at the fourth ordinary session of the assembly, held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 31 January 2005. The objectives are to promote cooperation among Member States for non-aggression and common defence; to promote peaceful co-existence in Africa; to prevent conflicts of inter-state or intra-state nature; and to ensure that disputes are resolved by peaceful means.

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

#### Africa Environment Information Network. Strengthening environmental assessment and reporting

Kenya, Nairobi, UNEP, 2004. 7pp.

This gives background on the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN), outlining its mandate, status and progress to date. It contains recommendations from AEIN sub-regional workshops for strengthening the collection and dissemination of information relevant to monitoring the environment outlook and trends on the continent. Available from: UNEP, P. O. Box 30522, Nairobi, Kenya.

E-mail: roainfo@unep.org. Website: www.unep.org

#### HIV/AIDS and Democratic Governance in South Africa: Illustrating the impact on electoral processes

Strand, Per (et al) South Africa, Pretoria, Institute of Democracy in South Africa (Idasa), 2005. 204pp.

This book illustrates the impact of HIV and AIDS on electoral processes in South Africa and provides the first available evidence of the influence of the pandemic on the democratic process. It demonstrates that HIV and AIDS is not just a health crisis, but a pandemic that has implications for political and social processes.

Available from: Idasa, Cnr Prinsloo and Visagie Streets, Arcadia 0007, Pretoria, South Africa. Website: www.idasa.org.za

#### The 2005 Post-Election and Drought Mitigation Monetary Policy Framework

by Dr. G. Gono Zimbabwe, Harare, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2005. 187pp.

This monetary policy statement issued by the central bank governor is a comprehensive review of Zimbabwe's short-term economic performance. It outlines additional pillars needed by the monetary authority to buttress measures for an economic turnaround. The monetary policy looks at financial sector stability, regulatory reforms, inflationary developments, and foreign exchange management. Available from: The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, Samora Machel Ave, Box 1283, Harare, Zimbabwe. E-mail: rbzmail@rbz.co.zw. Website: www.rbz.co.zw





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**EVENTS DIARY 2005**

August 3-5 South Africa	<b>SADC Finance and Investment Ministers</b> A committee of ministers tasked with discussing the finance and investment component of the Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment directorate, and draft Finance and Investment Protocol.
9-14 Botswana	<b>SADC Trade Ministers Meeting</b> Key issues for discussion include progress on the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol, negotiations for an economic partnership agreement with the European Union, and preparations for the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference in Hong Kong in December.
12-14 Botswana	<b>Standing Committee of Senior Officials of SADC</b> The technical advisory committee to Council of Ministers meets in advance of Council, chaired by the country that is chairing SADC – Mauritius.
15-16 Botswana	<b>SADC Council of Ministers</b> The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC and ensuring that policies are properly implemented. Council comprises ministers from each member state, usually from foreign affairs, international cooperation, economic development, planning or finance. Council precedes the Summit and prepares policy recommendations for adoption by the leaders.
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 regional community's 25 years of existence. Summit will witness the official handover of the rotating SADC Chair from the Prime Minister of Mauritius to Botswana's President.
21-27 Sweden	<b>World Water Week</b> Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute, the symposium will run scientific workshops, seminars and exhibitions for business experts, inter-governmental bodies, as well as science and water management sectors. The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa will be active participants.
30/08-1/09 South Africa	<b>The SADC/DFID Regional Meeting on STI Quality of Care</b> Organised by the SADC HIV and AIDS Unit with support from DFID and the Health Systems Trust in South Africa, the meeting will be attended by directors of health policy and service delivery from member states as well as other stakeholders. The theme is "SADC Regional Feedback and Consultative Workshop on STI [Sexually Transmitted Infections] Management".
31/08-02/09 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 on ICTs.
29/08-8/09 Zimbabwe	<b>Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF 9)</b> Main objective is to develop a consensus climate outlook for the October 2005 to March 2006 rainfall season. The forum will discuss the potential impacts of the climate outlook on other socio-economic sectors including health, disaster risk management, water resources and hydropower management. Will also review the October 2004 and March 2005 season.
September 6- 9 Tanzania	<b>Gender Festival 2005</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 and social transformation.
13-16 South Africa	<b>Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference</b> The theme 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> Heads of State and Government will meet for a comprehensive review of progress made worldwide towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals which they adopted in 2000.
19-21 Namibia	<b>Regional Investment Conference</b> Under the theme "Emerging Investment Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the Southern Africa Power Sector", the Southern Africa Power Pool will host a conference to address the shrinking of the generation surplus capacity of energy in the SADC region and discuss investment incentives in the electricity and energy sectors.
21-25 India	<b>International Women and Health Meeting</b>



25

years of regional development

SADC-SADCC  
Silver Jubilee

## The Front Line States and SADC

**THREE LEADERS** of independent countries in southern Africa who consulted often in the early 1970s, came to be known as the Front Line States – Presidents Seretse Khama of Botswana, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Julius Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Chaired by Nyerere, the FLS worked together for the liberation of countries still under colonial rule and apartheid. They were joined in 1975 by Samora Machel and Agostinho Neto, the presidents of the newly independent states of Mozambique and Angola.

The FLS realized that political independence alone was not sufficient. The positive experience gained in working together was harnessed and transformed into broader cooperation in pursuit of economic and social development.

### 1 April 1980

Between 1977 and 1979, FLS representatives consulted on how best to strengthen cooperation. These consultations culminated in a meeting in Arusha in July 1979, which led to the creation of the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) on 1 April 1980 at a summit in Lusaka and the establishment of its Secretariat in Gaborone, at Khama's invitation.

Chairing the summit that launched SADCC, Khama called for an integrated region and the improvement of transport facilities. He said the objective was "to lay the foundation for the development of a new economic order in southern Africa and forge a united community."

But he warned that, "the struggle for economic liberation will be as bitterly contested as has been the struggle for political liberation."

### 17 August 1992

The work of SADCC reinforced the need for regional cooperation in economic development. Twelve years later, SADCC leaders decided to establish a legal and more formal status, and to shift the focus from the coordination of development projects to a more complex task of integrating their economies into a regional community.

Heads of State and Government signed a Declaration and Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community (SADC), at a summit in Windhoek, on 17 August 1992. A key objective is to "strengthen and consolidate the longstanding historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the people of the region."



SADC Treaty was signed by Heads of State and Government, Windhoek, 17 August 1992

## A founding father of FLS and SADCC

**Seretse Khama (1 July 1921 – 13 July 1980)**

"SERETSE KHAMA – as a man and as a President of his country – was an exemplar of principled and quiet dignity. The anger at injustice which he felt, was never allowed to find expression in personal abuse; and it never overrode his reason. He could laugh at himself and the world at the same time as he participated in the work of overcoming the evils of apartheid and oppression." *Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere*



ON 15 AUGUST 1994, the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) held a special closing session in Arusha – attended by nine heads of state, two vice-presidents, one prime minister and nine foreign ministers – to celebrate the continent's achievements, and to pay tribute to the courage of the freedom fighters who had fought and won independence in several countries,

culminating eventually in the first democratic elections in South Africa which had taken place a few weeks earlier.

This marked the formal and successful conclusion of the mandate granted at the first OAU Summit on 22-25 May 1963, which established the Coordinating Committee, set up a Special Fund for voluntary contributions, pledged the support of all Member States, and declared 25 May as African Liberation Day.

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere delivered the keynote address at the special closing session, as the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who had been the chairperson of the Front Line States and a founding father of the OAU. The OAU had entrusted him and his country to host the Liberation Committee and to nominate one of its nationals for appointment as the Executive Secretary.

In closing the Committee, Nyerere recognized the role of Brigadier Hashim Mbita, who had been the Executive Secretary for more than 20 years, since 1972, saying "we are very proud of his contribution to the liberation of our continent."

Nyerere reminded that the "two tasks which the OAU set for itself were inextricably linked. Our ultimate purpose was always the unity of all African nations. The achievement of that purpose clearly required that the whole of Africa be freed first."

### Public Holidays in SADC August - October 2005

1 August	Parents Day	DRC
8 August	Peasants 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
6 September	Sonhloho Day	Swaziland
7 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
8 September	Ganesh Chaturthi	Mauritius
17 September	Founder of Nation & National Heroes Day	Angola
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Botswana Day	Botswana
1 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
4 October	Reconciliation Day (Peace Day)	Mozambique
8-9 October*	Idd-El-Fitri	Tanzania
10 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day	Tanzania
14 October	SADC Creators Day (commemoration)	All
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia

\* Depends on visibility of the moon

A shared future within a regional community