

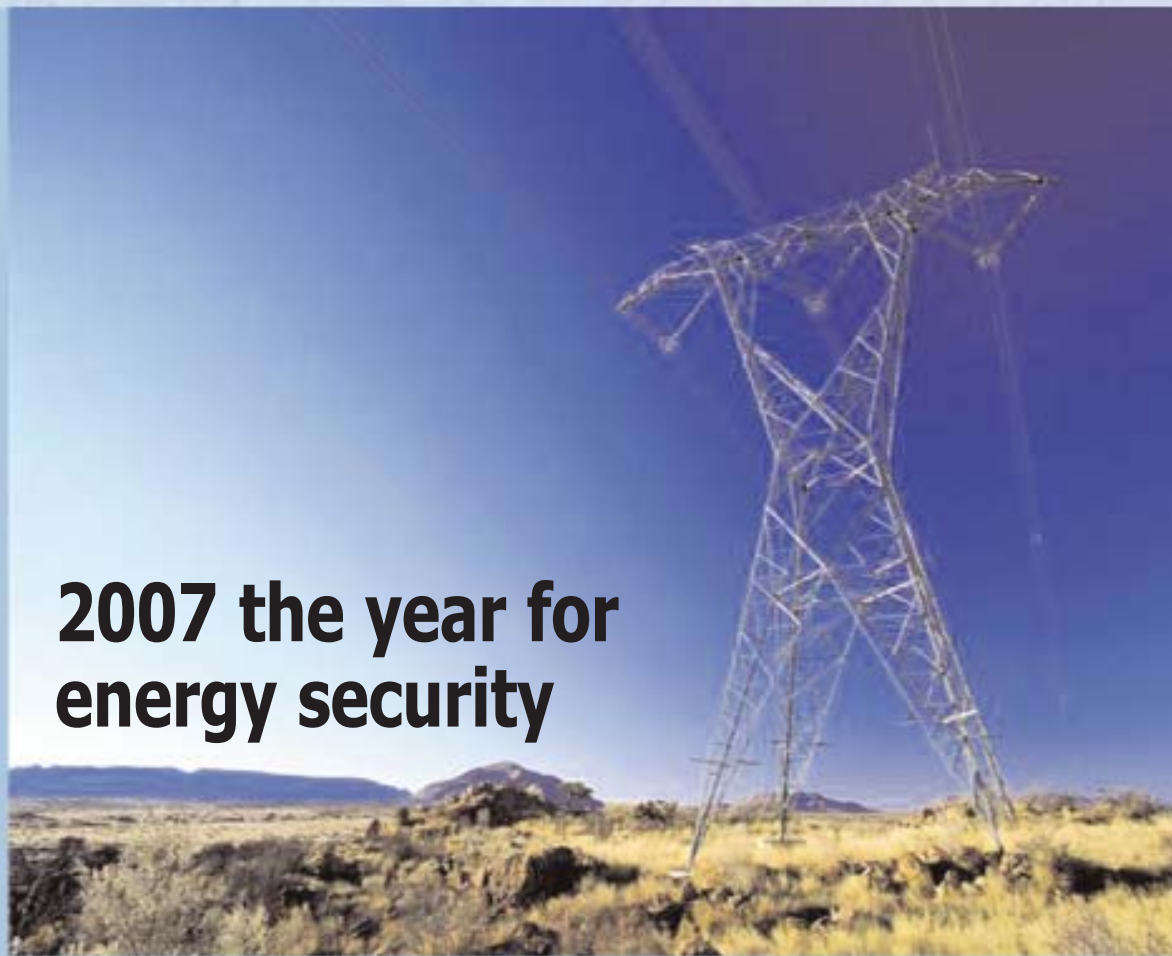


# THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY



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## INSIDE...



## 2007 the year for energy security

by Joseph Ngwawi

**THE YEAR 2007** is set to be a watershed period for southern Africa as it marks the dawn of a potential energy crisis.

With some of Africa's fastest expanding economies, the SADC region has been projected to run out of surplus generation capacity in 2007.

The SADC economy has grown steadily over the past decade with an estimated six percent growth rate in 2006 on the back of strong performances by a number of countries, including Angola and Mozambique.

The strong growth has not been matched by corresponding investment in power generation capacity to support swelling household and industrial demand as well as other users that are constantly being added to the regional grid.

Figures released by the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) show that total annual demand will reach 44,689 megawatts (MW) by the end of 2007 against combined net generation capacity of 45,000MW.

At current growth rate, total regional demand for electricity is projected to hit 45,827MW by the end of 2008; 47,920MW in 2009; 48,795MW in 2010; and 50,291MW in 2011.

The initial effects of the energy shortfall were felt in 2006 when several countries in the region experienced power cuts.

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 SAPP, which coordinates the planning and operation of electricity power systems among SADC Member States.

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

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# 2007 the year for energy security

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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 in 2010/11.

Almost all SADC countries have embarked on projects to boost their electricity generation.

The initiatives being pursued range from conventional infrastructure projects to innovations – all in the hope of ensuring southern Africa's long-term energy security.

Southern Africa's power shortages were previously expected to hit the region in the last half of 2007, but events on the ground indicate that demand has outstripped supply at a pace not originally expected and has surpassed regional load forecasts. Some countries are already experiencing electricity shortages.

The bulk of the infrastructure projects are bilateral arrangements between members.

One of these is a hydro-power station being co-funded by the Namibian and Angolan power utilities, NamPower and ENE, respectively.

Construction of the Baynes hydroelectricity power station will start soon following the signing of a bilateral agreement between the two governments.

"We expect to generate 360 MW from the Baynes project to be built on the Kunene River in Angola," explains NamPower Managing Director, Paulinus Shilamba.

The project will be capable of generating electricity for a period of up to 12 months in the event that there is a drought in the region.

Like several other SADC Member States,

Namibia is keen to attain self-sustenance on energy generation amid fears that the region's major electricity suppliers will run out of excess electricity in 2007.

South Africa, which accounts for more than 75 percent of SADC's electricity generation capacity, has struggled to keep pace with domestic demand.

Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya (a member of the East African Community) have decided to link their power utilities in a move to ease electricity shortages for the three countries.

The project, known as the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Power Interconnection Project, is expected to assist Tanzania and Kenya to access electricity from the SAPP grid, as well as reducing electricity costs for the three countries.

The power trade project will be developed in two phases at an estimated cost of US\$660 million.

The first phase, to cost US\$358 million, is scheduled to start in March and will be completed by 2009. It will build a transfer capacity of 200 MW of electricity.

Phase two is to cost US\$302 million for another transfer capacity of 400 MW upon completion in 2014.

Apart from transmission of power, the towers carrying the high voltage transmission conductors will also carry low voltage conductors for rural electrification along the transmission corridor.

The three governments have secured grants of US\$800,000 for preparatory activities from the Infrastructure Project Preparatory Fund of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Other projects planned for the region include three thermal

power stations that Zimbabwe intends to construct with support from China.

A Zimbabwean firm, Ele Resources, has entered into a US\$1.3 billion deal with China Machine-Building International Corporation for a joint venture that will result in the development of three thermal power stations and a coal mine in the Zambezi valley.

The first of the power projects will be ready for generation by the end of 2009, according to Evison Musangeya, Chief Executive of Dande Capital Holdings. Dande Capital is the parent company of Ele Resources.

"We expect that by mid-2007, implementation of the thermal power plant projects will have started. We expect to commission the plant 18 to 24 months

after starting the project," said Musangeya.

South Africa is also considering strengthening links with China in the field of nuclear technology. This comes in the wake of problems at its Koeberg nuclear power station near Cape Town that plunged most of South Africa and neighbours such as Namibia into darkness when it broke down last year.

A private company in Swaziland has also announced plans to construct one of southern Africa's largest thermal power stations.

The power station, being proposed by Canham Mining International, will produce about 3,500 MW of electricity.

The Swaziland Electricity Board is carrying out a feasibility study on the project before construction can start.

## Angola becomes 12th OPEC member

**ANGOLA BECAME** the 12th member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) following its admission to the group of developing countries whose economies rely on oil revenue.

The SADC member becomes the second country from sub-Saharan Africa to join OPEC, and the first new member since Nigeria joined in 1971. Ecuador and Gabon joined OPEC in 1973 and 1975, but left the organisation in 1992 and 1994, respectively.

Other OPEC members are Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

While Angola joined on 1 January, the southern African country will not be part of the OPEC quota system until March. Its quota will be set based on Angola's February production.

OPEC members coordinate their production policies to stabilize the oil market pricing and to help producers achieve a reasonable rate of return on their investments.

This is also designed to ensure that consumers continue to receive stable supplies of oil.

Each member state is allocated a quota based on projections of future world demand and supply of oil.

Ministers of energy and hydrocarbon affairs from OPEC member countries meet twice a year to review the status of the international oil market and forecasts for the future. They agree on appropriate actions which will promote stability in the oil market.

Angola produces about 1.4 million barrels per day but the figure is projected to rise to two million barrels a day by the end of 2007 as new oil fields are discovered.

## Unified action

# Science and technology plan for Africa

**AFRICA HAS** developed a consolidated action plan on science and technology that integrates the programmes and projects of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the structures of the African Union.

*Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action* articulates Africa's common objective of socio-economic transformation and full integration into the world economy.

It reaffirms the continent's commitment to collective action for developing and using science and technology to meet its objectives, and marks the start of an African process to strengthen scientific and technological capacities.

The Consolidated Plan of Action evolved from a series of regional and continental workshops involving a participatory process of consultations by African governments, scientists, policy-makers, civil society and international partners.

The plan places emphasis on developing an African system of research and technological innovation by establishing networks of centres of excellence dedicated to research and development, and capacity-building programmes.

Africa has largely adopted a short-term view to human development and has continued to rely on external financial support often targeting short-term activities and solutions.

As a result, the continent has failed to invest in science, technology and innovation as sources and drivers of economic growth and long-term sustainable development.

Other problems affecting Africa's science, technology and innovation system include weak links between industry and science and technology institutions, and a mismatch between research and development activities and national industrial development strategies and goals.

Research findings from public research institutions do not, therefore, get accessed or used by local industries, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

The overall goals of this consolidated plan are thus to enable Africa to harness and apply science, technology and related innovations to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development; and to ensure that Africa contributes to the global pool of scientific knowledge and technological innovations.

The success of the consolidated plan of action is premised on the implementation of some flagship research and development programmes and projects over the next five years.

The programmes are organised into clusters based on their relationships and potential of establishing inter-related networks of implementing institutions.

The cluster will focus on biodiversity, biotechnology and indigenous knowledge; energy, water and desertification; material sciences, manufacturing, laser and post-harvest technologies; information and communication technologies, and space science and technologies; and mathematical sciences.

The biodiversity cluster programme aims to strengthen Africa's scientific and technological capacities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. It focuses on measures to build a strong conservation science foundation and generate sustainable use of technologies.

Special emphasis will be placed on promoting Africa's indigenous knowledge base, particularly their role in biodiversity conservation and their contribution to food production, fighting HIV and AIDS, and reducing environmental degradation.

An African Conservation Science Training Scheme is being proposed, which will provide financial and technical resources

for training in conservation science. It will provide fellowship grants to Masters of Science and Doctor of Philosophy students to enable them to study at African universities.

The energy, water and desertification cluster will focus on building a sustainable energy base for Africa; securing sustainable water resources; and combating drought and desertification.

The overall objective of this programme is to enlarge Africa's energy security through the generation and application of scientific knowledge and related technological innovations.

Through the material sciences, manufacturing, laser and post-harvest technologies cluster, Africa aims to build scientific and technical capacity to conduct research in materials required to boost production.

The African Materials Research Society was formed in 2002 in Senegal and is a continental network dedicated to materials science and technology development. It is a relatively young organisation and needs strengthening.

It is planned that, through the information and communication technologies, and space science and technologies cluster, Africa will establish a continental research network on information

and communication technologies. This will bring together leading universities and research centres to design and implement projects that generate software with African content.

The cluster programme on mathematical sciences aims to strengthen Africa's capacity in the mathematical sciences.

The programmes and projects constitute the first generation of continental and regional activities that were defined and agreed upon at regional consultations.

Additional projects will be designed in the life of the Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.

The initial timeframe for implementing the projects is 2006-2010.

*Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action* is the instrument for implementing the decisions of the first African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology held in Johannesburg in November 2003.

The plan gives practical meaning to the decision of the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU held in July 2003 in Maputo to integrate the NEPAD programme into AU structures and processes.

The document is a product of the AU Commission and the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology. □

**SADC RESOLVED** in 2006 to establish a science and technology office within the Secretariat in a quest to maximise co-ordination and promotion of such issues in the region, and to support national initiatives in this regard.

Science and technology was identified as a key area in boosting economic growth and social development, as scientific research applications cut across various development areas such as agriculture, health and education.

SADC Ministers of Science and Technology who met in

South Africa in July 2006 also resolved to build on the framework for science and technology developed by Zimbabwe in April of the same year.

The framework outlines plans for the sector in the region and ways to mobilise financial and technical resources to implement projects of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

It also calls for co-ordination in implementing the NEPAD Science and Technology Plan in southern Africa. □

## As SADC Free Trade Area beckons

# Zimbabwe embarks on economic recovery

ZIMBABWE HAS embarked on an economic recovery programme that pins the nation's hopes on mutual understanding among all sectors of society and has the potential of putting the country on course to attaining SADC economic targets.

The new economic revival programme will be split into two phases, with the first phase running from March to June and phase two from July to December. Decisions are to be made and targets set during February, including agreement on capping of wages, prices and incomes.

The first phase will involve the establishment of a "social contract" among labour, government and the business sector, as well as civil society and political parties; and the mobilisation of foreign exchange through off-shore lines of credit and exports.

A transitional package is being proposed under the social contract, underpinned by "well-sequenced, complementary economic policies backed up by unwavering political support and commitment as a basis for an economy ready to take-off, free of artificial controls, and one ready to receive new investment inflows from across the globe."

The country intends to reduce inflation to single-digit levels by December 2008, underpinned by fiscal prudence and a tight monetary policy, and able to feed itself at all times with surplus for export.

Zimbabwe currently has the world's highest inflation rate, pegged at 1,281.1 percent in December 2006.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) said Zimbabwe's inflation should end 2007 pegged at around 65 percent before declining further to single-digit levels in 2008 in line with the SADC target.

The SADC vision is to have all the 14 Member States registering inflation figures of below five percent by 2012 and three percent by 2018.

The inflation target is part of measures being pursued by the region as it moves towards macro-economic convergence and the creation of a Free Trade Area in 2008.

Other macro-economic targets are on the ratio of budget deficit to Gross Domestic Product, levels of publicly guaranteed debts, and the amount of import cover.

Restoration of confidence in the economy will be another key component of the transitional economic package, in which Zimbabwe promises to honour existing Bilateral Investment Agreements (BIPAs) and institute corrective measures on previous violations.

The country has signed a number of BIPAs with countries from the region and other parts of the world, which are meant to safeguard investments by nationals of those countries.

"By its nature, investment capital is a highly timid wind, which swiftly changes course at the slightest signal of disrespect for private property rights," said RBZ Governor, Gideon Gono.

A government team will embark on a global investment pro-

motion drive in February and March to assure investors of Zimbabwe's commitment to the sanctity of private property rights.

The Zimbabwe Investment Authority will also be launched during the first phase. President Robert Mugabe signed the Zimbabwe Investment Authority Act on 29 December 2006.

The Act provides for the merger of the Zimbabwe Investment Centre and the Export Processing Zones Authority, resulting in the establishment of a one-stop organisation with the responsibility of processing, planning and implementing investment promotion strategies.

Zimbabwe is a signatory to the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment.

The protocol is an important stepping stone for a region whose target is to become a free trade area by 2008 and a customs union two years later. □



SADC moving towards stronger intra-regional trade.

## Angola not ready for Free Trade Area

ANGOLA SAYS it will not join the SADC Free Trade Area in 2008 and wants more time before it can fulfill the conditions to join.

The Angolan Minister for Planning, Ana Dias Lourenço, said Angola has not developed sufficiently to join the Free Trade Area.

"Integration would be a threat or an opportunity, so we have to analyze the measures we plan to take so that we can be a part of the free trade area and benefit from that process in a balanced manner, allowing for the competitive development of the Angolan economy," said Lourenço. □

## Macroeconomic convergence targets for SADC 2008

- Inflation rate single digit by 2008;
- Diversify (increase non-traditional exports) and sustain export growth rate of at least five percent annually;
- Increase in intra-regional trade to at least 85 percent by 2008;
- Ration of budget deficit to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) not exceeding five percent by 2008;
- Nominal value of public and publicly guaranteed debt should be less than 60 percent of GDP by 2008;
- External reserves/import cover of at least three months by 2008 and more than six months by 2012;
- Increase level of savings to at least 25 percent of GDP by 2008 and to 30 percent by 2012;
- Gradual interconnection of payments and clearing systems in SADC by 2008;
- Achieve currency convertibility by 2008. □

# Africa to discuss roadmap on Union government

**THE NEXT** African Union heads of state and government summit in Ghana in July will be devoted primarily to the setting up of the envisaged United States of Africa..

This was one of the major outcomes of the 8th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) held in Ethiopia in January.

It is expected that the African leaders will use the Accra summit to discuss the roadmap to setting up the continental government.

The 9th Ordinary Session of the Assembly will be held from 1-3 July under the theme "Grand Debate on the Union Government".

The United States of Africa is the name given to a proposed future unification of Africa as a national and sovereign federation of states.

The phrase "United States of Africa," was first used by Jamaican civil rights activist, Marcus Garvey, in his poem "Hail, United States of Africa" in 1924.

Ghana's first post-independence president, Kwame Nkrumah, Ethiopian emperor, Haile Selassie, and President Julius Nyerere of the then Tanganyika, took the idea forward in 1963 to form the Organisation of African Unity, the forerunner of the AU.

The idea has recently been advanced by Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, at a summit of African heads of state and government in 2000 in Togo, and by Alpha Oumar Konaré, chairperson of the African Commission, on the occasion of the commemoration of Africa Day on 25 May 2006.

There is, however, a lot to be done before the dream of a United States of Africa can become a reality.

A unified African government would, among other

things, assume the creation of a continental central bank, a common currency, a unified military and parliament.

The Pan-African Parliament is so far the only crucial building block of the envisaged United States of Africa already in place.

In existence since 2004, the continental parliament is an advisory body for the first five years, not legislative, and thus

## African diplomatic passport set for launch in May

**AFRICA IS** expected to launch a continental diplomatic passport in May, which will be issued to heads of state and government, ministers, ambassadors and leaders of African institutions.

The symbolic launch of the African diplomatic passport by the African Union (AU) Commission will be the highlight of Africa Day celebrations in Ethiopia on 25 May.

Africa Day celebrates the day when the Organization of African Unity was formed in 1963. The OAU is the precursor to the AU.

According to AU Commission chairperson, Alpha Oumar Konaré, the introduction of the diplomatic passport is a symbol of African solidarity.

"Experts are presently addressing this symbolic decision," said Konaré when addressing the 10th ordinary session of the AU Executive Council.

Konaré noted that "this document will be strictly reserved to heads of state, ministers, ambassadors and institutions' officials in order to enable them to travel across the continent without the need for any visa."

Under the current arrangement, heads of state and government, ministers and leaders of major institutions require visas to enter most African countries,

faces the challenge of being taken seriously in its deliberations and interventions.

The ideal of a unified army will be another challenge because of recurrent conflicts within and among countries.

The continent is hoping to use economic integration as an entry point into the creation of a Union government although differences in levels of development between countries and re-

gions could slow down progress.

Africa has over the past decade aimed to unleash its economic might through a coordinated development approach modelled around Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The RECs are the essential building blocks of the African Economic Community (AEC) envisaged to be in place by 2028. □

except in cases where both countries have signed reciprocal visa exemption agreements.

It will complement efforts by various African regions, includ-

ing SADC, to introduce common visas that will facilitate easier and faster travel between countries of the same regional community. □

## Some of the main outcomes of the AU Eighth Ordinary Session were:

- A call for Africa's cooperating partners to support Member States and Regional Economic Communities to effectively integrate climate change and mitigation measures into their development plans and to implement them;
- Countries to take ownership of important commitments on improving food security, including making adequate resources available;
- An undertaking to promote and support research and innovation among young people, as well as the creation of the requisite human and institutional capacities in member countries;
- Establishment of the African Education Fund to improve the level and standard of education on the continent;
- The AU Commission to organise a continental conference on Economic Empowerment of African Women whose objective will be to articulate strategies to elevate the economic status of the continent's women, including the establishment of the African Trust Fund for Women;
- Declaration of 2007 as the International Year of African Football and the ushering in of the 2010 World Cup as an African event;
- Launch of competition on the design of a new AU flag; and
- A call for the European Union to extend beyond December 2007 the deadline for negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreements. □

# Hu visit strengthens China-Africa ties

**COOPERATION BETWEEN** Africa and China took a bold leap forward following the conclusion of a highly successful eight-nation tour by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Chinese Foreign Minister, Li Zhaoxing, said the visit was a journey of friendship and cooperation and a major step forward in Sino-African relations following the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) of November 2006.

Half of the countries visited by Hu were in southern Africa and the trip is expected to boost growing trade ties and ensure that aid pledges made by China at the FOCAC summit are carried out.

The African visit by Hu, which began on 30 January, took the Chinese leader to Cameroon, Liberia, Sudan, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique and Seychelles.

The Chinese president assured African leaders that his country will never impose its ideology, social system or mode of development on others.

He briefed African leaders on China's efforts to carry out the eight steps unveiled during the FOCAC.

The eight steps include China's pledge to double its assistance to Africa by 2009. China will provide US\$3 billion of preferential loans and US\$2 billion of preferential buyer's credits to Africa.

China will also establish a development fund of US\$5 billion to encourage Chinese firms to invest in Africa.

Debt cancellation, the opening up of the Chinese market to African products and broadening of China-Africa cooperation in the economic and social fields are the other targets agreed during the FOCAC summit.

The measures will be carried out in accordance with the princi-

ples of mutual benefit, friendly consultations, high efficiency and pragmatism, the Chinese president said, adding that they must cater for the needs of the African people.

More than 50 cooperation agreements were signed during Hu's African visit. These included the cancellation of Mozambique's debt amounting to US\$20 million, a US\$15 million interest-free loan for the construction of a new stadium in Maputo, and US\$195 million worth of soft loans to be used in developing infrastructure in Mozambique.

The new stadium is expected to be ready in time for South Africa's hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. It will be made available to teams from outside southern Africa as they try to acclimatize to regional conditions prior to the World Cup finals.

China will also help build a pilot centre on agricultural technology in Mozambique's northern province of Nampula.

"We must continue to deepen our excellent relations of friendship and cooperation, link the enormous potential existing in Mozambique to Chinese technologies, and diversify partnerships between businesses of our two countries," said President Armando Guebuza.

Hu's visit to Namibia resulted in the signing of five cooperation agreements in the areas of the economy, technology, human resources, education and tourism.

In Zambia, Hu hailed the "all-weather" friendship between the two countries, pledging to remain a good friend, partner and brother to the southern African country.

Eight cooperation agreements were signed following talks between Hu and Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa.

These will see the Chinese investing US\$800 million in Zambia's mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors as well as the creation of a special economic zone in Chambishi in Copperbelt province, the first one to be set up by China in Africa. Chinese companies will enjoy a tax holiday in the special economic zone.

Mwanawasa pledged to further improve his country's investment environment and hoped that more Chinese and foreign enterprises will settle in the zone, bringing along with them know-how and expertise necessary for the development of Zambia.

Beijing also agreed to write off part of Zambia's bilateral debt to China.

"This will go a long way in boosting economic development in our country," said Mwanawasa.

The Chinese president also met former Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda, who thanked China for the aid and moral support it offered for Zambia's struggle against colonial rule.

Kaunda said bilateral relations between the two countries have moved forward over the years. The Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (Tazara) railway built with the assistance of China is the symbol of friendship and cooperation between China and Africa.

Tazara was constructed between 1970 and 1975 through an interest-free loan of about US\$500 million from the People's Republic of China. It started commercial operations in July 1976, thus giving Zambia access to the port of Dar es Salaam and reducing dependence on the southern transport routes through then Rhodesia and apartheid South Africa.

Tazara is an integral part of the southern Africa regional rail transport network and currently handles exports and imports of the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Great Lakes region.

Hu paid tribute to South Africa, which in the 12 years since achieving majority rule has become China's biggest trading partner in Africa.

"The new South Africa, since its founding, has made remarkable achievements in national reconciliation and economic and social development," Hu said.

The two countries signed agreements on economic and technical co-operation and launched a website to foster commercial ties.

Among the agreements were protocols on the sanitary conditions for the export of grapes and tobacco from South Africa to China as well as for the import of pears and apples to South Africa from China.

Trade between South Africa and China reached US\$240 million in the first 11 months of 2006, an increase of 34.5 percent from the previous year. □



China strengthens cooperation with Africa. Presidents Hu, Mbeki.

# LCD retained in Lesotho polls

**PRIME MINISTER** Pakalitha Mosisili and his Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) were returned to power in the 2007 general elections held on 17 February.

The LCD won in 61 of the 80 directly contested constituencies while its main challenger, All Basotho Convention (ABC), came second with 17 seats. The Alliance of Congress Parties (ACP) got one seat with one to come.

The LCD has been in power since May 1998 while the ABC was formed in October 2006 by former communications minister, Thomas Thabane, who, together with 18 other parliamentarians, resigned from the LCD government after complaining of non-delivery.

Lesotho currently holds the rotating chair of SADC, with Mosisili the chairperson of the organisation until August/September when he is expected to pass the leadership to Zambian President, Levy Mwanawasa.

Lesotho is a constitutional monarchy in which King Letsie III serves a largely ceremonial function.

According to the country's constitution, the leader of the majority party in the National Assembly automatically becomes prime minister.

The country uses the dual electoral system under which 40 more parliamentary seats are allocated on the basis of proportional representation system. Under the system, the party with the largest number of elected candidates will get the biggest share of the 40 extra seats.

The LCD got an extra 21 seats from proportional representation on the back of its alliance with the National Independent Party, giving it more than 75 percent of the 120 seats in parliament.



Pakalitha Mosisili, leader of the victorious LCD political party.

The Lesotho general elections were declared "credible, free and fair" by the SADC Electoral Observer Mission (SEOM), which praised the Basotho people for their high level of political maturity.

The SADC observer mission had teams deployed to

most of the 80 constituencies being contested during the Lesotho polls.

Lesotho was the seventh country to use the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Elections, adopted in 2004, to run its elections.

## Hectic elections calendar for SADC

**THE SADC** region looks forward to another hectic elections calendar in 2007, with polls scheduled to take place in at least three Member States.

Lesotho voted for members of the National Assembly on 17 February, with some 19 political parties vying for the 80 constituencies contested for on a first-past-the-post electoral system.

The two front-runners were the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy of Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili and the newly formed All Basotho Convention of former communications minister, Tom Thabane.

Mauritius also goes to the polls during this year to elect a president.

The country uses a unique electoral system in which the president is elected by members of the National Assembly.

The current President of the Republic, Anerood Jugnauth, was elected by the National Assembly in 2003 for a five-year term.

Other SADC elections are expected in Madagascar, which will choose parliamentary and local government representatives this year.

Parliamentary and presidential elections in Angola have been postponed to 2008 and 2009, respectively, to allow

Under the guidelines, SADC member states have agreed to guarantee the full participation of all their citizens in their country's political processes.

This includes, among others, the need for political tolerance; regular intervals for elections as provided for by the respective national Constitutions; equal opportunity for all political parties to access the state media; and equal opportunity to exercise the right to vote and be voted for.

Other member states where the guidelines have already been used are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

These were Lesotho's sixth polls since independence from Britain in 1966. Previous post-independence elections were held in 1970, 1985, 1993, 1998 and 2002. □

more time for the voter registration process that started in 2006.

President José Eduardo dos Santos said preparations for the 2008 legislative elections will be top priority for this year.

The last polls were in 1992 when dos Santos defeated late former rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi.

Voter registration started on 15 November 2006 and will close on 15 June, according to the National Electoral Commission.

About 7.5 million Angolans are eligible to vote out of an estimated population of 13.5 million people. Voter registration is mandatory. □

# SADC in search of renewable energy

WITH AN energy shortage expected to worsen from 2007, southern Africa is leaving no stone unturned to minimise the socio-economic impact of the electricity shortfall and fluctuations in fuel prices.

Various initiatives have been embarked upon as Member States move towards boosting energy self-sufficiency for a re-

gion that has grown at an average five percent per annum in the past five years.

Although a lot of the effort is still being put into developing hydropower and other conventional methods of generating electricity, regional attention has shifted in the past few years towards harnessing alternative energy sources.

The initiatives have included promotion of the use of solar, wind and nuclear energy as well as bio-diesel and, more recently, "waste-to-energy" technology.

The alternative energy sources are substantially cheaper than hydroelectric power generation and ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

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.

Although expansion of renewable energy technologies will require intensive initial investment, running them is fairly inexpensive and they provide a quicker solution to rural household energy needs.

Increased use of renewable energy technologies will provide savings in national grid supplies and fuel imports, creating virtual power stations with the electricity being availed to productive sectors of the economy.

In this issue, *SADC Today* profiles some of the initiatives, looking at the benefits and possible challenges faced by countries.

## Rays of hope

IT IS estimated that most countries in southern Africa receive more than 2,500 hours of sunshine per year.

The SADC region, and in fact the whole of Africa, has sunshine all year round.

Solar energy is used to power equipment such as stoves, water heaters, lighting, water pumps, communication and transportation. Like all other renewable energy sources, solar energy is safe and environmentally friendly.

The use of solar energy is the most readily accessible resource in the region and lends itself to a number of potential uses.

Knowledge on solar energy technology is widespread in the SADC region, although its use is still limited. Solar heating systems vary from very simple and therefore cheap water and air heaters to sophisticated, high performance, long life and expensive solar boilers.

In Zimbabwe, the applications are mainly for domestic use – water heating, crop drying, solar cooking and refrigeration.

Through the Energy Technology Institute, Zimbabwe's Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC) has designed, fabricated and installed a 1 kilowatt solar central charging station in Mhondoro, which is powering a clinic and has the capacity to light up 50 houses.

SIRDC recently finished developing a solar street lighting

system, which is now ready for commercialisation. The product represents the first solar street-light to be designed and built in Zimbabwe with a built-in innovative switching control and charging mechanism.

The light is an environmentally friendly product since it uses solar power in its operations and does not require electricity cables.

It is a stand-alone system and can be erected in remote areas, which are far away from the electricity grid. The light automatically switches on at sunset and switches off at sunrise.

The light could be used in both rural and urban areas and in particular in tourist attraction spots. This is an economically viable product, which could provide an effective solution to ease the energy shortage situation and to cut on energy importation.

The Energy Technology Institute also houses the UNESCO Regional Solar Training Facility. The facility offers training to participants from SADC Member States on solar home lighting systems, solar water pumping and mini/micro hydro schemes.

The Ministry of Energy and Power Development in Zimbabwe is also spearheading a project to promote use of solar energy and biogas in farming areas where resettled people need electricity.

In Namibia, the government has launched the five-year Namibia Renewable Energies Programme.



Renewable energy technologies include sun and wind.

The programme aims to provide solar water heating systems and panels for use by more than 27,000 rural households not yet connected to the national power grid.

Mozambique's Energy Fund (FUNAE) plans to install 2,500 solar powered systems by the end of June in Inhambane and Sofala provinces, as part of the project for electrification of rural areas.

Under the same project, being funded by the World Bank for US\$2 million, about

300 schools and the same number of health posts in several provinces will be equipped with solar panels in the first six months of this year.

The technology reduces health and environmental hazards related to traditional open fire cooking.

Widely regarded as a potential solution to the fuel wood crisis in rural areas, the stoves are relatively inexpensive, durable and use much less water during the cooking process.



## Biomass in the Zambezi Basin

IT IS estimated that about 74 percent of the total energy requirements of the eight Zambezi River Basin countries come from biomass - fuelwood, charcoal and plant residues.

These countries are Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Biomass is used for domestic purposes (cooking and lighting) and in agriculture for curing tobacco, especially in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

It is also used for brick manufacturing, lime production, fish smoking, and coffee and tea drying.

One of the challenges of over-reliance on biomass energy is its effects on the environment.

Deforestation, one of the factors that lead to soil erosion and ultimately land degradation, is the main problem associated with biomass energy utilisation.

Improved stoves such as the *tsotso* and specially designed clay stoves are also being vigorously promoted for use in rural households throughout the region.

*Tsotso* stoves use much less wood and feature an insulated combustion chamber which helps to reduce smoke while increasing burning efficiency.



*Tsotso* stove.

## Waste to energy

This is new technology which enables countries to generate electricity from waste products.

One such initiative is being pursued in Mauritius where a joint venture between a local company and an American firm has announced plans to invest US\$200 million in a project to set up a "Waste to Energy" plant in the west of the country.

The project aims to dispose of 300,000 tonnes of refuse collected by municipal councils through incineration to produce 20 megawatts (MW) of electricity which will be sold to the local power utility, the Central Electricity Board.

Construction of the plant is scheduled to start in mid-2007 and will be operational by the beginning of 2009.

## Wind energy

Wind energy could provide part of the answer to SADC's electricity problems if a pilot project being implemented by South Africa is successful.

Cape Town approved a proposed power purchase agreement with Darling Wind Farm, a R70m (approx. US\$11m) national pilot project funded jointly by the Danish International Development Agency, the Department of Minerals and Energy, and the Darling Independent Power Producing Company.

The project will open up opportunities for further wind energy projects and other "green energy projects" in the Western Cape and the rest of southern Africa.

Under the project, Cape Town residents will purchase energy from the Darling Wind Farm. This will be marketed to "willing buyers" at an initial premium of R0.25 per kwh.

It is expected that the demand for green energy will out-



Wind energy ... answer to SADC's electricity woes?

strip the 13,200 gigawatt hours of energy that can be supplied annually by the farm. Darling Wind Farm is expected to commence generation in 2007 and the energy will be sold through the city's electricity service provider.

## Bio-fuel

Rising world petroleum prices have prompted plant-based bio-fuel initiatives in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

These countries are growing the oil-rich *Jatropha curcas* plant for the production of cheaper and cleaner bio-diesel.

Soya beans and maize have also been identified as viable alternatives for providing fuel to the region's transport systems and industrial development. Ex-



Oil-rich *Jatropha curcas* plant is used for cleaner bio-diesel.

perts say 25 kg of soya beans yields nearly six litres of bio-diesel.

Zimbabwe's National Bio-diesel Feedstock production programme aims to substitute at least 10 percent of daily consumption of imported fuel through bio-diesel within the next five years.

South Africa expects to be selling petroleum fuels blended with 10 percent ethanol at its petrol stations by early 2007.

The move is expected to reduce fuel imports, stabilise fuel prices and boost agriculture and the region's rural economies.

An ethanol plant under development in the Free State province will consume 375,000 tonnes of maize per year, and produce 158 million litres of bio-ethanol. The plant will also have the potential to produce 108,000 tonnes of animal feed.

Zambia will also soon have its first bio-fuel plant where *Jatropha* seeds will be used to produce oil.

The bio-fuel plant will be set up by Marli Investment at an initial investment of US\$8 million and will be located in Kabwe, 140 km north of capital, Lusaka.

It is expected to produce 60 million litres of fuel per year, and production will start in August after conducting some trials in April.

# Tanzanian lands top UN post

by Phyllis Johnson

**AFRICA WILL** continue to occupy an influential position in the executive offices of the United Nations following the appointment of a Tanzanian to the number two position at UN headquarters in New York.

Dr Asha-Rose Migiro of the United Republic of Tanzania becomes the highest ranking woman at the UN and the second highest among all officials.

The appointment of Migiro is a bold and rapid decision of the new UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon of South Korea, fulfilling his promise to appoint a woman to a top position.

The Secretary-General, who worked with Migiro in 2006 when they both served as foreign ministers of their respective countries, described her as "a highly respected leader who has championed the cause of developing countries over the years.

"Through her distinguished service in diverse areas, she has displayed outstanding management skills with wide experience and expertise in socio-economic affairs and development issues," Ban said in his announcement.

"I have deep confidence in and respect for her, and intend to delegate much of the management and administrative work of the Secretariat, as well as socio-economic affairs and development issues, under a clear line of authority to ensure that the Secretariat will function in a more effective and efficient manner."

Migiro, 50, was selected from a short list of candidates that included men and women. She replaces Mark Malloch Brown of the United Kingdom.

Before this appointment, she was Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



Asha-Rose Migiro takes oath of office as deputy UN Secretary General.

The Tanzanian President, Jakaya Kikwete, said in a statement that he had received the news with pride. "The foreign ministry is a very important portfolio to me, but this choice is also an honour to my country and I am very proud of Dr. Migiro."

The honour extends to the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), where Migiro has been representing her country in chairing the ministerial Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Migiro holds a law degree, LL.B (Hons), and a Masters (LL.M) from the University of Dar es Salaam, as well as a doctorate in legal studies from Konstanz University in Germany.

She is an appointed member of the Tanzanian parliament, the *Bunge*, and a former Minister for Community Development, Women and Children, where she served from 2000 to 2005. She was previously a Senior Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, since 1981.

Migiro has become the most senior of a growing number of Tanzanian women occupying top positions in global governance and development.

The list includes Gertrude Mongella, who was Secretary-General of the UN Fourth World

Women Conference in Beijing in 1995, which agreed on a Programme For Action that continues to provide the framework for women's empowerment and participation.

Mongella, a former government minister, rose to the level of Assistant Secretary-General, and is now Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament. She is an elected constituency member of the *Bunge*.

Another Tanzanian, Dr Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, was the first African woman elected by the UN General Assembly as Under-Secretary-General of a UN programme, and is currently serving a second, four-year term as the Executive Director of UN Habitat.

She is also Director-General of the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON), which includes the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the only UN headquarters in Africa and the developing world. Tibaijuka pursued an active academic career as a Professor of Economics at the University of Dar es Salaam before joining the UN.

Another Tanzanian woman, Rosebud Kurwijila, has completed three years as a member of the first African Union Commission, with responsibility for Rural Economy and Agriculture.

She holds post-graduate degrees in Agricultural Economics and in Development Economics, and previously served the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture for 12 years in senior management positions, including training. She also lectured in agricultural development at the Sokoine University of Agriculture.

Tanzania recently celebrated 45 years of independence, having been one of the first African countries to gain independence in 1961, as Tanganyika. Joining with Zanzibar in 1964, the country became the United Republic of Tanzania.

The founding father and inspiration of the nation, *Mwalimu* Julius K. Nyerere, actively supported equality in education and other spheres, and the involvement of women in politics. Thus Tanzania has a long modern history of aspiring to gender parity, although some challenges and inequalities still remain.

The Tanzanian parliament has guaranteed seats for women and a constitutional provision for at least 30 percent representation.

A senior Tanzanian diplomat widely respected internationally, Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, who served three terms as AU Secretary-General and is currently the AU Special Envoy on Sudan's Darfur conflict, welcomed the appointment of Dr Migiro, citing her "skills and commitment".

Salim, who is Chairperson of the *Mwalimu* Nyerere Foundation, was himself an aspirant for the post of UN Secretary-General at a very young age when he served as his country's representative at the UN in New York more than 35 years ago.

Of Migiro, he says, "I know she can do the job and I wish her well." □

# AU awards to promote science and technology

**THE AFRICAN** Union (AU) announced a series of science and technology awards in January to increase the number of scientists in the continent.

In line with the one of the co-themes of the 8th AU Summit held in Ethiopia, the African leaders introduced three awards aimed at promoting science and technology on the continent.

The main theme for the summit was "Science, Technology and Scientific Research". The other theme was "Climate Change in Africa".

The award schemes aim to address the small size of Africa's scientific manpower by stimulating interest in science among young people.

It is estimated that sub-Saharan Africa trains only 83 engineers per million of the population each year compared to 1,000 in industrialised countries.

Key among the scholarships announced at the summit is the *Mwalimu Julius Nyerere African Union Scholarship Scheme* under which 50 students will be given the opportunity to study for bachelor degrees in African universities. The scheme will then be expanded to include postgraduate studies.

AU education commissioner, Beatrice Khamati-Njenga, said the scheme encourages students to study in an African country with a binding agreement that the student will work in Africa for 2-5 years after graduating.

"This is a clear sign that the AU is committed to expanding scientific knowledge in the continent. It tackles many pertinent issues like lack of expertise and also the brain drain," she said.

The awards will be funded by the AU commission, which gets its funds from country members and donors.

The AU, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), also introduced a biennial award to reward innovation.

The AU-WIPO Innovation and Invention Award will award a medal and US\$13,000 for the best innovation that addresses problems affecting Africa.

The prize will be broken down into categories, including best African inventor, female inventor, young inventor and



African Union promotes science and technology development.

best invention based on indigenous knowledge.

A best practices award for information technology has also been introduced and will be open to individuals and organisations involved in creativity, including African web designers and developers.

Ahmed Hamdy, the AU head of science and technology, explained that Africa has long lagged behind other countries in terms of capacity, and the AU is keen to change this. □

## Student develops low-cost housing design

**A ZIMBABWEAN** student scooped the prize for the best design of a low-cost passive solar house at the annual South African Institute of Physics conference held at the end of November 2006.

Golden Makaka, a doctorate student at Fort Hare University, produced the best poster presentation, entitled "The design and performance of the low-cost passive solar house in the Eastern Cape, South Africa".

A passive solar design house uses sunshine to heat and light homes without mechanical or electrical devices.

To reduce loss of heat from the building, the majority of windows in a passive solar building are located on the north wall.

In winter when the sun is usually low in the sky, north-facing windows allow the solar radiation to penetrate indoors, heating the thermal mass that later on radiates thermal radiation and heats the indoor environment at night.

In summer, north-facing windows can be shaded off by roof awnings to keep out the high hot summer sun.

Applying low solar absorption paint to the outer roof surface and using aluminium foil on the inside lowers emission, helping to create better thermal performance.

"All these techniques could create better thermal performance. A good house design has to safeguard health and safety by providing sufficient airspace, ventilation, insulation and, most importantly, to involve the end users in the design process," Makaka said.

The design attracted a lot of interest from academics and local authorities that attended the annual scientific showcase.

The Somerset East Municipality has already indicated that it would adopt the design to build low-cost housing.

Introduction of the concept of low-cost energy efficient passive solar housing can offer immediate and long-term solutions to the problem of housing and energy in southern Africa. □

## Villagers invent tree-bark irrigation system

**FACED BY** high irrigation costs, communal farmers in Zimbabwe's Masvingo province have invented an irrigation system using a special type of tree bark as piping for water.

The "tree bark irrigation system" has seen 42 families successfully water a swath of land which they have put under vegetables, beans and maize.

The bark is carefully removed from a tree and skilfully

placed to channel water from Mudzami River into the fields. The fields and gardens are about 600 metres away from the river.

The system is the brainchild of students and parents at Mudzami High School who have been using it for the past two years.

There are plans to expand the project to other villages although this could be affected by the depletion of suitable trees. (*The Herald*) □

# Angola targets 10m carat diamond output by 2008



**INTERNATIONAL OIL** conglomerates are scrambling for a share of Madagascar's oil sector as the Indian Ocean island is fast emerging as the next centre of Africa's energy boom.

Initial projections are that Madagascar could produce 60,000 barrels per day in three to four years, with revenue of several billion dollars, which would quickly make the oil industry the main contributor to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The GDP was US\$5.5 billion in 2003.

The government has started auctioning oil-drilling rights and, according to Hugues Rajaonson of the Ministry of Energy

and Mines, the potential for production is high.

"The sector could contribute up to 15 percent of GDP within five years," Rajaonson said.

Among the global oil giants scrambling for a share of Madagascar's resources are those from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Norway, China and South Korea.

Official estimates put offshore reserves as high as five billion barrels, but the exact size remains unknown.

If development of the oil industry proceeds as planned, Madagascar will join Angola as a beacon of SADC in the oil industry. Namibia

has also been assessing the feasibility of establishing a viable oil sector.

Angola is sub-Saharan Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria.

Madagascar's economy emerged from a recession in 2002, and reached a growth rate of 9.8 percent in 2003.

## Zimbabwe gets railway equipment from China

**THE NATIONAL** Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) has embarked on a project to repair its aging railway equipment with assistance from China.

The railways company recently acquired equipment from China to be used to repair 130-kilometre long railway line.

The equipment - which was due to arrive in the country by the end of February - is the first consignment of railway pieces provided by China under a US\$10 million deal between the two countries.

Zimbabwe's railway network spans about 2,759km of which 365km are under speed restriction and needs urgent replacement of track. *(The Herald)* □

The country's other major export is vanilla, for which it is the largest producer in the world. It is also the second largest producer of rice in Africa. □

## Brazilian firm strikes Tanzanian oil exploration deal

**BRAZILIAN ENERGY** firm, Petróleo Brasileiro (Petrobras), has concluded an agreement with the United Republic of Tanzania to start deepwater exploration for oil within two years.

Joao Figuera, international executive manager for Petrobras, said the duration for the agreement between his company and the Tanzanian government for Block 6 was for 11 years, split into three phases.

During the first phase of four years, Petrobras will undertake studies and survey geological, geochemical, and geophysical data.

"In the second and third periods of four and three years respectively, the company will drill wells which, if successful, will allow the production period to start. Its term will be 25 years renewable for an additional 20 years," he said.

Petrobras has been in Tanzania since June 2004 when it signed an agreement with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation, the national oil company.

In the first agreement with Tanzania, the company provided for exploration of block 5 in Mafia Basin, over an area of 9,250 square km in waters between 300 and 3,000 metres deep.

The company also has oil exploration and production activities in Angola, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique and Libya. *(The East African)* □

## Tourism sector tops Mozambique investments

**TOURISM EARNED** Mozambique more than US\$144 million in 2006 amid indications that the sector is set to upstage manufacturing as the country's largest foreign currency earner.

The sector has become a main focus of foreign investors in the country.

South African tourism players are leading the investment drive into Mozambique, motivated by the country's huge and largely untapped potential, characterised by its large tropical coastline, forests and abundant wildlife.

According to the Minister of Tourism, Fernando Sumbana, the target is to position Mozambique as a world-class tourist destination, creating new jobs, contributing to national economic growth and fighting poverty.

One of the greatest challenges ahead is the organising of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, which is expected to benefit neighbouring countries as well.

Sumbana foresees several large investments being finalised ahead of the largest sporting event to be hosted by Africa.

Initiatives being planned include the launch of a Mozambican tourism portal, approval of a new regulatory tourism bill, stimulation of responsible and sustainable tourism, and introduction of new ways of supporting the private sector and increasing domestic tourism. □

## Mauritius expects less unemployment in 2007

**UNEMPLOYMENT IS** expected to decline in Mauritius in 2007, building on the positive trend that saw jobless and economic growth picking up last year.

Mauritius Prime Minister, Navin Ramgoolam, is upbeat about growth prospects for 2007 in the Indian Ocean island.

He expects the economy to boom this year following the positive trends in 2006 where the unemployment rate started dropping for the first time in 16 years. In particular the tourism and IT sectors are expected to create thousands of new jobs in Mauritius in 2007.

"In 2007, Mauritius will be a huge construction site where job opportunities will be available in

several sectors," the prime minister promised citizens.

Figures from the country's Central Statistics Office show that the unemployment rate for 2006 was expected to drop to 9.4 percent from 9.6 percent the previous year.

The statistics agency related the decline in unemployment to the strong economic growth of 4.6 percent experienced in Mauritius in 2006 compared to 2.5 percent in 2005. □

### CURRENCY CHECKLIST

Country	Currency	(US \$1)						
Angola	Kwanza (100 lwe)	79.97	Botswana	Pula (100 thebe)	6.27	DRC	Congo Franc	565.00
Lesotho	Maloti (100 lise)	7.23	Madagascar	Ariary	9,050.00	Malawi	Kwacha (100 tambala)	139.31
Mauritius	Rupee (100 cents)	32.56	Mozambique	Metical (100 centavos)	26.00	Namibia	Dollar (100 cents)	7.23
South Africa	Rand (100 cents)	7.23	Swaziland	Lilangeni (100 cents)	7.23	Tanzania	Shilling (100 cents)	1,253.00
Zambia	Kwacha (100 ngwee)	4,225.00	Zimbabwe	Dollar (100 Cents)	250.00			

February 2007

# Soweto Gospel Choir wins a Grammy

**SOWETO GOSPEL** Choir of South Africa received the top honours in the Best Traditional World Music category of the 49th Grammy Awards held in Los Angeles, United States, on 11 February.

The 26-member choir was rewarded for its second album, *Blessed*. The group was formed nearly five years ago and draws on talent from churches in and around Soweto.

Accompanied by a four-piece band and a percussion section, the choir gives its own unique interpretation to both traditional and contemporary music, performing in six of South Africa's 11 official languages.

It has won previous accolades such as Australia's prestigious Helpmann Award for the best contemporary music concert in 2003, and the American Gospel Awards for best international choir in 2003 and 2004.

The Soweto Gospel Choir has spent most of their time travelling around the world performing and acting as ambassador for former South African president, Nelson Mandela's AIDS foundation, "46664." The number was Mandela's prisoner number and is used as a reminder of just how imprisoned the nation has become by this horrible disease.

"Through the years of turmoil, and the long walk to freedom taken by Nelson Mandela and the people of the country, the music and art of South Africa played a vital role in expressing the hope and aspirations of the people," said the group's producer, Robin Hogarth when accepting the award.

Soweto is South Africa's largest urban black community, with an estimated population of between one and three million people.

During the Apartheid years, Soweto – which stands for South Western Townships – became synonymous with the worst of the country's racist policies, with hundreds of thousands of Africans forcibly evicted to the townships from Johannesburg.



Vibrant Soweto Gospel Choir setting trends the world over.

The area was instrumental in the dismantling of the Apartheid system. The 1955 Freedom Charter – a declaration of equal rights for all South Africans – was drawn up in Soweto.

The charter provided the foundation of the African Na-

tional Congress and Mandela's struggles to eliminate apartheid.

The 1976 student riots that engulfed Soweto ignited the resistance movement that ultimately brought an end to Apartheid in 1991, establishing the right to vote for all South Africans in 1993.

## Nujoma movie to premiere at Cannes festival

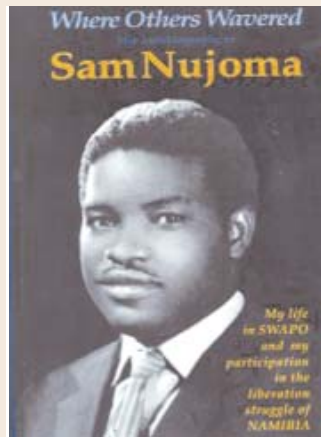
**THE FEATURE** film based on the life of Namibia's first post-independence president, Sam Nujoma, will premiere at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival in May.

Written and directed by Charles Burnett, the film is based on the autobiography of Nujoma, first president of Namibia and former president of the South West African People's Organisation.

Nujoma's character in the movie *Nujoma: Where Others Wavered* is played by US-born Jamaican film star, Carl Lumbly, and also stars Danny Glover.

Production took place in Namibia, South Africa, London and New York. Filming started in April 2005 and ended in early September 2006.

Uazuva Kaumbi, executive producer of the film, announced in January that the feature will be ready for international release at this year's Cannes Film Festival in France.



The film will be released in Namibia towards the end of May or in early June.

The Namibian government invested N\$90 million (about US\$13 million) in the making of the movie through the Namibia Film Commission.

Other funding came from Namibian parastatals and private companies that donated in kind. Air Namibia flew the actors and movie crew to and from Namibia. □

In his tribute to the choir, President Thabo Mbeki said the Grammy Award was "yet another testimony of the richness of South Africa and Africa's contribution to humanity".

President Mbeki said their involvement in community work was one of the many ways in which South Africans could express the rich values of *Ubuntu*. □

## British Council sponsors cultural expression programme

**YOUNG ARTISTES** from six SADC countries and the United Kingdom will participate in a 21-month-long programme to promote the exchange of experiences on topical issues that affect the youth.

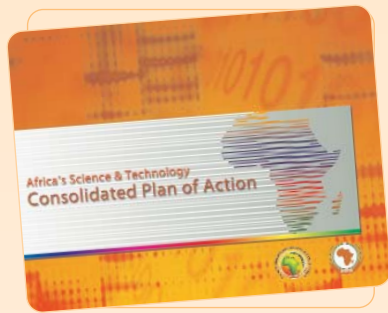
Funded by the British Council, the Power in the Voice project aims at allowing young people to express themselves on key contemporary issues such as crime, unemployment, HIV, drugs and substance abuse.

The project kicks off in March and will target 35,000 young people from schools or theatre groups in Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, the UK, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Over the next two years, the participants will be involved in a series of events aimed at developing their skills through shows, competitions, collaborative workshops, exhibitions and talks.

Through rap music, performance poetry and story-telling, the Power in the Voice project will provide a platform for the young people to express their opinions on subjects important to them as well as the future generation.

They will be provided with a forum to share views on such issues and compare their own situation with that of others in their own country, in other African countries and in the UK. □



## Africa's Science & Technology Consolidated Plan of Action

**THIS PLAN** outlines a roadmap on how Africa intends to take advantage of its rich natural resource and indigenous knowledge base to attain sustainable socio-economic development.

Emphasis is placed on developing a continental system of research and technological innovation, built around a network of centres of excellence and making greater use of the rich array of indigenous knowledge available throughout the continent.

The consolidated action plan complements other African Union (AU) programmes in the fields of agriculture, environment, health, infrastructure, industrialisation and education.

It gives practical meaning to the July 2003 decision of the AU Heads of State and Government to integrate the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programmes into AU structures and processes.

Publication available from the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 395, Lynnwood, Pretoria, South Africa. Email [science@nrf.ac.za](mailto:science@nrf.ac.za) Website [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

## Monitoring Economic Integration in SADC, 2005

**THIS REPORT** focuses on the history and performance of the SADC regional integration agenda. The authors look at the various regional integration targets set by SADC as well as the obstacles and performance by Member States towards attaining these benchmarks.

The report highlights challenges and opportunities faced by SADC in its quest to attain deeper regional integration, and offers recommendations. Among the key chal-

lenges are the desire for policy space by Member States, too much emphasis on trade as a driver of development, adequacy of SADC monitoring indicators, and the link between trade, growth and poverty.

Available from the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis, Gaborone, Botswana.

Email [foprisa@bidpa.bw](mailto:foprisa@bidpa.bw)

Website [www.foprisa.net](http://www.foprisa.net) □

## PUBLICATIONS

### Food is Different: Why We Must Get the WTO Out of Agriculture

Rosset, Peter

London, UK. Zed Books, 2006

171pp.

The book explains what is happening to agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiating context, and unravels the complex ways in which agriculture in the North is subsidised. It sets out an alternative vision for agricultural policy, which would take it completely out of the WTO's ambit. Food is not just another commodity, but something that goes to the heart of human livelihood, culture and security.

Available from Zed Books c/o David Philip, Cape Town, 99 Garfield Road, Claremont 7700, P.O.Box 46962, Glosderry 7702, South Africa

Email [info@newafricabooks.co.za](mailto:info@newafricabooks.co.za)

Website [www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk)

Or Editions le Printemps, 4 Club Road, Vagoas, Mauritius

Email [elp@intnet.mu](mailto:elp@intnet.mu)

Website [www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk)

### Julius Nyerere: Humanist, Politician, Thinker

Moscow, Russia, Russian Academy of Sciences Institute for African Studies, 2006

79pp.

*Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere led his country to Independence in 1961 and became the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania after the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964. Nyerere was the first chairperson of the Front Line States, the informal grouping of leaders who confronted apartheid in southern Africa. He was a founding father of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and hosted the OAU Liberation Committee in Dar es Salaam until all African countries were independent.

This collection contains the main papers delivered at a conference dedicated to the memory of Nyerere, held in January 2000 at the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The contributors, scholars and diplomats in Russia with interests in African issues, rank Nyerere with other influential African leaders of the 20th century such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt.

Available from Mkuki Na Nyota Publishers, P.O. Box 4246, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

Email [editorial.uhariri@mkukinanyota.com](mailto:editorial.uhariri@mkukinanyota.com)

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

### Knowledge to Address Africa's Development Challenges

Johannesburg, South Africa, Development Bank of Southern Africa, 2006

158pp.

This publication attempts to capture the spirit of the inaugural Knowledge Management African Conference held in Gauteng, South Africa, in March 2005. The conference acknowledged that for an African renaissance to take place, there is a pressing need to build Africa's capacity to properly utilise knowledge in the course of formulating and managing developmental policies, strategies, and programmes.

Available from DBSA Knowledge Centre, Development Bank of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 1234, Halfway House, 1685, South Africa.

Email [Tryphinam@dbsa.org](mailto:Tryphinam@dbsa.org)

Website [www.dbsa.org](http://www.dbsa.org)

### Lessons from the Struggle for a New International Technology Order

By Norman Girv and Surendra Patel

Geneva, Switzerland, The South Centre, 2006

36pp

The book offers concrete lessons and suggestions on development. The lessons are learnt through decades of struggle for independent development paths and suggestions based on the recognition of the diversity of situations. The authors acknowledge that issues of development go beyond the narrow realm of economics and that technology is there to facilitate, and not to determine, the path to progress.

Available in electronic format from South Centre, PO Box 228, Chemin du Champ-d'Anier 17, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.

Email [south@southcentre.org](mailto:south@southcentre.org).

Website [www.southcentre.org](http://www.southcentre.org)

### Water Under Threat

Bouguerra, Larbi

London, UK. Zed Books, 2006

216pp.

The book asks the critical questions about the important political and geo-strategic issue of water. Does water have a price? Is it a right or a need? Is there a water crisis? Will wars be fought over water? Should we be worried about water pollution? Can the available technological solutions keep it under control? It also provides some answers.

Available from Zed Books c/o David Philip, Cape Town, 99 Garfield Road, Claremont 7700, P.O. Box 46962, Glosderry 7702, South Africa.

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**EDITOR**

Munetsi Madakufamba

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Joseph Ngwawi, Bayano Vally, Eunice Kadiki,  
Mukundi Mutasa, Chenai Mufanawejingo,  
Alfred Gumbwa, Clever Mafuta,  
Phyllis Johnson, Shiela Chikulo

**EDITORIAL ADVISOR**

Head of Corporate Communications Unit, SADC  
Leea Penehupifo Martin

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Tonely Ngwenya  
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](mailto: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](mailto:sardc@maputo.sardc.net)

Information 21 Websites  
[www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int) [www.sardc.net](http://www.sardc.net) [www.ips.org](http://www.ips.org) [www.saba.co.za](http://www.saba.co.za)

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**EVENTS DIARY 2007**

February  
12-14 Tanzania

**4th Africa-Asia Business Forum**

The purpose of the forum is to attract investment into Africa and to increase trade between the two regions. It is organised by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

19-20 Ethiopia

**2nd Meeting of Advisors to AIDS Watch Africa**

AIDS Watch Africa was established in 2001 by the African Union to promote advocacy for action at the level of Heads of State and Government as well as for mobilisation of local and international resources. The advisors meet biannually to discuss how each will effectively coordinate the responsibilities of his/her respective Heads of State and Government.

March  
19-23 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 meets on 15-16 March and is preceded by the meeting of senior officials and the finance committee. 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.

26-27 Zimbabwe

**Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa**

Jointly organized by the International Organisation of Migration and the Southern African Migration Project, the workshop will facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation on migration policy issues amongst SADC Member States. The overall objective is to facilitate regional co-operation in migration management by fostering greater understanding of migration and strengthening regional institutional and personnel capacities.

29-30 South Africa

**5th Intermodal Africa 2007**

Organised by the National Ports Authority of South Africa, this will be the largest annual gathering of experts from the world's leading shippers, cargo owners, shipping lines, freight forwarders, logistics companies, container ports, terminal operators, railway operators, container port equipment and services suppliers.

April  
9-13 South Africa

**3rd Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health**

The theme of the conference will be "Strengthening Health Systems for Equity and Development." The outcomes of the meeting will be submitted to the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government.

16-20 South Africa

**Africa Power & Electricity Congress 2007**

This is a forum to promote sustainable growth and development in the African power sector. Organised by the private sector, the conference will assist African countries to strengthen energy security by developing infrastructure. Top speakers from African governments, the private and public sectors are expected to attend the conference.

24-28 Zimbabwe

**Zimbabwe International Trade Fair**

This is Zimbabwe's premier multi-sector, annual trade exhibition, bringing together local, regional and international companies. It incorporates the A'Sambeni Africa Tour & Travel Expo and Pakprint 2007, separate exhibitions targeting the tourism and printing industries.

## Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane Icon of Mozambique liberation

THE HISTORY of the early southern African struggle against oppression is littered with names of many prominent people, some of whom are still alive today.

The prominent names include *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda, Seretse Khama, Samora Machel, Agostinho Neto, Sam Nujoma, Robert Mugabe, Joshua Nkomo, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela.

However, the history of the struggle for emancipation in the SADC region cannot be complete without mention of one of the key figures in early African nationalism in Mozambique - Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane.

The well-educated Mozambican nationalist is famed for the sacrifice he made for the liberation of his country. He left his job at the United Nations in 1961 to lead in developing a movement for national liberation.

As president of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo), he successfully promoted unity among the different Mozambican independence movements, resulting in an agreement on 25 July 1962 in the United Republic of Tanzania (then Tanganyika).

Tragically, he was denied the fruits of his vision and leadership. He was assassinated on 3 February 1969 in Dar es Salaam by a parcel bomb sent by the Portuguese secret police, the PIDE.

He is universally credited as the father of Mozambique's independence, a torch picked up and carried to completion by Samora Moises Machel.

The Heroes' Day holiday in Mozambique is held on 3 February each year to remember the heroes of the liberation struggle, especially the first president of Frelimo.

This year, President Armando Guebuza inaugurated a new monument to the founder of Mozambican nationalism on the 38th anniversary of his death.

Accompanied by Mondlane's widow, Janet, President Guebuza unveiled the monument designed by Julio Carrilho.

It contains a bronze bust of Mondlane mounted on a metallic plinth, alongside a painting of dozens of joined hands that form a map of Mozambique.

The monument is in front of the Frelimo Central Committee building in Maputo.



## Remembering the founder of the Lesotho kingdom

MOSHOESHOE DAY is commemorated in Lesotho on 11 March, the day on which King Moshoeshoe I - founder of the Basotho nation - is believed to have died in 1870.

Moshoeshoe was king of Lesotho from 1823 to 1870, a period during which many wars were fought against the Boer (Dutch) farmers who had settled in traditional Basotho lands.

These wars resulted in the extensive loss of land, now known as the "Lost Territory".

To protect his people, Moshoeshoe appealed to Queen Victoria for assistance, and in 1868 the land that is present-day Lesotho was placed under British protection.

The land occupied by the Boers became a white governed territory known as the Orange Free State.

Commemorations of the day usually include Moshoeshoe Memorial Lectures at the National University of Lesotho and the laying of wreaths at the Moshoeshoe I statue in Maseru by King Letsie III and Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, followed by principal chiefs of all Lesotho tribes.

### Public holidays in SADC October - December 2006

1 February	Thaipooam Cavadee	Mauritius
1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
16 February	Maha Shivratri	Mauritius
18 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
3 March	Martyrs' Day	Malawi
5 March	Public Holiday	Malawi
8 March	International Women's Day	Madagascar, Angola
11 March	Moshoeshoe Day	Lesotho
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
9 March	Youth Day	Zambia
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
21 March	Human Rights Day	South Africa
30 March	Ougadi	Mauritius
29 March	Commemoration of the 1947 Rebellion	Madagascar
30 March*	Maulid Day	Tanzania
4 April	Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Angola
6 April	Good Friday	All except Mauritius, DRC, Mozambique, Madagascar
7 April	Public Holiday	Botswana
7 April	Holy Saturday	Zambia
7 April	Easter Saturday	Zimbabwe
7 April	Women's Day	Mozambique
7 April	Sheik Abed Amani Karume Day	Tanzania
9 April	Easter Monday	All except DRC, Mauritius, Mozambique,
9 April	South Africa Family Day	South Africa
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Celebrations	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa

\* Depends on visibility of the moon