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Trade targets attainable

by Munetsi Madakufamba

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WITH JUST over 12 months remaining before the SADC region can create its Free Trade Area, Member States remain confident that they can move a gear up to iron out outstanding impediments for the region to achieve set targets.

Since 2000, SADC countries have been implementing a programme towards creating a Free Trade Area by 2008, a Customs Union by 2010, a Common Market by 2015 and a Monetary Union by 2018.

However, the last heads of state Summit, in the Lesotho capital of Maseru in August, raised concern about the pace at which SADC's economic integration programme was being implemented.

The Summit appointed a Ministerial Task Force to come up with a progress report which was tabled be-

fore an extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Midrand, South Africa, in October.

The extraordinary Summit noted that several challenges needed to be overcome but reaffirmed the region's commitment to achieving the trade milestones.

"Summit noted progress made in the attainment of an FTA [Free Trade Area] and concluded that the SADC Free Trade Area programme is on course and that it will be launched as planned by 2008," reads the communiqué in part.

However, the Summit noted that SADC's trade patterns consist mainly of commodities and that there is need to diversify Member State economies and increase intra-regional trade and growth.

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Trade targets attainable

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"In addition, Summit noted that the establishment of the FTA should take cognisance of developmental integration elements such as infrastructure, poverty alleviation and sustainable development," says the communiqué.

On whether the Customs Union is based on an appropriate model, the Summit directed the Ministerial Task Force to undertake and finalise a study to advise on suitability of the model.

"In this regard, Summit directed that a road map be developed to facilitate the implementation of the SADC Customs Union programme," says the communiqué.

As the SADC region moves towards the planned Free Trade Area, one of the challenges is to bring down tariff and non-tariff barriers in line with agreed timetables within specific product lines. The target is to ensure that 85 percent of all intra-regional trade is at zero tariffs by 2008.

Economic integration in SADC is guided by the Trade Protocol, which was signed in 1996 and came into force in 2000.

As part of its implementation, Member States have been negotiating tariff reduction schedules, rules of origin, a dispute settlement mechanism, special product agreements, elimination of non tariff barriers and harmonisation of customs, trade documentation and clearance procedures.

Tariff phase down is based on a variable geometry model, taking into account the asymmetrical level of development in Member States.

SADC Member States are at different levels of development, with South Africa far much more developed than the rest in terms of industrial base.

Countries within the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland - are liberalising faster, followed by Mauritius

and Zimbabwe, while the rest follow.

Tariff reduction is divided into three categories, the first being goods that were to be liberalised by 2001, the second by 2008 and the third by 2012.

Special agreements have been concluded on trade in sensitive products such as sugar, and textiles and clothing.

Negotiations on rules of origin, which seek to promote use of local raw materials, were the most difficult, but have since been completed for most product lines. The most sticky areas were wheat flour products and motor vehicles.



Another challenge for Member States to achieve a successful Free Trade Area is to address the supply side of trade. This calls for a strong industrial base in each member state to produce exportable goods that have a competitive edge.

The variable geometry model is meant to allow Member States time to adjust and prepare themselves for inevitable competition in a liberalised market. The question is whether industries in Member States have had sufficient time to prepare for the new market.

Multiple membership to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that are working towards creating, or already have, a Customs Union is yet another challenge. Some SADC Member States belong to SACU, which is a functioning Customs Union, while others belong to either the East African Community (EAC) or the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA),

Category of goods	Tariff reduction
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Immediate reduction of duty to zero upon gazetting of tariff schedules Member States; o On average 47% of all goods traded under this regime by 2001.
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Gradual tariff reduction over 8 years; o 85% expected to trade at zero tariff by 2008.
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sensitive products mainly in areas of security, health and safety; o Constitute 15%; o Tariffs expected to be eliminated by 2012.

Note that the Trade Protocol as amended in 2000 does not cover second hand goods which shall continue to attract duty at current levels.
SOURCE: SADC Today Vol. 6 No. 1 April 2003

SA), which are planning their own customs unions.

World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules prevent countries from belonging to more than one Customs Union at the same time. This calls for rationalisation of existing and planned customs unions if Member States are to comply with WTO rules.

Economic integration in SADC is expected to boost intra-regional trade, which stood at 25 percent of all international trade in 2003. The target is to increase trade among Member States to between 35 percent and 60 percent by 2008.

At present, intra-regional trade is concentrated in the SACU countries with far less trade happening among non-SACU members.

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 the framework of the WTO
- o Ensure that tariff reduction does not negatively impact on weaker or 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.



New SADC Water Policy

Water resources key to economic development and poverty reduction

by Hastings Chikoko

SADC RECOGNISES water as the engine for economic growth and has renewed its commitment to providing a framework for developing, utilizing and protecting water resources in the SADC region.

Through the recently released regional water policy, which has been endorsed by all Member States, SADC presents the context and intent for water resources management, representing the aspirations and interests of the southern African countries.

Developed by the SADC Water Division through a consultative and participatory process, the policy seeks to guide the harmonization of national policies and the implementation of activities by all stakeholders in a region where 70 percent of the water resources is shared across national boundaries.

SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão noted in his Foreword that the region is largely water deficient and marked by high variability of rainfall in both space and in time, thus resulting in a mismatch between water availability and water demand.

"Water supply and sanitation coverage in the region is still far below acceptable standard and this poses a serious challenge in achieving the Millennium Development Goals on water," says Salomão.

Salomão points out that the living standard of the region's rural population is still very low with poverty still rife.

"Water resources development through strategic infrastructure is therefore seen as a direct answer to the region's poverty reduction goals and improvement of living standards of our peoples," he says.

The water related challenges, according to Salomão, "call for cooperation amongst Member States in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) especially along shared watercourses."

IWRM is the fundamental approach that has been adopted by SADC recognizing the fact that water is cross-cutting in nature - both across political boundaries and across sectors.

IWRM is the common thread that links the elements of the new regional policy. It is characterized by methodologies for institutional development, capacity-building, stakeholder participation, integrated planning, conflict resolution and environmental management.

However, its application is more likely when national water policies adopt and incorporate IWRM principles.

Throughout the policy, SADC is impressing upon its members to ensure that water resources are developed and managed in a manner that contributes to regional economic integration and development, ensuring equity and mutual benefits for all Member States.

Guided by the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses, the policy encourages SADC

states to exploit opportunities for joint water resources development in shared watercourses to amicably prevent and resolve water conflicts and consolidate regional cooperation in accordance with the principles enshrined in the SADC Treaty.

The water policy emphasises that water is a social and economic good and, as such, should be developed and managed to provide economic benefits, human dignity and social well-being. In addition to clean water for domestic use, SADC states should seek to provide water for productive activities in rural and peri-urban areas in order to alleviate poverty and to correct imbalances in development.

According to the policy, water is a vital resource for energy and industrial development. In addition to ensuring adequate water for industrial use, Member States should optimize the use of hydro-electricity generation potential to provide cheaper and environmentally friendly sources of energy.

Areas with comparative advantage for rain-fed and irrigated agriculture must be targeted in order to attain regional food security. SADC Member States should therefore promote improved tillage and rainwater harvesting techniques to optimize the use of water by rain-fed agriculture.

Affordable and sustainable techniques for small-scale irrigation should be developed as a

measure to increase the production of food and cash crops in rural areas. Pricing of irrigation water should also be consistent with the need to provide economic incentives for efficient use.

The water policy commits SADC states to the protection of human life, common property and the environment against the effects of water-related natural and human-induced disasters.

The environment is recognized in the policy as a resource base and a legitimate user of water. Member States should therefore take all necessary measures to sustain it, undertaking strategic environmental assessment where necessary.

The SADC water policy consolidates water-related policy provisions scattered in various SADC documents into one single document and provides for the establishment of inter-sectoral coordination on water related management issues at regional, river basin and national levels. The policy will be implemented through a regional water strategy.

The policy recognises the role of the SADC Secretariat and calls for the creation of an enabling institutional environment that enhances the participation of all stakeholders.

An important vehicle for implementing the policy is the existence of well-functioning river basin organisations established particularly for shared watercourses and operating under sound legislation.



New regional customs clearance system adopted

A NEW regional customs clearance system to facilitate speedy processing of imports and exports in southern Africa came into force on 1 October.

The Regional Customs Transit Bond Guarantee System (RCTBGS) will ensure that goods in transit within SADC are checked only at the point of entry and final destination.

This will reduce costs of moving the goods, reduce transit time and guarantee bonds at every point of entry.

A single bond would enhance security of goods in transit and protect government revenues.

The bonds will enable exporters and importers to smoothly move their goods across the region using a single guarantee bond to be accessed in Durban, South Africa, or any other port of entry into the mainland.

Currently, traders must obtain transit guarantee bonds at every port of entry and pay huge fees for the service.

Transit operations often involve long delays that substantially add to the transportation cost. This is largely due to procedural delays involving customs documentation processing; immigration, insurance, and transit bond procedures; security inspections and weigh stations; phyto-sanitary and traffic checks.

A World Bank study conducted in July 2000 examined delays at selected Southern African border posts. Results showed that, for example, delays at Machipanda (Mozambique-Zimbabwe) amounted to 24 hours, 36 hours at Beitbridge (South Africa-Zimbabwe), 36 hours at Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe-

Zambia) and 24 hours at Kazungula (Botswana-Zambia).

Although not easy to quantify, the loss in revenue due to border delays in the SADC region is estimated to run into millions of dollars a year.

Transit procedures in landlocked countries affect exports

and imports differently. The transit costs are somewhat less for exports than for imports. Exports frequently leave the country without paying any duties, so countries are less worried about revenue loss, thus making complex controls unnecessary.

Malawi, Mozambique border to open 24 hours

THE MAIN border post between Mozambique and Malawi at Zobue in Tete province will shortly be open 24 hours a day if plans by the two SADC neighbours are successful.

Keeping the Zobue border post open 24 hours a day will be of considerable importance for trade using the Tete corridor - the road linking Malawi to Zimbabwe.

The decision to open the border post throughout the day follows a meeting between Mozambique's Defence Minister, Tobias Dai, and his Malawian counterpart, Davies Katsonga.

Malawi and Mozambique also signed a cooperation protocol which will help the two countries deal with issues such as cross-border trade and illegal immigrants. (AIM)

Reciprocal visa exemptions for Angola, Namibia

ANGOLA AND Namibia have agreed to exempt each other's citizens from visa requirements in a move expected to improve trade opportunities and other bilateral relations between the two countries.

This means that with effect from 5 October Namibian and Angolan citizens do not require visas to pass through their common border points. This will strengthen the flow of people and enhances trade and tourism opportunities between the two countries.

"The visa requirements for visiting Namibian nationals have been one of the biggest barriers to trade between

Namibia and Angola," said Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive officer, Tarah Shaanika.

Namibia will be the first SADC Member State whose nationals will be exempted from applying for visas when entering Angola. Until now, Angola had demanded visas for visitors from all the other 13 SADC countries.

Some SADC countries have already scrapped visa requirements for citizens from other Member States. These include Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland, whose citizens no longer require visas to cross borders between the three countries.

Also, exporters are fewer than importers and are better equipped to deal with transit logistics. Customs transit is, therefore, largely an import concern.

Member States of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), except for Swaziland, were already using a single customs declaration form at their common borders.

Swaziland started using the new declaration form with effect from 1 October. SACU comprises Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

Additional access route for South Africa and Namibia

SOUTH AFRICA and Namibia will open an additional access route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in 2007 as part of tourism development ahead of the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The two countries plan to open a border post at the proposed Mata Mata access road and gateway. This is an integral part of an envisaged coast-to-coast transfrontier tourist route being developed for the 2010 World Cup.

The park has been identified as a priority for implementation within the first phase of the Transfrontier Conservation Area 2010 strategy, which is an official SADC initiative.

"As a tourism border post, Mata Mata will increase revenue for the TFCA by capitalising on the new TransKalahari Highway and attracting a new stream of visitors from Namibia," said South Africa's Minister of Tourism, Marthinus Van Schalkwyk.



Normal rainfall season forecast

SOUTHERN AFRICA is poised for another good agricultural season as weather experts forecast normal rainfall in 2006/07. According to 10th Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF), which met in Botswana in September, the rainfall 2006/07 season in SADC will be split into two parts - the first half stretching from October to December and the remainder from January to March 2007.

The SARCOF meeting was convened to come up with a consensus forecast for the rainfall pattern in SADC in 2006/07.

October-December 2006

IT IS projected that in the first half of the season, the northern parts of SADC have an increased chance of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall.

This area comprises the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), northeastern Angola, the northern part of the United Republic of Tanzania, most of northern Zambia, southern Malawi, and part of northern Mozambique.

Also forecast to experience normal to above-normal rainfall in this period are most parts of South Africa, Namibia, Madagascar, Botswana, Swaziland, Angola and the whole of Lesotho.

Elsewhere in the region, during the first part of the season, should receive normal to below-normal rainfall.

This covers other parts of the United Republic of Tanzania, most of Mozambique, northern Malawi, southern and extreme northeastern part of Zambia, Zimbabwe, northern parts of South Africa and Swaziland, most of Botswana, most of Angola, Namibia, the southern flank of South Africa, north-western part of Madagascar and Mauritius.

The outlook was prepared by climate scientists from national meteorological and hydrological services within the SADC region. Additional contributions were from the Harare-based SADC Drought Monitoring Centre, and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society.

The SARCOF forecast comes at a time when international weather experts have warned of developing El Niño conditions across the Pacific Ocean over the past five months, a development likely to dampen prospects of another good agricultural season in southern Africa.

In an El Niño update issued at the end of September, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) warned that climatic patterns across the equatorial Pacific have since July developed a notable tendency towards El Niño conditions.

The WMO said there was general agreement among weather experts that the development of "a weak to moderate basin-wide El Niño is now like-

January-March 2007

Most SADC countries have increased chances of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall during January-March 2007.

Northern Tanzania has a greater chance of receiving above-normal rainfall.

However, some places may receive normal to below-normal rainfall during the second half of the season. These are the southwestern part of DRC, greater part of Angola, western Zambia, extreme western part of Zimbabwe, Botswana, most of Namibia, greater part of South Africa, Lesotho, and most of Swaziland.

ly and that such an event would persist into early 2007".

Sea-surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific close to the South American coast became warm towards the end of July, while oceanic and atmospheric patterns in the central and western equatorial Pacific also began to resemble conditions typical of an early stage of an El Niño event in August.

The El Niño effect has been associated with previous drought periods that have hit southern Africa. The phenomenon causes the sea temperature to rise significantly and the air to become dry, affecting the rain-formation process.

"In view of the evolving situation, additional caution is required in forming expectations about impact in those regions



Another good agricultural season projected.

typically affected by El Niño events," said WMO, noting that the situation was likely to become clearer by December.

Region moves to harmonise seed regulations

PERMANENT SECRETARIES of agriculture in the SADC region have approved a harmonised system of seed regulations as part of measures aimed at boosting regional food security.

The harmonised seed regulations, approved by the permanent secretaries at a regional meeting in South Africa in September, comprise the SADC Common Variety Release System, SADC Common Seed Certification and Quality Assurance System and SADC Common Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures for Seed System.

The technical agreements will be presented to the ministers of agriculture and thereafter to the Council of Ministers.

SADC Common Variety Release System establishes a regional variety catalogue and enables the marketing of all crop varieties



in the 14 SADC Member States. This will facilitate widespread availability of improved varieties of all crops to farmers.

Variety release systems in most Member States require that before a new variety is released it has to pass through lengthy testing and release procedures before the seed can be marketed. This denies or delays farmers' access to new products.

A procedure manual for regional variety release based on process management is being proposed and will provide the mechanism for public and private sector breeders to apply for regional variety release.

US\$5.2 billion needed to boost generation capacity

THE SADC region requires at least US\$5.2 billion between now and 2011 to rehabilitate existing power stations and invest in short-term electricity generation projects, according to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Rehabilitation and associated infrastructure projects, most of which are under construction and scheduled for completion before the end of 2007, will add 3,200 Megawatts (MW) of power to the SADC grid at an estimated cost of US\$1.4 billion.

Short-term generation projects, for which feasibility studies and environmental-impact assessments have been completed, will cost the region an estimated US\$3.8 billion while adding about 4,200 MW to the regional grid on completion around 2011.

With some of Africa's fastest expanding economies, southern Africa is expected to run out of surplus generation capacity after 2007.

Net regional generation capacity is expected to clock 45,000MW by 2007 against peak demand of well over 45,000MW at that time.

This is on the back of regional demand for electricity which has increased at the rate of three percent per annum for the past 10 years against declining investment in generation and transmission infrastructure.

At present, the region has a combined total installed generation of 52,743MW but the net generation output is around 45,000MW.

To operate optimally, SAPP must ensure it maintains a generation reserve level of 10.2 percent or higher at all times. It is projected that at current demand growth levels, the region could exhaust its reserve capacity after 2007 and would not be able to

meet further increases in demand for power.

Another strategy being pursued by SAPP is to undertake short-term transmission projects

that focus on bringing onboard three non-operating members, Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania.

This strategy has involved investing in inter-connectors to supply electricity to the three countries. The reinforcement of the 220-kilovolt (kV) DRC-Zambia inter-connector is expected to increase the power transfer capacity from the DRC to Zambia and to increase trade between the DRC and other countries. Work on this line is still in progress.

The Zambian Electricity Supply Corporation energised the 220-kV Zambia-Namibia inter-connector in August 2006, which is being performance-monitored. The line is meant to increase the

will be interconnected, enhancing trade, supply security and regional economic integration. The three countries have, consequently, mobilised funds for technical, economic, financial and environmental studies for a three-part project.

This will be made up of a Zambia-Tanzania inter-connector, beginning at Pensulo substation, near Serenje in Zambia, and ending at Mwakibete sub-station, near Mbeya, in the United Republic of Tanzania; reinforcement of the Tanzanian transmission system to allow transfer to Kenya; and a Tanzania-Kenya transmission line from Arusha to Nairobi.

The three governments have agreed to proceed to the next

preparation-for-implementation phase, for which the African Development Bank and the Development Bank of Southern Africa have provided grant funding. A consultant is undertaking an environmental and social impact assessment study for the reinforcement of the transmission system in Tanzania.

Medium term to long term generation projects to supply power to the SADC region include the Western Power Corridor Project (Westcor), which is expected to move some 4,000 MW of power from Inga Three in the DRC, to the regional power grid and to pick up 6,500 MW of generation at Kwanza river in Angola.



Cahora Bassa dam is a major source of power for SADC.

security of supply to the northern part of Namibia from Zambia.

An inter-connector between Malawi and Mozambique is expected to be completed within two years of the signing of an agreement between the buyer, Escom of Malawi, and the seller, HCB of Mozambique.

Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya have agreed to implement the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya inter-connector project, through which the power systems of the three non-operating countries

ADB to raise funds for Inga project

THE AFRICAN Development Bank (ADB) says it will mobilise public and private funds to finance the feasibility studies for the Inga, the biggest energy project in Africa.

Thanks to its huge hydroelectric potential as well as its potential impact on regional integration in Africa, the "integrating character" of the Inga

project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been stressed to revive the project.

"Great Inga, with a power production capacity of 39,000 megawatts, will provide the opportunity of the project to export electricity at the pan-African level," ADB said in October.

Stronger ties for Africa and China

"Friendship, Peace, Cooperation and Development"

RELATIONS BETWEEN China and Africa are poised to grow stronger after both sides agreed to strengthen economic, cultural and political ties.

Economic cooperation was one of the main issues that emerged from the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Beijing in November.

Chinese President Hu Jintao announced a set of measures, spanning the whole spectrum of relations between China and Africa. The measures covered political, economic, technological, social and cultural relations and are aimed at creating a win-win situation for both parties.

These include a US\$3 billion preferential loan package and a US\$2 billion "preferential buyers' credits" to Africa in the coming three years.

The Asian country, an emerging world economic power, also promised to set up a US\$5 billion China-Africa Development Fund to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa. The fund will be used to provide start-up capital to Chinese companies wishing to invest in Africa.

In a move expected to benefit several SADC countries, China pledged to double aid to Africa by 2009 and to cancel all debt owed to it by African countries that became due in 2005.

Hu announced that China will also train more than 10,000 African professionals in various fields; set up 10 centres of agricultural excellence in the three years; build schools and clinics; and cooperate with African coun-



SADC Chairperson, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of Lesotho at the FOCAC

tries in politics and multilateral issues.

China pledged to establish up to five trade and economic zones in Africa by 2009 in a move that will see the Asian country opening up its market to African producers by increasing from 190 to 440 the number of duty-free export product from least developed African countries with diplomatic ties with China.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and African countries.

In a move aimed at bolstering Sino-African political ties, the Chinese will build a conference centre for the African Union.

One of the highlights of the summit was the holding of the first meeting of the China-Africa Business Council in Beijing, signalling new efforts by China and Africa to boost cooperation in private sector.

The business council was first established in 2005 to create a service network and commu-

nication platform for Chinese and African businesses.

The two sides agreed on the need to create favourable conditions to maximise the role of private businesses, which will inject new life into Sino-African relations.

With domestic market competition tightening at home, Chinese private businesses view Africa as a viable market with a lot of opportunities.

The Chinese enterprises pledged to help their African counterparts strengthen local infrastructure and improve living standards.

Bilateral trade between China and Africa totalled US\$40 billion in 2005 while the Asian country invested US\$6.3 billion in Africa during the same year, according to official Chinese statistics.

Africa's exports to China as a proportion of trade with industrialised countries have grown from 0.43 percent in 1990 to 8.96 percent in 2004, and these are set to expand as a Chinese-driven commodity price boom takes the world by storm.

The most significant opportunity opened-up to Africa by China's rapid growth is the enhanced incentive provided by rising commodity demand and prices.

Many African economies, including most SADC Member States, have rich primary product resources.

The FOCAC summit also presented an opportunity for both China and Africa to strengthen cultural ties.

Cultural exchanges and cooperation have become an important part of Sino-African relations and have promoted mutual friendship.

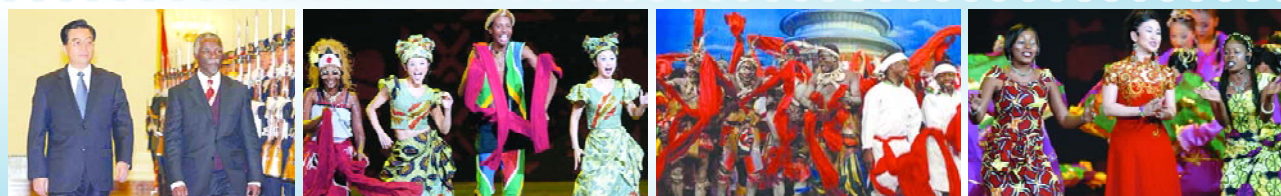
To date, China has signed 156 cultural cooperation contracts with African countries, and more than 50 cultural groups representing the Chinese government have visited Africa. Over 170 African state cultural troupes have visited China.

The FOCAC summit was attended by more than 1,700 delegates who included 48 African leaders and representatives of over 20 international organisations.

FOCAC is a mechanism for collective dialogue and cooperation jointly established by China and Africa to cope with new challenges and facilitate common development.

Since the launch of the FOCAC in 2000, two ministerial conferences have been held in Beijing and Addis Ababa.

The theme for the summit was "friendship, peace, cooperation and development".



Presidents Hu Jintao and Thabo Mbeki, African and Chinese dancers showcasing culture.

Polls in DR Congo and Madagascar com

Joseph Kabila

A unifying force in DRC

WHEN HE was sworn in as president a few days after his father's death, few outside the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) gave the then 29-year-old Joseph Kabila much chance of bringing peace to the country.

Many doubted his commitment to comply fully with the 1999 Lusaka Accords that called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the DRC and an end to fighting.

Within a few months of assuming power and despite his youth and relative inexperience, the new DRC president proved the sceptics wrong by reviving the faltering Lusaka agreement, opening the country to United Nations peacekeepers and commencing work on the country's poverty-stricken economy.

He began a series of high-level meetings at home and abroad. He met in Kinshasa with the presidents of Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe, who were his father's staunchest allies during the civil war against Ugandan and Rwandan-backed rebel movements, a war which left more than a third of this huge and wealthy country outside the control of Kinshasa.

The allies had pledged to continue support for the new president despite the heavy toll on their own economies caused by their participation in the three-year war.

The new President Kabila met with South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki shortly after taking the oath of office and just before leaving for talks in Paris, Washington and New York.

He met President Jacques Chirac in France, attended a prayer breakfast with the newly inaugurated President George W.

Bush in Washington and met senior officials of that new administration including Secretary of State Colin Powell. Kabila also met with top UN officials, in-

cluding members of the Security Council in New York.

The meetings were all crucial, both for DRC and for the Great Lakes region. The rebels and their backers controlled much of the eastern part of the country and insisted that they would pull out only when a democratic government was elected by all citizens of DRC and when Rwandan border security was guaranteed, from Hutu militias accused of the genocide of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994.

The UN agreed to send about 5,500, mostly African, peacekeepers to the DRC under the 1999 Lusaka Peace Accords. However, except for a handful of observers, the UN would not deploy the force until conditions for peacekeeping had improved.

Born on 17 June 1971, Kabila spent most of his early years in exile with his father, Laurent, who



President Joseph Kabila

was a fierce opponent of late former Zairean leader, Mobutu Sese Seko.

He attended school in the United Republic of Tanzania following which he went for military training in China.

At the time of his father's death in 2001, the young Kabila was commander of the DRC army and took over as president of the then volatile country.

Excerpts from the SADC Election Observer Mission Preliminary Statement on DRC Elections

THE SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation re-deployed its Electoral Observer Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to observe the run-off Presidential and Provincial Elections from 18 - 31 October 2006. The Mission was redeployed in terms of the provisions of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

As provided for in the Principles and Guidelines, His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation appointed Hon. Brigadier-General Adam Mwanjiki (Rtd.) to lead the Mission.

The Mission comprised of 52 members, 7 of which were female, drawn from 7 Member States and the Secretariat. The Mission recognized the complementarity of its work with that of electoral observation teams under various organizations operating in SADC region such as the Parliamentary Forum (PF) and Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF) of SADC countries. The Mission also recognized SADC national observer teams and SADC citizens

that came under Civil Society Organizations. This presence augmented the voice and the eyes of SADC from all walks of life.

SADC began its formal electoral observation in June 2006 during the Parliamentary and first round Presidential elections. Like in the first round, the redeployment of SADC Mission also began with the Extraordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation held on 19 - 20 October 2006 in Kinshasa.

The Mission covered the width and length of the country through field observer teams pre-positioned in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Kananga, Bukavu, Lubumbashi and Mbanza-Ngugu. The field teams worked in coordination with MONUC and other international observers espe-

cially the AU and other National Observer Teams from SADC Member States. ...

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the SADC region as whole congratulate the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for peaceful and transparent elections. The orderly manner in which voters cast their votes coupled with strict adherence to the electoral law and procedures made the process unquestionably legitimate and credible. Transparency was particularly ensured through the presence of representatives of the candidates who, at the end of vote counting, received a signed copy of certificate of results at each counting centre.

SADC Electoral Observer Mission has therefore no reservations in commending the Independent Electoral Commission for its efforts to ensure a successful conclusion of these complex elections. It is legitimate in this regard, to state that the 29th October 2006 Run Off Presidential Elections of the DRC were peaceful, transparent, well managed and credible. ...



Transportation of ballot papers in DRC.

Issued on 31 October 2006
Kinshasa, DRC.

Complete SADC elections calendar

Madagascar votes

MADAGASCAR COMPLETED southern Africa's 2006 elections calendar with presidential polls scheduled on 3 December.

The elections attracted a strong field of 14 candidates vying for the right to lead the Indian Ocean island for the next five years.

Incumbent President Marc Ravalomanana was expected to win ahead of the 13 challengers who include one woman - human rights activist, Elia Ravalomanantsoa.

Other candidates were the former speaker of the National Assembly, Jean Lahiniriko; former church minister, Richard Andriamanjato; and Roland Ratsiraka, mayor of the port city of Toamasina and nephew of the former president, Didier Ratsiraka.

Nominations for candidacy were confirmed by the country's High Court on 19 October, with three other applicants being rejected.

President Ravalomanana assumed power after defeating Didier Ratsiraka in the controversial 2002 poll in which both candidates claimed victory, until the latter fled to France.

The poll was moved ahead of the initially scheduled date at the end of December or beginning of January to avoid disruption by the bad weather expected during that period.

Since coming to power in 2002, Ravalomanana has embarked on widespread economic and social reforms that stirred the southern African country out of decades of recession. He has won the support of

the World Bank and International Monetary Fund who are supporting his economic liberalisation policies.

In 2004, Ravalomanana led a bid for his country to join SADC and the Indian Ocean island was formally accepted into the regional family at the 25th Summit in Botswana in 2005.

Although current poverty levels are high, Madagascar's economic potential is enormous. The country is the largest producer of vanilla in the world in value terms, but its farmers have suffered from perpetually low commodity prices.

With an economy largely dependent on agriculture - which along with fishing and forestry contributes at least 25 percent



President Marc Ravalomanana

of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - the island also produces coffee, cassava, bananas, maize, sugarcane, potatoes and rice.

Mining and tourism sectors have shown signs of recovery and the government has projected increases in mineral exports from about US\$100 million to US\$150 million per year over the next 10 years.

Country	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS				PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS					Year of independence
	Last elections	Incumbent	Winner	Next elections	Term of office	Last elections	Party with majority	Next elections	Term of office	
Angola	1992	J.dos Santos, MPLA	Dos Santos	TBA	5	1992	MPLA	TBA	5	1975
Botswana	2004	F. Mogae, BDP	Mogae	2009	5	2004	BDP	2009	5	1966
DRC	1960	J.Kabila, AMP	Kabila	2006	5	2006	AMP	2011	5	1960
*Lesotho	2002	P. Mosisili, LCD	Mosisili, PM	2007	5	2002	LCD	2007	5	1966
Madagascar	2001	D. Ratsiraka, AREMA	M.Ravalomanana,	2006	5	2002	TIM	2007	5	1960
Malawi	2004	B. Muluzi,UDF	Mutharika,UDF	2009	5	2004	UDF	2009	5	1964
Mauritius	2003	Offmann/by national assembly	Jugnauth/ by national assembly	2007	5	2005	Social Alliance	2010	5	1968
Mozambique	2004	J. Chissano, Frelimo	A. Guebuza, Frelimo	2009	5	2004	FRELIMO	2009	5	1975
Namibia	2004	S. Nujoma, Swapo	H. Pohamba, Swapo	2009	5	2004	SWAPO	2009	5	1990
South Africa	2004	T. Mbeki, ANC	Mbeki, ANC	2009	5	2004	ANC	2009	5	1994
*Swaziland	N/A	Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini	Themba Dhlamini	N/A		2003		2008	5	1968
Tanzania	2005	B. Mkapa, CCM	J. Kikwete, CCM	2010	5	2005	CCM	2010	5	1961
Zambia	2006	L. Mwanawasa, MMD	Mwanawasa, MMD	2011	5	2006	MMD	2011	5	1964
Zimbabwe	2002	R. Mugabe, Zanu PF	Mugabe, Zanu PF	2008	6	2005	ZANU PF	2010	5	1980

Southern Africa elections calendar

Great tourism potential for SADC

A **BOOMING** tourism industry in SADC will contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of the region, says Namibia's President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Addressing more than 300 delegates who attended the SADC-European Union (EU) Tourism 2006 Forum in Namibia, Pohamba said the tourism potential in the SADC region is exceptionally high

and offers opportunities for further development.

Tourism accounts for an average of 14 percent of the SADC Gross Domestic Product and 15 percent of regional employment, according to statistics from the EU-SADC Investment Promotion Programme (ESIPP).

Industry players and investors agreed to join hands in creating a vibrant tourism sector.

With the demand for travel to the region expected to increase significantly over the next four years, SADC offers attractive investment opportunities for companies involved in the tourism, hospitality and related sectors.

Thousands of tourists are expected to visit the region in 2010 when South Africa hosts the soccer World Cup.

The SADC-EU Tourism 2006 Forum gave an opportunity to tourism promoters and entrepreneurs to present projects to European financial institutions including the European Investment Bank for funding.

The three-day event was aimed at facilitating the formation of business partnerships between EU and entrepreneurs and investors in the SADC region.

Angola poised for growth

ANGOLA AIMS to be the second largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa within the next five years.

The country's Finance Minister, José Pedro de Morais, said Angola has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, with the estimated rate for 2006 reaching 20.6 percent, based on an oil production increase and recovery in other economic sectors.

The country's economy has grown by an average of 12.5 percent and, as a result, its per capita income is estimated at US\$2,000, which puts Angola in the group of countries with high standards of living.

The government's accounts have improved significantly, registering a surplus of 8.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2005, up from 1.1 percent in 2004.

According to the Minister, the non-oil sector has seen improvements in the agricultural field, thanks to progress in landmines clearance, introduction of irrigation systems and the social reintegration of displaced populations.

The construction sector is also growing due to the number of public and private projects



Striking view ... Luanda at night

that are being implemented in all provinces.

A new city, Nova Cidade de Luanda, is being built south of Luanda to house four million people from the overcrowded capital, to which more than half of the country's population migrated during the 27-year civil war.

According to Gabinete de Reconstrução Nacional (National Reconstruction Office), which was set up in 2005 to oversee Angola's post-war reconstruction programme, Chinese building companies will undertake the project, paid for by Angola's oil wealth.

Another project is the Cabinda Urbanisation Project, a pilot scheme of 44 fifteen-storey residential blocks to be built near Cabinda by the China International Fund (CIF).

CIF also has contracts for reconstruction of the Benguela and Mocamedes railways, some diamond partnerships with the state-owned Empresa de Diamantes de Angola and some civil construction projects.

China to appoint Tazara operator

CHINA SAYS it will soon appoint a private Chinese entrepreneur to run the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (Tazara) in partnership with the Tanzanian and Zambian governments.

The Chinese were given a one-year period to select and recommend to the two countries a private firm to operate Tazara.

The move follows conclusion of the World Bank and Chinese government studies which have been handed over to the two countries for recommendation on the way forward of the privatisation process.

In 2005, the Tanzanian and Zambian governments, through Tazara's Council of Ministers, issued a joint communiqué declaring that the Chinese would be given a first right of refusal in considering Tazara's Private Sector Participation (PSP) options.

A report has since been submitted to the two governments with recommendations on how best PSP could be introduced in Tazara.

CURRENCY CHECKLIST

Country	Currency	(US \$1)			
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwe)	80.37	Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	6.37
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lisente)	7.63	Madagascar	Ariary	9,305.00
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	32.90	Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	25.86
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	7.59	Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.54
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	3,800.00	Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	250.00
			DRC	Congo Franc	537.50
			Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	137.98
			Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	7.59
			Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,273.00

October 2006

Interactive website for South Africa's presidency

SOUTH AFRICA'S presidency has introduced a new, interactive website which is expected to enhance accountability in the government's highest office.

The website - www.thepresidency.gov.za - allows users to make suggestions and comments which would be taken up by the presidency's communications unit.

It also offers the public "an insightful look into the internal workings of the institution" and will present the presidency as a body that "symbolises excellence in government," according to Director-General of the Presidency, Frank Chikane.

The interactive nature of the website will allow the media and academics to engage with the presidency and use the in-

formation available to ensure greater accountability.

The website takes Internet users through the diaries of the president and deputy president, special projects being undertaken by the presidency as well as the leaders' thinking on topical issues such as moral regeneration, affirmative action, sexism and the African renaissance.

It also provides links to the websites of all the government departments, provincial governments, the six metropolitan councils and all of South Africa's political parties as well as links to the United Nations, the European Union and others. *(BuaNews)*

Botswana firm invents fingerprint device

A BOTSWANA firm has invented a fingerprint authentication device that is set to bring a new dimension to cellphone and computer security.

According to Pule Mmolotsi, owner of Gaborone-based World-wide Technologies, people will no longer worry about their telephone codes being stolen or others reading their private files in case of shared computers.

With the new system, a person can verify that he/she is the authentic owner of a cellphone

or computer pin code by placing a fingerprint on a sensor on the device. The dialling tone will automatically come on once the device identifies the fingerprint as belonging to the owner of the phone.

Mmolotsi said he developed the technology with research associates from Malaysia.

"The final product is going to be ready by January next year

and it would be followed by a launch probably in March," he said.

Mmolotsi is currently engaged in a massive campaign to promote his product in Botswana and other countries.

He has also received several licensing enquiries from companies in Australia, Ghana, South Africa and Indonesia. *(BOPA)*

Animal antibiotic to control parasites in livestock

AN ANIMAL ANTIBIOTIC to control internal and external parasites in livestock has been developed in Zimbabwe by the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC).

The antibiotic, Sirdamectin, is being registered with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe for commercial production, and SIRDC is working with the Medical Control Authority of Zimbabwe to get its manufacturing facility qualified.

The introduction of the drug made locally will significantly reduce the cost of fighting animal diseases, the SIRDC chief executive, Robson Mafoti, said, adding that his organisation is working with the department of veterinary services in carrying out an efficacy trial for the drug.

Large numbers of cattle die from tick-borne diseases in the SADC region, especially during the rainy season.

Mafoti said that Sirdamectin is one of the most effective animal drugs ever produced.

"Our animal antibiotic Sirdamectin will revolutionise the agricultural sector. Sirdc continues with its research agenda in order to come up with other products, some of which we shall soon be commercialising."

New fuel for phones

BIO-DIESEL is being considered as low-cost alternative fuel for powering cellphone base stations as cellular companies target Africa's rural areas for expansion of telecommunication services.

With feedstock of groundnuts, pumpkin seeds and palm oils, the base stations will be cheaper to operate than stocking conventional diesel generators.

The project is expected to lower the cost of operating base stations in rural areas.

Already cellphone company MTN has embarked on an expansion project that has seen it introduce mobile phones in rural areas in countries such as South Africa and Nigeria. *(Business Day)*

Cellphone cyberspace

BOTSWANA'S MOBILE phone industry is about to receive a major shake-up with the start of open registration for cell phone-specific website addresses.

The general public can now register websites ending with ".mobi" as the backers of the mobile net hope to overturn consumer apathy.

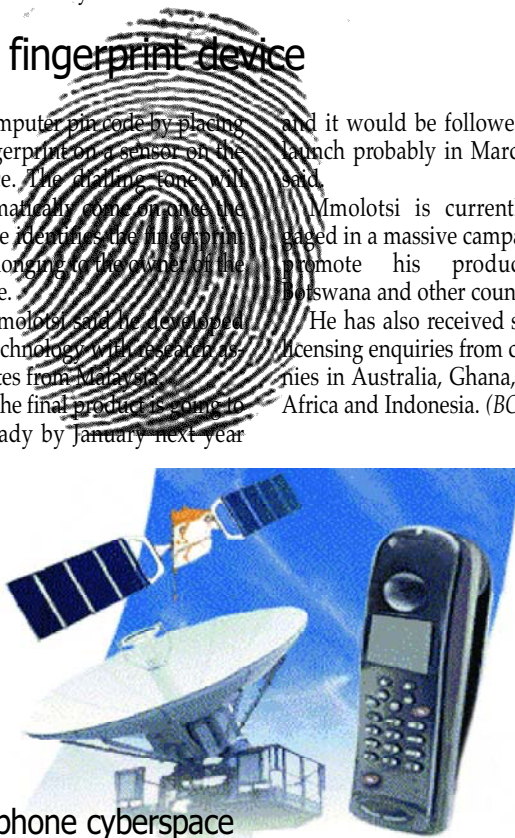
Only 10 percent of cell owners use their phones to surf the net due to concerns

over cost, speed and poor content.

Sites ending ".mobi" are designed for phones and must meet agreed standards.

The organisation charged with overseeing the domain name registration, Mobile Top Level Domain, expects 200,000 mobile sites to be registered in the next year.

It costs about US\$25 to register a ".mobi" site for a minimum two-year period. *(The Voice)*



Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

AFRICA IS well represented in a top United Nations post with the appointment of Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila of Botswana as Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa.

Legwaila is well known and widely respected throughout Africa, and has held key decision-making positions during events that were major turning points for the region and continent.

He served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General during the delicate process of Namibia's transition to independence in 1989 and 1990.

Later, in South Africa in 1993 and 1994, he was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU),



(Insert) Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila. UN headquarters in New York

as the continent's representative at a key moment in its history, watching over the first democratic elections that formally ended the system of apartheid.

Previously, he had served as the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Frontline States to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Legwaila was Botswana's ambassador and Permanent

Representative to the United Nations in New York for more than 20 years.

During this period, he also served as his country's concurrent High Commissioner to Guyana from 1981 and Jamaica from 1982, and concurrent Ambassador to Cuba from 1983; all until 2001.

He served most recently as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

Legwaila is widely known throughout the UN system, and is respected for his integrity and dedication. A notable ingredient in his success is his sense of humour.

Born on 2 February 1937, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila began his career as a primary school teacher in Botswana.

From 1973-1980, he worked in the Presidency with Botswana's founding President, Chief Seretse Khama, before being posted to New York as ambassador.

He served three times as Vice-President of the UN General Assembly – in 1981, 1987 and 1991. He represented Botswana on the Security Council, and served as the Council President in February 1995 and March 1996.

Legwaila's appointment was announced by the UN Secretary-General, effective May 2006. He replaces Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria.

Source: Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations (OSAA)
<http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/bio.html>

Legwaila: "2007 the Year of Results"

LEGWAILA SPOKE recently of the key targets for the coming year and the important role of the private sector in reaching the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"In the past few years, Africa has been accorded high priority on the global development agenda. I am happy to note that the years 2005 and 2006 have witnessed many positive developments in Africa, as well as strong support by the international community. The increased international support has resulted in notable commitments in support of Africa's development in a number of areas, especially in increased development aid and debt relief.

"Building on the progress of the past two years, the most important thing now is to use the window of opportunity created by the growing momentum of international support to turn these commitments into concrete results, and to set the African countries firmly on the path to sustainable growth and development.

"While 2006 has been called "The Year of Action" by the UN Millennium Development Project, it is my sincere hope that we will manage to turn 2007 into the "Year of Results".

"Meeting the Millennium Development Goals in Africa will require sustained efforts by all stakeholders, and the private sector has a key role to play in this task.

"The Millennium Development Goals and the development of the private sector are inextricably linked. The existence of a vibrant private sector is one of the most important preconditions to growth, poverty reduction and development in Africa.

"The Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without the active involvement of the private sector, through job generation, investment and promotion of trade. Equally, the Millennium Development Goals are of great relevance to the success of the private sector, to the extent that the need to achieve the goals is spurring countries to create favourable institutional environment, adequate infrastructure, and access to financing."



SADC rolls out 2007 schools essay competition

THE SADC Secretariat has launched the 2007 secondary schools essay competition targeting students within the 14-member regional economic community.

The competition aims to increase awareness among the

youth about regional co-operation and integration affairs.

The essays are expected to answer the question: "What do you think are the causes of poverty in the SADC region and what steps should be taken by SADC Member States and

non-state actors to eliminate poverty?"

The winner will receive a cash prize of US\$1,500 while the first runner-up will get \$1,000 and the second runner-up gets \$750.

The 2007 essay competition has, for the first time since its launch eight years ago, attracted sponsorship — from the Southern Africa Trust (SAT), which is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID).

The length of the essay should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words and can be written

in English, French or Portuguese, the three official languages of SADC.

The essay competition was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August.

Entries are to be forwarded to the SADC national contact point or the Ministry of Education in the respective countries. Deadline for submission of entries is 31 May 2007.

The winners will be awarded their prizes during the official opening ceremony of the 27th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government to be hosted by Zambia in 2007.

Mozambique and Mauritius renew cultural agreement

MOZAMBIQUE AND Mauritius have revived their 1993 agreement that will cater for cultural exchange and preservation of sites of historical importance, as well as account the joint production and marketing of social, cultural and artistic products.

Education and Culture Minister Aires Aly from Mozambique and his Mauritian counterpart Mahendra Gwressoo, signed the agreement.

The agreement is envisaged to enhance the development of inter-governmental programmes and the interchange between institutions, academics and the producers of art and culture in both countries.

The two countries have shared some historical experiences dating back to the colonial era. Between 1760 and 1762, slaves were trafficked to Mauritius from the southern Mozambican province of Inhambane.

Lesotho hoists new peace flag

THE KINGDOM of Lesotho marked its 40th independence anniversary on 4 October with a new flag that was hoisted to erase the memories of military rule.

The new flag has three colours — blue for rain, white depicts peace and green indicating prosperity.

It is inscribed with a cone-shaped hat worn by the country's indigenous Basotho people.

The flag replaced the one designed by a military government. The old flag has similar colours but portrayed a shield, a knobkerrie and spears.

Reflecting life through art

ART IS an important instrument that can be used to build bridges among the citizens of a country, between people of various nationalities and between generations.

This came out of an exhibition in Germany in October by a young Namibian artist, Imke Rust. The Berlin exhibition was opened by Namibia's Ambassador to Germany, Peter Katjavivi.

Rust's Memories exhibition focused on the absence of her grandfather who was detained in a camp in South Africa during the Second World War.

Katjavivi described the exhibition as raising "wider ques-

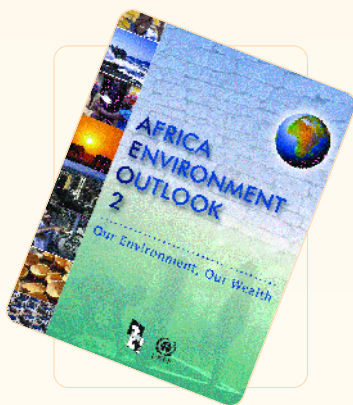
tions about the separation of families."

He stressed that Namibians from other communities, as well as people from other countries, could relate to her work.

Namibia has been through many conflicts, had many men and women detained and separated from their families.

The ambassador also emphasised that it was appropriate to have this exhibition in Berlin, where families had been separated in the past.

He praised Rust's art as "not being conventional, but powerful and provocative", and "of making us question our memories, our societies, and our behaviour".



Our Environment, Our Wealth

THE AFRICA Environment Outlook is produced by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi through its Division of Early Warning and Assessment, at the request of the African Ministers Conference on Environment (AMCEN), while monitoring and analysis is undertaken by regional collaborating centres.

Africa Environment Outlook 2: Our Environment, Our Wealth is inspired by two landmark documents of the United Nations -- the Brundtland Commission's report, *Our Common Future*, and *Agenda 21*, which emerged from the Earth Summit, the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil.

AEO 2 reaffirms the need for sustainable livelihoods, and the importance of environmental initiatives in supporting them. The theme is "Environment for Development".

The collaborating centre for Southern Africa is SARDC's I Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA), which has also produced with SADC the forthcoming *Southern Africa Environment Outlook*.

Available from Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), UNEP, P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi 00100, Kenya or from SARDC.

E-mail cep@sadc.net

africa.coordinator@unep.org

Website www.sardc.net

www.unep.org/dewa/africa

Human Development to 2015: Reaching for the Millennium Development Goals

THE NATIONAL Human Development Report 2005 shows that Mozambique's human development indicators are continuing their upward trajectory as the Human Development Index, calculated from national data, continues to rise. The HDI is based on indicators for GDP, education, and life expectancy.

This report presents the relevance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their close connection with national development strategies, and reflects on the challenges to be faced in meeting the Millennium targets by 2015.

The document outlines an independent intellectual reflection on the challenges towards reaching the MDGs with conjectures on the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats that can be detected in specific targets.

The report was prepared for UNDP by the three partner institutions, National Statistics Institute (INE), Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI) and Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) Mozambique office.

The document is accessible in full text and searchable online in English and Portuguese through the Virtual Library for Southern Africa at www.sardc.net

Available in English/Portuguese in one volume from UNDP, Avenida Kenneth Kaunda, 131, Maputo, and SARDC Mozambique, Rua D. Afonso Henriques, 141, Maputo.

Email registry.mz@undp.org

sardc@maputo.sardc.net

Website www.undp.org.mz

www.sardc.net

PUBLICATIONS

Ecological debt: The Health of the Planet and the Wealth of Nations

by Andrew Simms

UK, London, Pluto Press, 2005

224pp.

This book explores a great paradox of our age: how the global wealth gap was built on ecological debts, which the world's poorest are now having to pay for. Highlighting how and why this has happened, Andrew Simms shows what can be done differently in the future, and what steps we can take to stop pushing the planet to the point of environmental bankruptcy. The author was one of the original organisers of the Jubilee 2000 debt release campaign.

Available from Pluto Press, 345 Archway Road, London N6 5AA

www.plutobooks.com

Gender-Based Regional Integration Plan: Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF) 2006-2010

Botswana, Gaborone, SADC, 2005

23pp.

The Gender-Based Regional Integration Plan: Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF) 2006-2010 is a detailed framework developed in line with the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, the 1998 Addendum on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children, and the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). The framework was developed by the SADC Gender Unit with the help of a stakeholders' consultative conference on the SADC Gender and Development programme held in December 2005 in Gaborone.

This document is intended to guide the design and implementation of gender programmes and activities in the region over the next five years.

Available from SADC Gender Unit, SADC Secretariat, P/Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana

Email gender@sadc.int or mmadibela@sadc.int

The Kingdom of Lesotho: 26th SADC Summit 11 - 18 August 2006

Botswana, Gaborone, SADC, 2006

131pp.

This publication highlights the activities of SADC as part of documentation for the 2006 SADC Summit held in Maseru. It provides profiles of SADC's leaders including the most recent, the President of Madagascar, and the new SADC Executive Secretary. This is a special issue with focus on Lesotho, showing its main areas of economic and social activities.

Available from SADC Secretariat P. Bag 0095

Gaborone Botswana.

E-mail registry@sadc.int.

Website www.sadc.int

Angola National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Angola, Luanda, MINUA, 2006

54pp.

The document presents actions to incorporate adequate measures into development policies and programmes to prevent the degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.

Available from Ministry of Urban Affairs and Environment, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, 30, Caixa Postal 83, Luanda, Angola.

E-mail minua@snet.co.ao



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Information 21 Websites

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

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EVENTS DIARY 2006

November 2006
20-23 Namibia

Second Zambezi Stakeholders Dialogue

The Zambezi Action Plan Project 6, Phase II (ZACPRO 6.2) in partnership with the World Conservation Union's Regional Office for Southern Africa, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa, SADC/DANIDA Awareness Programme, the SARDC's Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (Imerca) and the Institute of Water and Sanitation Development host the second Zambezi Basin Stakeholder Conference to discuss Integrated Water Resources Management issues in the Zambezi river basin.

December
29 Nov-
1 Dec Zambia

Mines 2006

The fourth in a series of sector partnership meetings held under the EU-SADC Investment Promotion Programme (ESIPP), this focuses on Mining. It is a forum where promoters and entrepreneurs from southern African will present a selection of new and high-quality business development projects in the Mining sector to European and other international investors.

3 Madagascar

Presidential elections

This will be the eighth presidential election held since 1965. The President is elected by direct popular vote for a five-year term and the country's electoral system provides for a run-off in the event that there is no clear winner from the first round.

4-5 Switzerland

Implementation and follow-up of WSIS

An experts meeting with the theme "Using ICTs to Achieve Growth and Development" will follow up on resolutions of the November 2005 conference of the World Summit for an Information Society (WSIS). The meeting is organised by the International Telecommunications Union, a specialised agency of the United Nations.

January
17-20 Ethiopia

African Union Summit

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government from the African Union's 53 member countries will meet in Addis Ababa for its eighth ordinary session, with the theme "Science, Technology and Research for Africa's Socio-Economic Development". The meeting will be preceded by the Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives and the Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

20-25 Kenya

7th World Social Forum

The World Social Forum is an annual meeting held by members of the anti-globalisation movement to coordinate world campaigns, share and refine organising strategies, and inform each other about movements from around the world and their issues. Civil society groups will debate and formulate proposals, share experiences and network for effective action under the theme "People's Struggles, People's Alternatives".

February
TBA Lesotho

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.

19-24 Cyprus

International Conference on the Environment

Organised by Near East University of Cyprus, the conference aims to bring together around 2000 scholars and researchers from over 90 countries around the world to discuss environmental issues from a variety of perspectives. Discussions will focus on the survival and sustainability of the environment.

O.R. Tambo International Airport

OLIVER REGINALD Kaizana Tambo was leader of the African National Congress (ANC) for 23 years.

His clear vision, quiet dedication and total commitment, and his consummate diplomatic skills, led the movement through difficult times of the liberation struggle, the hopeful times as the neighbouring countries gained independence, and through an extended period of negotiations that began in the 1980s when he had the courage to authorize contact with the first Afrikaner delegation that sought meetings with the ANC.

President Thabo Mbeki has described Tambo as the "key architect of our revolution who carried the South African nation to the eve of freedom and democracy."

It is widely acknowledged that Tambo sacrificed his own health and eventually his life to drive the negotiations, based on the Harare Declaration, which was adopted by the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations, and became the foundation for negotiations that brought an end to the apartheid regime.

"But like Albert Luthuli, OR had a clear vision of a non-racial, nonsexist and democratic society," wrote a member of the ANC Executive Committee in October as commemorations began, leading to the renaming of the main South African airport.

Nor did he regard himself as a hero, reserving that status for the children and people in the townships of South Africa whom he believed provided the courage for the struggle that he knew would, one day, successfully remove the apartheid system.

O.R., as he was affectionately known, provided the heart and the inspiration to a liberation movement in exile, that eventually carried it through to the majority rule elections of 27 April 1994, a day he did not live to share as he died the previous year. But he was home.

He returned to South Africa in 1991 after spending more than 30 years in exile, and died from a stroke at the age of 75 in April 1993, a year before South Africa's first democratic elections.

In the decade following 1994, with attention focused on his close friend and former legal partner, Nelson Mandela, and his personal assistant and protégé, Thabo Mbeki, sometimes it appeared that the major contribution of this humble man had been forgotten.

But not by those who mattered, and on his birthday, 27 October, when he would have been 89 years old, South Africa's main international airport was renamed OR Tambo International.

Nothing could be a more fitting memorial to Tambo than the busiest airport on the continent, the hub of Africa, visited by millions of people every year.



Angola's independence a milestone for the region

ANGOLA'S INDEPENDENCE on 11 November 1975, after almost 15 years of the liberation war, marked a turning point in southern Africa that eventually led to the liberation of Namibia and South Africa.

There followed 27 years of foreign-backed civil war that drew in the neighbouring countries and sent a flood of refugees out across the national boundaries.

But Angola's peace after the ceasefire agreement signed in April 2002, was a significant boost to the growing peace and regional integration and development in SADC.

Africa's second largest oil-producing country, Angola is enjoying a robust economic growth that leapfrogged to the highest real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the region of 15.6 percent in 2005, and has spurred the region's growth rate of about six percent.

Thirty-one years ago, on 11 November, Agostinho Neto of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was proclaimed the country's first president. In the capital, Luanda, huge crowds cheered and soldiers fired shots in the air as the new flag was raised at midnight.

Mozambique to honour liberator Machel

THE MOZAMBIKAN government plans to erect monuments for its founding President, Samora Moises Machel, in all provinces by 2011, the 25th anniversary of his death.

President Armando Emilio Guebuza made this announcement during the 20th anniversary of Machel's death in a plane crash at Mbusuzi, in South Africa, on 19 October 1986.

Machel died with 34 others on their return from neighbouring Zambia where they had gone to attend a Frontline States meeting.

Public holidays in SADC December 2006 - February 2007

9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International 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, Malawi
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
26 December	Public Holiday	Zimbabwe
1 January	New Year's Day	All countries
4 January	Martyrs' Day	Angola, DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolutionary Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
17 January	Lumumba Hero Day	DRC
18 January	Kabila Hero Day	DRC
1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola