

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR SOUTHERN
AFRICA (ECA/SRDC)

MISSION REPORT

Staff Member on Mission:	M.E. Dhliwayo, EAO, Transport Programme
Purpose of Mission:	To sensitize the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Swaziland on the role of ECA/SRDC-SA and to collect data on Social Economic Conditions
Dates:	23 - 26 March, 1998
Venue:	Mbabane, Swaziland
Programme Element:	Advisory Services

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF MISSION

In 1995 the ECA Conference of Ministers approved the reform programme of the Commission presented in the report "Serving Africa Better - Strategic Directions for the Economic Commission for Africa" where key decisions were presented. One of these required the strengthening of the MULPOCs. The ECA Sub-Regional Development Centres (SRDC) with a revised mandate were set up in 1997 with the former Eastern and Southern African MULPOC being split into two: Eastern and Southern Africa SRDCs with the latter serving eleven countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In line with pursuing its vision "Towards a Premier Resource Centre for Economic and Social Development in southern Africa" a need for undertaking sensitization missions was identified.

The mission was therefore undertaken for the purpose of:

- (a) Sensitization on the new directions for the SRDC-SA
- (b) Soliciting participation in the
 - (i) Subregional High Level Policy Seminar on Gender Equity, Social and Economic Empowerment of Women to be held in Lusaka, Zambia from 6 to 8 April, 1998
 - (ii) First Meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts of the SRDC to be held from 5 to 8 October, 1998
- (c) Data collection on the social and economic conditions in Southern African member States.

PROCEEDINGS

The arrangements for the mission were made through the UNDP Programme Officer, Ms. Maphellele responsible for ECA programmes and Mr. Ishenda, advisor to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development.

The following departments were met:

- (i) Statistical Office

- (ii) Central Bank
- (iii) Foreign Affairs and Trade
- (iv) Macro Economic Unit
- (v) Home Economics Section for Gender Issues
- (vi) Principal Secretary for Economic Planning and Development
- (vii) Principal Secretary - Works and Transport
- (viii) Resident Representative's Office.

1. Sensitization

The ECA representative elaborated on the objectives of the Centre and the range of services it offered.

The Acting Principal Secretary, Mrs. Dlamini welcomed the mission and gave an overview of the Economic and Social Reform Agenda (ESRA), a programme initiated by government which has chosen some critical areas for address in order to impact on:

- (i) the acceleration of economic growth in order to increase national income and to alleviate poverty;
- (ii) the improvement of social services to the people so as to achieve sustainability in social welfare; and
- (iii) good governance characterised by, inter-alia transparency discipline and the rule of law.

ESRA represented a key selection of actions, quantified and targeted for achievement within a three year time-frame within available resources. ESRA was compatible and consistent with the National Development Strategy. The priority areas of focus included fiscal policy, investment policy, private sector development, infrastructure development and public sector reform, including enterprises. In this regard, ECA was more than welcome to assist Swaziland in development "software" programmes for implementing reforms.

The Ministry of Finance required assistance to set up Management Information Systems and Debt Monitoring on a sustainable basis. The current German Government assistance through GTZ would expire at the end of September, 1998.

Further discussions centred on the potential overlap between ECA, COMESA and SADC programmes and the government representatives underscored the need for harmonizing programmes. •

2. Forthcoming Meetings

The Swazi Government representatives informed the mission that they would send four senior officials to participate in the high level seminar.

In principle the government would also participate in the ICE meeting in October, 1998.

Questions were asked on the rationale behind disbanding the "Conferences of Ministers" and other Committees and what organs would replace these. The ECA staff member explained that this was in accordance with the new mandate that had been given to ECA and that these organs would continue to function under the ECOSOC for African countries under the African Economic Community Programme.

3. Data Collection

The ECA representative submitted the questionnaire on social and economic conditions for Southern African countries prepared by ESPD to the focal point who promised to coordinate the collection of the data required. A list of documents given below was also collected:

1. Swaziland Census of Agriculture 1992 - 1993 Title Deed Forms
2. Swaziland Census of Agriculture 1992 - 1993 Phase I Complete Coverage of Rural Areas
3. Employment & Wages - 1991
4. " " " - 1993
5. " " " - 1990
6. Education Statistics 1990

7. " " 1995
8. Comments on the data
9. Comments of the data Number 1/1998
10. " " " " " 1/1997
11. Economic Review and outlook 1991/92 - 1993/94
12. Social economic Development Bibliography
13. Swaziland Population Projections (1996 - 2016) V1.5
14. Education Statistics 1996
15. National Development Strategy (NDS) " A Twenty five Year Vision"
17. Budget Speech - 1998
18. Development Plan 1997/98 - 1999/00
19. Central Bank of Swaziland Annual Report - Financial year 1996/97
20. Swaziland Annual Agriculture Survey; 1993 - 1994
21. Government of Swaziland - Economic & Social Reform Agenda (ESRA)
22. Swaziland & Census of Individual Tenure Farms, 1988 - 1989
23. Report on the 1986 Swaziland Population Census V1.2 Administrative/Methodological Report
24. Report on the 1986 Swaziland Population Census V1.3 Administrative/Methodological Report
25. Report on the 1986 Swaziland Population Census V1.4 Administrative/Methodological Report

26. Report on the Census of Industries 1987 - 1990
27. Swaziland Census of Individual Tenure Farms 1990 - 1991
(Individual Tenure Farms and Estates Crops and Livestock)
28. Swaziland Census of Individual Tenure Farms 1989 - 1990
(Individual Tenure Farms and Estates Crops and Livestock)
29. Swaziland Census of Agriculture 1992 - 1993 Phase II

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The ECA should further sensitize the Government of Swaziland and select areas where impact can be made. The development of management information systems could be one such area. Transport policy reforms and restructuring could be another area. Perhaps a framework could be drawn for undertaking sensitization missions.

Preparations for the First ICE meeting should, inter-alia, focus on attracting participation from member States. Since our programme is drawn from RECs and member States, it would enhance our programme implementation if joint programmes could be initiated with RECs and missions were mounted where needed. This would undoubtedly go a long way towards reducing the duplication and increase harmonization with RECs in programme implementation.

Persons met

- (i) Dr. P. Makolo, UNDP Resident Coordinator, and Res Rep Swaziland
- (ii) Ms. N. Maphelele, Programme Officer, UNDP
- (iii) Mrs. J. Dlamini, Under Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning
- (iv) Mr. B. Mamba, Central Bank, Swaziland
- (v) Dr. T. Dlamini, Principal Secretary, Foreign Affairs and External Trade
- (vi) Mrs. P. Ginidza, Home Economics Section for Gender
- (vii) Mr. E. Madlopha, Principal Secretary for Works and Transport
- (viii) Mr. E. Hlope, Principal Secretary, Economic Planning and Development
- (ix) Mt. Lukhela, Census Commissioner
- (x) Mr. Simelane, Acting Director, Central Statistical Office.

