

IMBIZO: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

People united in peace and friendship for a better Africa and a better world

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Editorial

This issue of *DFA Now* focuses on the inaugural DFA Imbizo held successfully at Jameson Hall, the University of Cape Town on Tuesday 23 August and the annual SADC Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana from 17-18 August.

The Imbizo was held under the theme of “A People United in Peace and Friendship towards a better Africa in a Better World” and was aimed at building a partnership between government, the academia, students and surrounding communities. The Imbizo article reflects on the pertinent issues discussed at the event such as the importance of SADC as the foundation for regional, continental and international engagement”, South Africa’s contribution to various peace-building, conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction and the UN Reform. With this initial Imbizo the department has begun to instil an awareness of South Africa’s international relations and an understanding of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that exist for South Africa and the African continent to take up their rightful place in the world.

Celebrating its twenty-five years of existence the recent SADC Summit was held to discuss matters of common concern particularly in the fields of politics, economics and social engagements. This article touches on the history of the organisation, its achievements thus far and future objectives and projects, which still needs to be accomplished. Among other achievements the Summit saw the adoption of the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons which aims at the elimination of obstacles to the movement of persons within the region and the admission of Madagascar as the 14th member into the SADC.

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Director-General of Foreign Affairs
Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba

DFA IMBIZO

Building partnerships for a better life for all

A “People United in Peace and Friendship towards a better Africa in a Better World” was the theme at the launch of the first ever DFA driven Imbizo at the University of Cape Town (UCT), 23 August 2005. The gods had blessed the occasion with a tumultuous storm. Unperturbed by the heavy rains, about 1000 people turned up in high spirits to participate and be counted at the historic Imbizo.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma pictured during the opening address to DFA Imbizo, with the Director-General, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba; Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Prof. Rob Davies; Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad; the Minister of Education, Naledi Pandor; Prof. Njabulo Ndebele, the Vice-Chancellor of UCT and Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe and the Premier of the Western Cape Government, Ebrahim Rasool at the table (from left-right).

The Imbizo was spearheaded by the political principals of the DFA represented by Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Deputy Ministers Sue van der Merwe and Aziz Pahad and the provincial government of the Western Cape, lead by Premier Ebrahim Rasool. Government was also represented by Minister of Education, Ms Naledi Pandor, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Professor Rob Davies and Mr Barry Gilder, Co-ordinator of the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee. It was geared to serve as an information session to the various communities of Cape Town about the role DFA plays as the lead department in international affairs in our country. The event was also attended

“South Africa stands for a democratic, peaceful, stable, prosperous, non-racist, non-sexist society with respect for human life, and which contributes to a world that is just and equitable”

by the Vice-Chancellor of UCT, President of the Association of African Universities, Professor Njabulo Ndebele, as well as members of the academic community of the Western Cape.

The aim of the inaugural Imbizo was to build a partnership between government, the academia, students and surrounding communities in an effort to ensure active engagement and participation in the implementation of government programmes and an awareness of the role played by the Ministry and the DFA.

Minister Dlamini Zuma reaffirmed to the public that South Africa’s foreign policy is firmly rooted in the principles and values as guided by the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

“South Africa stands for a democratic, peaceful, stable, prosperous, non-racist, non-sexist society with respect for human life, and which contributes to a world that is just and equitable” said the Minister.

In this way, the Minister conveyed that our foreign policy holds sacrosanct the values of a culture of a respect for human rights, the promotion of democracy, a commitment to justice and international law, international peace and peaceful resolutions of conflicts, economic development through regional and international co-operation as well as the consolidation of the African agenda.

Africa occupies centre stage in our foreign policy as evidenced by the critical role performed by our country in the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity to the African Union and the creation of organs such as the Pan African Parliament, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism to steer the continent on the path of good governance and economic development.

Infrastructure development, science and technology, agriculture, environment and information and communication technology were identified as priority sectors for the developmental agenda of the African continent through the NEPAD.

The Minister emphasised that our conflict resolution skills received commendable reviews from the international community in striving to solve the conflicts in Burundi, Rwanda, the DRC and Sudan with the realisation that South Africa’s success and prosperity are intertwined with the rest of the continent:

“Through the Peace and Security Council we shall continue to contribute to various peace-building, conflict-resolution and post conflict reconstruction efforts that we are engaged in”.

“We must continue to strive for a just, humane and better world”.

The Minister emphasised the importance of SADC “as the foundation for regional, continental and international engagements”.

“SADC with the other Regional Economic Communities (REC) like



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during her address and in replying to questions focussed on the role of women in society and stressed that they are central in the future of this Continent

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the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Committee on Development (IGAD) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are the building blocks for Africa’s economic integration.

Among other issues under discussion was the India-Brazil-South Africa tri-lateral co-operation, South-South solidarity, the role of the African Diaspora as a contribution to Africa’s development and the continued socio-economic engagement with countries in the North. These present our country with a golden opportunity to forge bridges and linkages with the broader international community and strengthen our country’s vision of striving for a better life for all.

The need to transform structures of global political and economic governance also took centre stage at the Imbizo with the Minister engaging the audience on the importance of restructuring the UN as well as the focus on the eradication of global poverty.

“As we celebrate sixty years after the founding of the United Nations, it is clear that no UN reforms have taken place”, she said.

In the true spirit of the old age tradition of participatory democracy, a lively interactive session ensued which saw over 20 questions posed to the Minister and her colleagues on questions of conflict resolution, UN Reform



Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Prof. Rob Davies and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aziz Pahad replied to questions on the issue of mercenaries on the Continent and regional integration.

Did you know?

The Imbizo is about unmediated communication between government and its people. It is a forum for enhancing dialogue between senior government executives and ordinary people. Imbizo provides an opportunity for government to communicate its action programme and the progress being made directly to the people. Imbizo also promotes participation of the public in the programmes to improve their lives. Interaction through Imbizo highlights particular problems needing attention, blockages in implementation of policy and how best to tackle challenges. It provides access to what citizens say and feel about government and service delivery, to listen to grievances and advice about the pace and direction of government's work. It creates more space for public participation and involvement around interactive implementation of government's Programme of Action.

and the role of women in development.

On the issue of the so-called "dogs of war", Deputy Minister Pahad said that the Foreign Military Assistance Act legislation will ensure that mercenaries are severely punished to prevent them from undermining the African Union and South Africa's efforts in securing peace and stability across the Continent.

On the question of inter-regional trade, Deputy Minister Davies mentioned that integration in the region has been on the agenda before 1994 and that there are programmes of harmonisation of laws to promote regional integration.

The Premier of the Western Cape, Ebrahim Rasool in his concluding remarks praised the Minister for bringing the first Foreign Affairs Imbizo to this province and also enabling all to voice their opinions on foreign policy. Premier Rasool stated that "this inspiring Imbizo has given government a chance to face up to its citizens" and that the Western Cape is happy that the Imbizo started here, and will now be extended to other

provinces thereby providing insights and opportunities to ordinary people to debate foreign policy.

Like all other previous government and future gatherings Izimbizo, underpinned by the principles of participatory democracy, the DFA hopes that this Imbizo will continue to draw experience from our liberation struggle and movement and lessons from our assessment of the first decade of democracy as well as the legacy of the Masakhane Campaign and provincial outreach programmes.

Through this first engagement, we have begun to instil a heightened awareness of South Africa's international relations and an understanding of both the limitations and also the possibilities that exist for South Africa and the African continent to take up their rightful place in the world community. ▶

Role of Women in Society

“Responding to the issue of the role of women in development, the Minister said that women are the people who are moulding our society and indeed our Continent today – they are central in the future of this Continent. It is no mistake that it is women who nurture life and who are central in the continuity of the human race. Women have special qualities to take us forward towards the prosperity of our country. They are the most important in national service to a country because they ensure jobs, food and education for future generations. It is impossible to exclude them from the centre of where our future is shaped, because they are so central to our being. Look at our women, they are peacemakers and can do so much to prevent the suffering – under wars and conflicts. Look at the role of women in rural areas and all the positive energy they are generating. Also as teachers they are playing a central role in education”.



The Imbizo saw a lively interactive session with over 20 questions posed to Minister Dlamini Zuma and colleagues on conflict resolution, UN reform and the role of women in development



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma addresses the Ministerial Meeting of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation held in Sandton on 27 July 2005. Dr Prega Ramsamy, SADC Executive Secretary is pictured with the Minister.

HALALA SADC HALALA!

Since the establishment of the organisation in 1980, there have been remarkable changes in the region. Many of these can be attributed to the role of SADC and its support of the freedom struggle in South Africa. The groundwork had already been done twenty-five years ago.

The year 1979 saw the adoption of that historic Declaration: "Southern Africa: Towards Economic Liberation". This was a concise statement of intent to dramatically reduce economic dependence on apartheid South Africa.

The growing military intrusion and its attendant mayhem, assassinations, bombardments and the unbri-dled violation of their countries' territorial integrity by the rogue apartheid machinery prompted the leadership of nine Southern African countries to found the Frontline States. Notably from its inception the Frontline States consistently adopted positions in support of the Liberation forces in Namibia and South Africa.

On the other hand, the challenge facing the founding fathers was to define the dimensions of the Community they were both defending and

On the occasion of the recent SADC summit, SADC celebrated its Silver Jubilee! Twenty-five years of existence!

seeking to expand. Largely due to a positive political climate in the region - Namibia having attained its liberation coupled with real prospects for a negotiated settlement in South Africa - the focus of SADC changed.

Charlotte Quinn, an American historian in her piece "Mandingo Kingdoms of the Senegambia" argues "Often a revolution is begun by an event which, though insignificant in itself, separates one faction from another and coincides with the climax of a psychological preparation which will leave the people ready for drastic change."

The liberation of South Africa, the last bastion of apartheid was such an event. An event, which helped to transform SADC, propelling it to fine-tune its ambitious programmes more

effectively. Apartheid South Africa had been replaced by a progressive democratic state!

In light of these developments, the SADC Heads of State or Government also began to view their efforts at regional integration in Southern Africa as part of a continental effort. More recently, the African Union, the successor to the OAU, has reaffirmed its commitment to the African Economic Community. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has designated RECs as implementing agencies for its programme.

On the global scene, fundamental and far-reaching political and economic changes were taking place. The cold war had ended, and world affairs were increasingly being managed on the basis of consultation and consensus, rather than confrontation and competition. Integration was fast becoming a global trend. Countries in different regions of the globe were organising themselves into closer economic and political entities.

These movements towards stronger regional blocs were expected to transform the world, both economically and politically, as firms within these economic blocs would benefit

from economies of scale provided by large markets, to become competitive both internally and internationally. For firms in Southern Africa not to remain behind, it became imperative for a large regional market to be established so that they too could benefit from economies of scale.

Thus, perhaps predictably, in 1992, the Agenda for Integration was adopted, hence the establishment of a Development Community in Southern Africa. The Agenda for Integration adopted in Windhoek, Namibia in 1992 moved SADC from being a loose alliance to a cohesive Community geared to meet the daunting challenges and potential opportunities presented by both a wider regional social economic space and globalisation. South Africa ultimately joined the Community in August 1994, four months after its 1st democratic elections.

The purpose of transforming the regional organisation was to promote deeper economic cooperation and integration to help address many of the factors that make it difficult to sustain economic growth and socio-economic development, such as continued dependence on the exports of a few primary commodities. It had become an urgent necessity for SADC

“Often a revolution is begun by an event which, though insignificant in itself, separates one faction from another and coincides with the climax of a psychological preparation which will leave the people ready for drastic change.”

governments to urgently transform and restructure their economies. The small size of their individual markets, the inadequate socio-economic infrastructure and the high per capita cost of providing this infrastructure as well as their low-income base made it difficult for them individually to attract or maintain the necessary investments for their sustained development.

Accordingly, SADC opted for a

development integration approach which recognises the political and economic diversities of regional integrating countries including their diverse production structures, trade patterns, resource endowments, development priorities, institutional affiliations and resource allocation mechanisms. It addresses many of the production, infrastructure and efficiency barriers arising from the underdevelopment of the region. This approach also has the advantage of complementing trade liberalisation with sustainable corrective measures, designed to cushion the least developed member countries against shocks arising from the removal of trade barriers. It further allows member states to define the scope and sectors of cooperation and to identify appropriate strategies and mechanisms to overcome impediments to integration and to address regional imbalances between member states.

In the 1990s, the membership of the organisation increased to 14 with the accession of Namibia in 1990, South Africa in 1994, Mauritius in 1995, and Seychelles and the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1997. In June 2003, Seychelles decided to withdraw its membership from SADC

SADC Milestones

THE ORIGIN OF SADC

Regional cooperation and integration in Southern Africa owes its origin to historical, economic, political, social and cultural factors that have created strong bonds of solidarity and unity among the peoples of Southern Africa. These factors have contributed to the formation of a distinct Southern African personality and identity that underpins political and economic cooperation.

THE FRONTLINE STATES

- The formal establishment of structures to promote regional cooperation and integration started as an initiative of the Frontline States, the original members of which were Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. This initiative was directed initially towards the political liberation of the region.
- From 1975 when they were formally constituted, the Frontline States met regularly to coordinate efforts, resources and strategy, with regard to the National Liberation Movements of Southern Africa that were fighting against colonialism, racism and white minority-rule. Later, this initiative was extended

to address military attacks and destabilisation of majority-ruled states by apartheid South Africa. The intensification of the struggle on both fronts strengthened bonds of solidarity and the need for collective action.

- Most of the countries of Southern Africa ultimately achieved political independence, but against a background of mass poverty, economic backwardness and the threat of powerful and hostile white minority-ruled neighbours. Thus, the leaders saw the promotion of economic and social development through cooperation and integration as the next logical step after political independence.

THE ARUSHA CONFERENCE

- Accordingly, based on the outcome of the July 1979 Arusha Conference which agreed on a strategy to launch the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the then nine majority-ruled states of Southern Africa – Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – met at Summit level in April 1980 in Lusaka, Zambia and declared their commitment to pursue policies aimed at economic liberation on the basis of a sustainable integrated development of their economies.

because of economic reasons. Accordingly, Seychelles ceased to be a member of SADC effectively as provided for in the Treaty from 30 June 2004. The 2005 SADC Summit in Gaborone unanimously admitted the Republic of Madagascar as the 14th member of SADC.

Since its inception, SADC has inculcated a sense of regional belonging as well as a tradition of consultation among the peoples and governments of Southern Africa, which, among other things, has improved regional security. It has also formulated the SADC Programme of Action (SPA), which covers cooperation in several economic and social sectors; and implemented several infrastructure and other projects. Furthermore, SADC has developed protocols in a number of areas of cooperation, which provide the legal framework for cooperation among Member States.

WHERE WE ARE NOW?

While SADC has recorded some remarkable achievements, difficulties and constraints have also been encountered. These include lack of institutional reforms for effective transformation from SADCC into

SADC; lack of synergy between the objectives of the Treaty on the one hand and the existing SADC SPA and institutional framework on the other, and finally lack of appropriate mechanisms capable of translating the high degree of political commitment into concrete programmes of community building and integration.

RESTRUCTURING

In order to address these and other institutional problems, the Heads of State and Government approved the restructuring of SADC institutions at their Extraordinary Summit held in March 2001, in Windhoek. Under restructuring, the twenty-one sectors have been grouped into clusters under four Directorates at the SADC Secretariat. At the national level, SADC National Committees will coordinate their respective individual Member State interests relating to SADC. At the regional level, an Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) has been created to coordinate the work of different clusters. The new structure also includes the Troika system and the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

The objective of the restructuring was to increase the efficiency

and effectiveness of SADC policies and programmes and to implement a more coherent and better coordinated strategy to eliminate poverty in the Region. To underpin the restructuring of SADC institutions and provide a clear orientation for the policies and programmes of the organisation over the medium to long-term, the Extraordinary Summit also approved that the Secretariat prepare a Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) which is guided by the vision of SADC.

The restructuring of SADC Institutions occurs at a time when important transformations are also taking place both at the continental and global levels. In the African context the most significant steps affecting SADC, relate to the transformation of the OAU into the AU and the launching of NEPAD.

The AU intends to build on and accelerate the aims of the OAU and the Abuja Treaty. The NEPAD as a programme of the AU is a holistic and multidimensional development framework undertaken by African Leaders, which encompasses economic, political, security social and cultural dimensions of development. As with the African Economic Integration

THE LUSAKA DECLARATION

- The Summit adopted the Lusaka Declaration entitled 'Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation' as well as a Programme of Action covering areas of Transport and Communications, Food and Agriculture, Industry, Manpower Development and Energy.

AIMS OF SADCC

- The aims of SADCC were to reduce economic dependence particularly, but not only, on South Africa;
- to forge links to create genuine and equitable regional integration;
- to mobilise resources for implementing national and interstate policies;
- and to take concerted action to secure international cooperation within the framework of the strategy of economic liberation.

SADCC PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- In pursuance of these objectives, the organisation focused on functional cooperation in key sectors through a Programme of Action known as the SADCC Programme of Action (SPA).
- Above all, SADCC reflected the spirit of Pan

Africanism and the latter's preoccupation with the need for regional integration as the means towards African continental unity and the recovery of African dignity and status in global affairs.

- These principles were enshrined in both the OAU Treaty of 1963 and the Lagos Plan of Action of 1980 and the Final Act of Lagos.

MAIN SADCC STRUCTURES

- At the regional level, the main SADCC institutions were the Summit of Heads of State or Government which had responsibility for overall policy direction and control of the functions of the Conference;
- the Council of Ministers, which reported to the Summit, oversaw the work and development of SADCC and approved SADCC policies;
- the Standing Committee of Officials which was a technical advisory committee and advised the Council;
- and the Secretariat which was responsible for the coordination and management of SADCC programmes.
- For the purpose of coordinating the SPA and enhancing ownership, a decentralised structure was adopted under which different sectors were allocated to each Member State.

framework under the Abuja Treaty, the Regional Economic Communities such as SADC are expected to act as building blocks in the implementation of the African Agenda under the frameworks of the AU and NEPAD.

At the global level, economic challenges facing SADC include the process and effects of globalisation, which encompasses, among others, financial, trade and technological forces. The agenda of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), The Cotonou Agreement between the EU and ACPs as well as the USA's Africa, Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) are all key challenges and opportunities for SADC.

A global development agenda of crucial importance for SADC is currently being championed by the UN and is expressed in the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

The RISDP is underpinned by the SADC vision, which charts the direction for the development of the region. The Declaration 'Towards the Southern African Development Community', adopted in Windhoek, Namibia, on 17 August 1992, by Heads of State or Government of Southern African States, calls upon all coun-

tries and people of Southern Africa to develop a vision of a shared future, a future within a regional community.

The SADC vision is one of a common future, a future in a regional community that will ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the peoples of Southern Africa. This shared vision is anchored on the common values and principles and the historical and cultural affinities that exist between the peoples of Southern Africa.

The RISDP is also underpinned by the SADC mission statement. From the 1992 Declaration and the Report on the Review of the Operations of SADC Institutions, particularly from the objectives and strategies spelt out in Article 5 of the Treaty, the SADC Mission Statement is: 'To promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance, and durable peace and security, so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy'.

According to the Agreement

Amending the SADC Treaty, the RISDP, based on the strategic priorities of SADC and its Common Agenda is designed to provide strategic direction with respect to SADC programmes, projects and activities. The RISDP aligns the strategic objectives and priorities with the policies and strategies to be pursued towards achieving those goals over a period of fifteen years.

The RISDP is indicative in nature and outlines the necessary conditions that should be realised towards the attainment of SADC's regional integration and development goals. In other words, it is not a prescriptive or a command type of plan. In view of the need to monitor and measure progress, the RISDP sets targets that indicate major milestones towards the attainment of agreed goals. In this connection, the RISDP sets up a logical and coherent implementation programme of the main activities necessary for the achievement of the region's broader goals with a reasonable, feasible and agreeable time frame that takes into account resource constraints.

While maintaining a 'development integration' strategy, the RISDP, in view of the significant discrepan-

SADC Milestones – continued

- This approach underscored the need to build collective self-reliance, mutual trust and confidence and it was on this basis that the Organisation evolved over the years. The number of areas of cooperation increased, as the number of Member States rose, since each was allocated at least one sector to coordinate, but also in response to new challenges like HIV and AIDS. As the areas of cooperation increased, the SPA expanded.

TRANSFORMATION OF SADCC INTO SADC

- By the late 1980s, it became apparent that SADCC needed strengthening. The attainment of independence and sovereign nationhood by Namibia in 1990 formally ended the struggle against colonialism in the region.
- In some of the other countries, concerted efforts to end internal conflicts and civil strife were bearing positive results.
- In South Africa, the process was underway to end the inhuman system of apartheid, and to bring about a constitutional dispensation acceptable to all the people of South Africa. These developments took the region out of an era of conflict and confrontation, to one of peace, security and stability, which remain prerequisites for cooperation

and development.

- On the African continent, efforts continued, mainly under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to promote closer economic relations.
- In 1991, some of the OAU Heads of State or Government signed the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (more popularly known as the Abuja Treaty).
- At their meeting in Windhoek in August 1992, the Heads of State and Government signed a Treaty transforming the 'SADCC' from a coordination conference into SADC, the Community -- and redefined the basis of cooperation among Member States from a loose association into a legally binding arrangement.

ORGANISATION OF SADC

- The Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government is the ultimate decision-making institution, with responsibility for the political direction and control of functions of the Community. The Summit meets at least once a year, usually in August or September. The Chairperson and Deputy are elected for one year on the basis of rotation from among the SADC member states. During the Summit, the outgoing Chairperson hands over to

cies existing among SADC Member States, recognises the need for a flexible approach towards deeper integration and the implementation of various policy reforms and recommendations.

Put differently the RISDP provides a broad policy framework to deliver on SADC overarching objective; viz. poverty reduction within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Jubilee celebrations were appropriately punctuated by inspiring speeches. In his address, Dr Prega Ramsamy, Executive Secretary of SADC, highlighted the Regional body's achievements over the past 25 years. He had a special word of gratitude to the founding fathers of SADC, some of whom attended the Summit.

Dr Ramsamy alluded to their vision, pioneering leadership and recognised the significant contributions at great risk to their personal safety and that of its citizens in bringing about political solidarity and a sense of identity to SADC.

The Executive Secretary in his remarks, identified priorities, noted

The SADC vision is one of a common future, a future in a regional community that will ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the peoples of Southern Africa.

backlogs and set deadlines for SADC projects. He acknowledged SADC's achievements and cautioned against complacency.

THE WRITING PROJECT OF SADC'S HISTORY

Perhaps it is fitting that SADC has embarked upon a writing project to capture its rich history. As a programme of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, the

Hashim Mbita Project represents a unique opportunity to write the history of the liberation of the region from its own perspective. In this context, Member States were requested to assist in identifying the eyewitnesses and protagonists of the liberation struggle in order to record their experiences. The project is specifically aimed at identifying scholars to assist in gathering and editing of the historical material to be compiled from Member States.

HALALA SADC! Twenty-five years on, SADC's fortitude still reigns supreme. It stands as a beacon of hope for the peoples of Southern Africa and a lodestar for the African continent. Its history will reveal its achievements in full splendour.

Mourid Barghouti, a Palestinian novelist in his classic "I saw Ramallah" has this to say: "A fish, even the fisherman's net, still carries the smell of the sea."

The Southern African Development Community born of struggle and anchored in liberation traditions has with the inclusion of Madagascar now grown to 260 million citizens. This year SADC celebrates 25 years of selfless service to a huge chunk of the human race. ▀

the Deputy, and a new Deputy is elected to chair the following year;

- The Troika is made up of the immediate past, current and forthcoming SADC Chairpersons, and enables the implementation of tasks and decisions as well as the provision of policy direction to SADC institutions in the period between the regular Summits. The Troika arrangement operates at the level of Summit, Council of Ministers and Standing Committee of Senior Officials, as well as the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security;
- The Council of Ministers comprise ministers from each member state, usually from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Planning or Finance. The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations to Summit. The Council meets before the Summit and at least one other time during the year, and is chaired by the member state chairing SADC;
- The Integrated Committee of Ministers is a new institution aimed at ensuring proper policy guidance, coordination and harmonisation of cross-sectoral activities. It is constituted by at least two ministers from each member state and is responsible to

the Council of Ministers. The Committee was primarily established to work with the Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Development and Policy Harmonisation and the SADC National Committees in the member states to develop and oversee the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP);

- The Standing Committee of Officials consists of a Permanent/Permanent Secretary of Director-General from each member state. The Committee is a technical advisory committee to the Council of Ministers, and meets in advance of Council meetings, chaired by the same country that is chairing SADC;
- The Tribunal ensures adherence to, and proper interpretation of, the provisions of the SADC Treaty and subsidiary instruments, and adjudicates upon disputes referred to it;
- SADC Member States are in the process of establishing and launching their National Committees, composed of key stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society in SADC member states. Their main function is to provide inputs at the national level into the formulation of regional policies, strategies and planning; as well as to coordinate and guide the

This meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting from 12 to 14 August 2005, and the Council of Ministers Meeting from 15 to 16 August 2005. The latter - a grouping of sectoral Ministers from thirteen Southern African countries - over an intense period of two days discussed at length how best to translate the aspirations of the people of this region into achievable, measurable outcomes as well as how to optimally mobilise adequate human, material and financial resources for the realisation of these noble objectives.

The Council meeting was an important precursor to the actual summit meeting attended by the Regional Heads.

The Summit in Gaborone coincided with SADC's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, during which the Summit commemorated the 25th anniversary of SADC and noted with satisfaction progress registered to date since the establishment of the organisation in 1980. Speakers congratulated SADC on the attainment of its Silver Jubilee.

At this Summit gathering, the Heads of State elected President Festus Mogae of Botswana as

The recent SADC Summit

Regional co-operation took another step forward with the annual SADC Summit taking place from 17 to 18 August 2005 as Heads of State and Government of the region descended on Gaborone to discuss matters of common concern, especially in the fields of politics, economics and social engagements.

Chairperson of the Summit, based on the Troika system. The Summit also elected Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of Lesotho as the Deputy

Chairperson of SADC. The SADC Troika thus consists of Mauritius (outgoing Chairperson), Botswana (current Chairperson) and Lesotho (incoming Chairperson).

In his acceptance statement, President Mogae outlined his vision and priorities for the coming year and he pledged to carry forward the programme of SADC. Among his priorities would be the commencement of the construction of the new SADC Headquarters as well as continuing work towards sustainable development, pursuing multilateral relations, regional macroeconomic stability, financial market integration, investment promotion, infrastructure development and the opening up of borders to facilitate the free movement of goods and services. He also emphasised that the region should adopt policies that enhance food production in order to avert hunger in the region. President Mogae suggested that SADC prioritise its activities in order to concentrate on those issues that would deepen integration within a short timeframe.

President Thabo Mbeki, as Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, presented a report on the activities of the Organ during the past

SADC Milestones – continued

implementation at national level;

- The SADC Secretariat is the principle executive institution of SADC, and is responsible for the strategic planning, coordination and management of SADC programmes, and the implementation of the RISDP. The senior official is the Executive Secretary and its headquarters is in Gaborone, Botswana. In terms of its structure, the Secretariat comprises four functional directorates, providing a centralised approach to development and integration, away from country-based sectoral coordination used previously. The four Directorates are:
 - Trade, Industry, Finance, Investment and Mining;
 - Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources;
 - Infrastructure and Services (including Energy and Tourism); and
 - Human and Social Development.

ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY

- The Organ on Politics, Defence and Security functions at the level of Heads of State and Government with a Chairperson and a Troika, reporting to the SADC Summit. The Chair of the Organ cannot simultaneously hold the Chairpersonship of SADC and is accountable to

the Chair of SADC and Summit. The Chairperson of the Organ consults with the SADC Troika and reports to the full Summit. The Organ is aimed at promoting peace and security in the region. Strategies and programmes are elaborated through the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO). The organ comprises the following sub-structures:

- The Ministerial Committee is made up of ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Public Security and State Security. It meets at least once a year;
- The Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) meets at least once a year, and is made up of ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs. The ISPDC performs functions relating to politics and diplomacy, and reports to the Ministerial Committee; and
- The Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) meets at least once a year, and is made up of ministers responsible for defence, public security and state security. The ISDSC performs such functions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the Organ related to defence and security. It also reports to the Ministerial Committee. ▶



The Minister of Defence, Mosiuoa Lekota and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sue van der Merwe in discussion during the recent Ministerial Meeting of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation.

year as well as outlining the overall political and security situation prevailing in Southern Africa. President Mbeki referred to the process of the consolidation of democracy and good governance, mentioning that Botswana, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia and Zimbabwe held Presidential, Parliamentary and general elections, while Lesotho also held successful Local Government Elections. SADC Electoral Observer Missions had been deployed to all the elections and used the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections as their Terms of Reference. The Summit agreed to establish a SADC Electoral Advisory Council, the role of which will be as adviser to SADC structures and to Electoral Commissions of Member States.

The Summit elected President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia as the new Chairperson of the Organ, and President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania as Deputy Chairperson. The Organ Troika thus consists of South Africa (outgoing Chairperson), Namibia (current Chairperson) and Tanzania (incoming Chairperson).

The Summit commended the DRC for adopting a new Constitution and noted that the Constitution guarantees a fifty-fifty gender parity in the political institutions of the DRC. The

Chair of the Organ was mandated to continue working with the Government of the DRC and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that elections are held within the new timeframe and to mobilise assistance for a successful electoral process.

The summit saw the adoption of the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, which is aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the movement of persons of the region generally into and within the territories of member states. The Protocol was signed by the DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The specific objectives of the Protocol are to facilitate entry into Member States without the need for a visa for a maximum period of ninety days per year for bona fide visit and in accordance with the laws of the member state; permanent and temporary residence in the territory of another member state; and establishment of oneself and working in the territory of another member state.

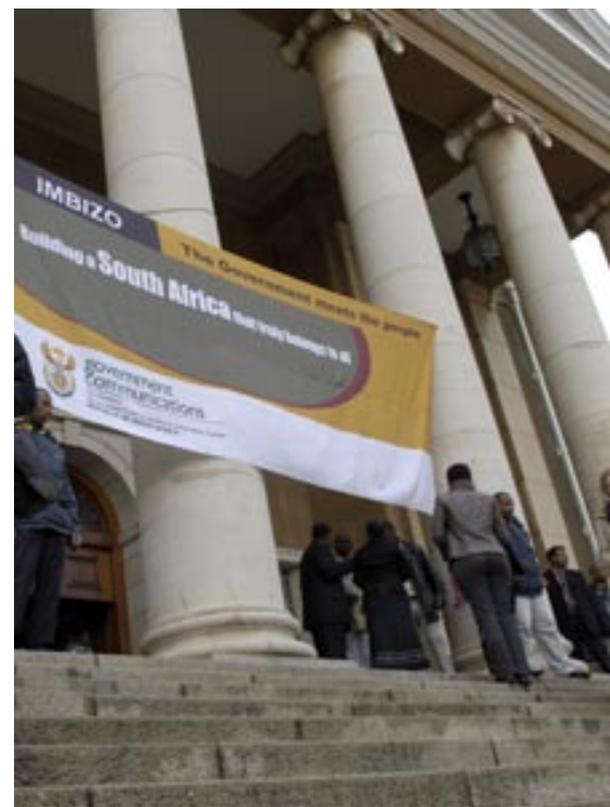
The Summit also saw an increase in the number of SADC member states as it unanimously admitted the Republic of Madagascar as the 14th member of SADC. In his statement following the admission of Madagascar into the SADC family, President Marc Ravalo-

mana, pledged his country's commitment to the objectives and aspirations of SADC.

The Heads of State and Government were presented with reports regarding the implementation status of the two major programmes within SADC, namely the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Programme for the Organ (SIPO). These respond to the wider goals of supporting SADC Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction. In addition, they integrate the goals, objectives and implementation framework of NEPAD.

From a celebratory point of view, the occasion of the Summit also saw the laying of the Foundation Stone for the new SADC Headquarters and the unveiling of the Foundation Stone Monument.

As the summit in this historic 25th year recedes into the distance, may SADC continue to put down and strengthen the building blocks for co-operation and integration; and, critically, may SADC member states continue to build together the road that will take them towards sustained regional social and economic development. This is the key to the next 25 years of SADC's existence. ▀



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