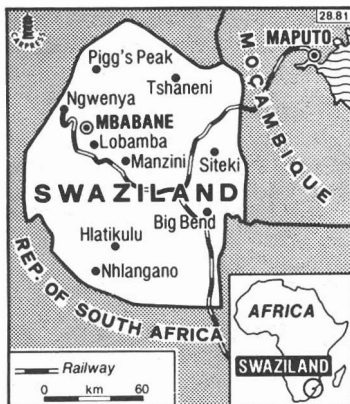


AFRICA

structural adjustment programmes had increased their annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates by an average of 3.8 per cent in the period 1985-87. However, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) strongly criticized the report's conclusions which, it said, were "arbitrary" and guilty of "stark manipulation of data". In July 1989 ECA launched its own "African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation", which called upon African countries to abandon orthodox reform programmes in favour of multiple exchange rates, limited debt service payments and greater mass participation in decision-making.

REFERENCES. Last roundup article pp. 35751-54; June-July 1989 ECOWAS summit, July OAU summit p. 36807.

► SWAZILAND



● BASIC DATA

Area: 17,363 sq km. **Population:** 713,000 (1987). **Capital:** Mbabane—administrative capital; Lobamba, traditional capital of Swazi people, to become legislative capital. **Languages:** English and SiSwati. **Religion:** 60% Christian (most of remainder have traditional beliefs). **Av. life expectancy:** 55 yrs. **GNP per capita:** US\$755 (1987). **Currency:** lilangeni (US\$1.00=SL2.6586 as at Oct. 23, 1989).

The Kingdom of Swaziland became independent within the Commonwealth in September 1968. Succession to the throne is governed by Swazi law and custom. The present King, Mswati III, acceded in April 1986. Under the terms of the 1978 Constitution, considerable execu-

tive power is vested in the King, and is exercised by a Cabinet appointed by him. There is a bicameral legislative body, the *Libandla*, composed of a Senate and a House of Assembly, with limited powers. Elections to both houses are indirect. The 1978 electoral law provides for the election, by the people of each of the 40 traditional chiefdoms (*Tinkhundla*), of two members of an electoral college, which itself elects 40 members of the Assembly and 10 senators; the King appoints a further 10 members of the Assembly and 10 senators. All political parties were banned under the 1978 Constitution. Elections to the *Libandla* were held on Nov. 5, 1987.

● POLITICS

■ For July 1989 appointment of new Prime Minister see p. 36842.

Promise of review of land and property decree

King Mswati III announced on Nov. 2, 1988, that a controversial decree issued on Sept. 30 relating to the sale of private land and property would be reviewed. The decree gave the Justice Minister the power to force an owner selling property to sell to anyone the Minister chose, and also to overrule or disregard decisions of the Land Control Board if he saw fit. It provoked widespread concern, particularly among Swazi banks with substantial property investments.

● SECURITY

Increase in refugee numbers

In September 1988 the Interior and Immigration Minister, Senzenjani Tshabalala, put the number of refugees in the country at 134,000, one-fifth of the total population. The authorities continued regularly to deport people whom they termed prohibited immigrants; most of those affected were either Mozambicans, who were repatriated, or South Africans alleged to be mem-

bers of the African National Congress (ANC), many of whom were deported to Zambia. On Feb. 13, 1989, three South Africans said to be ANC members were shot dead in a suspected political killing.

Protest to South Africa over border shooting

South African soldiers crossed into Swaziland on Oct. 10, 1988, and two miles inside Swazi territory, shot dead a Swazi citizen allegedly trying to cross illegally into South Africa. The then Prime Minister, Sotsha Dlamini, expressed strong condemnation to the South African government over what he called "this undue act of aggression". In another border incident at the end of October 1988, a Swazi citizen was shot and seriously wounded, allegedly by a member of the South African Defence Force.

● ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

GDP growth 8.9% (1987-88)
Trade balance -US\$7.4 m. (1987)
Budget surplus US\$5.13 m.
Total external public debt US\$275 m. (end-1987)
Debt service ratio (as % of export earnings) 6.9% (1989, projected)
Gross national product US\$539 m. (1987 est.)
Inflation rate 13% (1987-88)

1989/90 budget

The Finance Minister, Sibusiso Dlamini, presenting the 1989/90 budget on Feb. 20, 1989, said that an increase in revenues in 1988/89 allowed him to predict a surplus of SL12,500,000 (US\$5,130,000), against an original projection of a SL9,500,000 deficit. Economic growth in the previous year had reached 8.9 per cent in real terms, and employment expanded by 6 per cent, and in 1988 manufacturing replaced agriculture as the dominant sector. Total expenditure for 1989/

Cabinet

Obed Dlamini
 Siphon Hezekiel Mamba

(vacant)
 Chief Siphon Shongwe
 (vacant)
 Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini
 Sir George M. Mamba
 Fanny Friedman
 Senzenjani Enoch Tshabalala
 Reginald Dladla
 Prince Ngaba

Wilson Mkhonta
 Ben Nsibandze

Prime Minister (acting)
 Agriculture and Co-operatives
 Commerce, Industry, Mines and Tourism
 Defence
 Education
 Youth
 Finance
 Foreign Affairs
 Health
 Interior and Immigration
 Justice
 Natural Resources, Land Utilization and Energy
 Works and Communications
 Labour and Public Service

90, including debt repayments of SL76,000,000, was projected at SL447,000,000. Dlamini announced that a stock exchange would be set up with the aim of recycling the large volume of savings which would otherwise go to South Africa.

■ **REFERENCES.** Last roundup article pp. 36008-09; papal visit in September 1988 p. 36247; July 1989 replacement of Prime Minister p. 36842.

MALAWI

● BASIC DATA

Area: 118,484 sq km. **Population:** 7,629,000 (1987). **Capital:** Lilongwe. **Language:** English (official); Chichewa. **Religion:** 50% Christian; Moslem and Hindu minorities; most also follow traditional beliefs. **Av. life expectancy:** 46 yrs (1987). **Armed forces:** 5,250 (1988). **GNP per capita:** US\$160 (1987). **Currency:** Malawi kwacha (US\$1.00=K2.7357 as at Oct. 23, 1989).

The Republic of Malawi was established on July 6, 1966, two years after the country gained independence from the United Kingdom. The Republic, which retains membership of the Commonwealth, is a one-party state with an executive President. Following an amendment to the Constitution, the current head of state, Hastings Kamuzu Banda, was proclaimed Life President in July 1971, having ruled Malawi since independence. Legislative power is vested in the unicameral National Assembly, whose 112 elected members are chosen for a five-year term by direct popular vote; the President is empowered to appoint an unlimited number of deputies to the Assembly. A general election was held in May 1987, in which all candidates were required to be members of the Malawi Congress Party, although voters had a choice of candidate in 69 constituencies. The President appoints Cabinet Ministers, the Chief Justice, senior civil servants, and senior officers of the armed forces.

● POLITICS

Student demonstrations—Criticism of northern teachers by President

Four students were expelled from the University of Malawi in January 1989 for writing an article critical of government education policy, in particular the quota system restricting the number of northerners entering the university. A two-day lecture boycott was organized and 600 students took part in a demonstration; the students returned to their classes when they were in-