



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY



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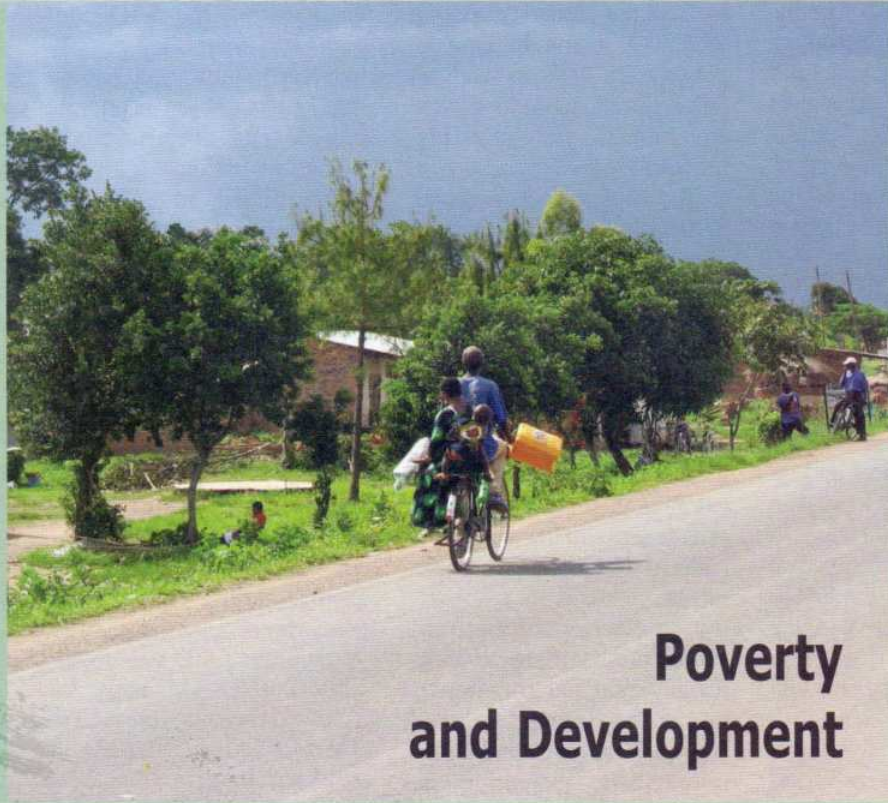
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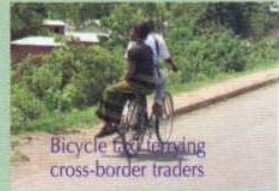
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Action on Energy

SADC COUNCIL of Ministers has adopted measures to address power shortfalls prevailing in the region. Council noted that during this period, short term projects costing US\$5 billion will provide additional power amounting to 6,550 MW. Long term projects with a capacity of 44,000MW will be implemented between 2008-2025 at a cost of US\$41.5 billion. (See *Energy review*, page 7)



Poverty and Development



SADC STAKEHOLDERS meet in Mauritius in April for high-level consultations on the poverty and development challenges facing the region.

The SADC International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development is a high-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue at ministerial level and involving senior business and civil society leaders from the region to engage in policy dialogue, forge consensus, and review progress of the SADC economic integration agenda, with emphasis on poverty eradication.

The theme of the conference is "Regional Economic Integration: A Strategy for Poverty Eradication towards Sustainable Development" and discussions will focus on strategies, commitments and resources needed to accelerate SADC's economic targets to facilitate implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

SADC Heads of State and Government will be in attendance for the third day of the conference to participate in a number of panel discus-

sions, together with selected Heads of State and Government from other regions of Africa, Asia, South America and Europe.

International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) have been invited to participate, at senior government level.

The conference will have two main parts. The first part, on 18-19 April, will be the SADC Consultative Conference, which is a policy dialogue that takes place every two years between SADC and ICPs. The second part is the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development, at Summit level, and this will take place on 20 April 2008.

Civil society groups will hold a pre-conference workshop on 16-17 April in Mauritius.

The international conference is expected to be a milestone towards poverty eradication in the region, and to lay the foundations for a new global partnership with SADC for this purpose. The conference will also assess the challenges toward achievement of the MDGs in the SADC region.

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Poverty and Development

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Addressing journalists at the launch ceremony of the final preparatory phase in Mauritius a month before the conference, SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Salomão said the event is being held against the backdrop of serious poverty challenges in the region.

"About 45 percent of the population in the SADC region lives in abject poverty," Salomão said. "This is reflected in poor social indicators such as high levels of malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment, underemployment, declining life expectancy and unsatisfactory access to basic services and infrastructure needed to sustain basic human capacities."

The scope of the conference is in the context of the SADC agenda as articulated in the 1992 SADC Treaty which says that regional integration will be pursued as the vehicle for accelerating economic growth, eradicating poverty and achieving a sustainable pattern of development.

The World Summit for Social Development in 1995 defined absolute poverty as "a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information."

The conference in Mauritius is expected to propose and adopt a Regional Poverty Reduction Framework (RPRF) with SMART targets and clear monitoring and evaluation plans.

SMART targets are: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound.

The consultations toward this framework will focus on innovative programmes and

time-specific tasks and actions to strengthen national poverty reduction programmes and accelerate progress toward MDGs targets such as halving by 2015 the number of people who were living in absolute poverty in 1990, as well as other education, health, gender, environment and infrastructure goals.

The conference is expected to launch the SADC Poverty Observatory, which is intended to keep the poverty eradication agenda in the forefront of SADC's programme of action.

SADC expects to receive concrete pledges of technical and financial support from the international community, development partners and the private sector in line with international development commitments.

One objective of the April conference is to re-mobilize the international community, in particular the developed countries, to meet their commitments to increasing the levels of development aid.

The process leading to the conference has been wide-ranging with a number of research projects for key poverty reduction challenges and strategies, stakeholders consultations at national level, a regional technical workshop and various policy meetings.

Sub-themes of conference are:

- o trade including informal cross-border trade;
- o infrastructure support;
- o education, skills and technologies;
- o strengthening the role of agriculture, gender and development; and
- o the economic cost of HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in the SADC region.

SADC is currently implementing a long-term plan for

the region called the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which identifies poverty as "one of the major development challenge facing the SADC region" and assigns top priority to poverty eradication, achieving sustainable economic growth, and deepening economic integration.

The RISDP identifies regional economic integration as a key strategy for this objective and sets targets for deepening economic integration.

These targets include the establishment of a SADC Free Trade Area in 2008, and a Customs Union by 2010, Common Market by 2015, Monetary Union by 2016 with a regional currency by 2018.

Salomão said "it is expected that the conference will reaffirm SADC's regional integration agenda as a necessary strategy to complement national poverty strategies for fostering economic growth and the achievement of a sustainable development pattern." □

Revisiting the G8 Gleneagles commitments

THE G8 industrialized countries reaffirmed, during their 2005 Summit at Gleneagles in Scotland, their commitment towards ensuring that the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be achieved by 2015 as agreed. The MDGs include targets on reducing poverty, combating hunger and disease, among others.

Progress towards meeting these goals is expected to feature in discussions at the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development in April 2008.

The commitments made by the G8 at Gleneagles include:

- o Doubling of aid by 2010 - an extra US\$50 billion worldwide and US\$25 billion for Africa;
- o Writing off immediately the debts of 18 of the world's poorest countries, most of which are in Africa. This was worth US\$40 billion in 2005, and as much as US\$55 billion as more countries qualify;
- o Commitment to end all export subsidies, and to reduce domestic subsidies, which distort world trade;

o Developing countries would "decide, plan and sequence their economic policies to fit with their own development strategies, for which they should be accountable to their people;"

o As close to universal access to HIV and AIDS treatment as possible by 2010;

o Funding for treatment and nets to combat malaria, saving the lives of over 600,000 children every year;

o Full funding to totally eradicate Polio from the world;

o All children to have access to good quality, free and compulsory education and to basic health care by 2015, free where a country chooses to provide it;

o Although the comprehensive package agreed at Gleneagles would have improved progress for Africa towards meeting the MDGs - a lot of these promises have remained on paper.

If the SADC region is to meet the MDGs by 2015, then much more needs to be done to meet and implement these commitments. □

Review of 2008 Council Decisions

THE SADC Council of Ministers is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations for Summit. We highlight the key issues discussed and decisions taken during the 28-29 February Council held in Lusaka, Zambia.

COMESA-EAC-SADC Summit for October

Some SADC Member States also belong to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) or the East African Community (EAC).

In view of the challenges presented by overlapping membership of the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the SADC Summit in August 2007 approved the convening of a Tripartite Summit to promote dialogue on issues of common interest.

Following that decision, Council has approved a proposed agenda for the joint COMESA-EAC-SADC Summit tentatively scheduled for October 2008 at a venue to be determined. The proposed agenda centres on:

- o economic regional integration including the status of trade liberalization; and infrastructure support for regional integration and development; and
- o geo-political issues where matters relating to cooperation with the European Union and overlapping membership among RECs will be considered.

EPA negotiations

Council noted that 31 December 2007 was the original deadline for the conclusion of World Trade Organisation (WTO) compatible Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the

EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions that would become effective on 1 January 2008. The WTO waiver also expired on 31 December.

To prevent trade disruption for goods destined to the European market owing to the expiry of the waiver, some Member States - Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland -- negotiating under the SADC umbrella initialled an Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) with the EU. Namibia initialled with reservations on some of the provisions of the agreement.

The other Member States are negotiating under the East and Southern Africa (ESA) group.

The interim agreement is expected to come into force by 1 July 2008 once ratified by all the relevant parties. To facilitate the completion of all outstanding work with respect to signature, ratification and entry into force of the IEPA, Council approved the convening of a high-level technical workshop not later than 30 March 2008.

Energy situation

Having reviewed the status of power generation capacity in the region and considering the report of the 20-21 February 2008 meeting of the Energy Ministerial Task Force, Council mandated the SADC Secretariat to liaise with Member States in exploring alternative low-cost sources of energy to address the current shortages.

Council also adopted emergency short-term and long-term measures to address current power shortfalls.

Concerning the power sector growth and sustainability, Council noted that an enabling environment is required to stimulate private sector participation and additional investment in the sector, which calls for harmonized national electricity pol-

icy frameworks and accelerating sector reforms as well as implementing principles of cost-reflective tariff structures.

These would allow utilities and Independent Power Producers to recover production costs and facilitate re-capitalization to sustain existing power networks.

Expressing concern on the shortage of finance for investment in the power sector, Council directed the Secretariat to explore financing models that would facilitate joint financing and development of cross-border power sector projects.

Council also directed the SADC Ministers responsible for Energy to review the pace of implementation of projects and report back on progress made.

(See pages 5-7 for update on Energy issues).

Emergency situations

In the wake of persistent emergency situations in the region, Council directed the Secretariat to operationalise the Disaster Management Unit as approved in 2001. This will enable the region to consolidate disaster management efforts.

Council noted the devastating effects caused by extensive flooding in DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Angola and Namibia experienced drought conditions in some regions while Madagascar experienced devastating cyclones.

DRC has also been affected by an earthquake in the Kivu region which caused fatalities and damage to property.

Poverty and development conference

Council expressed satisfaction on preparations for the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development set for 18-20 April in Mauritius under the

theme "Regional Economic Integration: A Strategy for Poverty Eradication Towards Sustainable Development."

Council noted that in addition to serving as a platform for policy dialogue, the expected outcome of the conference includes a SADC Poverty Observatory and a Regional Poverty Reduction Framework. (See cover story)

Upcoming elections

In view of a busy 2008/2009 election calendar, Council noted that SADC remains committed to ensuring that all the electoral processes take place within the auspices of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections to sustain peace, stability and security. Two countries holding elections in 2008 are Zimbabwe (29 March) and Angola (September) while Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa will go to polls in 2009.

2008-2009 Budget

For the financial year 2008/2009, a budget of US\$49,984,279 was approved. Member States will contribute US\$24,770,000 towards the budget while International Cooperating Partners grants will amount to US\$24,534,279 while the remainder, that is, US\$680,000 will come from other sources.

Job evaluation

Following a job evaluation over the past year, Council approved a new management structure for the SADC Secretariat which includes new positions of Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration and a Director for Budget and Finance. Implementation will commence after completion of the skills audit of incumbent staff, and will be in strict adherence to the quota-based system and equitable gender representation. □

Cross border trade is booming across southern Africa

INFORMAL CROSS Border Trade (ICBT) is a key livelihood in southern Africa and many people are making a decent living from this type of business, according to a recent survey done in six SADC Member States.

ICBT, largely driven by Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), is often perceived as not only economically non-viable but also as socially undesirable.

The study reveals that small-scale cross border trade, commonly referred to as ICBT, has become a profitable enterprise for many citizens to the extent that some have elected to leave formal employment to concentrate on their operations.

However, most policy-makers at the national and regional levels continue to ignore this form of trade, argues the study, and thus ICBT flows do not appear in official trade statistics. This leads to a situation where official trade flows are understated.

Furthermore, ICBT is often stigmatized and suffers from stereotypes of smuggling and lack of interest occasioned by lack of data commonly due to the secretive nature of small-scale cross border trade.

Despite the lack of data, some estimates have put ICBT at between 30 to 40 percent of intra-SADC trade, suggesting that by ignoring informal traders, SADC member states could be overlooking a significant proportion of their trade.

The survey was motivated by the need to better understand the dynamics of ICBT in southern Africa and offer recommendations to facilitate policy responses and measures that are pro-poor.

The study defined informal cross border trade as "consisting of easily observable goods that are traded



Small-scale cross border trade contributes significantly to the SADC economy

across countries either by avoiding customs points or passing through the customs points but with intentionally undervalued declarations."

It notes that informal traders are a diverse group dominated by women and generally comprising the vulnerable, unemployed, orphans, refugees, the youth, school leavers and widows among others.

Based on interviews carried out in selected capital cities and border points of six SADC member states - Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe -- the study highlights a number of challenges faced by SMMEs as they conduct cross border trade.

Among the obstacles is lack of recognition of ICBT as a form of business which often leads to criminalisation of SMMEs by authorities as well as harassment and all forms of abuse.

Other challenges include difficulties in obtaining passports and visas; being refused entry into countries that may not require visas; excessive customs charges; unwarranted impounding of goods; unfair treatment of traders as smugglers and drug traffickers; numerous check-points; humiliating body searches; limited access to formal credit

schemes; lack of reliable transport; weak associations; and a generally unfavourable policy and regulatory environment.

The study notes that that while national and regional policy initiatives, in particular the SADC Trade Protocol, portray intra-regional trade as an important way of spurring economic development and poverty reduction, such policies have largely ignored the growing significance of small scale cross border trade.

Thus one of the key recommendations is the need for a regionally recognised Common Trader's Licence which would address the problem of criminalization of ICBTs in Member States as well as work as an incentive for traders to declare their activities for official trade records, among other positives.

The findings further revealed that ICBT contributes significantly to the well-being of citizens and if deliberate steps are taken to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment, the sector can have a positive impact towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

Not only does ICBT ensure employment creation and income generation especially for people who are unable to find formal employment due to var-

ious social and economic reasons; but also plays an important role in ensuring food security by moving agricultural produce and other foodstuffs across borders.

Further, ICBT is a key source of empowerment for women who constitute the majority. The findings showed that on average over 70 percent of informal cross border traders are women who could either be widowed, divorced or who simply undertake this business to supplement their husbands' incomes.

However, ICBT has its own undesirable implications primarily because it can provide fertile ground for a myriad of illicit economic and social practices, concludes the study. These include drug trafficking; smuggling for example of precious minerals such as gold, diamonds, etc; customs and tax evasion thus depriving governments of potential revenue; illegal currency trading.

ICBT has also contributed to violation of health, sanitary and environmental requirements through mishandling by unqualified personnel, as well as breakdown of families often due to long absence from home by either spouse. The latter has resulted in a high incidence of di-

a - study

Civil society prepare for dialogue with SADC



REGIONAL CIVIL society organisations are to meet in Mauritius in a final preparatory pre-conference workshop ahead of the SADC conference on poverty to thrash out a common position.

The two-day meeting on 16-17 April will afford the civil society organisations an opportunity to technically prepare delegates who will participate more effectively as they articulate the broader civil society mandate.

Ahead of the pre-conference workshop and the conference itself, the regional civil society organisations held a series of national and regional meetings which resulted in the production of three main platform position papers:

- o Civil Society Regional Poverty and Development Advocacy Platform: discussion document;
- o Southern African Civil Society Declaration on the Eradication of Poverty for the SADC Conference on Poverty and Development; and
- o Southern African Civil Society Poverty Advocacy Programme of Action.

The pre-conference workshop will allow civil society groups to prepare and agree on common positions so as to present a collective approach and strategies on the agenda items for the discussion, as well as developing a cohesive message for the SADC Conference.

The conference held under the theme "Regional Economic Integration: A strategy for poverty eradication and development" is to discuss a wide range of poverty and development challenges facing the region.

However, the overarching objective of the SADC conference is to improve and strengthen the anti-poverty commitments of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, and establish complementary structures to support regional poverty focus.

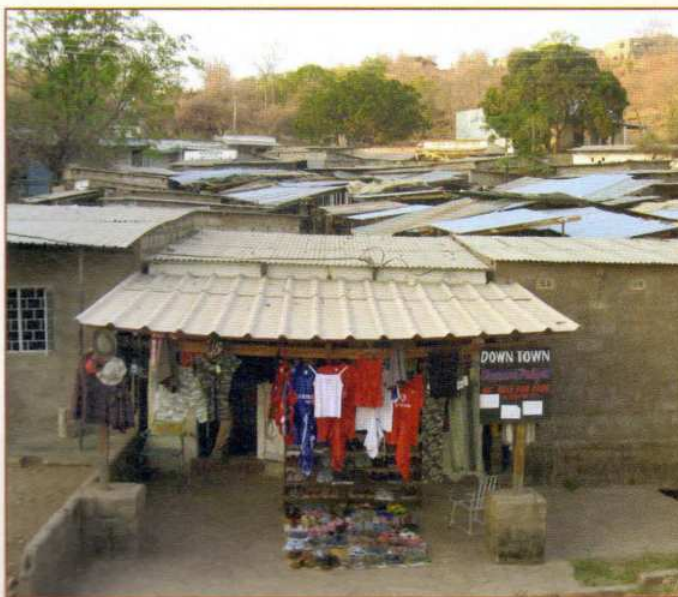
The civil society organisations have been encouraged to engage and sensitise their respective governments and delegates to Mauritius on their positions.

Selected organisations have been mandated to engage with SADC Secretariat and the national task team in Mauritius responsible for the conference. □

voice often leading to single parent families headed by women.

The study thus urges Member States to remain vigilant and employ more innovative ways of fighting illicit trade practices so as to flush out smugglers and drug traffickers from well-meaning ICBTs.

The study was done by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) with support from the Southern Africa Trust and was undertaken as part of the process leading to the SADC International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development. □



Poverty and development challenges to be discussed in Mauritius

Mozambique to further reduce poverty rates

THE MOZAMBIKAN government has adopted plans to reduce the country's poverty rate to 45 percent by 2009 through the creation of more jobs in the agricultural sector.

Currently some 54 percent out of the estimated 20 million population live below the poverty line.

The drive to cut the poverty rates through the establishment of small and medium businesses in agriculture is in line with targets set in the country's 2005-

2009 Poverty Reduction Strategy (known simply as Parpa).

The emphasis on agriculture is part of a nationwide strategy to boost agricultural production. This "Green Revolution" will see the supply of improved seeds and fertilizers to peasant farmers, effective and sustainable use of water resources, as well as marketing and commercialization.

Government hopes that eventually peasant farmers will be transformed into com-

mercial farmers. To this end, there is a strategy in place to simplify business procedures and remove red tape that encumbers the starting of a business.

Government is currently allocating US\$205 million to the country's 128 districts in order to empower and foster entrepreneurial spirit.

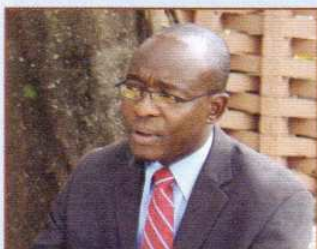
Between 1999-2004 government managed to reduce the poverty rate by five percent, to 54 percent. □

Free Trade Area enters penultimate stage

WITH A few months remaining before the inauguration of the SADC Free Trade Area, final preparations are being made for this historic launch, expected to coincide with the SADC Summit in August 2008.

SADC TIFI Director dies

THE SADC Secretariat has announced the death of Nokokure Murangi, the Director of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI) who tragically passed away in a car accident on Good Friday, 21 March 2008. He was driving alone along the Trans Kalahari Highway near Lone Tree, about 150 km from Ghantsi, Botswana. Murangi was laid to rest in his home country, Namibia. Murangi joined the SADC Secretariat in 2005, having worked in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and he was actively directing the



Nokokure Murangi

process toward launch of the SADC Free Trade Area, expected in August this year. May his soul rest in peace and his work be honoured through effective implementation of the FTA. □

At the core of the Free Trade Area (FTA) is economic liberalization including the lifting of tariffs and non-tariff barriers. This process has been ongoing since 2000 when implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol

came into force as the legal framework within which the FTA is to be achieved.

At the start of 2008, Member States were effecting new tariff regimes signalling the penultimate stages of the gradual elimination of customs barriers that started eight years ago.

All SADC Member States are applying the Trade Protocol, with the exception of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who have asked for more time before joining the FTA.

The protocol provides for asymmetrical trade liberalization based on the level of economic development in each country.

The Member States have agreed to liberalize 85 percent of intra-SADC trade by 2008 while liberalizing all sensitive products, which constitute the remaining 15 percent, by 2012. These include textiles and clothing, sugar, dairy products, chemicals and plastics, and motor vehicles.

In 2004 SADC undertook a Mid Term Review which came up with a number of recommendations including ensuring that tariff phase-downs are effected on 1 January of each year as an important step towards achieving the FTA within the agreed timelines.

However, not all Member States are up-to-date in terms of implementing their commitments, and they are expected to gear up if they are to be ready by August.

South Africa, which takes over the rotating SADC chair in August, is preparing to host the Summit.

The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan envisages the creation of a Free Trade Zone as from 2008, followed by a Customs Union in 2010, a Common Market by 2015 and a Monetary Union with a single currency by 2018. □

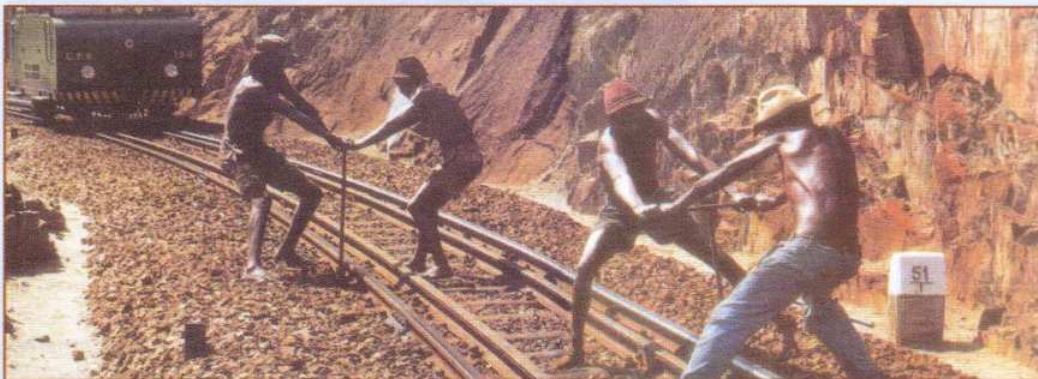
Zambia eyes rail link to boost trade with Angola

ZAMBIA PLANS to construct a railway line from its mineral-rich Copperbelt province to the border with Angola to link up with the Benguela railway line.

Zambian President and current SADC Chairperson, Levy Mwanawasa, said he is determined to see the fruition of the construction of a railway line from Chingola on the Copperbelt to Lumwana copper mine and then to Angola before his tenure of office comes to an end in 2011.

Zambian officials say the first phase of the railway link to Angola will involve the construction of 245 km of railway between the new mining town of Solwezi and Chingola in the north-western region.

The privately owned Northwest Railways said in 2007 it had secured US\$250 million in



Benguela rail link offers shortest trade route to the west coast

financing from investors in South Africa, Britain and the United States for the rail project.

Mwanawasa said the railway line would enhance trade between the two nations, the Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries in southern Africa.

He said Zambia is also keen to construct a road network from its northwestern town of

Kalabo to Angola to boost trade. "Zambia has since embarked on an ambitious programme to construct rail and road infrastructure linking Zambia with Angola in a bid to promote trade between the two nations and beyond," he said during a visit to Angola in March.

The Benguela line used to run through Angola to the Zam-

bian border, but was badly damaged during the decades-long civil war in the oil-rich nation. Noting that Angola offered the closest route to the sea for landlocked Zambia, Mwanawasa said resuscitation of the railway link between the two countries would significantly slash transaction costs for Zambian exporters. (ZANIS) □



ENERGY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Power conservation pivotal for SADC

THERE IS a growing realisation in the region that the current energy shortfalls will be around for some time, prompting Member States to adopt conservation programmes to reduce electricity demand.

SADC Council of Ministers has approved a regional power conservation programme to facilitate Demand Side Management (DSM), following recommendations by a ministerial task force on energy.

The SADC Energy Ministerial Task Force (EMTF) on Implementation of Power Sector Programme decided to formulate and implement a SADC programme on power conservation and develop a SADC policy to ensure efficient use of electrical energy.

They agreed, at an emergency meeting held in Botswana in February, that a power conservation programme must be prepared by June 2008.

The SADC road map includes the development of minimum energy efficiency standard for all new electrical connections, implementation of renewable energy technologies, and the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs in

preference for the Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs).

CFLs provide the same brightness as incandescent lights but use less than half the power.

The programme also entails the "optimization of energy as a matter of necessity" with measures that include a 10-percent reduction in consumption through rationing, power-buy-back arrangements and penalties.

The ministers welcomed South Africa's Eskom commitment to continue supplying power to other SADC Member States, albeit 10 percent less than previously agreed in line with its own programme of reducing supply to consumers by the same margin.

SADC Council noted that the measures had "already started paying dividends where they have been implemented in the region."

In most South African cities, the government and local authorities have discovered that some of the biggest energy-saving opportunities exist when buildings are being constructed or renovated.

One such example was the Cape Town Inn, which was reno-

vated with the assistance of Eskom. The renovations included replacing existing distribution and metering boards, installing new high-tech water heating system, replacing old lights with new energy saving ones. As a result of these changes, the energy saving costs per room were reduced by half.

Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe are involved in a Biomass Energy Conservation (BEC) programme, financed by the German Agency for Technical Co-operation.

The BEC programme, which encourages the use of renewable sources of energy in local communities has shown that with a comprehensive package of solutions and use of energy-efficient devices, it is feasible to achieve multiple, long-lasting benefits at regional level.

Other countries have turned to solar energy, which is in abundance in the region. Faced with massive shortages of power, South Africa is building a 100MW power plant in Johannesburg, entirely powered by the sun to add to its power grid within the next year.

Namibia is subsidising the installation of solar systems for domestic use and there are plans to roll out a solar heating programme for all government houses by 2009.

Besides being convenient for rural populations who cannot afford to pay monthly bills, solar-powered electricity is cheaper in the long term and can ease pressure on the SADC region's overstretched energy requirements.

DSM started in Brazil in the late 1970s when the country was faced with a critical power shortage, and government implemented legislation that encouraged the efficient use of energy. The most successful initiatives were the minimum efficiency standards for appliances and industrial motors.

In all their efforts however, information to the consumer was pivotal in achieving success.

Thus there is need for all countries in the SADC region to roll out efficient electricity communication campaigns nationwide, including distribution of CFLs, as these campaigns can be successful if customers are made part of the solution, not the problem. □



SADC Road Map to address power shortages

SADC HAS adopted a road map to accelerate the region's recovery from the current power shortages, stressing the need for clear milestones and timeframes to measure implementation. Recognizing that the region is in a power emergency situation, SADC decided to formulate and implement a SADC programme on power conservation and to develop a SADC policy to ensure efficient use of electrical energy. The SADC Energy Ministerial Task Force (EMTF) on Implementation of Power Sector Programmes, which convened an emergency meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in February, adopted supply and demand management initiatives, as well as the effective use of interconnectors.

The recommendations of the SADC Energy Ministerial Task Force (EMTF) on Implementation of

Power Sector Programme were approved by full Council of Ministers which met later in February in Lusaka, Zambia. Key results of the Task Force meeting are as follows. It was agreed that:

- o SADC is to formulate and implement a regional programme on power conservation and to develop a SADC policy to ensure efficient use of electrical energy.
- o SADC and the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) would assume direct responsibility for coordinating and monitoring project implementation, and that Member States should make full use of project preparation facilities to package projects.
- o A study will be commissioned to recommend a financing model for cross-border projects, and to follow up on international

pledges made to finance regional projects under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

- o There is need to accelerate private sector participation and increase investment in the power sector, and to take action toward achieving an enabling environment.

Council noted the short-term measures instituted by Members States and SAPP to overcome the diminished surplus of installed capacity and the expected impact of these measures, including the recovery plan developed by the South African utility, Eskom, and the power capacity availed by Mozambique for export to the rest of the region.

It was agreed that the region should work towards the harmonization of national electricity policy frameworks, and to accelerate the

pace of electricity supply industry reforms to improve governance and performance.

Council agreed to develop and implement the necessary national policies and promulgate legislation to ensure the promotion of power conservation practices, and to provide financial and fiscal incentives to the utilities for demand-side management.

The recapitalization of power utilities would be achieved through the adoption and implementation of cost-reflective tariffs to allow the utilities and Independent Power Producers to recover production costs.

The EMTF had noted that, in addition to issues of supply and demand, the power sector is facing additional challenges in financing of power projects and institutional arrangements for implementation. □



COMMUNIQUE

SADC ENERGY MINISTERIAL TASK FORCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF POWER SECTOR PROJECTS GABORONE, BOTSWANA, 21 FEBRUARY 2008

The SADC Energy Ministerial Task Force (EMTF) on Implementation of Power Sector Programmes convened an emergency meeting at Boipuso Hall in Gaborone, Botswana on the 21st February 2008. In the absence of the Chairperson of SADC EMTF, the Minister of Mines and Energy of the Republic of Namibia, Mr. Erikki Nghimfina, the meeting was Chaired by Honourable Michael Nyambuya, Minister of Energy and Power Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe and opened by Honourable P. H. K. Kedikilwe, Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources, Botswana. The Executive Secretary of SADC, H.E. Dr. Tomaz Salomao also gave brief remarks on the status of the power supply situation in the SADC region.

The Ministerial Task Force meeting was preceded by preparatory meetings of the members of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), the Regional Electricity Regulators' Association (RERA) and other parties on 19th February 2008 and Senior Energy Officials on 20th February 2008.

The Ministers registered their recognition of the high electricity demand which has outstripped supply due to, among other factors, the positive economic growth which averaged about 5% in most of the SADC Member States and rural electrification projects in most Member States.

The Ministers noted the current status of power supply within the region, which has an installed capacity of 54,742 MW of which only 46,391 MW is available. Although new generation amounting to 1,810 MW has been commissioned in the region in 2007, the reserve margin is still in deficit against a required reserve margin of 10.2%. The situation will continue until 2013 when all planned generation projects are commissioned.

The Ministers reviewed the status of implementation of SAPP generation, transmission and interconnector projects which are categorized as rehabilitation and related infrastructure, short term, medium term and long term projects. These projects require a total of US\$46.4 billion. In addition to these projects, the Ministers noted progress made on the Western Corridor Project (WESTCOR).

The Ministers took cognizance of the proposed short-term measures being instituted by Member States and SAPP to overcome the diminished surplus installed capacity and the expected impact of these measures on the power supply situation. These measures include respective utilities' short term projects, ESKOM's Recovery plan and power capacity being availed by Mozambique for export to the rest of the region. The Task Force noted that ESKOM through the Recovery Plan has achieved a 10% load reduction in South Africa, a reduction of power supplied through bilateral contracts by 10% and a saving of 600 MW in ESKOM demand specifically in the Western Cape. In Mozambique the Ministers noted that HCB has recently concluded a rehabilitation project on all units, resulting in the availability of the units increased to 90%, which has released 300MW to be used on non-firm basis to alleviate the crisis that the region is facing.

Following the understanding that the SADC region is undergoing a power emergency situation, the Ministerial Task Force adopted a road map to accelerate the region's recovery from this power shortage through ensuring the effective connectivity of the interconnectors, as well as Supply Side and Demand Side Management initiatives as follows:

- o A Power Conservation Programme (PCP) be formulated and implemented as a SADC programme
- o a SADC policy be developed to ensure efficient use of electrical energy;
- o development of a minimum energy efficiency standard for all new electrical connections
- o phasing out of incandescent light bulbs in preference to Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)
- o direct the recapitalization of power utilities
- o implementation of renewable energy technologies

In addition to the initiatives above, the Ministerial Task Force noted that an enabling environment is indispensable to accelerate private sector participation and additional investment in the power sector. In order to achieve an enabling environment the SAPP will

- i) work towards the harmonization of national electricity policy frameworks;
- ii) accelerate the pace of Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) reforms to improve governance and performance;
- iii) develop and implement the necessary national policies and promulgate legislation that will ensure:
 - o promotion of power conservation practices;
 - o provide financial and fiscal incentives to the Utilities for Demand-Side Management (DSM)
- iv) adopt and implement principles of cost reflective tariffs to allow utilities and Independent Power Producers (IPP) to recover production costs and allow for recapitalization.

The Ministerial Task Force noted that in addition to the supply side and demand side issues, the power sector is facing additional challenges in financing of power projects and institutional arrangements for implementation. The Ministers therefore agreed on the following actions:

- 1) Commission a study to recommend a financing model for cross border projects
- 2) SADC/SAPP to assume a direct responsibility for coordinating and monitoring project implementation
- 3) Member States should make full use of project preparation facilities to package projects
- 4) SADC should follow up on international pledges made to finance NEPAD regional projects

The Ministerial Task Force considered and approved structures for implementing projects, which include SADC Ministers responsible for Energy with ultimate oversight on the Power Sector Projects Road Map, the Energy Ministerial Task Force, to review the pace of implementation of projects; the SADC Secretariat Project Coordination Unit, to be responsible for strategic coordination of implementation of infrastructure projects, which includes, project development, packaging, monitoring and reporting process in conjunction with the Member States, SAPP, RERA and Key International Partners. Project Teams and Project Steering Committees will undertake day to day implementation and review of specific projects.

In addition to the above structures, the Ministerial Task Force agreed to strengthen SAPP to ensure that it has adequate capacity to facilitate the implementation of the Roadmap; and RERA to undertake capacity building within the regulatory and institutional framework to ensure that an enabling environment continues to obtain. In addition SAPP and RERA was given new mandate to champion regional power projects in conjunction with Member States.

The Ministerial Task Force underscored the importance of the proposed measures as a response to address the emergency situation. They impressed upon the SADC Secretariat, SAPP and RERA, supported by the utilities and other cooperating partners, the need to have clear milestones and timeframes for the pro-

posed measures so that their status of implementation is measurable. In their reaffirmation for the support for the proposed measures the Task Force took note of the report of the SADC Secretariat on the Madagascar Power Sector and that the proposed solutions for Madagascar are very similar to those made for the rest of the SADC Member States.

The Task Force noted with appreciation the reassurance by South Africa that she will honour her contractual obligations with regard to the power supply to the rest of the region.

In conclusion and following the offer by RSA to host the next Energy Ministerial Task Force Meeting at a date to be determined during the SADC Energy Ministers meeting to be held 30th April 2008 in DRC, the Ministerial Task Force conveyed their appreciation to the People and Government of Botswana for the conducive environment which led to the successful outcome of the meeting, the SADC Secretariat and the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources of Botswana for the preparations they made for the meeting and all the stakeholders for their continued support.

Boipuso Hall, Gaborone, 21 February 2008

SAPP grid operating as three separate islands

THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool (SAPP) is working round the clock to reintegrate the regional grid which is currently working as three separate "islands" owing to technical faults on the main interconnectors.

Presenting a status report on the region's power grid to the SADC energy ministerial task force in February, the SAPP Co-ordination Centre Manager, Lawrence Musaba, said a total of 14 disturbances were recorded on the SAPP grid in the period January to February 2008.

The disturbances occurred on 19-21 January and 2-3 February, leaving Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana in darkness.

This resulted in the SAPP grid operating as three separate "islands." The problem was further aggravated by the fact that governor settings at Kariba North Bank (KNB) and Kariba South Bank (KSB) were set differently, 55Hz for ZESA and 60Hz for ZESCO and as a result, ZESA was experiencing tripping on governor over-speeding while ZESCO was experiencing tripping on over-frequency.

The "islands" are:

- o Zambia-Democratic Republic of Congo (ZESCO and SNEL)
- o Zimbabwe-Mozambique (ZESA and EDM/HCB)
- o South Africa (Eskom, BPC, EDM, LEC, SEB and Nam-Power)

This situation deprived some Member States of the electricity purchased from other countries that should be transmitted via the regional grid.

SAPP pointed out that it is "studying the problem to come up with a technical solution" with a view to "bringing back the interconnected network as quickly and as safely as possible."

SAPP is in talks with Eskom, ZESCO and ZESA so that the individual utilities can give updates on progress.

Musaba said SAPP was given 60 days by the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Energy to resolve this issue and to restore the interconnected grid. □

Power shortages threaten MDGs

CURRENT POWER shortages facing the SADC region could pose a serious threat to the region's journey towards achieving its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) commitments, according to the Southern Africa Trust.

Power outages in countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa have affected the way people live and conduct business.

The Trust noted that "the provision of reliable and sustainable energy at the

lowest cost for economic and social development can be a major contributor to the eradication of poverty in the southern Africa region."

It further noted that the provision of electricity to key public facilities such as clinics and schools was essential to meeting some of the region's MDG goals.

SADC countries have been struggling to meet demand for electricity caused by a rapidly expanding regional economy.

Construction of Inga III dam to start in 2009

CONSTRUCTION OF the Inga Phase Three hydropower plant in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is expected to start in 2009 at a total cost of US\$3.6 billion.

A pre-feasibility study by a Canadian firm said the construction work will be carried out in two phases.

The first phase runs from 2009 to 2013 followed by a second phase from 2014 to 2021.

The launch of the giant Inga Falls electricity project is one of several SADC initiatives planned to ensure sustainable energy supply in a region that has faced persistent power shortages since last year.

The Western Power Corridor (Westcor) project, drawing electricity from Inga, is expected to provide 35,000 MW of power, initially targeted at Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia and South Africa.

The Inga Falls project is believed to be the largest single hydropower initiative in the world and, when operating at full capacity, is expected to surpass Mozambique's Cahora Bassa.

Cahora Bassa is one of Africa's biggest hydroelectric stations, producing an estimated 2,500 MW.

DRC has a vast hydropower potential of more than 100,000 MW. About 44,000 MW of that is found at the Inga Falls and over 56,000 MW at other sites scattered across the country.

An earlier pre-feasibility study carried out by the DRC state-run electricity company, SNEL, showed that the first phase of the Inga Phase Three project would meet the energy needs of southern, north, and west Africa. □

Botswana courts SADC partners in oil pipeline project

BOTSWANA IS courting coastal SADC countries as it searches for cost-effective ways of transporting fuel into the country.

One of the options being pursued is the construction of a giant underground oil pipeline linking the landlocked country to the sea.

The country's Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources has been holding consultations with Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia to establish where to build the pipeline.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) advised SADC Member States as early as 1999 that demand for power in southern Africa was increasing at the rate of about three percent per annum due to increased economic activities and up-scaling of electrification programmes while investment into both power generation and transmission infrastructure remained stagnant.

SAPP said then that unless immediate action was taken, blackouts could be expected in the region in 2007/8.

Regional integration advisor at SAT, Themba Mhlongo, said the objective of providing affordable energy services to rural communities through increased access to modern energy technologies would remain a distant hope unless more was done to prioritise investments in electricity generation and transmission capacity.

Acting Department of Energy Affairs director, Buti Mogotsi, said the plan to construct the pipeline should be finalised by June.

Botswana relies on fuel from neighbouring South Africa and consumes 800 million litres a year from South African-based refineries owned by multinational oil companies.

Under the current arrangement, fuel destined for Botswana is ferried by trucks and trains, a mode of transport that has proved uneconomical and unsafe. □

Although SADC priorities in the energy sector increased access to modern energy especially in rural communities, biomass such as fuelwood and cow dung are still the primary sources for up to 80 percent of total energy consumption for families and informal businesses in most southern African countries.

The Southern Africa Trust is an independent, regional, non-profit agency established to support deeper and wider engagement in policy dialogue to overcome poverty in southern Africa. □

Malawi to commission uranium mine

COMMISSIONING OF Malawi's first uranium mine is expected to take place at the end of the year, with actual production of the mineral set for early 2009.

The Kayelekera mine will be the country's first uranium-producing mine and will have a capacity of 3.3-million pounds of uranium oxide annually, according to the Australian mining company that owns an 85 percent stake in Kayelekera and also has interests in uranium mining in Namibia. The remainder of the shareholding is owned by the Malawi government.

Malawi joins other SADC Member States that have indicated plans to develop uranium mining projects for electricity generation. These include Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

South Africa is the only SADC country that is already using uranium to produce electricity at its Koeberg power station in Cape Town. □



Stunning turnaround for Mauritian textile sector

THE GOOD times are rolling again for Mauritius' clothing and textile sector after more than two years of languishing in the doldrums, thanks to self-belief and an undying desire to see the industry succeed.

A never-say-die attitude has seen the Mauritians quickly regrouping after suffering a major setback in 2006 following the removal of preferential trade benefits with the European Union (EU).

For about 40 years, Mauritius had benefited from non-reciprocal trade preferences under successive conventions signed with European states.

But in the current era of liberalized trade the SADC Member State suddenly found these agreements falling away, leaving the island with no choice but to consolidate its economic pillars - sugar, textiles and clothing, tourism and services - while developing new ones such as seafood to survive in this globalized world.

South Africa to purchase more power from Mozambique

THE STATE-OWNED South African power utility Eskom is negotiating to buy more electricity from Mozambique's Cahora Bassa Dam power station in a bid to ease an energy shortage threatening Africa's largest economy. Chief Executive Jacob Maroga said that Eskom, the sole national electricity supplier in South Africa, is negotiating to purchase an additional 250 megawatts per day.

Mozambique currently provides 1,100 MW of power to Eskom, which has been forced to cut power across South Africa since the beginning of the year. The resulting blackouts caused large mines to shut down for five days and raised fears of an economic slowdown. □

The country had almost lost hope for its textile and clothing industry after the closure of several big factories over the past few years. The sector dropped to a negative growth rate of minus 12.5 percent in 2006 but has since been revamped to manufacture up-market goods.

The amazing turnaround in the industry's fortunes happened relatively fast with a dramatic jump in its growth rate to eight percent in 2007.

Employing 67,000 people, the sector generated some US\$1.45 billion last year compared to US\$1.25 billion in 2006. The target is US\$1.65 billion for 2008.

Plenty of jobs are now available in the textiles and clothing sector but there are not enough local takers. The island is importing foreign labour from India, China and Bangladesh which now numbers more than 33,000.

The textile and clothing industry works on small orders of between 10,000 and 20,000 items delivered with short

turnaround times of less than two weeks.

Some large enterprises have opened warehouses in Europe and South Africa where they stock their products. As soon as an order is received, the goods are shipped directly from there.

Apart from traditional markets, the industry is also seeking to conquer emerging markets in India and Pakistan, thanks to preferential trade agreements with these two countries. Foreign textile enterprises are again showing a keen interest in Mauritius.

Chinese company, Tianli, invested US\$600 million in a new project at Riche-Terre near the capital where a new industrial park will accommodate high-end, value-adding industries.

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam has indicated that this development project will provide employment to 42,000 people in five years, starting from April 2009.

Some 40 Chinese factories will operate from the park, specializing in activities ranging from clothing manufacturing to

hardware assembly and food processing and generating an income of about US\$200 million. □

Tanzania signs power supply agreement with AfDB

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania has signed a US\$48 million loan and grant agreement with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to finance the country's electricity expansion programme. The funds will be used to secure, improve and extend sustainable supply of power to businesses and households in rural towns and suburban areas in Mwanza, Shinyanga, Arusha and Dar es Salaam regions.

The United Republic of Tanzania boasts ample power-generating sources but so far about 90 percent of its rural population and 30 percent of its urban residents do not have access to reliable and affordable electricity. □

Mozambique to build container terminal in Nacala

MOZAMBIQUE PLANS to build an additional container terminal in Nacala to ease congestion at the existing facility. It is expected that the addition of the new terminal and a general improvement in the cargo-handling equipment will be a huge step forward in Nacala's quest to become a "mini-hub port" for a number of feeder services to the East African coast and Indian Ocean ports.

Nacala international harbour serves the bulk of Mozambique's shipments in the northern parts of the country attracting users, not only from Malawi, but also from Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania in serving as an alternative port alongside Dar es Salaam and Mombasa in Kenya. □

South African professor advances solar technology

THERE IS light at the end of the tunnel - but it is not being generated by the national electricity supplier Eskom, rather by revolutionary solar-powered technology developed by University of Johannesburg professor, Vivian Alberts.

Alberts has spent the past 13 years developing highly advanced photovoltaic, or thin-film, solar panels that could be the solution to South Africa - and the region's - power shortages. The panels are already being constructed by a technology company in Germany, and will go on sale in Europe this year, according to Alberts. Due to the construction of the

cells, comparatively high yields can be obtained even under partially shaded or overcast conditions.

Alberts, said plans to make the photovoltaic panels commercially available in South Africa and the rest of the region are at an advanced stage and there would be a major announcement at the end of April.

Based on improved temperature co-efficients - which means lower performance losses at high temperatures -- thin-film modules were especially suited to temperatures over 25°C, which was the case in South Africa and the rest of the region. □

New President for Botswana

Botswana's Khama: "Democracy, Development, Dignity and Discipline"

WHILE THE international spotlight has focused on Zimbabwe, its neighbours in Botswana quietly changed their President almost unnoticed, in a planned transition through an election in Parliament.

Festus Mogae, who has been president for the past 10 years, resigned on 31 March, handing over to the former vice-president, Ian Khama, who is the eldest son of the late founding President and father of the nation, Seretse Khama.

Ian Khama has been vice-president for the past decade, and chairperson of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) since 2003. He is a graduate of Sandhurst, the officer training college in Britain, and was previously commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF).

Khama, 55, who took over from Mogae, 69, on 1 April, said in his inaugural address that there would be no policy change but his roadmap would be "underpinned and characterized by the principles of Democracy, Development, Dignity and Discipline."

He moved quickly to allay any fears of change, saying "a change of leadership does not mean radical changes in the way we have been setting out our objectives as agreed upon by the ruling party and government for this nation."

"Our party has a manifesto that I signed on to and the government has a national development plan that I am also a party to. However, in the course of the incoming administration you may detect a change in style and special emphasis on a number of issues. This should not cause any alarm or uncertainty."

"Botswana have every right to reflect with pride on four decades of independence, stability and major economic and social development," Khama said.

His inauguration was attended by two former presidents (Mogae and his predecessor, Sir Ketumile Masire), traditional leaders, judges, members of parliament and the diplomatic corps.

Khama chose as his Vice-President, the former Foreign

Minister, Mompoti Merafhe; retained the respected finance minister, Baledzi Gaolethe; and returned to cabinet in senior positions other experienced leaders.

Four women are in cabinet out of 16 members, for a total of 25 percent. All are senior and have been in cabinet before. They hold the influential ministries of local government; health; communications, science and technology; and youth, sports and culture.



Seretse Ian Khama

The BDP has been in power for more than 40 years since Botswana, a former British protectorate, gained independence in 1966, and goes to the electorate every five years. sardc.net □

SADC observers say Zimbabwe polls "peaceful and credible"



Campaign trail and voting in Zimbabwe, 29 March 2008

A PRELIMINARY statement from the SADC Electoral Observer Mission (SEOM), issued before the announcement of results, concluded that Zimbabwe's harmonized polls "held on 29 March 2008 for President, Senate, National Assembly and local government have been a peaceful and credible expression of the will of the people of Zimbabwe."

The head of the SEOM, José Marcos Barrica said the elections were "characterized by high levels of peace, tolerance and political vigour by party leaders, candidates and their supporters."

Barrica, who is the Angolan Minister of Youth and Sport, said his mission was satisfied with the conduct of the political parties, candidates and the electorate, who were conversant with electoral laws and procedures in the Electoral Act and the SADC Guidelines

Governing Democratic Elections.

The SADC Mission noted, however, that "the elections were held against a background characterized by a highly tense and polarized international atmosphere where some quarters of the international community remain negative and pessimistic about Zimbabwe and its chances for credible elections."

The Mission noted and pursued concerns and allegations pertaining to bias on the part of both the private and public media, pronouncements by senior officers in the security forces, the presence of police officers at polling stations, and the delay in the publication of the voters' roll, among other issues.

However, the SEOM said with regard to the overall voting process, the elections were conducted in an open and

transparent manner, and commended the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) for meeting the administrative challenges of conducting the harmonized elections and demonstrating "high levels of professionalism, resilience and hard work."

"It is SADC's greatest hope that the spirit of co-operation and political tolerance which prevailed thus far, will continue to thrive amongst all parties and candidates in the post election phase."

"The greatest winner here must be the people of Zimbabwe and hence we call on all political parties to accept the election results. Any further queries and concerns should be pursued in line with the laws of the country."

In total the SEOM consisted of 163 members from 11 of the other 13 member states. sardc.net □

Regional consultations initiated on SADC gender protocol

by Patience Zirima

THE SADC Gender Unit has a plan in place for consultations throughout the region on the draft gender protocol to enable the involvement of all stakeholders.

The draft Protocol on Gender and Development is under review after the 2007 Summit of Heads of State and Government referred it back to SADC ministers responsible for gender to allow for further national consultations.

Consultations will be undertaken in the first half of the year so the protocol can be finalised and submitted to Council and Summit in August 2008.

A protocol is the most binding of SADC legal instruments and it is expected that adoption of the gender protocol, which proposes specific targets and goals, will accelerate the achievement of gender equality in the region.

A strategic meeting of senior officials responsible for gender and women's affairs in SADC Member States was held in mid-December 2007 in Livingstone, Zambia as a first step in reviewing the draft, to update senior officials on progress, and to develop a framework for national activities to advance discussions.

Delegates stressed the importance of national consultations on the protocol so as to reach a consensus before it is resubmitted to Summit.

Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, Head of the SADC Gender Unit, underscored the importance of reviewing the draft so as to reach a consensus before resubmission to Summit. She stressed that it is important to have a draft with a "high level of clarity, consciousness, and focus."

Roadmap towards the signing of the SADC draft Protocol on Gender and Development

Action	Institution	Timeframe
Regional strategy meeting for senior officials responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs	Secretariat	December 2007
National consultations with all stakeholders on the draft Protocol on Gender and Development	Member States (Ministries responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs) National stakeholders	January-March 2008
Ministers responsible for gender meeting	Secretariat Member States	April 2008
Ministers of Justice meeting	Secretariat Member States	May 2008
Submit final draft to Senior Council of Ministers	Secretariat	August 2008
Submit final draft to Summit	Secretariat	August 2008
Adopted and signed Protocol	Secretariat	August 2008

Some of the changes are intended to address overlaps with existing protocols or declarations such as the Protocol on Education and Training, the Protocol on Health, the Maseru Declaration on HIV and AIDS, the UN Council Resolution 1325 on Peace-building, Peace-making and Peace-keeping, and the Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport.

These changes point to challenges with articulating gender issues in the protocol and therefore there is need to set a clear conceptual framework of what the Protocol on Gender and Development should contain and why.

Delegates at the meeting also defined which key stakeholders need to be involved from the beginning of the process such as SADC senior officials, officials from ministries of justice, foreign affairs, finance, members of parliament, and development partners.

Involving all key stakeholders will ensure that all

parties make an input into the process and that any misunderstandings on the document are removed before presentation to Summit for approval.

Senior officials agreed on the need to strategise on how best national consultations should be handled so that all stakeholders take ownership of the protocol. □

Guidelines for national consultations on the draft Protocol on Gender and Development

- National workshop to brief the stakeholders on progress and next processes (The list of stakeholders must include officers from gender ministries, and all other ministries and officers mentioned below. This will be in preparation for ministerial level briefings and consultations);
- Briefing of Minister(s) responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs;
- Consultations and consensus building with the SADC National Contact Point (Ministry of Finance and Development Planning or Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- Consultations and briefing of the Women's Parliamentary Caucuses;
- Consultations and briefing of Parliament;
- Consultations and thorough briefing of the Cabinet;
- Consultations and thorough briefing of the Office of the President including the President and/or Prime Minister. □



Artists establish SADC forum on HIV and AIDS

SADC ARTISTS have established a forum to act as a platform for the regional arts industry in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The SADC Forum for Artists Against AIDS was one of the results of the SADC Artists Workshop on HIV and AIDS held in Zimbabwe as part of the SADC Artist AIDS Festival. The workshop was attended by artists from Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The forum will network with other HIV and AIDS service organisations in the region and individual Member States to undertake research and provide statistics and data on artists living with AIDS and needing anti-retroviral therapy, as well as to provide information, services and support to artists in general and in particular artists living with HIV and AIDS.

It will also source funding from SADC national governments, international community, corporations, foundations and individuals to assist artists in dealing with the HIV and AIDS pandemic and to enable the forum's steering committee to achieve its objectives.

The forum will aim to provide adequate information on voluntary counselling and testing, and champion the case for all artists to go for counselling and testing in order to receive necessary support.

The forum's steering committee is chaired by Zimbabwean writer, Virginia Phiri, and her deputy is Zambian musician, Moses Sakala.

In a declaration issued at the end of the workshop, the artists observed that many of them were still in the denial stage about the reality of HIV and AIDS and also noted that a

lot needs to be done to fight the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS.

They observed that communities were still unable to accept artists and others who go public about their HIV status.

The SADC artists said they had undertaken a comprehensive introspection as artists on

how HIV and AIDS is impacting on the industry and how they must respond to the pandemic, noting that artists are currently used mainly as instruments in campaigns to encourage behavioural change but need to be educated themselves on ways of preventing the spread of HIV. □



Zambian female boxing sensation scores a first for SADC



Boxing sensation, Esther Phiri

ZAMBIAN FEMALE boxer, Esther Phiri, has become a role model to young people in the SADC region after winning the World International Boxing Federation (WIBF) title.

Since her sensational victory over then WIBF Intercontinental Junior Lightweight champion, American Kelli Cofer, in 2006, Phiri has become a household name in Zambia.

Billboards with her picture line streets and the government television broadcaster carries her fights live.

She also holds the Global Boxing Union (GBU) super featherweight title. Her last fight was a GBU title defence against American Belinda Laracuente in December 2007.

She defeated the more experienced American, adding another victory to her impressive run as the first female boxing champion from southern African.

To many observers, Phiri - a single mother and former street vendor with little education - could provide the catalyst for change in societal stereotypes.

Phiri acknowledges that navigating the challenges of fame has not been easy for her and she has received advice from all corners, including from President Levy Mwanawasa.

Aside from boxing, Phiri wants to finish school and says she has a "business mind". She has also set her sights on securing a bout in Las Vegas, the world capital of boxing. □

Single tourism visa for SADC region

SADC MEMBER States have agreed to speed up the process of establishing the Univisa, a single visa for tourists visiting southern Africa, and the removal of obstacles to the movement of SADC citizens within the region.

The decision, taken at a ministerial meeting in Luanda, Angola in March, was announced by Rejoice Mabudafhasi, the deputy tourism minister of South Africa.

The Univisa is expected to operate similarly to the European Schengen visa system. Member states still have to resolve outstanding issues such as costs, policy agreements, procedures and requirements for issuing of the Univisa.

The removal of obstacles to the movement of SADC citizens can be done through bilateral agreements, including a waiver of visas and many SADC Member States have such agreements.

The nine Member States who have signed the protocol on the movement of citizens are Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. □





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EVENTS DIARY 2008

April
12, Zambia

SADC Extra Ordinary Summit on Zimbabwe

In consultation with the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Mr. Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, the President of the Republic of Angola, SADC Chairperson, Dr. Levy Patrick Mwanawasa (SC), the President of the Republic of Zambia has called for an Extra Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government.

14-18 South Africa

Africa Power and Electricity Congress

The 10th annual Africa Power and Electricity Congress 2008 aims to provide participants with an opportunity to interact with industry leaders from 22 African countries and debate the latest opportunities in the energy market.

16-17 Mauritius

SADC Civil Society Regional Poverty and Development Advocacy Platform Pre-Conference Workshop

The workshop will prepare civil society delegates for the SADC International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development. Delegates from umbrella civil society organisations throughout the region will attend the workshop.

18-20 Mauritius

SADC International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development

Theme: "Regional Economic Integration: A Strategy for Poverty Eradication towards Sustainable Development"

The conference will adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to allow for strategic dialogue that recognises the necessity of regional multi-dimensional strategies and approaches to tackle poverty. Expected outcomes include the adoption of a SADC Regional Poverty Reduction Framework (RPRF) and the establishment of a SADC Poverty Observatory.

28-30 DRC

SADC Energy Ministers

SADC Energy Ministers will meet to discuss the energy situation in the region, and the prevailing power deficits. The Ministers have ultimate oversight on the Power Sector Projects Road Map. The ministers will also discuss the phasing out of leaded petrol which is expected to take effect in April. The ministerial meeting will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of senior officials.

May
07-09, Namibia

ICT-Africa 2008 Conference

ICT-Africa 2008 will bring together delegates from commercial, government and research organisations across Africa and from Europe to strategise on ways to bridge the Digital Divide by sharing knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and good practices. ICT-Africa 2008 will focus on Applied ICT research topics addressing major societal and economic challenges.

14-15, Mozambique

Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank

Mozambique will host the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank (ADB) and the 34th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund (ADF) under the theme of "Fostering shared growth: urbanisation, inequality and power." These meetings are the most important meeting place of finance and development experts in Africa.

1835 >

> 1994



End of slavery opens new horizons for Mauritius

THE ABOLITION of slavery in Mauritius in 1835 was as significant as the end of apartheid in southern Africa's fight against poverty.

Happening 159 years apart, both events were defining points for a region where institutionalised discrimination of one group by another was common.

Both opened new horizons for the previously oppressed and ushered in new opportunities for those hitherto denied rights to self-determination, education, accommodation and good health facilities.

Slaves were shipped from India and parts of Africa to work on the plantations in Mauritius owned by French settlers.

As with the fight against apartheid in South Africa, the march to abolish slavery in Mauritius was not an easy one, often involving violent conflict.

Finally, after much petitioning, the colonial authorities abolished slavery in 1835 but not before agreeing to several concessions for the plantation owners.

These included payment of €2.1 million and laws obliging freed slaves to remain on their former owners' land as "apprentices" for six years.

Today, Mauritius is one of Africa's strongest economies, with a vibrant clothing and textile sector, export processing zone, and a model tourism industry.

Mauritius this year commemorated the 173rd anniversary of the abolition of slavery with the unveiling of a commemorative pillar in memory of slaves who were brought to the country.

The first pillar was inaugurated in Fort Dauphin, Madagascar in 2004, then at Saint Paul, Reunion Island in 2005, followed by the third one in July 2007 at Mozambique Island, the ancient capital of Mozambique.

The next commemorative pillar will be erected in Pondicherry on the East coast of India and a "Slave Memory Garden" will be established in 2009 in Nantes, a French port from where hundreds of slave ships set sail for the Americas in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The initiative is supported by UNESCO's project, "The Slave Route." Other events jointly organised by the Ministry of Arts and Culture, the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund, the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture and the National Heritage Fund included a wreath-laying ceremony at the Slave Monument at Pointe Canon in Mahebourg, 50 kilometres east of Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius.

21 MARCH is a significant day in South Africa and Namibia's historical experience. South Africa commemorates Human Rights Day, recognised after the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 where 300 black South Africans embarked on protests against the pass laws of the apartheid era. Following a state of emergency, which lasted for 156 days, 69 people were killed and 187 injured. The Human Rights Day is but one step to ensure that the people of South Africa are aware of their human rights and to ensure that such abuses never again occur. In Namibia, this day marks 18 years of independence from South Africa. The words of the first post-independent president of Namibia, Sam Nujoma still reverberate, "our achievement of independence imposes upon us a heavy responsibility, not only to defend our hard won liberty, but also to set for ourselves high standards of equality, justice and opportunity for all, without regard to race creed or colour."

Public holidays in SADC April - June 2008

4 April	Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Angola
7 April	Women's Day	Mozambique
7 April	Ougadi	Mauritius
7 April	Sheik Abeid Amani Karume Day	Tanzania
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
21 April	Maulid Day	Tanzania
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Celebrations	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
1 May	Labour/Workers Day	All SADC
2 May	Public Holiday	Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
5 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho,
	Namibia, Swaziland	
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
25 May	Africa Day	Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
24 June	Fishermen's Day	DRC
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
30 June	Independence Day	DRC

* Depends on visibility of the moon