6th ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN CO-ORDINATION CONFERENCE (SADCC)

Issued 1st April 1986

(Extract from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 1986)

“The Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) is an association of the nine independent Member States of Southern Africa - Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Through regional co-operation, SADCC works to accelerate economic growth in order to improve living conditions of the peoples of Southern Africa.

In the founding declaration issued at Lusaka on 1st April, 1980 the Heads of State and Government expressed their desire to "Offer this declaration to our people, to the peoples and governments of the many countries who are interested in promoting popular welfares, justice and peace in Southern Africa and to the international agencies who share this interest". They declared their commitment to pursue policies aimed at economic liberation and integrated development at national economies as well as a programme of action covering Food and Agriculture, Industry, Manpower Development and Energy. The Heads of State and Government identified Transport and Communications as the main priority for SADCC Co-operation.

Among the many items on the agenda at the SADCC Council of Ministers meeting at Blantyre, Malawi in 1981 was the need to adopt an industrial development programme to provide the basic needs of the people under the following categories; food, clothing, housing, water supply, power, transport, communications and education.

Increased trade among SADCC countries should be emphasized to bring the benefits of Industrial production, to the region as a whole and to ensure co-ordinated development. In order to mark the 6th Anniversary of SADCC the Zimbabwe Posts & Telecommunications Corporation is to release on 1st April 1986, four stamps depicting various activities of SADCC.

What the Bulletin does not say is the principal aim of SADCC was to attempt by the nine countries involved to become less economically dependent on the apartheid regime in South Africa. The membership of SADCC was to expand when Namibia became independent in 1990, and with South Africa becoming a democratic nation in 1994.

In 1990, SADCC became the Southern African Development Community. Other countries that have been admitted into SADCC/SADC are Seychelles, Mauritius, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar. (In 2017 Swaziland changed its name to Eswatini)

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The four designs by Cedric Herbert a local artist, depict some of the aims of SADCC and the part being carried out by Zimbabwe in the development of the people of the SADCC countries.

The 12c stamp depicts food production and agriculture in Zimbabwe and shows one of the many grain storage silos situated throughout the country.

The 18c stamp shows another important area to SADCC, that of tourism and wildlife conservation. In Zimbabwe and other SADCC countries tourism and wildlife conservation are interlinked and form an important part in the earning of valuable foreign currency. This in turn
creates employment opportunities throughout the industry. The conservation of our natural wildlife is not only an important ecological issue but also is instrumental in the attraction of visitors to the whole SADCC region.

The 26c stamp depicts Zimbabwe's part in overcoming one of the most serious handicaps within and between the SADCC countries. Transport links such as railways, roads, sea and air routes do not connect properly from one country to another. Of the nine countries of the SADCC region, six of them are landlocked and do not have easy access to seaports. The first priority of SADCC has been to open up the region with proper, reliable and adequate transport and communication facilities to speed up development in the area. The design shows an Air Zimbabwe Boeing 737 which is used for regional flights within the SADCC area and internal domestic services.

The 35c stamp shows the National Flags of the nine SADCC countries next to a map of Africa showing the geographical positions of those countries.

The Stamps

Catalogue listings

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<th>SG</th>
<th>ZSC</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>690</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>12c</td>
<td>‘Food and Agriculture’ – Grain silos</td>
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<td>691</td>
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<td>‘Tourism and Wildlife Conservation’ - Rhino</td>
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<td>‘Transport and Communications’ – Air Zimbabwe plane</td>
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<td>693</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>35c</td>
<td>‘The SADCC Countries’ - Flags</td>
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Technical details

Stamp size: All values 42 x 28 mm

Sheet Size: 50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet

Artist: Cedric Herbert
Paper: ZSC paper type B – HS6, fluorescent coated paper with PVA gum with a blueish/greenish tinge.

Print colours: 18c - Black, magenta, cyan, orange  
Other values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow

Perforations: SG 14½, ZSC 14¼  
Top margin: Perforated through.  
Other margins: Imperforate

Printer: Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer’s Imprint: Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Columns 2 to 4. Imprint printed in black

Cylinder numbers: Top margin above column 5. Colours reading from left  
18c – orange, cyan, magenta, black  
Other values – yellow, cyan, magenta, black

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – right margin opposite R1/5. Colours reading down.  
18c – black, magenta, cyan, orange  
Other values – black, magenta, cyan, yellow

Sheet Value: Top margin, above R1/1, printed in black.

Sheet Number: Type SN 4a with ‘PTC’ prefix, left margin, opposite R1/1, reading down.

Print numbers: 26c 500,000 35c 500,000

Issue date: 1st April, 1986

Withdrawal from sale:

Demonetarisation: 31st January, 1994

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted
Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.

18c: Black dot left of sun under fish eagle, possibly constant R9/4

26c: Light blue patch above value

35c: Yellow dot in Zambian flag

35c: Black line in Zambian flag

35c: Yellow vertical line in red stripe of Malawian flag

First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.
Related Material

First Day Cover signed by artist, Cedric Herbert  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)

PTC Publicity folder

A clear plastic folder containing the Bulletin (without order forms) and a set of stamps in a blue stock card
Bibliography:
