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Food security strengthened by cross-border cooperation

by Clever Mafuta

FOOD SECURITY is one of the region's most pressing challenges and active regional collaboration is offering a key solution.

Intra-regional trade, forward planning, innovative farming methods, food aid and a shift away from the traditional but drought-vulnerable staple maize, have helped southern Africa to avert starvation in the face of persistent droughts.

The four rainfall seasons since 2001 have all but one been drought years. Only the 2003/04 season had sufficient and well-distributed rains to ensure a good farming season in most parts of the region.

Much of the national deficit this year will be covered through intra-regional trade, with South Africa supplying the bulk of the grain.

According to the August Cereal Balance sheet of South Africa's Department of Agriculture, the country's maize export plans for the 2005/06 marketing year are estimated at 1.56

million tonnes. These exports are destined mainly for Zimbabwe and the Southern African Customs Union countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland).

As many as 10 million people in southern Africa are food insecure and in need of food assistance until the next harvest in April 2006, after a below normal 2004/05 rainfall season.

The most affected countries are Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Even Botswana, which has not been affected by food shortages in recent times, declared a state of disaster in July 2005.

Although regional estimates of cereal availability in the SADC region suggest an improvement over the previous season, most national cereal totals are much lower than last year's levels. The higher regional total is largely a result of South Africa's bumper maize harvest and high carry-over stock.

Regional cereal availability was 30.22 million tonnes last year, and this year's estimates place it at around 30.94 million tonnes.

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Food security strengthened by cross-border cooperation

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Informal cross-border trade in maize during the 2004/05 season

Source	Destination	Quantities (MT)
Tanzania	Zambia	3 698
Tanzania	Malawi	2 655
Zambia	Zimbabwe	13 106
Zambia	Malawi	2 156
Zambia	Tanzania	93
Zambia	DRC	8 318
Mozambique	Zimbabwe	2
Mozambique	Malawi	71 229
Malawi	Tanzania	637
Malawi	Zambia	33
Total		101 928

Source FEWSNET 2005

In all member states, with the exception of Angola, Lesotho, South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania, where production increased since the last cropping year, cereal availability is below last year's totals, and cereal gaps in the affected countries are significantly higher.

The SADC region has an overall cereal deficit of 1.07 million tonnes, due to high cereal surpluses, amounting to 4.18 million tonnes, assessed in South Africa. Critical cereal shortfalls are assessed in Zimbabwe (1.62 million tonnes), Malawi (838,000 tonnes), Angola (624,000 tonnes) and Mozambique (532,000 tonnes).

With a population of 12 million people, Malawi is facing its worst maize harvest since 1992, producing just 1.23 million tonnes, about 58 percent of the country's annual needs. According to Unicef, the rate of severe malnutrition among Malawi's children is rising "alarmingly".

The country needs US\$88 million worth of food aid, of which US\$9 million is needed to support nutritional programmes for children.

In Mozambique, "... water, more than food, has been identified as the most urgent need. People have to travel great distances - at times 20km to the nearest source - to access water.

"We have also received reports of deaths of livestock and disputes, all related to drinking water," says Francisca Cabral of Mozambique's Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition.

Apart from South Africa and Tanzania, all the other SADC member states will be required to import maize. However, some of the cereal shortfall will be covered through food aid and substitution with other non-cereal food crops such as cassava, sweet potato and plantains.

Household level vulnerability assessments point to a poor rainfall season as the main cause of the food shortages during the 2005/06 cereal consumption period, with HIV and AIDS, poverty and lack of farming inputs as some exacerbating factors.

Realising that food security continues to be the region's

most pressing challenge, SADC heads of state and government adopted the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region in May 2004 as a commitment towards dealing with problems in agricultural production and provision of food.

The leaders agreed to take active measures to improve food security, noting that agriculture is "the backbone of the economy in the SADC region".

As many as 80 percent of the population in the region depend on agriculture for food, income and employment, the leaders said in the Declaration. The performance of agriculture "has a strong influence on food security, economic growth and stability."

They also recognized that the challenges facing the region in agriculture and food security are many, and have their basis in social, economic and environmental factors.

The declaration, signed at a summit hosted by Tanzania's

outgoing President Benjamin Mkapa, seeks to reduce poverty, increase food production, and guarantee food security by establishing a regional food reserve, among other things.

At the summit, development targets and plans were set, and an agreement reached to review progress in two years. The review is due in May 2006.

Southern Africa is also witnessing a cassava and sweet-potato boom as many farmers are turning to these drought-resistant tubers. Although less nutritious than maize, cassava and sweet potato farming is less labour intensive.

In the face of frequent droughts the region is investing heavily in irrigation. This has seen the area under irrigation grow from 1.63 million hectares in 1985 to the present 1.96 million hectares. In addition, a lot of investment is being put into research and production of drought-tolerant seed varieties.

Mogae thanks FAO

THE CHAIRPERSON of SADC and president of Botswana, Festus Mogae has thanked the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for its technical support in the development of an Agricultural Information Management System for the region and other joint activities such as the Regional Agricultural Water Management for Food Security Programme.

Mogae said the SADC region continues to experience problems of food insecurity, insufficient investment in agriculture, high dependence on rain-fed agriculture, and poor access to agricultural inputs and markets.

He was speaking at the FAO 60th anniversary summit in Rome, where he appealed for technical and financial support from the international community for some 10 million of the region's 240-million population who will need food and non-food aid before May 2006.

Vulnerability assessments reflect food shortages due to drought in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Some of the shortfall will be met by other countries in the region.

Mogae also appealed for assistance in the related fight against HIV and AIDS which he described as one of the most debilitating challenges facing the region, and which is made worse by poverty and poor nutrition due to food shortages.



Tracking the Dar es Salaam Declaration

THE DAR es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region, adopted by SADC leaders 18 months ago, is due for a progress review in May 2006.

Monitoring of the implementation by member states of commitments made under the Declaration is expected to improve following a meeting of senior government officials that thrashed out bottlenecks that were hampering the tracking of progress.

The workshop was convened in Botswana at the end of October to simplify and agree on the most appropriate monitoring system to be used by the SADC Secretariat in tracking progress, as mandated by the Extra Ordinary Summit on Agriculture and Food Security held in Dar es Salaam in May 2004.

The Summit, whose objective was to ensure food security in the SADC region and reverse persistent chronic food shortages, adopted the Dar es Salaam Declaration and Plan of Action on Agriculture and Food Security outlining short, medium to long term measures to improve the sector.

Placing the responsibility of implementation of the declaration on national governments, the Summit directed member states to submit six-monthly reports to the Secretariat to facilitate regular monitoring and evaluation of progress. The first comprehensive progress review is due in May 2006.

"However, reporting from member states has been erratic," the Director of the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Direc-

torate, Margaret Nyirenda, told the workshop in Gaborone.

She said by the end of the first 12 months in May 2005, only seven countries had submitted partially completed questionnaires while

only four had submitted progress reports.

Consequently, said Nyirenda, "the Secretariat has been unable to fully monitor progress on the implementation of the Summit plans of action".

Dar es Salaam Declaration Short term commitments 2004-2006

THROUGH THE declaration, SADC leaders agreed on a range of short, medium to long term measures that require urgent attention by member states in order to improve agriculture and ensure food security.

The broad short-term measures for Member States to develop and promote are:

- provision of key agricultural inputs;
 - agro-industrial development and processing to encourage value addition;
 - crop and livestock pests and diseases including revitalising national control measures;
 - crop, livestock and fisheries production through increasing quantities of drought tolerant crops as well as short varieties and stocks; and
 - water management and irrigation with a view to increasing budgetary allocations for this purpose.
- On the critical objective of provision of key agricultural inputs, Member States specifically agreed to:
- establish domestic support measures to vulnerable smallholder farmers to ensure access to key agricultural inputs;
 - institute measures for timeous provision of quality seeds to vulnerable farmers and to encourage contract seed production and to attain regional self-sufficiency by 2006;
 - encourage exploitation of mineral deposits for fertiliser production and make maximum use of available capacity to manufacture fertilisers within the SADC region in order to meet the demand of the SADC region in 5 years time;
 - ensure fair trade in fertilizers and other agrochemicals;
 - endeavour to support tillage services through the promotion of draught power, and the provision of appropriate tillage equipment and affordable mechanisation;
 - encourage research and development of affordable equipment and farming implements;
 - promote labour-saving and gender-sensitive technologies and improve infrastructure in the rural areas; and
 - accelerate land policy reform initiatives, share experiences of best practices, and ensure equitable access to land by women.

At its meeting in June, the Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) directed the Secretariat to facilitate the revision of the questionnaire and the reporting format, a directive that was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in August.

In fulfilling the directive, the Secretariat convened the workshop in Gaborone which was attended by senior government officials directly responsible for reporting progress in their respective countries.

The meeting shortened the questionnaire and as per ICM directive, agreed that member states shall submit completed questionnaires once a year in May while progress reports will continue to be submitted twice a year in May and November.

Some of the critical challenges facing the region include the need to increase productivity, eliminate food deficits and increase intra-regional trade in agricultural products.

In addition, SADC faces the challenges of resource mobilization for agricultural development from public and private sectors as well as from the international cooperating partners, said Nyirenda.

Other challenges range from limited productivity due to lack of appropriate technologies and infrastructure, to over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture and the skewed global environment.

However, the region is richly endowed with a wide range of natural resources, which can be utilized to turn the region's fortunes around and thus ensure food security.

SADC year 2005 in retrospect

by Munetsi Madakufamba

THE CURTAIN comes down on a historic year for SADC during which the regional community commemorated its Silver Jubilee.

Formally launched in 1980 by nine leaders as the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the organisation, whose membership has since grown to 14 countries, concluded yet another momentous year in its history, that is full of many achievements and challenges.

Some of the daunting challenges that the region has faced over its 25-year history remained the dominant issues on the regional agenda this year. They range from food insecurity, poverty, HIV and AIDS to political instability.

With food shortages affecting significant parts of the region this year due to widespread drought, comprehensive implementation by member states of the May 2004 Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security remains crucial.

Like most developing nations, SADC country reports to the UN Millennium Review Summit held in September indicated that while notable progress has been made towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), more still needs to be done to achieve the targets set between 2005 and 2015.

Key among the targets is attainment of economic growth rates sufficient to halve the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015. With modest regional economic growth, averaging less than four percent in recent years, SADC may not achieve the poverty MDG.

On the international dimension of poverty eradication, action on the promises made by the G-8 at their summit

in Glen Eagles, Scotland in July regarding debt relief is as keenly awaited in the region as it is in the rest of the developing world.

On the political front, SADC has moved with measured success.

Based on the SADC Guidelines and Principles Governing Democratic Elections, recent elections have been given regional approval. These include the elections held last year in which Mozambique and Namibia chose new leaders who were sworn in this year.

Zimbabwe and Mauritius held elections this year that were passed by SADC and other regional observers, and bodies such as the African Union.

The United Republic of Tanzania was scheduled to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on 30 October but these had to be postponed to mid-December after one of the candidates died, as the electoral law stipulates 21 days for renomination and another month for campaigning.

The constitutional and electoral process in the Democratic Republic of Congo is moving forward, albeit slowly, with elections planned for early March 2006.

These and other issues formed the agenda of the SADC Silver Jubilee Summit in August in the capital of Botswana,

Gaborone, a meeting that marked the apex of regional anniversary commemorations.

In a manner befitting the occasion, the leaders made a number of landmark decisions. Top on the list was the adoption of the "people's protocol" – the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons in SADC – which now awaits ratification by two-thirds of member states before it comes into force. The protocol adds to a list of 30-plus legal instruments including sector protocols signed by SADC to date.

Sector protocols set the legal framework for regional integration and as one of the most successful regional groupings in Africa, SADC prides itself in a history of unparalleled expansion in socio-economic and political integration.

The Silver Jubilee Summit admitted Madagascar as the 14th member of the regional grouping, expanding the SADC economy to a potential market of almost 240 million consumers.

Former Mozambican finance and planning minister, Tomaz Augusto Salomão, an economist, was appointed by the Summit as the new Executive Secretary, deputised by Angolan engineer, Samuel Caholo.

Salomão, who took up his post on 1 September, began by

visiting member states for consultations, "to listen to their concerns, what they think, and what are their expectations."

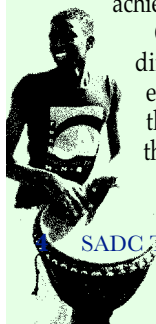
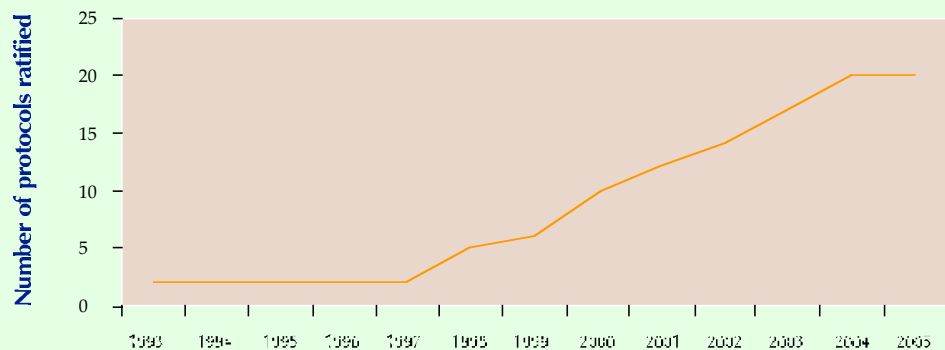
In an exclusive interview with *SADC Today*, Salomão urged the private sector and civil society to play a stronger role in regional development, and says he will improve "the quality of dialogue" with member states and other stakeholders.

The Executive Secretary spoke of the need to streamline priorities presented in SADC's long-term development strategy, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). This, he says, is necessary to "quicken the pace of implementation" and build capacity to monitor the process.

Implementation of the RISDP and its complementary framework, the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, was set in motion at the beginning of the year when the SADC Council of Ministers approved the Secretariat's annual budget and business plans.

The Secretariat is currently strengthening its capacity to implement the strategy documents and monitor the process. A key meeting with international cooperating partners is scheduled for April 2006 to raise resources needed for a further rollout of the RISDP and SIPO.

Number of protocols ratified since 1993



SADC and European Commission sign EPA facility of Euro 7.5 million

SOUTHERN AFRICAN states are set to benefit from improved capacity in trade negotiations and faster integration into the world economy, made possible by a new financing agreement signed between the SADC and the European Commission.

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Support Facility is expected to strengthen the capacity of the SADC Secretariat and of SADC EPA member states to participate more effectively in negotiations with the European Union and to design

and implement trade and development policies.

The Facility will also contribute to the integration of SADC Member States into the world economy, and to poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth through improved trade and trade policies.

The agreement signed by the SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão, and the head of the EC delegation in Botswana, Claudia Wiedey, is valued at 7.5 million Euros. The signing ceremony was the final

stage of a process that included the signing of the agreement by the authorising officer of the European Development Fund on behalf of the EC in Brussels.

Salomão acknowledged that SADC EPA member states need both financial and technical expertise to successfully participate in the EPA negotiations. He noted that the "signing of the agreement could not have come at a better time as it seeks to redress the challenges of limited resources and technical expertise among others."

Wiedey said that the EPA Support Facility is a concrete outcome of the joint EC-SADC efforts to closely link trade and development in the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations. The overall objective of the EPA would be sustainable development of SADC countries as set out in the draft SADC-EC Joint Roadmap for the negotiations.

The facility will provide short-term technical assistance and fund studies on trade policy issues, run regional or na-

tional workshops and training activities, and strengthen the involvement of the private sector and non-state actors in EPA negotiations.

The project will also provide grant funding for non-state actors' activities with regard to trade issues. EPA information products and an EPA webpage will be created to regularly inform the public about the EPA negotiations and SADC-EU trade relations.

The facility will also cover part of the operational expenses of the negotiating structures of the SADC Secretariat and of SADC EPA member states.

The EPA negotiations are taking place in the framework of the Cotonou Agreement signed between the EU and ACP countries in 2000. It provides for the negotiation, before the end of 2007, of new regional trading arrangements, compatible with the rules of the World Trade Organisation.

The SADC-EU negotiations of the EPA were launched in Windhoek, Namibia, on 8 July 2004.

EU bank commits to SADC



The inauguration of the offices of the European Investment Bank Regional Representation for Southern Africa and Indian Ocean by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão and the bank vice president, Torsten Gersfelt.

THE EUROPEAN Investment Bank has reaffirmed its commitment to building economic and social cohesion of southern Africa by opening an office to coordinate its activities in the region.

The bank, which has two other offices in Sub-Saharan Africa, has just opened a new office in Tshwane, South Africa to serve the SADC region.

The EIB is the European Union's financing institution and seeks to contribute towards the integration, balanced develop-

ment and economic and social cohesion of the EU members and their trading partners.

The regional office will service southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region and is expected to increase the effectiveness of EIB activities, in particular those involving the private sector.

SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Augusto Salomão said EIB presence would promote greater foreign direct investment into the region. He cited transaction costs as major impediments to investment inflows.

Water sector boost from GTZ

SADC MEMBER States are set to benefit from German expertise in water management and policy formulation following a new agreement between the region and the Federal Republic of Germany.

German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has availed 2.5 million Euros to SADC to facilitate the harmonisation of national policies related to the water sector, including legislation and management strategies.

Under the implementation agreement, GTZ will second an expert on technical co-operation regarding transboundary

water management as well as a project co-ordinator and short-term experts.

Water policy development and review processes, knowledge management, legal review and drafting of water legislation and implementation processes of catchment strategies within shared watercourses are the areas that short-term experts will focus on under the agreement.

The agreement came into force in October after being signed by SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão, and Tomas Schild of GTZ.

DRC pins hopes on "Yes" vote

by Juakali Kambale in Kinshasa

THE DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo is set to embrace the proposed changes to the national Constitution via the 18 December referendum and avoid a potential leadership vacuum.

The mandate of the current transitional government comes to an end in June next year and through the referendum, the people of DRC will decide whether elections will take place in early 2006 to elect a popular government.

The transitional government fears that should a "No" vote prevail, a power vacuum could be created as it would not be possible to uphold the decision to have elections next year.

"If that happens [the majority votes No], then it will be anybody's guess because the transitional government ends in June.

"But we are certain that the elections will take place in March next year," said the DRC ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mawampanga Mwana Nanga, in an interview with *SADC Today*.

If the people of DRC vote "Yes" on 18 December this would facilitate the holding of general elections on 27 March 2006 as planned. The country's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) says that, if necessary, a presidential runoff would follow in April, at a date to be announced.

However, Reverend Apollinaire Malu Malu, the president of the IEC, fears that the entire peace process could be derailed with the recent postponement of the referendum on the new Constitution. The referendum had been set for 13 November but was delayed until 18 December.

The referendum was postponed because the identification and enrolment of voters has taken longer than expected. Initially, this voter registration was scheduled to take place within three months but was still ongoing by early November.

The exercise was met with unforeseen hurdles due to the immense size of the country, coupled with the degradation of the communications infrastructure.



A registered voter

In some cases, people had to travel distances of more than 100 km to access the identification and enrolment centres scattered across the country.

As if that was not enough, the equipment to register voters had by end of October not arrived in some mountainous areas, particularly the eastern parts of the country.

Other obstacles have been security-related. In the volatile Ituri district in the northeast of the country, the IEC was prevented from identifying and enrolling local voters.

In Bunia, some militias attacked the commission's technicians and took the election materials and equipment, including computers and generators. The UN observer team's logistics department was struggling to ensure that the whole country is covered.

The initial deadline for general elections was 30 June this year, and from that date riots rocked Kinshasa, the country's capital city, and Mbuji-Mayi in East Kasai, in the centre of the country.

Some opposition political parties, such as the Rally for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) of Etienne Tshisekedi, wanted the transitional government to leave office on that date in line with the Sun City Agreement signed in South Africa.

That agreement, signed on 2 April 2003 by the then belligerent groups, paved the way for a transitional government which within 24 months would wind up and facilitate a democratically elected government.

The crisis was brought to an end when parliament granted the government a further 12 months to fulfil its commitments.

If elections go ahead in March as planned, the elected president is expected to be sworn in on 30 June, DRC's Independence Day.

Reverend Malu Malu remains positive that the government and the parliament will make it possible to hold the elections in time.

"The referendum law is ready and has been translated into the four major national languages of Kiswahili, Lingala, Tshiluba and Kikongo because all Congolese people have to understand this important text," he explained.

Necessary facilities have been made available for physically challenged persons including the blind and the deaf.

DRC's population is estimated at 60 million. The IEC had initially targeted to register

about half of the total population -- between 25 to 28 million potential voters.

By early November, the commission had enrolled about 20 million people and had revised the target to about 21 million people by the end of the operation.

"Technically, we cannot do more," Rev Malu Malu said.

Meanwhile, some essential laws were not ready by end of October as the IEC was still awaiting parliamentary approval. These included the Electoral Law and the Amnesty Law.

According to the parliamentary spokesperson, Raphael Luhulu, the National Assembly was ready to discuss the two pieces of legislation and adopt them but the government had not submitted them.

The electoral laws are necessary in the identification of potential candidates for the various political offices.

Several candidates have declared an interest to compete for the presidency. These include the incumbent Joseph Kabila, of the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy; Jean-Pierre Bemba, who is the current vice-president of the republic in charge of economics and finance; Azarias Ruberwa, the vice-president in charge of politics, defence and security; and Professor Arthur Z'Ahidi Ngoma, vice-president in charge of culture and social issues.

Another candidate is Tshisekedi, remembered for his opposition to Mobutu Sese Seko who was overthrown in May 1997 by Laurent Desire Kabila, father of the incumbent president.

Justine Kasavubu, the only woman candidate, is the daughter of Joseph Kasavubu, the first president of DRC, when Patrice Lumumba was prime minister.



Benjamin William Mkapa

Third president of the United Republic of Tanzania
Stands down in December 2005 after two terms in office

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania is an independent, unitary, sovereign and democratic state founded on 26 April 1964 by two independent states – Tanganyika (independence 9 December 1961) and Zanzibar (independence 10 December 1963) – with the objective of building a unified society based on freedom, human rights and peaceful existence. The vast country covers an area of almost 1 million sq km and has a population of more than 34 million, according to the census in 2002. All Tanzanians enjoy rights and responsibilities embedded within the country's Constitution.



MKAPA WAS elected President in 1995 as the candidate of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) with 62 percent of the popular vote, and increased this to almost 72 percent the second time he faced the electorate in 2000, showing the positive response to his focus on improving the economy and the economic conditions of Tanzanians. During his term in office, he restored the dignity of Tanzania's currency and that of the civil service, he established foreign currency reserves equivalent to eight months imports, and presided over a telecommunications revolution that modernized and expanded access. He strengthened the education sector due to his belief that an edu-

cated population is a national resource, and Tanzania expects to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of full enrolment in primary education by next year. The health delivery system has been improved significantly and so has the road network connecting key centres in the country, as new roads were built and main highways upgraded, using local resources.



MKAPA WITH the founding president, *Mwalimu Julius Nyerere*, who established the national ethic, the common vision and values which form the bedrock of Tanzanian society. Nyerere, who died on 14 October 1999, near the end of Mkapa's first term

in office, was popularly known as *Baba wa Taifa* (Father of the Nation). He set the agenda of liberation, democracy, and common humanity in his vision for the continent, and was a key figure in the African struggle against colonialism. After a period of building national unity through the single-party system, Nyerere led the transition to multi-party politics and stood down as president in 1985. The second president, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, served two terms after winning the first multi-party elections. Mkapa is credited with returning Tanzania's sense of direction and good governance. On this foundation, he prioritised economic development, stabilizing the macroeconomic environment and the exchange rate, widening the space for local and foreign investment, and reducing inflation to single digits, at less than 5 percent. The challenge for Mkapa's successor is to focus on agricultural development while sustaining the momentum of economic growth and development, and maintaining peace and stability.



PRESIDENT MKAPA with the First Lady, Anna Mkapa, who also played a role in strengthening the profile of development activities in the country. The outgoing president increased the number of guaranteed seats for women in parliament to a minimum 30 percent,

saying that "our countries will not attain their full potential until we put more women at the centre of whatever we want to achieve." Mkapa co-chaired the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, whose report recognized the resentments stemming from the fact that too few people are benefiting from the opportunities provided by globalisation and the technology driving it. The report says that efforts to build a more inclusive globalisation have to begin at home, urging countries to strengthen regional cooperation "for a stronger voice in the governance of globalisation." Mkapa called on his SADC colleagues to work faster and push harder. "Let us not forget that those who benefit from the current processes and regimes of globalisation will not be in a hurry to reform the system. ...A Sotho proverb says, 'A bird will always use another bird's feathers to feather its own nest.' What we are saying in the Report is that the time has come for the feathers to be spread more evenly and fairly."



MKAPA HOSTED the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in August 2003 and served as SADC Chairperson for the following year, during which he placed emphasis on timebound targets, and action. This is evident in the 15-year Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) launched in early 2004, during his

term as SADC Chairperson. He hosted the Extra-Ordinary SADC Summit that produced the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, leaving a regional legacy in this sector through development targets and plans, including for a regional food reserve. He has been passionate on the subject of land and agrarian reform saying, "we must never forget that small-holder peasants produce the bulk of the food in the region." He is critical of the world's wealthiest countries for imposing tariff barriers and subsidizing their farmers, squeezing African producers from their markets and placing African economies "at the mercy of commodity prices and the weather". Mkapa took every opportunity to speak firmly in support of Zimbabwe's land reform programme. "There are governments – some of them very good friends and development partners of ours – which are upset with me because of my steadfast refusal to censure the Zimbabwean government for what they claim are human rights abuses and democratic deficits in this country. I think we have reached a point where, like good friends, we have agreed to disagree on Zimbabwe. I am glad they have not insisted on choosing friends for us."



HANDING OVER the gavel as SADC Chairperson to Prime Minister Paul Berenger in Mauritius in 2004, Mkapa urged his colleagues to accelerate the pace of regional integration. He called for more policy coherence "and greater political will to lift our vision and focus from the national to the regional. If we are too

bogged down by what we want nationally out of accelerated integration, we risk losing sight of the greater benefits awaiting all of us in the longer term. The largest tribe in Tanzania, the Wasukuma, have a proverb: 'I pointed out to you the stars, and all you saw was the tip of my finger'. Let us resolve today to live our eyes beyond the tip of the finger to the stars."

United Republic of Tanzania

Union elections postponed to 14 December

MORE THAN 15 million Tanzanians are registered to vote in elections on 14 December for a Union president, parliament (the *Bunge*) and local councillors. The Union elections were postponed from 30 October following the death of an opposition vice-presidential candidate, after a high-profile campaign.

Benjamin William Mkapa is standing down after two terms as President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The main contenders in a field of nine candidates to replace him are Jakaya Kikwete of the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), who is the current Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Ibrahim Lipumba of the Civic United Front (CUF) and Augustine Mrema of the Tanzania

Labour Party (TLP), who got 16.26 and 7.8 percent of the votes respectively in the 2000 elections.

The president is chosen with the vice-president through direct, equal and personal universal suffrage, and is elected by a simple majority of valid votes cast. The Union president is the head of state and government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF).

The *Bunge* has a total of 324 seats, including 232 elected constituency seats and 75 special seats allocated to women who are awarded seats on a proportional basis to the number of candidates a party returns. This represents a minimum guarantee of 30 percent women in the legislature. The remaining seats

are reserved for the Attorney-General, presidential nominees, and five from the House of Representatives in Zanzibar. Thirteen political parties are contesting the elections.

The national electoral law makes provision for additional time for nomination and campaigning in the event of the death of a presidential candidate or their running mate. However, since Zanzibar enjoys an autonomous status in non-Union matters, the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) was guided by its own electoral law to proceed as planned and hold elections on the two islands of Unguja and Pemba to choose the Zanzibar president, members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and local councillors.

SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVER MISSION

Preliminary Statement on the Zanzibar Elections held on 30 October 2005

AT THE invitation of the Zanzibar Electoral Commission the Southern African Development Community (SADC) deployed an Election Observers Mission to the 2005 Presidential, House of Representatives and Councillors' Elections. The Mission was guided by the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections as its terms of reference. The Mission was led by Hon. John Pandeni (MP), Minister of Regional and Local Government, Rural Development and Housing of the Republic of Namibia.

The Mission was launched in Zanzibar on 24th of October 2005. However, SADC had pre-election observers constituted by the Diplomatic Missions accredited to the United Republic of Tanzania. The Mission was supported by professional staff from the

Office of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the SADC Secretariat. The team comprised of 22 observers covering the width and length of Unguja and Pemba Islands.

The Mission would like to congratulate the people of the United Republic of Tanzania and in particular the people of Zanzibar Islands following the holding of peaceful, professionally managed and transparent elections. The people of Zanzibar have expressed their will in a peaceful and impressive manner that will go a long way in contributing to the consolidation and strengthening of democracy and development not only in Zanzibar but also in the SADC region as a whole. SADC Mission wishes therefore, to commend the people of Zanzibar for high levels of political tolerance and maturity displayed. This, in SADC Mission's

view, bodes well for nurturing a culture of multipartyism as an essential instrument towards the entrenchment of democracy.

In general the pre-election phase was characterised by peace, tolerance and political vigour of the party leaders and candidates.

With regard to the polling process, it is SADC Mission's overall view that the elections were conducted in an open and transparent manner. The polling stations opened and closed at the appointed times.

It is worth noting that, in general, all stakeholders from party agents, ZEC monitors, law enforcement agencies, local observers and presiding officers performed their duties as expected.

In the discharge of its duties and responsibilities the SADC Mission interacted with political parties and electoral authorities. It also met with the African

Union Observer Mission, the Election Commissions Forum of SADC Member States, the Parliamentary Forum of SADC Member States, Civil Society Organisations and opinion-makers as well as members of the media. These meetings served to gain an insight of the political environment and electoral management and to compare notes on various aspects of the election process. SADC was humbled by compliments extended by the people of Zanzibar wherever its members were present. SADC would like to thank all those who have been of assistance to the members of the Mission.

During its observation the Mission noted the following:

A commendable level of political tolerance, maturity and civil behaviour of political leadership across the Zanzibar Islands;

The Zanzibar election tolerance and political candidates were reflect the will of the people



were characterised by peace, favour of the party leaders and credible and legitimate... indeed so."



Praise for gender equity in Zanzibar poll management

by Bayano Valy in Zanzibar

THE ZANZIBAR Electoral Commission (ZEC) received praise for observing gender equity and women were a constant presence throughout polling stations, mostly as managers.

Political parties delegated women as party agents in many of the polls. Clearly the Moslem holy month of Ramadhan where more is demanded of women to prepare the early evening light meals and to feed the family before sunrise was not a deterring factor and did not work against their participation.

The main regional election observation mission, from SADC, said there was a "commend-

able gender equity" in the electoral management and the electorate.

SEOM findings on gender balance were echoed by the Commonwealth Observer Group whose team leader said, "we're pleased to see large numbers of women amongst the voters and the polling station staff."

Slightly over half of Zanzibar's 509,906 registered voters were women, and there was one woman among the six presidential candidates; 23 of 219 candidates for the House of Representatives in Zanzibar were women; and 28 out of 340 vied for seats in the local government elections.

Tanzanian voters and presidential candidates representing different parties. Top row, (left to right) CCM supporters. Middle row, (left to right), Jakaya Kikwete, Amani Abeid Karume, SADC Observer Mission team. Bottom row, (left to right) CUF supporters in Zanzibar and Seif Shariff Hamad.

Peaceful manner in which supporters of different parties behaved when attending political rallies and meetings;

Visible policing before, during and after political campaign meetings, casting and counting of votes;

The presence of party agents in the polling stations during the vote casting and counting; A commendable gender equity in the electoral management and electorate;

Adequate facilities provided to the voters which made the process orderly.

SADC Mission however, noted concerns expressed by some voter card holders whose names did not appear in voter's roll and belated posting of voters roll to allow fast identification of names at respective polling stations. The Mission was encouraged by the

positive response by the Electoral authorities in addressing the above concerns providing clarification to the citizens. These observations do not in any way demerit the whole electoral process and democracy in the Zanzibar Islands.

Once again, SADC Mission congratulates the people of the United Republic of Tanzania and in particular the people of Zanzibar Islands for peaceful, professionally managed and transparent elections. It is the view of SADC Mission that the results shall indeed reflect the will of the people and that the elections were credible and legitimate. The Mission also commends all political parties and candidates for their instructive political maturity, which once again demonstrates the peaceful culture that Tanzania has earned over the years.

CCM wins Zanzibar poll, President Karume re-elected

TANZANIA'S RULING party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), and its presidential candidate and incumbent, Amani Abeid Karume, won the 30 October poll in Zanzibar.

Karume was re-elected for a second five-year term by 53.2 percent of the voters, with 239,832 votes cast in his favour. His closest challenger, Civic United Front (CUF) presidential candidate, Seif Shariff Hamad, garnered 46.1 percent of the total, which accounts for 207,733 of votes cast.

CCM returned 30 of its candidates to the 50-seat Zanzibar House of Representatives. All were elected on the main island of Unguja. CUF swept all 19 seats contested on the northern island of Pemba, its main stronghold. The election for one seat in Unguja was postponed to 14 December.

There was a high turnout which ZEC put at 90.8 percent

– 460,581 ballots cast for the presidential elections. ZEC had registered 509,906 voters.

Zanzibar's main opposition party challenged the election results and said it would not recognise Karume's government. The CUF leader had told journalists on 30 October after casting his ballot that the elections were being conducted smoothly and that if things remained as they were he would "accept the results even if I lose".

The election observer missions were positive about the poll, and the statements ranged from "free and fair" to "credible and legitimate" to "good elections". These were the views of the observers from SADC and the Commonwealth, among others, and they were unanimous in saying that the poll had been peaceful, professionally managed and transparent.

A regional framework for coordination of traditional medicines

A SADC ministerial committee will recommend the development of a framework for the coordination of traditional medicine in the region, which will see traditional medicines used alongside modern medicines in the treatment of various diseases.

The committee was established by SADC leaders at their Summit in Mauritius last year to make proposals on the promotion of research on safety, efficacy and use of traditional medicine in addressing major diseases and as nutritional supplements.

Summit also "underscored the importance of nutrition and

traditional medicine in addressing health challenges, in particular HIV and AIDS."

The leaders noted that the "major contributing factors to the spread of the pandemic include widespread poverty, gender inequality, illiteracy, stigma and discrimination and inadequate healthcare delivery systems as well as substance abuse."

The ministerial committee on traditional medicine established by the Summit is made up of the health ministers from Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The initiative seeks to accord official recognition to traditional medicines, hitherto used in secrecy. It is not uncommon that relatives of a patient admitted in hospital sneak in herbs and traditional roots if they do not see any improvement in the condition of their kin.

Zimbabwe's health and child welfare minister Dr David Parirenyatwa, Malawi's health minister Dr Heatherwick Ntaba, Zambia's deputy Health Minister Dr Kapembwa Simbao and South African health minister Dr Manto Tshabalang-Msi-

mang agreed at a recent meeting that it was time research into traditional medicines was strengthened.

The research would focus on different priority areas, including HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal and child health among other things.

"We have agreed to consider the use of the parallel system, but recognising the need to interact and cross-referral whenever necessary. If a doctor fails to treat a disease, they should be able to refer it to a traditional practitioner because in certain instances this has been known to work," the ministers said in a joint communiqué.

The ministers agreed that they wanted traditional medicines to be thoroughly examined so that these could be integrated into the national health delivery systems of SADC Member States.

They encouraged SADC members to develop appropriate legislation for the establishment of councils for traditional medicine, protection of practitioners and consumers, including the issue of licensing traditional medical practitioners.

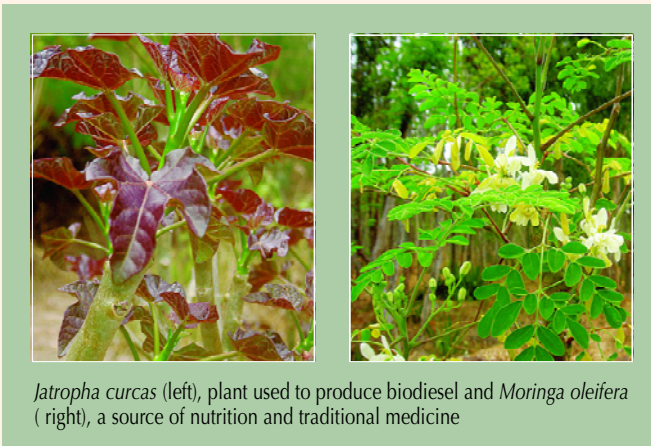
Zimbabwe invests in biodiesel

ZIMBABWE HAS commissioned a project to produce biodiesel, an alternative source of fuel already in use in South Africa and seen as the way forward for most southern African countries that rely on fuel imports to power their industries and move their cargo.

Biodiesel is a clean burning fuel which runs in any unmodified diesel engine. This fuel is an environmentally friendly alternative to the higher emission petroleum diesel used in large transport vehicles and some cars and trucks.

In addition, biodiesel can be made from renewable resources such as vegetable oil or animal fat and even from used cooking oil, an abundant waste product.

Biodiesel is currently being manufactured at an industrial scale by large companies but can also be made on a small scale with simple technology.



Jatropa curcas (left), plant used to produce biodiesel and *Moringa oleifera* (right), a source of nutrition and traditional medicine

The Zimbabwean project will see more than 31,000 hectares of the *jatropa curcas* tree being planted. The seeds of the tree are then processed into biodiesel. The country will produce its first diesel in three years time.

Other countries where the technology is already in use are Egypt, Germany, India and Brazil. The new technology allows countries to cut down on their fuel imports and to process the oil for other industrial uses, including soap making and lighting.

Mini-labs take science to rural schools

SOUTH AFRICA'S Mpumalanga province is bringing science laboratories to the rural communities to bridge the gap between the rich and poor and allow students to turn theory into action.

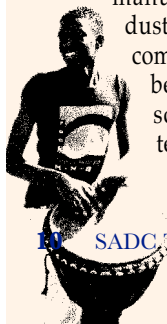
A trail-blazing project launched by the province recently saw high school students from rural areas having well-equipped, mini science laboratories at their doorsteps.

The laboratories are small, compact, durable boxes that weigh no more than 15kg and

do not need electricity. They come with printed and electronic manuals, as well as equipment and chemicals for the Grade 8 and 9 Natural Science curricula.

"The mini-labs are designed to bridge the gap between secondary and tertiary education by stimulating an interest in science," said provincial education spokesperson Thomas Msiza.

"The new laboratories will allow pupils to put theory into practical learning." (*BuaNews*)



US\$11 billion for nine expansion projects

SADC plans to boost electricity generation

SADC REQUIRES about US\$11 billion for nine expansion projects aimed at boosting the region's electricity generation capacity over the next seven years.

The funds are expected to come from governments, private sector, financial institutions and power utilities, as well as through the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The projects include the Western Corridor Power Project, a regional project conceived through the combined initiative of the SADC Secretariat and the power utilities of Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia and South Africa.

A shareholders agreement signed recently by the power utilities from those countries is aimed at operationalising the

project and its management arrangements.

The agreement, signed in September, was a milestone in the creation of a joint venture company, Western Power Corridor (WESTCOR), following the signing last year of an Inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding and an Inter-utility Memorandum of Understanding.

The project is intended to exploit the environmentally friendly, renewable, hydroelectric energy of the Inga rapids site in the DRC and will add about 3,500 megawatts of power to the SADC region. The project will also develop the associated telecommunications and transmission infrastructure in the western part of SADC.

Transmission lines are to be built between Zambia and

Namibia, with a capacity to transmit 200 megawatts. Construction will start in 2006 and the project should be completed by 2008.

Two other transmission lines will connect Malawi to the Zambian power system and Zambia to Tanzania. Zambia also needs funds for the expansion of a hydropower station and Botswana for the expansion of a 100-megawatt, coal-fired power station to 300 megawatts.

Lesotho launches new strategies to boost economy

LESOTHO HAS targeted the next three years as the watershed period during which it will seek to boost its economic performance and eradicate poverty.

Job creation and bolstering food production will be the cornerstones of the Lesotho government's fight against poverty, according to the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper that put the kingdom's unemployment rate at 31 per cent.

Under the plan, the government will channel most of its energy and resources into supporting small, medium and micro-enterprises as part of a broader strategy to boost economic growth.

Measures being proposed include creating an enabling investment climate, which will involve expediting business licensing and easing immigration procedures.

(*allAfrica.com*)

The projects aimed at expanding electricity generation capacity in the region include a pipeline to transport gas from off the Namibian coast to Namibia's Kudu gas power station, which is expected to produce about 800 megawatts.

Namibia launches indigenous business forum

NAMIBIA HAS taken a bold step to economically empower the majority black population by forming a body to spearhead the full participation of indigenous businesspeople in the economy.

The Indigenous Business Forum seeks to promote dialogue between the public and private sectors in supporting local businesses and is seen as providing a boost to small and medium enterprises, which are a vital component of the country's industrialisation.

The launch of the forum ties in with regional efforts to redress imbalances created through years of colonialism as well as to help restore confidence in the abilities of indigenous business entrepreneurs.

Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba noted at the launch of the forum that it was time for a change in ownership of the country's means of production that had largely remained unchanged since independence in 1990. (*Business Report*)

South Africa proposes to eliminate import-parity pricing

SOUTH AFRICAN companies are set to benefit from lower input costs if proposals by their government to eliminate Import-Parity Pricing (IPP) go through.

IPP is the practice of selling locally produced goods on the domestic market at a price that customers would pay if they were importing the same products.

The South African government is considering a multi-pronged approach that could result in the scrapping of import duties, use of incentives to force IPP practitioners to lower prices, and reforms in competition legislation.

The new set of policy proposals seeks to eliminate the IPP model, which has been criticised for unfairly inflating prices. Users of steel and chemicals as

industrial inputs will benefit from the change of policy.

The government is looking at how to use incentives such as electricity rebates to encourage companies to move away from IPP and also at strengthening competition laws and removing tariffs on some imported products.

By introducing the new proposals, the South African government hopes to reduce the cost of inputs for downstream players so that they do not pay a price that includes import tariffs and transport costs as if they had imported the product. (*Business Report*)

CURRENCY CHECKLIST

Country	Currency	(US \$1)	Country	Currency	(US \$1)	Country	Currency	(US \$1)
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwele)	90.98	Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	5.66	DRC	Congo Franc	487.50
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lsele)	6.70	Madagascar	Malagasy Franc	9,202.00	Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	122.00
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	30.31	Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	26,700.00	Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	6.70
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	6.70	Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	6.54	Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,149.50
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,100.00	Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	60,790.90			

November 2005

Angola is SADC's World Cup team for 2006

by Mukundi Mutasa

AS ANGOLA is celebrating its 30th anniversary of independence this year with a peace process that ended almost as many years of civil war, it has capped this victory with another one on the soccer pitch, emerging as the only SADC competitor for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

This will be the maiden appearance of the Palancas Negras (Black Impalas), as the team is affectionately known.

Peace returned to Angola with the signing of an accord in April 2002, following the death of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, and ushered in an ambitious national reconstruction effort aided by revenue from the oilfields.

But the war had left Angolan infrastructure in need of a serious rebuilding exercise, including a well-coordinated demining programme and commitment to the recovery process from all citizens.

From the ashes of the terror war waged on the Angolan citizenry for decades by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), the country has begun to show progress in reconstruction, including preparations for national elections next year, and the qualification for the global soccer showcase will boost national morale.

Angola was officially admitted to the World Cup during the 1986 qualifiers whose finals were hosted by Mexico.



Angola qualifies ... supporters ecstatic.

This is not the first football victory for Angola, which won the Council of Southern African Football Associations (Cosafa) Castle cup a record three times in 1999, 2001 and 2004.

In 2001, when war was still at its peak, the Under 20 national soccer team also won the African Youth Championship in Ethiopia, and qualified for the last 16 at the global level.

The qualification of Palancas Negras was largely been attributed to that team effort.

Soccer pundits say that the team captain Fabrice "Akwa" Maieco and Pedro Mantorras were the key to qualifying, and they have received much praise for their contribution to the success of the team.

The players' exposure to the Portuguese and other foreign leagues have helped the team to gain international experience. Mantorras plays for the Portuguese side Benfica while captain Akwa plies his trade in Qatar.

Akwa scored the winning goal against Rwanda on the last day of the qualifying matches, squeezing out Nigeria to take the sole group ticket to the finals.

Angola joins fellow debutantes Ghana, Ivory Coast and Togo along with Tunisia as Africa's representatives to Germany 2006.

Angola's participation at the prestigious tournament will raise the profile for southern Africa as the region prepares for the historic 2010 World Cup to be hosted by South Africa.

Other southern African qualifiers at a World Cup tournament were Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) in 1974, and South Africa in 1998 and 2002.

At the African Cup of Nations finals to be held in Egypt in early 2006, Angola will be joined by fellow SADC countries DRC, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The five SADC countries are among 16 African countries which qualified to compete in the biennial tournament.

Memories of legendary boxer Lottie Mwale live on

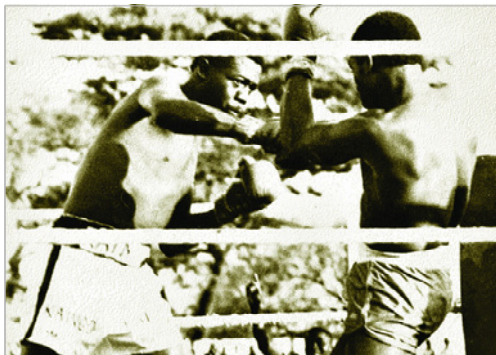
by Patson Phiri

THE COLOUR of the gloves that took the legendary Zambian boxer Lottie Mwale to a 24-year-long successful boxing career may have faded with time but his life is stuck in the collective memory of his country and its neighbours.

Mwale's disciples still remember very well how his blue boxing gloves punched 477 bouts. He held on and only lost three.

Mwale's success is incomparable, and the region is still struggling to produce a boxer that will come close to his stature.

The chain of fights that Mwale won included the Commonwealth Gold Medal in 1974, following a long spell



Lottie Mwale (left) in action in 1979 with Malian boxer, Ba Sounkalo.

of amateur boxing. He also won the World Military Games in 1976 after turning professional at the age of 24.

Then he took a parallel direction, against all odds. After one year of professional boxing, he fought Tony Sibson in England where he maintained his heroic tactics and went on to win the fight.

Simply put, Mwale was a beacon of boxing in the region

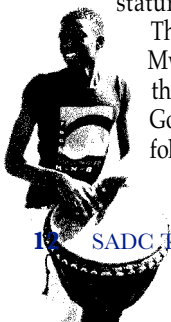
where he marshalled acclaim and support. He was nicknamed "Gunduzani", coined to suit the taste of his fans back home. *Gunduzani*, in his native language Nsenga, means "shake them".

His juggling boxing tactics, his authority in the boxing ring and his ability to deliver what he promised the fans is a reason for his memories living long after his demise.

Mwale died recently after a long struggle with Parkinsons disease which caused him paralysis. He had been in and out of Zambia's University Teaching Hospital until he gave up on his life.

He was born in 1952 in Zambia.

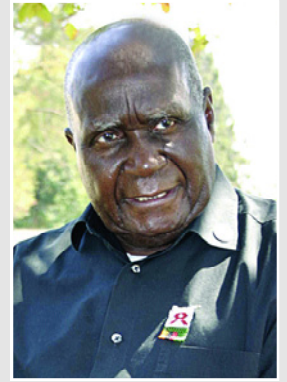
The SADC region mourns the death of a legendary boxer.





SADC Today Exclusive Interview with Kenneth David Kaunda

TO CONCLUDE the SADC Silver Jubilee year, we interviewed Dr Kenneth Kaunda, the first President of Zambia and former Chairperson of the Front Line States, about his perspectives on the history and future challenges of SADC, a regional community of which he was a founder. The interview was conducted by Zambian journalists Amos Chanda and Patson Phiri at Dr Kaunda's home in Lusaka.



Q *Looking back 25 years ago to the founding Summit you hosted in 1980, what are your impressions of the region?*

KK 1980 was a great year because the region was just coming out of the envelop of closure. It was a year when the region was opening itself to the modern world.

I received my colleagues from Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana and others. Altogether, we were nine. We met and discussed the beginning of things. It was a very happy occasion. We agreed to get moving and formed a coordinating conference [the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC)].

Q *What motivated you and your colleagues to do this?*

KK We were engaged in a very bitter struggle against apartheid. I realised that the rest of the region will not be free entirely if apartheid [in South Africa] continued. The white people thought they were superior because of their colour.

There was once a Prime Minister of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, now Zambia and Zimbabwe and Malawi. One prime minister [Welensky] for all these countries! There was a partnership he had agreed upon with the British: the same partnership as exists "between a horse and a rider". Now, as a black man, can you fail to identify a "horse" and a "rider"? They had dirty minds. That partnership was blackmail. This is what led to the start of the struggle.

There was apartheid, so the political independence we enjoyed was not enough. We depended on South Africa for our economy. I thought of unity. You see, Europeans, as individual countries were always quarrelling. Yet they are now a union. I thought we could create one community. It was a coordinating conference and now a community.

Q *What challenges do you see SADC facing today?*

KK We have now moved but a lot still needs to be done. It is not easy. Even in Europe there are still difficulties. They are old countries but they still have difficulties in having the real unity. We need to fight poverty and disease, HIV and AIDS, etc.

Q *How should the region respond to HIV and AIDS?*

KK There is still need for a more coordinated institutional framework. The churches, the NGOs and various organisations should form one regional grouping because all the countries have been affected. They cannot afford to fight HIV and AIDS as individual countries because the people are one.

In my humble opinion, there is need for every country to hold a national conference involving all stakeholders who should later

come together as a region. It worries me that every country and organization is working in isolation. Mind you, we are the hardest hit area in this region. At the moment, there is too much isolationism.

Q *What is your view on peace and security in the SADC region?*

KK The leaders, even in the affected countries in the Great Lakes region are doing a great deal of work. I know of some leaders who have been asked by the African Union to unite these nations. But the problem is deep. It is very deep. These wars were financed by colonial masters. They wanted to keep the countries isolated so that they could amass the wealth in these countries. They sowed the seed of destruction.

But does someone know what the individuals who were behind that agenda are doing by now. So even when they try to help stop these wars, there is need to look at what is deep down the cause. They could still be fuelling these wars, but it is just a matter of re-organization.

It will not be easy to stop wars in these sister countries but I appreciate the efforts put up so far.

Q *Do you see hope for sustainable unity in the region after civil war in DRC and Angola?*

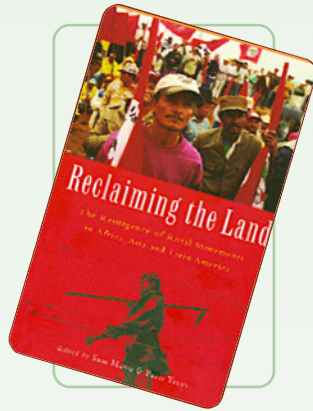
KK We must appreciate what is happening in Europe. Europeans have seen wars but they have moved from that situation. They are now uniting, like we have seen the establishment of a uniform currency, the Euro. It is working well. It has become very famous. ...

I am looking at a situation where SADC will also have its own single currency. We may not be around as founding fathers of SADC when the region will have a single currency but there will come one. Definitely.

Apart from that, there is need for free movement of people and goods as well as services. That is true unity. Why shouldn't we unite? We are all God's children united from an era of colonialism.

We need to remove the roadblocks and have unity. I hope the leaders can also put in place institutions which should unite us. They have already achieved something but they should not sit down. They must move faster.

The ministers of transport should look at the possibility of connecting the existing rail lines from one region to another so that people can move freely and to any destination in Africa at lower costs. The Tanzania-Zambia Railways can be linked to the Horn of Africa. In the south, Zambia is already linked to Zimbabwe and the rail line can be moved to other regions. That is my view on how I want Africa to be. But there is need to move faster.



Land and agrarian reform on three continents

THIS BOOK examines the resurgence of rural movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America, notably those that have recently emerged in Brazil and Mexico, Zimbabwe and the Philippines. Others in Africa included are Malawi, Ghana and South Africa, and an examination of land conflicts in general in sub-Saharan Africa.

The analysis is based on country case studies that seek to identify their social composition, strategies, tactics, and ideologies; to assess their relations with other social actors, including political parties, urban social movements, and international aid agencies and other institutions; and to examine their most common tactic, land occupation, its origins, pace and patterns, as well as the responses of governments and landowners.

This is the first comparative study of land and agrarian reform across the South in the recent context, amid the challenges of globalisation. It examines the structure of the land occupation movement in Zimbabwe and the inherited agro-industrial complex, as well as ideological influences and the role of the international financial institutions. Various models of land reform are presented. The book predicts that landlessness and land hunger will grow in Malawi and South Africa in the foreseeable future.

The longer term potential impact of these rural movements is demonstrated. In economic terms, the possibility of tackling poverty through the redistribution of land is considered and the reorganisation of production on a more efficient and socially responsible basis. In political terms, the role and impact on landowners and transnational capital are examined.

The book brings together for the first time across three continents, an intellectually consistent set of original investigations into this new generation of rural social movements.

Reclaiming the Land, edited by Sam Moyo and Paris Yeros, published by David Philip/New Africa Books in Cape Town and ZED Books in London, in association with The African Institute for Agrarian Studies, 2005.



Information management and its impact on development

THIS IS a book about the widening information gap and its impact on development. It is not a book about technology, but about the importance of managing information in any form.

Noting that development is "largely about empowerment", the book says there are two crucial elements: people should have the necessary information to make choices; and their views should be valued and listened to.

The book is for development managers in all sectors, and argues that information should be the responsibility of everyone in any organization, especially the managers.

It shows that effective information management is almost always related to capacity building. "The value of information is how it is used."

The text is well organized, well written and accessible. The contents include the expected chapters on how to use knowledge, and the role of ICTs, together with innovative concepts such as "information architecture" (information flow within an organization), information economics (financial resources), and strategic approaches.

Information Management for Development Organisations, by Mike Powell, second edition, published by Oxfam GB, 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons

14pp.

Gaborone, Botswana, SADC Secretariat, 2005

The overall objective of this protocol is to develop policies aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the movement of persons of the region into and within the territories of state parties.

Available from SADC Secretariat, P. Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana.

Email registry@sadc.int
www.sadc.int

The Illegitimacy of External Debts: the Case of the Democratic Republic of Congo

32pp.

Harare, Zimbabwe, AFRODAD, 2005

This report attempts to establish and document the illegitimacy of the DRC's foreign debt. It further argues that the huge chunk of the DRC external debt should not be an obligation to the nation, it is a regime's debt, a personal debt of the power that incurred it – led by Mobutu Sese Seko -- and consequently it should have gone with the fall of his power.

Available from African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD). P.O Box CY1517, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

E-mail afrodad@afrodad.co.zw.
Website www.afrodad.org

The Loan Contraction Process in Africa -- Making Loans Work for the Poor: the Case of Mozambique

28pp.

Harare, Zimbabwe, AFRODAD, 2005

The rate of Mozambique's external debt has accelerated since the 1980s as a result of political factors associated with the civil war and the cyclical natural disasters that have affected the country. This resulted in the failure to implement some national projects when part of external financing was devoted towards disaster relief. Despite the positive impact of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative in terms of debt burden alleviation, external debt remains a serious threat to overall efforts towards poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

Available from African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Harare.

Zimbabwe Millennium Development Goals: 2004 Progress Report

72pp.

Harare, Zimbabwe, UNDP, 2004

This first Zimbabwe Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report seeks to re-affirm Zimbabwe's commitment to social development and poverty eradication. By recognizing the strong link between poverty, gender and the HIV and AIDS pandemic, the report draws attention to Goals 1 (poverty), 3 (empowerment of women) and 6 (HIV and AIDS), as the national priority goals, which underlie the achievement of MDGs in Zimbabwe.

Available from UNDP 8th Floor, Takura House, 67-69 Nkwame Nkrumah Avenue, Harare.

E-mail registry.zw@undp.org.
Website www.undp.org.zw



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EDITOR

Munetsi Madakufamba

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Bayano Valy, Eunice Kadiki, Mukundi Mutasa,
Chenai Mufanawejingo, Patson Phiri, Joseph Ngwawi,
Chipo Muvezwa, Alfred Gumbwa, Maidei Musimwa,
Pamela Mhlanga, Phyllis Johnson

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Petronilla Ndebele
Acting Head of Corporate Communications Unit, SADC

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Arnoldina Chironda

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Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Editor, SADC TODAY
SARDC, 15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel 263 4 791141 Fax 263 4 791271
sadctoday@sardc.net

or
SADC HOJE

SARDC, Rua D. Afonso Henriques, 141, Maputo, Moçambique
Tel 258 1 490831 Fax 258 1 491178
sardc@maputo.sardc.net

Information 21 Websites
www.sadc.int www.sardc.net www.ips.org www.saba.co.za

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EVENTS DIARY 2005

25 Nov-10 Dec
Global

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

"For the Health of Women, For the Health of the World: No More Violence" is the theme of this annual commemoration, a continuation from 2004, which emphasises the connections between women's human rights, violence against women and women's health.

December
1 Botswana

Launch of the 1st SADC Report on HIV and AIDS

8-9 India

SADC-India Forum

The inaugural forum will be held on the basis of an MOU between SADC and the government of India signed in October 1997. The MOU provides a framework for promoting technical cooperation on identified economic priority areas for regional development.

5-7 Botswana

Stakeholder Dialogue, Participation and Networking Initiative Conference

Zambezi Action Plan Project 6 Phase 2. IUCN's Regional Office for Southern Africa and SARDC's Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre host a conference to discuss the development of an integrated water resources management strategy for the Zambezi River Basin, consult with stakeholders, and share information on other basin initiatives.

7 Mozambique

SADC Seed Security Network Steering Committee

Meeting organised by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate to develop methodology for early warning system for seed security.

8-9 Mozambique

Harmonization of Seed Regulations

A workshop for SADC permanent secretaries and directors of policy and planning.

13-18 China

World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference

The Ministerial Conference is the highest authority of the WTO and takes decisions on all matters under multilateral trade agreements. The ministers will be meeting for the sixth time since 1995.

January 2006
24-29 Global

6th World Social Forum

To be held simultaneously in three regions of the world in Mali, Venezuela and Pakistan, the forum provides an opportunity for social movements, NGOs and civil society organisations opposed to neo-liberalism and capital imperialism to debate and formulate proposals and plans for action.

26-29 Switzerland

The World Economic Forum

An international forum that brings together business and civil society leaders, media and policy makers in an intensive five-day programme of workshops and panel discussions that focus on crucial economic issues

February
14-17 Mauritius

Light Engineering Investment Promotion & Business Co-operation Meeting

Organised within the framework of the EU-SADC Investment Programme (ESIPP), a joint programme that is designed to attract foreign investment into the region. Meeting aims to promote the development of the light engineering sector through a series of one-to-one business meetings with investors.

20-24 Botswana

SADC Council of Ministers

Ministers from each member state sit in Council, usually from the ministries of foreign affairs, economic development, planning or finance. The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations to Summit.

30 years

Independence of Angola
11 November 1975-2005



BW Mkapa on the value of freedom, and the hope for dignity

OUR ELDERS taught us that a tree with deep roots cannot be easily uprooted. SADC has deep roots. We cannot forget those roots – roots that lie deep in the comradeship moulded in a shared struggle for freedom, for justice and for dignity.

By chance of history, Tanzania became independent with majority rule earlier than other countries in southern Africa and by a firm practical commitment to the principle – that our freedom would remain incomplete as long as our brothers and sisters in the rest of the continent were not free – Tanzania became the home of choice for freedom fighters and revolutionaries.

We willingly played that role, seeing it not as a burden on our shoulders, but as a privilege felt in our hearts to stand firmly for justice, for principled humanity and for dignity. It was, indeed, a privilege to work with those of you who were part of that struggle.

This now is a place and time for reflection; where we can reminisce about a war bravely fought and rightly won. Times have changed, yes. But the value of our freedom has not diminished. We have to draw inspiration from the past, and build principled commitment to a shared struggle for balanced regional economic development.

For, political freedom in poverty is only half freedom. When you are poor in material terms, people tend to think you are also poor in intellect. So, they want to think for you, and decide for you. Now, that is not freedom. ...

Two years before the then Tanganyika became independent, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere spoke in the then Tanganyika Legislative Council, and he said:

“We, the people of Tanganyika, would like to light a candle and put it on top of Mount Kilimanjaro which would shine beyond our borders giving hope where there was despair, love where there was hate, and dignity where before there was only humiliation.”

Today, all our countries are free in political terms, but our people still need hope – a different kind of hope – hope not just to live, but also to live well; hope not only to continue to be free, but to be free in decency and dignity.

I welcome you to Tanzania so that together we may mould ourselves into a modern-day candle, whose light will shine beyond the borders of each individual member country, and also into the rest of our continent, giving hope where there is despair, love where there is hate and dignity that comes from victory in the war against poverty, and HIV and AIDS.

Substance of speech by the Host President welcoming colleagues to the SADC Summit, Diamond Jubilee Hall, Dar es Salaam, 25 August 2003. Mkapa served as the third President of the United Republic of Tanzania from 1995-2005.

We shall return

To the houses, to our crops,
to the beaches, to our fields
we shall return

To our lands
Red with coffee
White with cotton
Green with maize fields
we shall return

To our mines of diamonds
Gold, copper, oil
we shall return

To our rivers, our lakes
our mountains, our forests
we will return

To the shade of the *mulemba*
To our traditions
To the rhythms and bonfires
we shall return

To the marimba and the *quissange*
to our carnival
we shall return

To our beautiful Angolan homeland
our land, our mother
we shall return

We shall return
to liberated Angola
independent Angola.

A poem by Agostinho Neto, Aljube Prison in Lisbon, October 1960

From *Sacred Hope – Poems* by Agostinho Neto, published by the Angolan Writers Union, 1986, sponsored by the National Bank of Angola. Translated to English by Marga Holness. Original painting by António Domingues in the author's private collection.

Public holidays in SADC December 2005 - February 2006

9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC
26 December	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Malawi
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Public Holiday	Zambia, Zimbabwe
27 December	Public Holiday	Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe
1 January	New Year's Day	All Countries
2 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
3 January	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 January	Martyrs' Day	Angola, DRC
10/11 January*	Eid-ul Adha	Tanzania, Mauritius
12 January	Zanzibar Revolutionary Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
16-17 January	Heroes' Day	DRC
18 January	Kabila Hero Day	DRC
29 January	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
11 February	Thaipoozam Cavadee	Mauritius
26 February	Maha Shivratri	Mauritius

* Depends on visibility of the moon