

Southern African events of international significance – 2010

January

The 14th summit meeting of the African Union (AU) was held in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February under the theme 'Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development'. The summit was preceded by meetings of the permanent representatives committee and the executive council. President Bingu wa Mutharika of Malawi was elected as the new AU chairperson, replacing Libyan leader Col Moamer al-Kadhafi who had been elected to the post at the Union's 12th summit meeting held in February 2009 in Addis Ababa. Kadhafi made a bid for a second term as AU chairperson and was aggrieved at the election of Mutharika. In his address to the summit, Kadhafi said: 'I do not believe we can achieve something concrete in the coming future'.

- 8 Separatists from the oil-producing northern province of Cabinda, Angola attacked a coach carrying Togo's national soccer team killing three people, all non-playing members of the Togolese delegation. The coach was carrying the team from Togo to Cabinda, where they had been scheduled to take part in the Africa Cup of Nations soccer competition (see 10 Jan). Following the attack, the Togolese team withdrew from the competition. The players had initially decided to compete to commemorate the victims, but were immediately ordered to return to Togo by the Togolese government.
- 10 The French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported that Rodrigues Mingas, the secretary-general of the separatist Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave-Military Position (FLEC-PM), had claimed responsibility for the attack on the Togolese soccer team (see 8 Jan). Mingas, who lives in exile in France, commented: 'We are at war and all blows are permitted'.
- 10-31 The 27th Africa Cup of Nations soccer competition was held in Angola (see 8 Jan).
- 11 The Angolan authorities arrested two people in connection with the attack on the Togolese national soccer team on the eve of the 27th Africa Cup of Nations soccer competition.
- 16 President Armando Emilio Guebuza of Mozambique appointed a new government headed by Aires Bonifacio Aly, hitherto Minister of Education and Culture. Aly replaced Luisa Diogo, who had served in the post since February 2004. The appointment of the new government came two days after Guebuza was sworn in for his second term of office, following his overwhelming victory in presidential election held in October 2009.
- 21 The Angolan National Assembly – the unicameral legislature – in its role as the Constituent Assembly approved a new Constitution with 186 votes in favour, two abstentions, and none against. The new Constitution would enter into force after promul-

gation by President José Eduardo dos Santos and replace the Interim Constitution in effect since independence from Portugal in November 1975 (see 5 Feb).

February

- 5 President José Eduardo dos Santos proclaimed the country's new Constitution in an address to the National Assembly. The new Constitution abolished the direct election of the president, with the majority party in the National Assembly gaining the right to name a president who would then choose his or her own vice president. Dos Santos had been elected as president in September 1992. Under the new Constitution, the president would be limited to two five-year terms. The post of prime minister (held since October 2008 by Col António Paulo Kassoma) was abolished, with the role being assumed by the vice president. Dos Santos appointed a new cabinet on the same day. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos was appointed to the newly created post of vice president. The new vice president had served as prime minister from December 2002 until October 2008 and had then held the post of president of the National Assembly.
- 5 In Zimbabwe state employees, including teachers, health workers, and office workers, embarked on a strike after the government refused their demands for a wage increase. State employees, who earn the equivalent of between US\$122 and US\$206 per month, had in mid-January given the government an ultimatum to raise wages to an average US\$630 per month (see 12 Feb).
- 11 South African President Jacob Zuma delivered his second state of the nation address to a joint sitting of the bicameral legislature in Cape Town. In his address, Zuma said that 'education and skills development' would be 'at the centre of this government's policies'. He also repeated promises that his government would perform 'better and faster' and announced that ministers would sign new performance agreements in order to enhance accountability.

The bicameral sitting of the legislature was attended by former President Nelson Mandela who entered the chamber on the 20th anniversary of his release from apartheid-era prison. Legislators rose and applauded as Mandela, aged 91, entered the chamber, helped by aides and using two walking sticks. In his address, Zuma made no mention of the scandal surrounding his recent admission that he had fathered a child out of wedlock. However, he repeatedly paid tribute to Mandela, who he said had 'united this country behind the goal of a non-sexist, non-racial, democratic and prosperous South Africa'.
- 12 The UK's Financial Times had claimed that the scandal (see 11 Feb) underlined the contrast between the moral authority of Mandela, South Africa's first black president, and the 'more questionable record' of Zuma, who had been elected as president in May 2009.
- 12 The Zimbabwean Public Service Commission (PSC) declared the strike by state employees illegal, saying that the full negotiating and arbitration process had yet to be followed, a requirement before a strike became legal in either the public or private sectors (see 5 Feb).
- 13 The US's International Herald Tribune reported that the intense controversy over the South African president's personal life had 'transfixed the nation and emboldened [the president's] critics' (see 11 Feb).
- 14 Zimbabwean union leaders rejected the Public Service Commission (PSC) ruling

and said that they would press on with the industrial action until their demands were met (see 12 Feb).

- 16 The European Union (EU) decided to extend sanctions on Zimbabwe for a further year, citing the 'lack of progress' in the implementation of the power-sharing agreement of September 2008. The power-sharing agreement (the Global Political Agreement, GPA) was signed by President Robert Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), and Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), and had led to the formation of a government of national unity in February 2009. The EU first imposed sanctions against Mugabe and other senior political and military officials in February 2002. The EU sanctions list has subsequently grown to more than 200 targeted individuals and some 40 companies linked to Mugabe and ZANU-PF.
- 17 Pravin Gordhan, the South African Minister of Finance, delivered his first budget in the National Assembly (the lower house of the bicameral legislature) Expenditure for 2010-11 was forecast at R906,9 billion and revenue at R738,4 billion. Gordhan noted 'significant improvements in the economic outlook, but not yet enough to address our challenges of jobs, growth and poverty reduction'. He forecast economic growth at 2,3% in fiscal 2010, rising to 3,6% by 2012.
- 19 The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (the IMF) approved a three-year, 52,05 million arrangement for Malawi under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) to support the authorities' economic programme for the period 2010-12. A one-year Exogenous Shocks Facility (ESF) arrangement, also for SDR 52,05 million, expired in December 2009. Malawi had reached the completion point for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative in September 2006.
- 23 The UK's *The Independent* reported that Julius Malema, the leader of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, had been forced to deny allegations that he had amassed a personal fortune through lucrative state contracts awarded to his companies. Malema, 28, accused his critics of conducting a 'smear campaign' against him by 'spreading lies and rumours'.
- 27 Commenting on South Africa's 2010 budget, the UK's *The Economist* said that Gordhan was pursuing the same 'prudent macroeconomic policies' that prevailed under Thabo Mbeki's presidency from 1999 to 2008. Consequently, the report noted that left-wing trade union allies of President Zuma had reacted with 'fury' to Gordhan's business-friendly budget.

March

- 2-4 South Africa's President Jacob Zuma began a three-day state visit to the UK with a call for international sanctions on Zimbabwe to be lifted. Zuma told reporters in London that the travel bans and asset freezes imposed by the EU and the USA on President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and his allies served only to divide the already fragile power-sharing government.
- 4 Zimbabwe featured high on the agenda in talks between South Africa's President Zuma and UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. After the talks, Brown hinted that UK could change its position on sanctions if 'progress' was made in Zimbabwe. Zuma also committed to hosting a global summit on education.

- 4 Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe (86) reportedly said that he would stand for re-election as president if asked to do so by ZANU-PF (see 13, 16-18 Mar).
- 8 The UK's Financial Times reported that Zwelenzima Vavi, the general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), launched 'a strong attack' on the South African government's economic policy, underlining rifts within the ruling tripartite alliance (President Zuma's ANC, the South African Communist Party (SACP), and COSATU). Vavi said that the government was 'ignoring policy directions it does not like and only implementing the ones that the markets [and] capital are happy with'. Along with the SACP, COSATU had pressed the government to ease fiscal and monetary policy and play a more interventionist role in accelerating economic growth and easing chronic unemployment. However, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, adopted a more cautious approach in the fiscal 2010 budget (see 17 Feb).
- 8 The UK's Financial Times reported that Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe had recently stripped several MDC ministers of their powers, transferring them to ZANU-PF ministers.
- 11 The privately owned Zimbabwean weekly newspaper, Financial Gazette, reported that President Robert Mugabe had taken away the administration of 'crucial Acts' from four ministers belonging to Tsvangirai's dominant faction of the MDC and one from the MDC faction led by Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara, thereby rendering them 'paper tigers'.
- 13 The UK's The Economist reported that Mugabe had announced recently that fresh elections could be held in 2011, regardless of whether agreement had been reached on a new constitution (see 4, 13, 16-18 Mar).
- 15 The Johannesburg Equality Court held that ANC Youth League (ANCYL) leader Julius Malema used 'hate speech' in criticising a woman who had accused South Africa's President Jacob Zuma of rape. Zuma was acquitted of the charge in May 2006 after he insisted the sex with his accuser had been consensual. Malema was taken to court by the Sonke Gender Justice group after he had told a group of students that the woman who had accused Zuma of rape had a 'nice time' because she had stayed for breakfast and asked for taxi money. The court ordered Malema to make an unconditional apology and pay R5 000 to a centre for abused women.
- 16 The European Union (EU) decided to extend sanctions on Zimbabwe for a further year, citing the 'lack of progress' in the implementation of the power-sharing agreement of September 2008.
- 16 The BBC reported that South Africa's President Jacob Zuma, who was representing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on his visit to Zimbabwe, would assess the country's readiness for an early general election, which could take place in 2011 (see 4 Mar).
- 16-18 President Jacob Zuma of South Africa visited Zimbabwe in an effort to mediate between President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. Tsvangirai and Mugabe are the leading figures in a government of national unity, comprising, in the main, members of Mugabe's ZANU-PF and Tsvangirai's MDC. The government of national unity was formed in February 2009 but had stalled in recent months.
- 18 The South African-based ZimOnline website reported that Mugabe and Tsvangirai said that talks with Zuma had gone 'very well', but they did not say whether they were closer to resolving their power-sharing dispute (see 4, 13, 16-18 Mar).
- 21 In Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba was sworn in for second five-year term as

president. Pohamba won an overwhelming victory in elections held in November 2009. A new cabinet was also sworn in (see 6 Oct).

- 23 Commenting on the new cabinet, The Namibian newspaper noted that Pohamba had retained the 'old guard' in an attempt to maintain peace within the ruling SWAPO.

April

- 1 In South Africa the South Gauteng High Court issued a provisional ban on performances of the apartheid-era black anthem (*Ayesaba Amagwala*), which included the line 'Kill the Boers', a judgment denounced by the ANC (see 3 and 4 April).
- 3 Eugene Terreblanche, leader of the white extremist Afrikaner Resistance Movement (*Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging* (AWB)) in South Africa, was battered and hacked to death on his farm in Ventersdorp, North-West province. Born in 1943, a farmer and a former policeman and bodyguard to BJ (John) Vorster (Prime Minister of South Africa and leader of the National Party from 1966 to 1978 and State President in 1978-79), Terreblanche cultivated the militaristic 'man on horseback' image and presented himself as the saviour of the Afrikaner 'volk' (nation). His Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) was founded in 1973 with the avowed intention of maintaining white supremacy in South Africa by all possible means. Organised along paramilitary lines, the neo-Nazi AWB had a swastika-like emblem and a black shirt youth movement. The AWB rose from obscurity during the 1980s with the growing popularity of the notion that white extremists would stake all to defend a 'Boer Volkstaat' (Afrikaner homeland). The AWB reacted violently to the onset of multi-party negotiations in 1991 aimed at negotiating an end to apartheid. Terreblanche admitted in an affidavit to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in June 1988, 'political and moral responsibility' for a bombing campaign in which 21 people were killed and hundreds injured prior to the country's first multiracial elections in 1994. In June 1997, Terreblanche was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for attempted murder, relating to an earlier assault on a black labourer on his farm. He was also sentenced to one year's imprisonment for assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm for setting his dog on a black petrol attendant. He served the one-year sentence in 2000-01 and, upon his release lost his appeal against the earlier, six-year sentence, which he began in March 2001. Following his early release in June 2004, he rode through the streets of Potchefstroom on a black horse, accompanied by a few AWB supporters. He emerged from prison claiming to be a born-again Christian and insisting that he had modified his views on race. The police immediately detained two black farm workers and announced that they were investigating a quarrel which they had had with Terreblanche. President Jacob Zuma described Terreblanche's killing as a 'terrible deed' and urged South Africans 'not to allow agents provocateurs to take advantage of this situation by inciting or fuelling racial hatred'.
- 4 Despite President Zuma's call for calm, André Visagie, the AWB secretary general, told reporters that the death of Terreblanche was 'a declaration of war by the black community of South Africa to the white community'. He said that the AWB would avenge the murder, which he claimed was 'directly linked' to a recent controversy over a Apartheid-era black anthem (*Ayesaba Amagwala*) which included the line 'Kill the Boers'. The anthem had been revived in March by Julius Malema, the hothead leader of the ANCYL, who had led a chorus of students during a meeting in Johannesburg in March.

- 5 The Assembly of the Republic (the unicameral legislature) of Mozambique approved the government's programme for the five-year period 2010-2014.
- 5 Tempers flared outside a court in Ventersdorp when two black farm workers were formally charged with murdering Terreblanche. The police used razor wire to separate AWB members from a group of black workers.
- 8 Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Prime Minister of the short-lived Republic of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia in 1979, died in Harare (the capital of Zimbabwe) at the age of 84. Muzorewa, a Methodist bishop, led the short-lived government that emerged from the 'internal settlement' between Ian Smith, the last leader of white Rhodesia, and moderate black nationalists in 1978. Under the terms of the Lancaster House Agreements of December 1979, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia was disestablished ahead of inclusive elections in February 1980 which resulted in a resounding victory for Mugabe and the conferment of full independent status on the Republic of Zimbabwe in April 1980. After handing over the premiership to Mugabe, Muzorewa was relegated to the margins of politics.
- 9 Some 3 000 people attended Terreblanche's funeral in Ventersdorp. No incidents occurred and the funeral was peaceful (see 3, 4 and 6 April).
- 22-23 President Mahmoud Ahmadi-Nejad of Iran visited Zimbabwe where he held talks with his Zimbabwean counterpart, Robert Mugabe. During Ahmadi-Nejad's visit, the two states signed memoranda of understanding to boost co-operation in various sectors, including tourism, education, science and technology, youth affairs, and culture.
- 16 The Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique approved the government's economic and social plan for 2010, and the accompanying state budget.
- 22 In contrast to the warm welcome Iranian President Ahmadi-Nejad received from the Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and his MDC were less cordial. A statement issued by the MDC condemned Ahmadi-Nejad's visit as a 'colossal political scandal' that would damage efforts to end Zimbabwe's isolation from the international community. The statement said that Ahmadi-Nejad had made his reputation as 'a war monger, an executioner of those with dissenting voices and a leader of questionable legitimacy'.
- 23 Iranian President Ahmadi-Nejad opened an international trade show in Bulawayo, the country's second-largest city. He was the first leader from outside Africa to open the show since Zimbabwe became independent from the UK in 1980. Iran was reportedly the biggest exhibitor at the trade show.

May

- 7 The South African Minister of Police, Nathi Mtshwa, announced that police officers had foiled a plot by white extremists to bomb black townships ahead of the World Cup, which was scheduled to be held in South Africa between 11 June and 11 July. Fears of racial violence at the World Cup flared in April following the murder of the white supremacist leader Eugene Terreblanche (see 3, 4 and 9 April).
- 8 The UK's *The Guardian* reported that Mtshwa's spokesman, Zweli Mnisi, announced that five arrests had been made in Pretoria (the administrative capital) and that the western town of Worcester had a 'strong linkage to right-wing operations' (see 7 May).
- 10 Roy Bennett, the treasurer general of Zimbabwe's MDC and a senior aide to MDC

leader and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, was acquitted of terrorism charges by a court in Harare (the capital). Bennett was nominated by the MDC for the post of Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation, and Irrigation Development, but was arrested in February 2009. His trial for terrorism, a charge that carried a possible sentence of death or life imprisonment, opened in November 2009. High Court judge Muchineripi Bhunu told a packed courtroom that ‘the state has failed to prove its case’. Bennett told reporters: ‘This judgment gives hope that we are returning to justice and the rule of law’.

- 13 It was reported that Julius Malema, the controversial ANCYL leader was punished at a party disciplinary hearing. Malema pleaded guilty to ‘behaving in such a way as to provoke serious divisions or breakdown of unity in the organisation’. The 29-year-old was fined, put on a two-year probation, and forced to make a public apology after a series of outbursts which included his outspoken support for President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, public criticism of his own leader, President Jacob Zuma, and defying a high court ban by singing an anti-apartheid anthem that included the lyric: ‘Kill the Boer’ (see 1 and 4 April). Malema also reportedly agreed to undergo counselling to help him control his temper.
- 14 One of the most prominent White Afrikaner anti-apartheid proponents, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert died in Johannesburg, aged 70. Van Zyl Slabbert had taken over the leadership of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) in 1979 and in the 1981 general election the party won 26 seats under his leadership. In 1985, van Zyl Slabbert and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi tried to persuade the government to enter into discussions with all political groups by launching the National Convention Alliance. In February 1986, van Zyl Slabbert announced to an astonished parliament that he was resigning as leader of the PFP and as a legislator, describing parliament as ‘a grotesque exercise in irrelevancy’. Committing himself to extra-parliamentary politics, in 1987 van Zyl Slabbert led a high-profile visit of some 60 influential White South Africans – mostly Afrikaners – to meet with leading members of the ANC in Dakar, Senegal.
- 25 The UK’s *The Guardian* claimed that Israel had offered to sell nuclear weapons to apartheid South Africa in 1975. The allegations, vehemently denied by Israel, turned a harsh new spotlight on Israel’s long-held policy of ‘ambiguity’ over its nuclear arsenal. The allegations were made in a book written by US academic Sasha Polakow-Surnansky and published on that day – *The unspoken alliance: Israel’s secret relationship with Apartheid South Africa*. The article and the book both implicated President Shimon Peres of Israel, the then Minister of Defence, of involvement in the negotiations. A statement issued by Peres’s office, published by *The Guardian*, said ‘there exists no basis in reality’ for the claims. The statement added: ‘Israel has never negotiated the exchange of nuclear weapons with South Africa. There exists no Israeli document or Israeli signature on a document that such negotiations took place’. Secret South African documents cited by Polakow-Surnansky claimed that Peres had met with his South African counterpart, PW Botha in 1975, when they discussed the sale of Jericho missiles to South Africa. The South Africans reportedly understood that Israel was offering to fit them with nuclear warheads. No sale of such weapons took place.
- 27 The British *Financial Times* reported that Zimbabwe had in 2009 recorded its first year of economic growth for more than a decade, according to a report issued by the IMF. The report said that GDP had risen by 4%, the first such expansion in 11 years,

while prices had risen by 6,5%. In previous years, by contrast, inflation had been measured in millions of per cent and the country's economy regularly shrank by as much as 10%. However, the IMF report gave a generally downbeat assessment of the state of the economy, urging the government to adopt radical reforms or risk long-term stagnation.

- 31 Speaking to reporters in Johannesburg, South Africa's Minister of Police, Nathi Mtshwa, dismissed speculation of terrorist bomb threats by groups ranging from militant Islamists to white supremacists. He said that while it would be folly 'for any country to grandstand and proclaim that it is immune to terror attacks ... there is no threat to South Africa as we speak now' (see 7 and 8 May).

June

Early in June the annual Global Trends 2009 Report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was published. According to the Report 43,3 million people were forcibly displaced in 2009, the highest number uprooted by conflict since the mid-1990s. Of these, the overall number registered as refugees was 15,2 million, of whom 5,5 million had been living as refugees for five years or more. Only 251 000 people returned to their home countries, the lowest figure since 1990. The number of individual asylum claims grew to nearly 1 million, of which 222 000 were made in South Africa, the single largest destination of asylum claims in the world. UNHCR's Antonio Guterres ascribed the growth in the number of displaced people to the persistence of conflicts in Somalia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Between May 31 and June 11 the first review conference on the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was held in Kampala (the capital of Uganda). In one of its main developments, the conference adopted a resolution defining the crime of aggression and setting out a mechanism through which a prosecution could be brought before the ICC. The UN Security Council would have the main role in identifying an act of aggression, but in the absence of this the ICC prosecutor could initiate proceedings. The Security Council could halt an investigation of a crime of aggression by resolution, but the resolution had to be extended every twelve months. The conference also adopted an amendment to the Statute extending war crimes previously applicable only to international armed conflicts, such as the use of poison gas and expanding bullets, to non-international armed conflicts.

- 2 The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1926 (2010) setting 9 September as the date for the election by the Security Council and the General Assembly to a vacancy in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the remainder of the term of judge Thomas Buergenthal (USA), who had submitted his resignation from the ICJ to take effect on 6 September. Judge Xue Hanqin (China) was elected on 29 June to serve out the remainder of the term (until 5 Feb 2012).
- 2 The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a three-year 41,88 million special drawing rights arrangement for Lesotho under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF). The arrangement was designed to support the authorities' medium-term adjustment programme and help reduce balance of payment risks. Following the board's decision, an amount equivalent to SDR 7,80 million was made available for immediate disbursement.
- 3 The South African Johannesburg-based newspaper *Business Day* reported that an apartheid-era senior civil servant had carried a 'nuclear trigger' to South Africa from

Israel as part of South Africa's efforts to build a nuclear weapon. The newspaper said that it had decided to publish the report following the publication earlier (see 25 May) of a new book by a US academic who claimed that Israel had offered to sell nuclear warheads to apartheid South Africa. The report in *Business Day* revealed that Eschel Rhoodie, Secretary of the Department of Information from 1972-78, had in 1979 revealed to journalists from the influential but now defunct *Rand Daily Mail* that he had transported the trigger from Tel Aviv to South Africa. At the time, the journalists were unable to publish the account because of strict censorship laws. Rhoodie, who played a central role in establishing military ties between South Africa and Israel, was forced to resign during the so-called Muldergate scandal of 1978 and died in 1993.

- 11 The 19th FIFA World Cup football tournament opened in South Africa heralding the first hosting of the tournament in Africa. South Africa's national celebrations were tragically interrupted on the eve of the tournament, when a suspected drunk driver caused a car crash on June 10 that killed Zenani Mandela, the 13-year-old great-granddaughter of former President (1994-1999) Nelson Mandela. The former president, aged 91, withdrew from a keenly anticipated appearance at the tournament's opening ceremony in Johannesburg.
- 12 The UK's *The Independent* reported that a human rights activist had been imprisoned for three years by an Angolan court for committing crimes against the state. Andre Zeferino Puati, along with several prominent figures in the province of Cabinda, was arrested after the separatist Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave-Military Position (FLEC-PM) killed two members of the Togo football team in January as they travelled by bus to the Africa Cup of Nations (see 8 and 10 Jan). The report quoted Puati's lawyer as saying: 'This trial was a sham designed to do away with Cabindans that have spoken out against human rights abuses in the enclave'.
- 12 The *Times of Swaziland* reported that some 10 members of the banned Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO) had been detained by the police throughout the country in connection with a recent spate of bombings. The report stated that the bombings had targeted the homes of two legislators, a house belonging to a leading member of the People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO), and a magistrate court. Those detained included Wandile Dlodlu, the president of SWAYOCO, who was arrested in northern Swaziland (see 19 June).
- 13 Echoing its decision in 2009, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation announced that it had decided not to award its African leadership prize for 2010 as 'there had been no new candidates or new developments and that therefore no selection of a winner had been made'. The award for 'achievement in African leadership' was established by Mo Ibrahim, a Sudanese telecoms magnate, in 2007. The inaugural award was presented to Joaquim Chissano, the former president of Mozambique, and the 2008 award to Festus Mogae, the former president of Botswana.
- 19 *The Times of Swaziland* reported that more SWAYOCO members had been detained.
- 26-27 A summit meeting of leaders of the G-20 (Group of 20) states (the G-8 and major developing economies) was held in Toronto, Canada. (The membership of the G-20 is Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada*, China, the EU, France*, Germany*, India, Indonesia, Italy*, Japan*, Mexico, Russia*, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK*, and the USA* – countries marked with an asterisk (*) are also members of G-8.) The dominant economic theme, as with the earlier G-8 summit was US concern, shared by other countries such as India, that efforts by EU countries such as France, Germany, and Italy to make deep cuts in their

deficits would threaten the fragile global economic recovery. Analysts noted that whereas at the early G-20 meetings in 2008 there was a strong sense of unity of purpose in the face of the global economic downturn, this had begun to dissolve with the onset of economic recovery. The closing communiqué reflected the diverging opinions by saying that countries should aim to halve their budget deficits by 2013 and to stabilise the ratio of national debt to GDP by 2016, whilst at the same time pursuing ‘growth-friendly fiscal consolidation plans’. The summit agreed that banks should build higher capital reserves to protect themselves against the risk of a new financial crisis, but that this requirement would not apply until 2012. The plan would be finalised in time for a scheduled G-20 meeting in South Korea in November. A proposal for a bank levy to compensate for the public funds used in bank bailouts, strongly supported by the USA and EU countries, was opposed by Australia, Canada, China, and India, and included in the statement merely as a policy option. China resisted the inclusion of a reference in the communiqué to its decision to relax market controls to allow its currency to appreciate. The police in Toronto clashed on both days of the summit with anti-poverty protesters, who vandalised a number of shops. More than 400 arrests were made.

- 23 Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai reshuffled his cabinet in what analysts saw as an attempt to reassert his authority inside his party, the MDC. In February 2009, the MDC had formed a unity cabinet with President Robert Mugabe’s ZANU-PF and a smaller wing of the MDC led by Arthur Mutambara. All those involved in the latest reshuffle were from Tsvangirai’s wing of the MDC. The two ministers removed from the cabinet were MDC national organising secretary Elias Mudzuri (Energy and Power Development) and MDC national executive member for Chitungwiza, Fidelis Mhashu (National Housing and Social Amenities). In addition, two deputy ministers were dismissed: MDC youth league chairperson Thamsanqa Mahlangu (Youth Development, Indigenisation, and Empowerment) and MDC secretary for women’s assembly Evelyn Masaiti (Women’s Affairs, Gender, and Community Development).

July

- 2 In South Africa the South Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg found Jacob (Jackie) Selebi, the former national Commissioner of the Police Service, guilty of corruption, but acquitted him on a charge of ‘defeating the ends of justice’. In his judgment, Meyer Joffe, J found beyond reasonable doubt that Selebi had accepted R1,2 million and gifts and clothing from Glenn Agliotti, a convicted drug trafficker, and two other businessmen in exchange for favours. In January 2008, Selebi was granted an indefinite leave of absence after the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) announced that it intended charging him with corruption. His trial opened in October 2009. Selebi was scheduled to be sentenced on 2 August (see 3 Aug).
- 2 The German government threatened to cut off all aid to Zimbabwe unless illegal and violent occupiers were removed from a farm owned by a German investor. The farm was one of a number seized in June.
- 7 Angola’s official news agency Angop reported that delegates at an extraordinary congress of the opposition National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) in Luanda had elected Lucas Ngonda as the party’s new president. Ngonda replaced Ngola Kabangu, who had been elected to the post in November 2007 following the death in August 2007 of Holden Roberto, the party’s long-serving president and a central figure

- in Angola's struggle for independence from Portugal. In elections held in September 2008, the FNLA won three seats in the 220-member National Assembly.
- 9 Portugal's Lusa news agency reported that exiled leaders of the separatist Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) had announced an end to their armed struggle for control of the oil-producing enclave of Cabinda. The report stated that Henriques N'zita Tiago, the leader of one wing of the divided group (the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda-Armed Forces of Cabinda-FLEC-FAC), had said that his group's fight was no longer viable and offered to start talks with the Angolan government in Lisbon (see 22 July).
 - 11 The 19th FIFA World Cup football tournament, which opened on 11 June, closed after the final was held at Soccer City, Johannesburg. In the final, Spain defeated the Netherlands 1-0.
 - 12 The UK's *The Independent* reported that the official cost of hosting the tournament had been estimated at R43 billion, equivalent to South Africa's annual spending on education. However, the report said that Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan had said that the tournament would add R38 billion to the economy in 2010 alone.
 - 12 After 39 days in detention, Zimbabwean human rights activist Farai Maguwu was finally released on bail. Maguwu had been detained in early June on suspicion of passing false information on diamond-mining violations to the international diamond control body, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).
 - 15 The World Diamond Council (WDC) ended its seventh annual meeting in St Petersburg (Russia) with the announcement that the KPCS had reached consensus on an agreement that would enable the renewal of rough diamond exports from the Marange diamond fields in eastern Zimbabwe. Exports of Marange diamonds had been banned since the bloody eviction by the army in 2008 of some 30 000 illegal diggers who had descended on the fields in 2006. According to the agreement, by September Zimbabwe would be able to carry out two supervised exports of rough diamond from the Marange production. During this period, the KPCS would conduct a review mission to Zimbabwe.
 - 17 The UK's *The Independent* reported that the Zimbabwean government claimed to hold a stockpile of over 4 million carats from Marange, valued at an estimated US\$1,7 billion.
 - 20 The UK's *Financial Times* reported that the Zimbabwean unity government formed in February 2009 had launched an 'outreach' programme designed to solicit the views of Zimbabweans on a new constitution. It was envisaged that the country would produce a new constitution by April 2011, leading to fresh elections. However, the report noted that the process had suffered delays, while violence and intimidation had been reported in many rural areas.
 - 21 The independent radio station SW Radio Africa reported that soldiers camped at Masasa business centre in Buhera central and Mutiusinazita in Buhera south had been 'force-marching villagers' to meetings of President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF for 'indoctrination'. The same report quoted an official from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC, ZANU-PF's partner in the unity government, as saying that armed soldiers had been deployed in many areas in early July with specific orders to instruct villagers 'what to do and say during the outreach programme'. The programme was organised by the Constitutional Parliamentary Committee (COPAC), which had overseen the deployment of 70 outreach teams of 10 members each to the country's 10 provinces. COPAC had said that a total of 5 803 meetings would be convened in

the 1 937 wards throughout all provinces.

- 22 According to a report by the Kenya-based UN Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), N'zita Tiago (who lived in exile in France) said that the offers of peace had been made without his knowledge or consent and described the move as a 'coup d'état'. (See 7 July). (Cabindan separatists achieved worldwide notoriety in January when members of its FLEC-PM wing attacked a coach carrying Togo's national football team, killing three people (see 8 and 10 Jan).

August

- 3 The South Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg sentenced the former South African Commissioner of the Police Service, Jackie Selebi, to 15 years' imprisonment after he was found guilty of accepting R1,2 million from convicted drug trafficker Glenn Agliotti (see 2 July). Imposing the sentence, Meyer Joffe, J described Selebi as 'an embarrassment' to the democracy struggle, the police, and the people of South Africa.
- 5 Supermodel Naomi Campbell, her former agent Carole White, and actress Mia Farrow testified at the trial of former President Charles Taylor (1997-2003), at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (the war crimes tribunal), sitting in The Hague, the Netherlands. Prosecutors claimed that Taylor gave Campbell a diamond in 1997 as a gift following a dinner hosted by Nelson Mandela, the then president of South Africa. The diamond was illegally mined by rebels from Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) before being exported from Liberia with Taylor's cooperation and processed for use to buy weapons for the RUF, according to the prosecution. During her testimony Campbell admitted accepting 'dirty-looking diamonds' from two men she did not know, and claimed that she did not know that the diamonds were a gift from Taylor.
- 5 Swazi government officials announced that Justice Minister Ndumiso Mamba had resigned from his post amid allegations that he was having an affair with Inkhosikati LaDube, 23, the 12th wife of King Mswati III. The allegations were made by the pro-democracy group Swaziland Solidarity Network, which also revealed that Mamba had been arrested during a police sting operation at Royal Villas, a luxury hotel owned by King Mswati III, some 10 km west of the Lozitha Royal Palace.
- 6 The UK's *The Guardian* reported that LaDube was placed under house arrest, whilst Mamba, a close ally of the king, was detained in prison and faced the possibility of being expelled from Swaziland.
- 9 Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika appointed a new cabinet. The President's wife, Callista wa Mutharika, was appointed as the new Minister of Maternal, Infant, and Child Health. The reshuffle included the dismissal of four senior ministers.
- 9 A report was published by Survival International, a campaign group for indigenous peoples, assessing the impact of the construction of hydroelectric dams on indigenous tribal people and the environment. Dams were now being subsidised by the UN under its clean development mechanism (CDM), which allows industrialised countries to offset their carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by investing in low-carbon power generators in developing countries. The World Bank was also investing US\$11 billion in 211 hydroelectric projects worldwide. The report claimed that the dams destroyed the environment, economy, and way of life of indigenous people, damaging their lands and sometimes driving them to extinction. The European Investment Bank (EIB) announced in July its withdrawal of funding from studies preparing for Africa's

tallest dam, the Gibe III dam on the Omo river in Ethiopia. The EIB's example was followed by the African Development Bank in August.

- 15 Helen Zille, South Africa's leader of the main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), said that her party would merge with the opposition Independent Democrats (ID), and would invite other parties to join the alliance. ID leader Patricia de Lille said that the merger, which was scheduled to be completed in 2014, was 'the first step in the important task of consolidating the opposition and offering voters a true alternative government'. The DA received 16,7% of the vote in legislative elections in 2009, and the ID 0,9%.
- 16-17 The 30th summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held in Windhoek, Namibia. Addressing the summit in his capacity as the chairperson of the AU, Bingu wa Mutharika, the President of Malawi, highlighted the region's need to achieve food security as a basis for sustainable economic growth, and urged southern African leaders to use science and technology as a means to address climate change, as well as energy and infrastructure development.
- 18 Some 1,3 million South African public sector workers launched an indefinite strike for more pay, paralysing schools, hospitals, courts, and government offices. Troops were deployed after protests by striking workers became violent. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) was demanding an 8,6% wage increase, more than double the rate of inflation, and a monthly housing allowance of R1 000.
- 19 The South African government which had offered a 7% salary increase and R700 allowance, warned that it would impose its offer unilaterally within 21 days if the striking workers failed to accept it.
- 28-29 A new political party, the Universal Civics Organisation of South Africa (UCOSA), was launched in the Western Cape. Party spokesman Shamiel Abbas said that UCOSA had drawn members from across the political spectrum, many coming from the ID shortly before and after it announced its merger with the DA (see 15 Aug).
- 31 The South African government increased its offer to a 7,5% pay rise and an R800 housing allowance in response to public sector strikes which were launched towards the middle of August (see 18 and 19 Aug).

September

- 1 Botswana's *Mmegi* newspaper reported that Defence, Security, and Justice Minister Brig Ramadeluka Seretse had resigned on 30 August in the face of charges of corruption. Public prosecutors alleged that Seretse had breached the Corruption and Economic Crime Act by failing to disclose to the authorities his interest as a shareholder and director in RFT Botswana (Pty) Ltd, when the company entered into a contract with the Botswana police service in June 2008 for the supply, delivery, and commissioning of aviation equipment. The charges followed an investigation by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) into allegations that his involvement in RFT Botswana presented a conflict of interest.
- 2 Themba Maseko, a spokesman for the South African government, said that South Africa would on 31 Dec withdraw the special status it had granted to illegal Zimbabwean immigrants who had fled their country's economic collapse. The amnesty had allowed Zimbabweans to stay in South Africa without passports or

visas. Deportations of undocumented Zimbabweans would begin after the deadline expired, said Maseko.

- 6 Around 50 people were arrested during a meeting of pro-democracy activists at Tum's George Hotel in Manzini, Swaziland's largest city. Most of those arrested were released without charge within hours of their detention, but at least 16 people, including several members of foreign trade unions, remained in custody the following day, according to a press release issued by Amnesty International. The arrests occurred two days ahead of planned pro-democracy demonstrations and protests against human rights violations in Swaziland, southern Africa's only remaining absolute monarchy, where political parties had been banned since 1973. Amnesty International said that 'the arbitrary arrest of these political activists, lawyers, trade unionists and journalists' was 'nothing short of police harassment and intimidation'. Wendy Hleta, a police spokeswoman, said that the foreigners were arrested because 'we felt that they had no right to interfere' in Swaziland's domestic affairs.
- 6 The Namibian Supreme Court unanimously ruled that an opposition legal challenge to the election victory in November 2009 of President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the ruling SWAPO should be heard by the High Court. The ruling was a response to an appeal lodged by nine opposition parties after the High Court in Windhoek in March refused to hear the case on 'technical grounds' (see 21 March). The opposition alleged that the elections of 2009 were marred by irregularities, including the manipulation of results by the electoral authority, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN).
- 18-19 Suspected supporters of President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF fought running battles in Harare with supporters of Tsvangirai's MDC, ZANU-PF's partner in the unity government. Several people were injured and property destroyed. The violence erupted during consultative meetings convened by the COPAC, the organiser of an outreach programme launched in July to solicit the views of Zimbabweans on a new constitution that would lead to fresh elections (see 21 July). The consultative process had already suffered delays, with violence and intimidation reported in many rural areas. In June 2008, Morgan Tsvangirai pulled out of presidential elections after weeks of orchestrated state-sponsored violence resulted in the deaths of more than 80 MDC supporters.
- 20 Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai warned that he would boycott early elections envisaged for 2011 if they were preceded by violence. The warning came after violence erupted in Harare between his MDC and ZANU-PF supporters (see 18-19 Sept).
- 28 Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos dismissed Gen Roberto Leal Monteiro as Interior Minister following accusations that he had ordered the 'irregular and illegal' extradition from São Tomé and Príncipe of a Portuguese national wanted on fraud charges in Angola. There was no extradition agreement between the two countries. Monteiro had been appointed as Interior Minister in February 2006.

October

- 12 The UN General Assembly elected five new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council to serve two-year terms commencing on 1 Jan 2011. For Africa, South Africa (182) replaced Uganda.
- 12 In the UK the extent to which force could be used in deporting failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants came under renewed scrutiny when an Angolan man died while

- under restraint on an aircraft awaiting take-off from London's Heathrow airport to Luanda, Angola. Jimmy Mubenga, 46, four of whose five children had been born in the UK, had joined his wife in the UK in 1994 and had failed in a long quest to obtain official refugee status. His deportation was ordered after he had received a two-year prison sentence in 2006 for causing actual bodily harm in a nightclub brawl (see 18 and 25 Oct).
- 14 British Minister of State for Immigration, Damian Green, announced that deportations of failed Zimbabwean asylum seekers, which had been effectively suspended since 2006, would be resumed because of the improved situation in Zimbabwe, subject to a test ruling by the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal.
 - 15 In Namibia the Republican Party (RP) was dissolved, allowing the party to merge with the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP). A day earlier, RP leader Henk Mudge resigned from his seat in the National Assembly and called for a 'unified opposition' capable of challenging the ruling SWAPO ahead of regional and municipal elections scheduled for November. RDP leader Hidipo Hamutenya said that the merger was an opportunity for Namibians to elect 'a better alternative', adding that 'much is rotten in the house of Namibia because of the political arrogance of SWAPO'.
 - 15 Following the death of an asylum seeker at Heathrow Airport (see 12, 18, 25 and 29 Oct) apparently from asphyxiation, security firms carrying out removals were instructed by the Home Office not to use force.
 - 18 Three security guards (employees of the G4S private security firm) involved in the death of an asylum seeker at Heathrow Airport, UK, were arrested by the police (see 12, 25 and 29 Oct) and released on bail pending further inquiries.
 - 25 The instruction by the British Home Office to security firms not to use force in carrying out removals of asylum seekers was rescinded when new guidelines on how to deal with unwilling deportees were circulated (see 12, 15, 18 and 29 Oct).
 - 26 A study published in the influential medical journal *The Lancet* found that a new vaccine against the poliomyelitis virus was between 30 and 40% more effective than the current trivalent vaccine aimed at immunising against all three viral subtypes of the disease. The new bivalent vaccine, targeting the two subtypes of the virus that persisted in the four countries in which polio remained endemic – Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, and Nigeria – was tested alongside both the trivalent vaccine and monovalent vaccines. A mass vaccination campaign led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) had brought down the number of annual cases of polio worldwide from 350 000 in 1988 to 1 606 in 2009.
 - 29 The contract of the private security firm G4S, to carry out removals (of asylum seekers whose applications for asylum in the UK failed) was terminated (see 12, 15, 18 and 25 Oct).

November

- 18-19 The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and the Institute for African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University, China co-hosted a conference on Sino-African relations. The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for leading African and Chinese scholars to present research findings involving critical areas of Africa-China relations and discuss key issues, perspectives and problems experienced in the course of such research. The conference was opened by China's

Deputy President, Xi Jinping. South African Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, Ebrahim Ebrahim discussed the emerging comprehensive strategic partnership between South Africa and China, including the recent areas of cooperation in the energy sphere.

December

- 13 Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadi-Nejad, unexpectedly dismissed Manuchehr Motaki as Foreign Minister, a post he had held since August 2005.
- 14 The UK's *The Times* reported that Iranian Foreign Minister Motaki, who was in Senegal for an official tour of Africa, had been 'caught completely by surprise'. Ahmadi-Nejad appointed IAEA head Ali Akbar Salehi as the new Foreign Minister. Commentators generally agreed that the move was a clear assertion of control over foreign policy by the hardline president.

*Prof Margaret Beukes
University of South Africa*