

result from the Programme, without consideration of prior trends and the general economic administration of the country. The author cites popular derogatory perceptions of ESAP and appears to accept them uncritically. Sometimes the blame placed on ESAP seems extreme: "Rape within marriage has reportedly increased largely because men can no longer afford prostitutes" (p. 42).

The author does not always make clear the origin and status of the data he cites. "It is thought that the number of working children has escalated to over 50 000 . . ." (p. 39). "There are estimated to be between 10 000 and 12 000 children living on the streets of Zimbabwe today" (p. 41). Who has these thoughts and estimates, and on what basis? My information is that the number of children living on the streets is perhaps a tenth of the figure given. Even when I have no reason to doubt the author's statements, I should like more information. I should like, for example, to know more about the information from which the author concludes that various forms of child abuse are increasing. Statements about family disintegration need more careful analysis than the author gives them, both on its nature and on its causes.

Some of the tables could be more helpful. What are we to conclude from Table 1, which shows that in 1976, 11.5% of Whites and 13.1% of Blacks were in primary school? Table 2 gives absolute figures for patterns of disease between Whites and Blacks, and no percentages.

It is useful to have the issues concerning children expressed concisely in one short booklet. But it provides little in the way of new insight or new information.

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**The Economic Structural Adjustment Programme: The Case of Zimbabwe, 1991-1995** By A. S. Mlambo. Harare, University of Zimbabwe Publications, 1997, 105 pp, ISBN 0-908307-72-1, \$75.

Dr. Mlambo's book has explored factors leading to the inception, and impact of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) in Zimbabwe. The study contains an immense amount of material obviously based on months of earnest investigation.

An analysis of a typical International Monetary Fund/World Bank (IMF/WB) reform package is presented in the opening chapter. The chapter evaluates the effectiveness of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). Indeed all the evidence points to the fact that SAPs are to blame for the situations in which developing countries find themselves. The chapter contains an interesting debate on whom to blame for the failure of SAPs [pg. 19]. IMF and WB officials argue that ". . . they are merely advisors . . .

and were not directly involved in how governments distributed the burdens of adjustment". Payer (1987) dismisses this as a lie [see pg. 19]. Dashwood (1996) disputed the fact that IMF/WB reform programmes inherently cause hardships for the poor majority [pg. ix, para 4 and 5].

The next two chapters of the book present the background to the introduction of ESAP in Zimbabwe. The wisdom of producing Chapters 2 and 3 [pg. 29-54] is open to question. This is not to deny that these two chapters contain invaluable information. The information contained is *not new at all*. Dr. Mlambo could have referred the reader to the already existing literature on the history of Zimbabwe. A probit analysis on the decision to participate in SAPs could improve the presentation in Chapter 3. Also missing is a well-motivated discussion on the nature and extent of the macroeconomic and sectoral crisis that bedevilled the Zimbabwean economy over the 1980-90 period (see Elbadawi, Ghura and Uwujaren, 1992).

Chapter 4 of the book is entitled "Scheming for the Poor: Education and Health, 1980-1990". This chapter gives a detailed discussion of the "policy issues" in the health and education sectors before and after independence (first ten years). Indeed the discussion is appealing, and all the evidence points to a notable improvement in the provision of social services to the Zimbabwean majority. However, this was not without its "teething" problems. This is made clear in the two final sections of the chapter: "Educational Reform: An Analysis" [pg 67-71] and "Scheming for the Poor: Health Reform, 1980-1990" [pg. 72-78].

Chapter 5 of the book has aroused strong feelings in many quarters. Entitled "The ESAP Counter-Revolution: Scheming Against the Poor: Health and Education Under ESAP, 1990-1995", this chapter acid tests the effectiveness of ESAP in Zimbabwe's health and education sectors. The outcome cannot be over emphasized; "... the reform programme affected negatively the welfare of the Zimbabwean majority" and "most of the gains made in the first decade of independence with respect to the provision of, and the majority's access to, education and health services" were reversed. This is made clear in paragraph 2 on page 87, which states:

... AIDS could no longer be considered the greatest threat to public health ... the biggest health crisis is the inevitable decline in the standard of living as a result of ESAP.

Dr. Mlambo could have improved his method of analysis by incorporating economy wide models (see Davies *et al*, 1994; Chitiga, 1996). These models are more illustrative than the "historical-analysis-of-facts" approach adopted in this book.

The book winds up with a conclusion. The conclusion puts a new complexion on reform packages. In brief, the reform packages should integrate poverty related policies in order for them to develop a human face. The author, however, does not give any practical suggestions about

the redistribution e.g. targeting and how to identify the poor. The potential costs of the suggested policy are not discussed. This could have been more helpful to policy makers in Zimbabwe. For policy purposes, the study has achieved little success, and is already out of date. As Economists, we should be trying to look at the possible solutions to our problems rather than spend our resources on analysing the "by-gones". What is the way forward?

Dr. Mlambo's book is especially suitable for the upcoming scholars who are really keen on knowing the origins of ESAP in Zimbabwe.

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**The Practice of Smallholder Irrigation: Case Studies from Zimbabwe** E. Manzungu and P. van der Zaag (eds.). Harare, University of Zimbabwe Publications, 1996, 235 pp, ISBN 0-908307-51-9, Z\$60.

This edited volume is a multi-disciplinary study of smallholder irrigation in Zimbabwe. Eight case studies make up the book. The case studies focus on interaction between technical and social aspects of smallholder irrigation, standardisation in schemes managed by government,