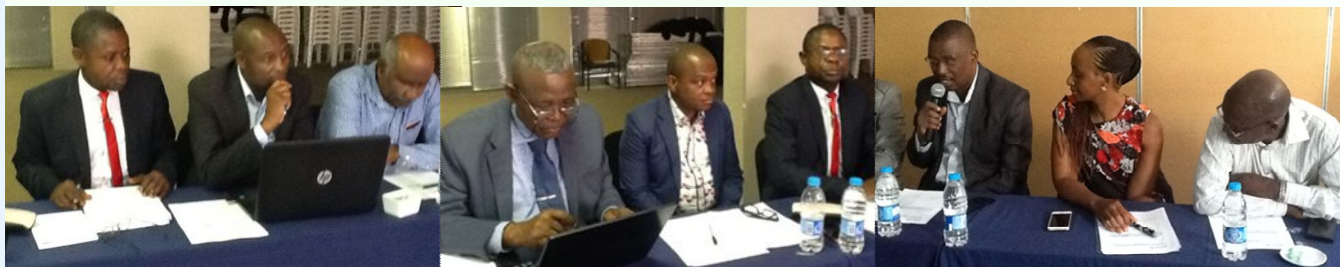


SADCAS TLAP and CLAP Advisory Committees Meet

The SADCAS Advisory Committees (AC) for the Testing and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programmes held their first meetings on 9 December 2016 in Pretoria South Africa. The meetings which were funded by PTB Germany were attended by 11 CLAP Advisory Committee members and 14 TLAP Advisory Committee members.

Advisory Committees advise SADCAS on technical matters and the credibility of SADCAS services hinges on the technical know-how of the Advisory Committees which cover the main disciplines and sectors within which SADCAS operates. Up to date SADCAS has established 3 Advisory Committees one of which was established in 2011 and is specifically for inspection in Zimbabwe and has met 5 times over the years. In 2015 SADCAS set up 2 other Advisory Committees for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Programme (TLAP) and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programme (CLAP) which comprise of carefully selected experts in specific fields of accreditation and covering as much as possible all the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS. According to SADCAS AP 11: Terms of Reference, Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees, Advisory Committees are required to meet at least once a year.



Joint Advisory Committee meeting in session

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Joint Advisory Committee meeting in session

The joint meeting started with welcome remarks from the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa who expressed thanks to PTB – Germany for sponsoring these first meetings of the Advisory Committees and gave a brief background on the establishment of SADCAS and the TLAP and CLAP ACs briefly highlighting their roles and responsibilities. She then outlined the purpose of the AC meeting which was to: Give an overview of SADCAS and update on developments in SADCAS; Explain the Terms of Reference and responsibilities of AC; Provide update on the ISO/IEC 17025 revisions which is the key accreditation standard for testing / calibration laboratories; Discuss programme specific issues for TLAP and CLAP during which the accreditation process would be outlined; Elect Chairmen of the Advisory Committees; and Establish Documents Working Groups (WGs) as necessary to assist SADCAS in commenting on regional and international technical documents as required by SADCA, AFRAC and ILAC of which SADCAS is a member.



Mrs Mutasa and Ms Ranorovelo during the joint meeting

This was followed by a detailed presentation on the overview of SADCAS and an update on developments in SADCAS. The Technical Manager, Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo presented on the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee based on SADCAS AP 11 during which she covered the role of the AC, membership of the AC, the Chairperson and roles of the Chairperson, Secretariat functions and the functions of the AC and confidentiality. The Chair, Mrs Mutasa then requested the meeting to brainstorm on how to ensure that the AC meetings are sustained as planned noting the geographical diversity of AC members with SADCAS servicing the needs of 13 SADC Members States. A number of suggestions were discussed and in conclusion it was agreed to hold AC meetings in conjunction with other regional meetings such as the SADC TBT Structures annual meetings which some of the members attend and to look for funding on a part sharing basis until such that time that AC members can meet their own costs.

Mr Steve Sydney Co Convenor of ISO CASCO WG 44 gave an update on the revisions of the ISO/IEC 17025. The presentation focused on the changes made in the standard and the expected means of implementing the new requirements. He mentioned that the standard had been aligned with the ISO 9001 standard and the layout changed to assume a process-based approach. Mr Sydney also outlined the process of reviewing the standard and the stage at which the WG is. He also informed members that ILAC had issued a transition period of 3 years from the date of publication of the new version. Following extensive discussions on the revisions, the Chair thanked Mr Steven Sidney for his time to inform members of the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17025 the key accreditation standard for testing and calibration laboratories.

TLAP Advisory Committee Break Out Meeting – The AC TLAP break out session was chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa. Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Program Coordinator for TLAP gave a presentation on the SADCAS Accreditation process covering the scopes of assessments, 5 stages of the accreditation process namely application and document review,

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pre-assessment which is an optional stage, initial assessment, surveillance assessment and re-assessment; the assessment checklists: Management requirements, technical requirements, witnessing, vertical and PT forms; and participation of assessors/experts in an assessment team and the expertise required based on the scopes of the assessments. In the ensuing discussions members wanted to fully understand the process and raised issues which were later identified for future deliberations by the Committee such as the following:

- ❑ Accreditation scoping in the area Radiometry and Dosimetry.
- ❑ Validation of Microbiological and chemical test methods.

A Document Working Group (DWG) comprising of the following 5 members was established and Mr Muyila from Malawi was elected as Chairman of the AC. The AC agreed to meet in November 2017 to review progress with development of agreed documents.

CLAP Advisory Committee Break Out Meeting - The CLAP Advisory Committee break out meeting was chaired by Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo. Mr Victor Mundembe a SADCAS Assessor and member of the AC, gave a presentation on the SADCAS Accreditation Process covering the same aspects as above but specifically for the CLAP. Ensuing discussions focused on issues of competency which were well captured by all members who fully understood their role in providing technical expertise to support the accreditation process. Many issues for future deliberations were identified but the AC members agreed to prioritize the activities and focus on the following 2 issues:

- ❑ Uncertainty of measurements: Develop specific requirements per scope based on SADCAS TR 12.
- ❑ Mass Metrology: Develop technical requirements for calibration/weighing instruments.

All the AC members present at the meeting indicated their interest in commenting on the regional and international documents hence all constitute the DWG. Mr Victor Mundembe was unanimously elected the Chairman of the CLAP AC. Due to the nature of the documents to be developed the AC members agreed to allocate a full day during the SADC TBT Annual meetings in March 2017 to look at the first drafts, as most of the AC members will be attending the SADC MET meetings. The CLAP AC also agreed to meet in November 2017 to consider the drafts.

After the breakout meetings all the members reconvened into one meeting for the closure and photo session. The technical knowledge and experience of the Advisory Committees which cover the main disciplines and sectors within which SADCAS operates is key for the integrity and credibility of the services delivered. The meetings therefore provided the opportunity to identify areas for future work.



Advisory Committees members pose for a group photo after the meetings

SADCAS Holds 12th Annual General Meeting

SADCAS held its 12th Annual General Meeting on 15 March 2017 at the George Hotel in Manzini, Swaziland. The AGM was held in conjunction with the 32nd SADC TBT Cooperation Structures meetings was attended by 37 General Assembly members and observers.

The Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors Mr Steve Bruce Sidney welcomed members and observers to the 12th SADCAS AGM. In his report to the AGM, Mr Sidney reported on the further progress made in fulfilling SADCAS's mandate. SADCAS business continues to grow steadily not only in terms of field and scope of accreditation but also in terms

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of geographical and sector coverage. He noted that by 28 February 2017, SADCAS had issued 77 accreditation certificates to 56 accredited facilities in 9 SADC Member States with accreditation of new facilities growing by 17% whilst total accreditation certificates grew by 24% over the February 2016 cumulative figures. During the period SADCAS accredited its first facility in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). At the same time SADCAS had 38 accreditation applications from 11 countries which are in process and 10 of which are from SADC countries. A further 15 facilities have expressed interest in accreditation and are being handled. So far SADCAS has cumulatively conducted 122 training courses in 14 SADC Member States representing a 15% growth in training courses offered over the February 2016 statistics with SADCAS holding its first courses in Angola, Lesotho and Madagascar during the period.

In support of the Testing/Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programmes the respective Advisory Committees set up in 2015/16 met for the first time on 9 December 2016 and identified future work items whilst the Advisory Committee for Inspection in Zimbabwe held its 6th meeting in September 2016. The pool of assessors is growing with SADCAS having registered 79 Technical Assessors and 35 Lead Assessors by 28 February 2017. More experts are being trained as assessors. On 8 December 2016 SADCAS held another assessor conclave in Pretoria, South Africa and this was attended by 80 assessors. "Continuous communication between SADCAS and the pool of assessors is key in ensuring consistency, integrity and continuous improvement of our services as we strive to consolidate and streamline service delivery to the target population" the Chairman said.



Annual General meeting in session

The Chairman informed the AGM that SADCAS is set to undergo a joint ILAC/AFRAC/SADCA extraordinary peer evaluation for scope extension to Testing (ISO 15189) and Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020) from 14 to 19 May 2017. In April 2016 SADCAS successfully hosted the ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee (ILAC MCC) and the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC). This being the first international meeting to be hosted by SADCAS and in order to take advantage of the international accreditation marketing professionals attending this international meeting,

SADCAS held a one day marketing and communications workshop in conjunction with the international meetings with sponsorship from PTB Germany.

On funding of SADCAS, the Chairman informed the meeting that the staggered inflow of Governments contributions towards SADCAS sustainability remained the greatest threat in ensuring continuity and target achievement and achievement of breakeven on operational costs. As at 28 February 2017, US\$762,448, 65% has already been contributed by Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Seychelles, Botswana, Swaziland and Madagascar who have fully paid their contribution, and Malawi and DRC having partially paid their contribution. Zambia and Tanzania had not paid their long outstanding contributions and together with DRC and Malawi were expected to pay their financial obligations towards SADCAS sustainability.

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The meeting attended to the normal AGM business including the adoption of the 8th SADCAS annual report including the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016, ratification of the budget for the year 2017/18, appointed Baker Tilly International as external financial auditors for an initial term of 3 years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, subject to annual confirmations and also approved that Baker Tilly International to undertake the audit for the financial year ended 31 March 2017, appointed UPT Secretarial as the Company Secretary for the year beginning 1 April 2017 up to 31 March 2018. The Board also approved the Board remuneration for the financial year 2017/18. Elections were also held for 4 Board positions, three of which were re-elections to serve for the second term of 3 years.

The 2017 NAFP certificates of recognition for the Most Effective NAFP and the Most Improved NAFP were also presented during the 12th AGM with NAFP - Swaziland receiving the former Award and NAFP- Angola the later Award.

SADCAS Elects Board Members at the 12th AGM

The SADCAS is governed by a General Assembly. Drawn out of the General Assembly is the Board of Directors which oversees the running of SADCAS and fulfils any function that the general assembly may delegate to it. The Board is responsible for the overall policy and strategic guidance of the Company, approve amendments to the Company's rules and bye-laws and approve strategic and business plans, annual accounts and budgets. The SADCAS CEO who reports to the Board of Directors leads the company and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of SADCAS.

According to Article 8 of the SADCAS Articles of Association the number of members of the Board of the company shall not be less than 7 at any given time. At the 12th SADCAS AGM elections were held for 4 Board positions. Mr Steve Sidney who had served his first term as Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors was re-elected for a second term having put himself up for election. Ms Verily Molatedi, who had served her first term as Vice Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors was re-elected for a second term having put herself up for election. Mr Alfredo Filipe Siteo, who



From left to right Mr Manuel Mutale, Mrs Maureen Mutasa, Mr Emmanuel Jinda, Mr Steven Sidney, Mr Alfredo Siteo and Ms Verily Molatedi. Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha Not in photo.

had served his first term as a member of the SADCAS Board of Directors was re-elected for a second 3 year term having put himself up for election. Following the retirement of Ms Boitumelo Gofhamodimo from the SADC Secretariat, Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha was appointed to represent the SADC Secretariat on the Board and subsequently elected onto the SADCAS Board of Directors at the 12th AGM to serve his first 3 year term. Mr Mtonakutha is the Senior Programme Officer, Macroeconomic Policies and Convergence; taxation and related matters; and responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the Protocol on Finance and Investment at the SADC Secretariat.

Following the elections, the SADCAS Board of Directors now comprises of 7 members 6 of whom are non-executive members and one Executive.

Sadwick Mtonakutha Appointed SADCAS Board Member

SADCAS is pleased to announce the co-option of Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha, the SADC Senior Programme Officer - Macroeconomic Policies and Convergence onto the SADCAS Board of Directors with effect from 10 February 2017. Mr Mtonakutha was subsequently elected onto the SADCAS Board of Directors at the 12th Annual General Meeting held on 15 March 2017. Mr Mtonakutha represents the SADC Secretariat on the SADCAS Board and replaces Ms Boitumelo Gofhamodimo who retired from the SADC Secretariat.

Mr Mtonakutha who holds a Masters in Economics and Bachelors' degree in Social Science brings with him 26 years' experience in macroeconomic policies and convergence including peer review processes, taxation (policy and administration) and related matters, finance and investment including policy and promotion.

SADCAS, a subsidiarity organization of SADC is an important institution in the implementation of the SADC agenda. It is therefore important that the SADC Secretariat takes membership on the Board of Directors of SADCAS so as to guide and ensure that SADCAS work remains aligned to the mandate given as well as to ensure that the region's goals and objectives are met. This also provides an opportunity for the SADC Secretariat to appreciate the challenges that SADCAS is facing and assist in recommending appropriate actions to be taken.

SADCAS Welcomes Mimosa Mining Company Laboratory to the family of Accredited Facilities



Mimosa Mining Company Laboratory based in Zvishavane town, 400kms from Harare joins the list of SADCAS accredited Mining Laboratories in Zimbabwe. Mimosa Mining Company (Pvt) Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mimosa Holdings (Pvt) Limited which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mimosa Investments Limited, a Mauritius incorporated company that is a 50:50 Joint Venture between Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (Implats) and Aquarius Platinum Limited.

The Laboratory has been accredited for Chemical analysis of Platinum, Palladium, Copper and Nickel in Ores and Concentrates in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 and has been granted a unique accreditation number **TEST-5 0024** with

effect from the 14th December 2017.

Swaziland Water Services Corporation Laboratory Accredited

SADCAS is proud to announce the accreditation of **Swaziland Water Services Corporation (SWSC)** in Mbabane. The SWSC is the first testing laboratory in Swaziland to be accredited by SADCAS. The facility has been accredited in the scopes of Chemical and Microbiological Analysis of Water in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005. The accreditation became effective on the 14th March 2017 and the facility has been granted the unique Accreditation Number **TEST-1 0010** for Microbiological Analysis and **TEST-5 0026** for Chemical analysis.

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The **SWSC** is a corporate body duly established under the Water Services Corporation Act, No. 12 of 1992 and is wholly owned by Government of Swaziland. SWSC gained full autonomy through corporatisation in 1994 and operates independent of Government.

The objectives of the Corporation are to abstract, store, transport, purify, supply and collect water, convey, treat and dispose sewage in the areas as specified in the schedule of the Water Services Act. The SWSC has 26 treatment plants and a water bottling plant. To support these services, each plant has a laboratory with the main laboratory located in Mbabane and has 2 sections namely: Chemical and Microbiology laboratories. Apart from supporting SWSC services the laboratories also offer external services to the Swaziland industry sugar industry, bottled water industry as well as the general public regarding borehole water quality.

The **SWSC** had been accredited by SANAS and has now changed over to SADCAS at re-assessment since SADCAS has achieved signatory status to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) to ISO/IEC 17025 for the scopes of Testing and Calibration.



SADCAS Signs MoU with ASCOLAB

The SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association Congolaise des Laboratoires (ASCOLA/NLA) of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The objective of the MOU is to inform and support future cooperation of their activities. The MOU was signed on 2 April 2017 in Frankfurt, Germany in conjunction with the mid-term ILAC IAF Meetings and was witnessed by Mr Steven Bruce Sidney the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors and Chairman of the ILAC Laboratory Committee and Mr John Wilson Chairman of the National laboratory Association of South Africa.

ASCOLAB is a National Laboratory Association (NLA) and non-government association of the DRC aimed at promoting accreditation, organizing trainings and information exchange, coordinating scientific and technical cooperation between the Congolese laboratories, carrying out Testing, Calibration and Medical analysis. ASCOLAB offers credible laboratory services, raises the profile of the laboratory profession, and contributes to the growth of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) economy and enhanced scientific research and quality laboratory services.



From Left to Right Mr Sidney, Mrs Mutasa, Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama President of ASCOLAB and Mr John Wilson Chairman of NLA SA

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On the other hand **SADCAS**, a subsidiary organization of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), is a non-profit, multi-economy accreditation body whose mission is to provide credible, cost effective accreditation services for SADC Member States aimed at supporting trade; enhance the protection of consumers and the environment; and improve the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas. SADCAS offers programs for the accreditation of testing/calibration laboratories, medical laboratories, certification bodies (management systems/product/personnel) and inspection bodies.

Recognizing the need to strengthen and coordinate their actions in respect of accreditation SADCAS and ASCOLAB have agreed to cooperate by:

Recognizing the need to strengthen and coordinate their actions in respect of accreditation SADCAS and ASCOLAB have agreed to cooperate by:

- ❑ Communicating and sharing technical information on matters of common interest and develop suitable linkages to facilitate easier access to information available from the 2 organizations;
- ❑ Mutual representation at each other's annual general meetings;
- ❑ Promoting accreditation as a strategy for the competence of calibration/testing laboratories;
- ❑ Advocating for the need for policy makers to embrace accreditation as a tool for economic and social development and growth;
- ❑ Complimenting each other's training support for laboratories. ASCOLAB shall focus on specific laboratory skills whilst SADCAS shall focus on generic accreditation standards' requirements;
- ❑ Endeavour to formulate a common position on issues of mutual interest at international for a; and
- ❑ Cooperating in other activities or projects that are of mutual interest and in support of the implementation of the terms and conditions stated herein

The MoU negotiations started in September 2016 when SADCAS received a proposal from ASCOLAB and was subsequently approved by the SADCAS Board of Directors at its meeting held on 16 February 2017.



Displaying the signed MOU

Africa Commemorates the year 2017 as African Year of Quality Infrastructure

The 9th Ordinary Session of African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 01– 05 December 2014 called upon the Pan African Quality Institutions (PAQI) to adopt the year 2017 as African year of Quality Infrastructure. The decision was made in recognition of the efforts that Africa has made towards improving its quality infra-structure and to cultivate a culture of collective responsibility in building a sound quality infrastructure amongst African countries.

Activities to commemorate African Year of Quality Infrastructure will thus take place throughout the year 2017 on the continent with a call for enhanced efforts to boost economic integration, intra-African and global trade through investment in quality infrastructure. All interested stakeholders are hereby invited to take part in these special celebrations. The activities and key publicity messages will be in line with the celebration theme: "Better Quality Better Life".

2017 
AFRICAN YEAR OF
QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

BETTER QUALITY
BETTER LIFE

The commemorations have been timed to support the on-going negotiations for the realisation of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) for Africa envisioned for implementation from the end of 2017 to boost trade within the continent through elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade including technical barriers to trade (TBTs). In addition, it will provide an opportunity for the continent to discuss and showcase how it plans to sensitize and advocate for national and regional policies supporting quality infrastructure.

A logo fused with the above celebration theme has been developed by PAQI for this purpose and PAQI encourages all quality infrastructure stakeholders to make use of the logo. The logo will be made available to all those who may be interested in attaching it onto the materials to be used in celebration of the African Year of Quality Infrastructure.

As Africa welcomes the year 2017, PAQI; comprising of, the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), the African Electro technical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC) and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO), encourages all quality infrastructure players on the African continent to organise, support and actively participate in activities geared at improving quality infrastructure on the continent and chart a new course for future improvements.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

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PAQI 
PAN-AFRICAN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

SADCAS Hosts SADCA Executive Committee Meeting

The SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) Executive Committee (EXCO) held its meeting at Indaba Lodge in Gaborone, Botswana from 12 to 13 December 2016. The main purpose of the meeting was to review the SADCA position paper on future direction of the Cooperation, consider the draft strategic plan for the period 2017 to 2021, review progress on implementation of the 2016/17 work plans, prepare the EXCO work plan for the 2017/18 year and to prepare for the upcoming SADCA General Assembly meeting to be held in March 2017. A total of 5 Executive Committee members attended the meeting except 4 members who could not attend. The Gaborone meetings were hosted by SADCAS, the first SADCA EXCO meeting hosted by the multi economy accreditation body.



SADCA Executive Committee members pose for a photo during the meeting

The EXCO started off with a review of progress in the implementation of the 2016/17 EXCO, MRA Committee and Technical Committee work plans and developed the 2017/18 EXCO work. Progress was noted in the implementation of the 2016/17 MRA work plan with SADCAS having been admitted as a signatory to the AFRAC and ILAC MRAs for testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025) in October and November 2016 respectively and SANAS having been readmitted to the ILAC MRA and IAF Multi - Lateral Arrangement (MLA). It was noted that MAURITAS had undergone a pre peer evaluation and was working on closing the findings raised in the evaluation after which it will undergo peer evaluation in 2017/18 whilst SADCAS is set to undergo peer evaluation for scope extension to medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020) a joint ILAC/AFRAC peer evaluation in May 2017.

The SADCA EXCO then considered the position paper on the future of the Cooperation which was prepared by a Task Force comprised of Dr Elsabe Steyn the SADCA Regional Coordinator, Mr Ron Josias the CEO of SANAS and Mrs Maureen Mutasa the CEO of SADCAS. The paper reflects on the environment in which SADCA operates and identifies and explores 2 options available to SADCA and proposes the future strategic direction for SADCA. The paper was thoroughly discussed during the EXCO meeting who agreed to its circulation to the SADCA Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Committee and SADCA Technical Committee for their input after which it will be presented to the SADCA GA for endorsement. Once endorsed by the GA the position paper will be used to communicate with various stakeholders on the future direction of SADCA.

The position paper formed the basis of the 2017 to 2021 strategic plan which was also considered during the meeting with changes being proposed from the discussions. The strategic plan is based on the direction that SADCA will be the accreditation centre of excellence for SADC Member States and will promote the unbroken chain of trust established by the SADC Quality infrastructure of which SADCA is a part of and provides confidence in the competence and integrity of conformity assessment activities. SADCA will launch, expand and maintain the SADCA MRA and the MRA scopes and

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promote the mutual recognition of the accredited SADC Conformity assessment results in the private sector and by regulators. The draft strategic plan incorporating comments from the discussions will be circulated to members for comment after which a workshop shall be held during the SADC TBT Annual meetings to present and discuss the position paper and the strategic plan before submitting it for approval at the SADCA Annual meeting.

Some time was spent on reviewing the SADCA documents which will be circulated for comment/ballot as per the SADCA document control procedure. On participation in ILAC and the IAF a report was presented by Mr Josias and Mrs Mutasa on their participation at the New Delhi meetings including updates on the revisions of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17011. In order to enhance SADCA's representation at the international meetings, the EXCO drew up a list of representations to the various Committees and Working Groups of interest to SADCA. The list will be finalized after confirmation by accreditation body members following which it will be submitted to ILAC/IAF for noting the representations.

On the 20th SADCA General Assembly to be held in Swaziland, the meeting prepared the agenda for the meeting which includes amongst others an item on the AFRAC E-learning programme during which a background on the item will be presented by Ron Josias, followed by feedback from participants of the test run and a discussion of how the 3 accreditation bodies in the region had embraced the programme. The strategic plan will also be presented to the GA for approval.

In a report from the SADC Secretariat, an update was presented on the costed SADC industrialization action programme, progress with projects funded under the auspices of the EU EDF 10 REIS programme and PTB Germany programme. An update was also presented on EDF 11 with programming underway. The meeting was also informed of the restructuring of the SADC Secretariat which is also underway.

Invitation to Register as SADCAS Assessors

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) invites qualified assessors to be registered as SADCAS assessors for its testing/calibration/medical laboratories, and certification (management systems/product)/ inspection bodies' accreditation programmes. SADCAS' strategy over the next few years is to grow its pool of assessors so as to cover the anticipated scopes of accreditation, and the geographical and language diversity in the SADC region of which 13 Member States are serviced by SADCAS.

Assessors are experts from the public and private sectors as well as from technical institutions/associations who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors by an accreditation body.

SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications to ensure that the assessors have the prerequisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:

Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo

Technical Manager

P Bag 00320

Gaborone, Botswana

Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org

SADCAS CEO Meets Senior Officials of Ministry of Industry and Commerce Zimbabwe

The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mrs Maureen Mutasa met with the Acting Permanent Secretary Zimbabwe Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Mrs Beatrice Mutetwa on 10 January 2017 at the Ministry's Office at Mukwati Building in Harare.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the Ministry on developments in SADCAS, to pre-sensitize the Government of Zimbabwe of their funding contribution towards SADCAS operational budget deficit for the 2017 - 2022 strategic period, and to advise the Ministry of the challenges that conformity assessment bodies in Zimbabwe are facing in particular with payment of accreditation dues to SADCAS. The meeting was attended by various Senior Government Officials including Mr. L. Muzondo, Director Finance, Administration and Human Resources, Mrs. B. Dzimwasha, Acting Director Standards Development and Quality Assurance, Mrs. M. Machiri Standards Development Fund (SDF) and 2nd NAFP Zimbabwe, Ms. R. Chibanda, Standards Development and Quality Assurance and 1st NAFP – Zimbabwe, Miss. G. Mutetwa Standards Development and Quality Assurance and Ms. B. Zivanai, Enterprise Development Department.



From Left to Right are Mrs Chibanda, Mrs B Mutetwa Mrs Mutasa, Mrs Dzimwasha, Mr Muzondo, Mrs Machiri, Mrs Zivanai and Ms G Mutetwa

In her welcoming remarks Mrs Mutetwa underscored the importance of SADCAS services to Zimbabwe and reiterated Zimbabwe's commitment towards SADCAS sustenance. The SADCAS CEO gave a brief update on developments in SADCAS highlighting the achievement so far and in particular the achievement of signatory status in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation's Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) and what this means to the 13 SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS including Zimbabwe. She further outlined how SADCAS was addressing Zimbabwe's accreditation needs highlighting the numbers of accredited facilities in Zimbabwe, the operational support provided to the NAFP, the training courses held so far in Zimbabwe and the experts trained/registered as assessors. Mrs Mutasa also advised the Acting Permanent Secretary that SADCAS business is growing steadily not only in terms of field and scope of accreditation but also in terms of geographical coverage. Dependency on Government funding had reduced from 100% in 2008 to 29% as at 31 March 2016, She however noted that break even on operational costs had not yet been achieved.

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On Governments' contributions towards SADCAS sustenance for the period 2012 to 2017, Mrs Mutasa noted that whilst Zimbabwe was the first to honour its financial obligation, to date only 64% of the total operational budget deficit had been paid with countries such as Zambia and Tanzania not having paid any contribution despite benefiting from SADCAS services and countries such as DRC and Malawi having partially paid their contributions. The SADCAS CEO lamented that this situation was constraining the organization from meeting its set objectives and targets. Mrs Mutasa then called upon the Government of Zimbabwe to support their request for SADC Member States to clear their outstanding deficit balances for the 2012 – 2017 operational budget.

Mrs Mutasa then presented a summary of the SADCAS 2017 – 2022 strategic plan whose theme is, "Towards Continual Sustainability". She informed the meeting of the operational budget deficit for the period amounting to US\$ 2.38 million which was to be tabled at the 2017 CMT Meeting. She advised the Ministry of the proportion (US\$ 396,716) of this operational budget that the Government of Zimbabwe is to pay based on the formula used which takes into account the clientele base in each SADC Member State serviced by SADCAS. Mrs Mutasa further advised that all member state contributions must be paid up in full within the first 3 years of the strategic period i.e. by the 31st of March 2020 so as to ensure SADCAS as a going concern. The breakdown of Zimbabwe's contributions would therefore be US\$ 130,916 being 33% to be paid by 31st March 2018, US\$ 138,851 being 35% to be paid by 31st March 2019 and US\$ 396, 716 being 32% to be paid by 31st March 2017. The SADCAS CEO then appealed to the Government of Zimbabwe to support the request for funding of the operational budget deficit of US\$ 2.38 million for the strategic period 2017 to 2022, a matter which will be tabled at the upcoming SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade. She further appealed to the Government of Zimbabwe to pay their first contribution of US\$ 130,916 soon after the funding of the SADCAS operational budget deficit is approved. However, it was indicated that amount budgeted for SADCAS activities under the SDF 2017 budget was insufficient to cover the initial contribution, hence the need for SADCAS to put their request in writing so that funds can be secured timeously as supplementary budget as the full amount has not been fully budgeted for in 2017. Mrs Mutasa further said that it is in the best of interest of SADCAS if the initial contribution is paid by September 2017 considering the cash flow challenges SADCAS was facing.

The SADCAS CEO then took the opportunity to inform the Ministry of the challenges that Zimbabwean conformity assessment bodies have been facing in remitting payment for services provided by SADCAS. She then informed the Ministry of the meeting held with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) Governor, Dr John Mangudya in June 2016 who promised to facilitate the processing of these remittances. After the meeting some improvement was realized, however, the challenge had resurfaced again. Mrs Mutasa indicated that she had apprised the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe about the matter which they are pursuing. She further said that the conformity assessment bodies in Zimbabwe were not just having problems with payment of SADCAS service fees but had other related challenges which were now a threat to meeting accreditation requirements. She then recommended that the National Accreditation Focal Point Officers convene a meeting with the conformity assessment bodies to further understand and consolidate information on this issue. This will assist in building a case to present to the RBZ and the banking sector for the prioritization of these payments.

In conclusion Mrs Mutetwa once again expressed their appreciation of the good work that SADCAS was doing to enhance the competitiveness of Zimbabwean goods and services, facilitating trade and enhancing the protection of consumers and the environment and stated that Zimbabwe will endeavor to honour its obligations to SADCAS as the nation has been benefiting from the activities of SADCAS.



Delivering confidence, Assuring competency

The SADCAS Board of Directors Chairman and CEO Meet with PS Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Swaziland

The Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors, Mr Steve Bruce Sidney and the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa met with the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Swaziland, Mr Siboniso Nkambule on 15 March 2017 at the George Hotel Manzini in Swaziland. The meeting was held after the opening ceremony of the 32nd SADC TBT Cooperation Structures meetings. The purpose of the meeting was to update the Ministry on developments in SADCAS and to pre-sensitize the Government of Kingdom of Swaziland of their funding contribution towards SADCAS operational budget deficit for the 2017 - 2022 strategic period. The meeting was attended by NAFP-Swaziland, Mrs Sybil Dlamini and Mrs Phindile Dlamini who is also Director Industry in the Ministry.



From Left to Right are Mrs S Dlamini NAFP Swaziland, Mr Nkambule, Mrs Mutasa and Mr Sidney after the meeting

SWASA Director, Ms P Dlamini and Mr S Sidney chatting after the meeting with PS

Mrs Phindile Dlamini introduced the SADCAS delegation to the Principle Secretary who in his welcome remarks highlighted the importance of SADCAS services to the economic and social development of the Royal Kingdom of Swaziland. He noted that the concept of accreditation was fairly new in Swaziland but prided in the efforts of his Ministry in promoting the benefits of accreditation and marketing SADCAS, noting that the NAFP- Swaziland is housed in his Ministry. The SADCAS CEO gave a brief update on developments in SADCAS highlighting the achievement so far and in particular the achievement of signatory status in the International laboratory Accreditation Cooperation's Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) and what this means to the 13 SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS including the Kingdom of Swaziland. She further outlined how SADCAS was addressing Swaziland's accreditation needs highlighting that SADCAS had accredited one facility in Swaziland with another on the verge of accreditation, the training courses held so far in Swaziland and the experts trained/registered as assessors. Mrs Mutasa also advised the Principle Secretary that SADCAS business is growing steadily not only in terms of field and scope of accreditation but also in terms of geographical coverage. Dependency on Government funding had reduced from 100% in 2008 to 29% as at 31 March 2016, She however noted that break even on operational costs had not yet been achieved.

On Governments' contributions towards SADCAS sustenance Mr Sidney articulated the importance of Government funding towards SADCAS sustenance and bemoaned the slow inflow of Government contributions for the strategic period beginning 1 April 2012 and ending 31 March 2017 noting that whilst Swaziland had fully paid its financial obligation, to date only 65% of the total operational budget deficit had been paid with countries such as Zambia and Tanzania not having paid any contribution despite benefiting from SADCAS services and countries such as DRC and Malawi having partially paid their contributions. The Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors lamented that this situation was constraining the organization from meeting its set objectives and targets.

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Mr Sidney then advised the Principal Secretary of the operational budget deficit amounting to US\$ 2.38 million for the next strategic period. The SADCAS CEO advised the Ministry of the proportion (US\$ **59,507**) of this operational budget deficit that the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Swaziland is to pay based on the formula used which takes into account the clientele base in each SADC Member State serviced by SADCAS. Mrs Mutasa further advised that all Member States contributions must be paid up in full within the first 3 years of the strategic period i.e. by the 31st of March 2020 so as to ensure SADCAS as a going concern. The breakdown of Swaziland's contributions would therefore be US\$ 19,637 being 33% to be paid by 31st March 2018, US\$ 20,828 being 35% to be paid by 31st March 2019 and US\$ 19,042 being 32% to be paid by 31st March 2020. The SADCAS Board Chairman then appealed to the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Swaziland to support the request for funding of the operational budget deficit of US\$ 2.38 million for the strategic period 2017 to 2022, a matter which will be tabled at the upcoming SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade.

In conclusion Mr Nkambule stated that Swaziland will endeavor to honour its obligations to SADCAS as the nation has been benefiting from the activities of SADCAS but noted that in view of the financial challenges that the country was facing Swaziland would endeavour to meet its financial obligation to SADCAS over the 5 year period.

SADCAS Technical Manager Meets with Air Madagascar Officials Once Again

On 22 December 2016 Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager met once again with the Air Madagascar Technical Manager, the Manager responsible for Calibration and Maintenance and two Staff members of the Industrial Department. Ms Ranorovelo was accompanied to the meeting by Mr Séraphin Razafimahafaly and Mrs Hentsoa Harizafy, the National Accreditation Focal Points for Madagascar. Air Madagascar is a national company which ensures the regularization of air traffic in Madagascar. The meeting was a follow up to the meeting held 2 years ago.

The objective of the meeting was to introduce SADCAS to the new staff of Air Madagascar and to explain the accreditation process, the required information and documents to be submitted when submitting the application for accreditation to SADCAS, the timeframe to process the application, the accreditation fees

and the required competence for the laboratory personnel. The Air Madagascar Technical Manager thanked SADCAS for this visit. He mentioned that they are compiling and translating part of the documents to be submitted to SADCAS but in order to ensure the understanding of the standard by the staff, he expressed his interests to have a training course on ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and internal auditing prior to the submission of the application to SADCAS.



Ms Ranorovelo with Air Madagascar staff and NAFP – Madagascar during the meeting

Targeted Marketing Visits held in Zanzibar

Mrs Eva Muronda, the SADCAS Programme Coordinator for the Medical Laboratories Accreditation programme conducted targeted marketing visits in Zanzibar. The visits were conducted from 22 to 23 March 2017 having undertaken a surveillance assessment of Pathology Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Laboratory, an accredited medical laboratory in Zanzibar. Mrs Muronda was accompanied by the Quality Manager and the Deputy Laboratory Manager for Pathology Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Laboratory. The objectives of the visits were to promote awareness of accreditation and SADCAS, assist facilities in understanding the accreditation process, promote SADCAS training service offering, promote the utilisation of the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org for updates and further information and to promote the utilisation of info@sadcas.org for any enquiries. A total of six facilities were visited over the two days of which 4 are medical laboratories and 2 Testing laboratories.



Makundichi Hospital Laboratory Manager in a Laboratory Coat

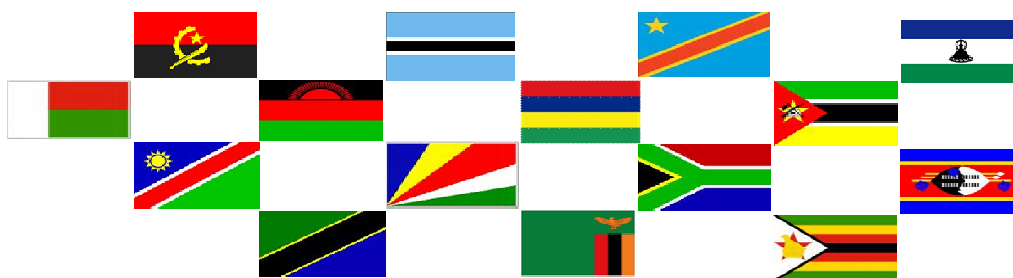
Makundichi Cottage Hospital Laboratory - On the 22nd of March 2017 Makundichi Cottage Hospital was visited. Makundichi Hospital services the southern region of Zanzibar. The SADCAS representative met with the management of the Hospital which included doctors and administrative staff. The management welcomed the visit and embraced the accreditation agenda. The Hospital depend on the laboratory for diagnosis and the clinicians depended on the correct diagnosis. The SADCAS representative walked them through the accreditation process and the benefits of accreditation and highlighted the training services offered by SADCAS. The Management poured out the challenges that the facility was currently facing in providing the quality service to the community a result of the lack of representation at higher level of decision making. The management requested SADCAS to politically advocate for accreditation and to raise accreditation issues at the highest political levels. This would help in implementing the accreditation process.

The management told the meeting that this time next year Makundichi Laboratory will be at another level as it is working towards accreditation and were in the process of procuring laboratory equipment. The Quality and Deputy Laboratory Manager for Pathology Mnazi Mmoja

Pathology Hospital Laboratory committed to mentor the Hospital Laboratory towards accreditation. After the meeting, a tour of the laboratory was undertaken.



A Multi-economy Accreditation Body!!



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Lancet Laboratories, Zanzibar—SADCAS visited Lancet Laboratories Zanzibar who hereagain were very happy to be visited by SADCAS and for being taken through the accreditation process and trainings. The Laboratory was also working towards accreditation.



Mrs Eva Muronda SADCAS Programme Coordinator in centre with Lancet Zanzibar Laboratory staff

Tasakhataa Hospital—SADCAS visited Tasakhataa Hospital, a private hospital in Stone City where they met the Hospital management including the Laboratory Manager. The Laboratory Manager in particular was delighted with the visit as he had been browsing through various websites to see how they could get accredited. They were very eager on accreditation and requested more information on accreditation process for SADCAS so that they could apply. Tasakhataa Hospital has a group of laboratories all of which they would like to be accredited starting with Zanzibar Laboratory. During the meeting an overview of the accreditation process was given and the documents required for accreditation. After the meeting, a tour around the Zanzibar Laboratory was undertaken. The Laboratory does routine and specialised tests.

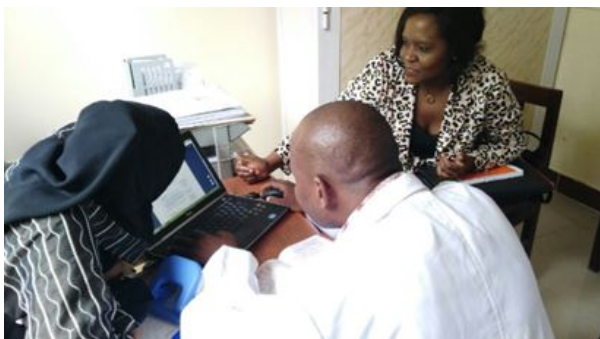


During meeting at Tasakhataa Hospital

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Zanzibar Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Board (ZFDB) - On the 23 March 2017, SADCAS had the opportunity to visit the Zanzibar Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Board (ZFDB) and met with the Registrar before meeting with the Laboratory personnel. The Registrar explained the mandate of the board and that the Board was working towards accreditation through the assistance of TFDA, Tanzania. The meeting with the Laboratory manager was very fruitful. The SADCAS representative walked the Laboratory personnel through the accreditation process and assisted the staff to manoeuvre effectively through the SADCAS website and to familiarize with SADCAS activities.



Laboratory Manager on SADCAS website



During tour of the ZFDB laboratories



The Hospital Manager providing contact details to Mrs Eva Muronda after the meeting

Kivunge Cottage Hospital—On the 23 March a visit was undertaken to Kivunge Cottage Hospital and met with the Hospital Manager before touring the Laboratory then meeting with the Laboratory staff.

The Hospital Manager was very interested in the overview and importance of accreditation. He went on to explain how he appreciates accreditation as a doctor and also through personal experiences with laboratory tests results that were critical for his family. A meeting with the Laboratory staff was also very fruitful. Kivunge Cottage Hospital Laboratory is known as the main laboratory with expertise in Malaria Testing amongst other tests conducted. The Mnazi Mmoja Quality Manager and Deputy Laboratory Manager Here again committed to mentor the laboratory towards accreditation, starting with the development of an action plan towards accreditation.



Laboratory Manager Eng. Awattif A. Abdulrasoul

Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Agency—Mrs Muronda met with the Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Agency's, Laboratory Manager Eng. Awattif A. Abdulrasoul and some of the staff members. During the meeting, the Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Agency expressed eagerness to get accreditation and were working closely with Mainland Tanzania to assist them in working towards accreditation. A new laboratory was being built, courtesy of the President of Zanzibar who is a Biochemist and were expecting to move into the new building mid-2017 following which accreditation would be sought. Here again Mrs E Muronda browsed through the SADCAS website with the staff and toured

the current laboratory which conducts microbiology, forensic and food testing. After the tour of the current Laboratory the delegation toured the Laboratory which is under construction.

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In all the 6 facilities visited awareness and the benefits of accreditation were imparted after an overview of SADCAS was given. The unpacking of the accreditation process in a face to face discussion was most welcome. This was made very much easier to understand using the newly published SADCAS F111: Accreditation Process Time lines and SADCAS F112: Required information on submission of accreditation application for testing/calibration/medical laboratories. Use of the SADCAS website was also demonstrated and all were advised to use info@sadcas.org for any queries as well as the Program Coordinators contacts. Training services were also pointed out to the facilities.

NAFPs Swaziland and Angola Scoop 2017 Certificates of Recognitions

The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Swaziland and NAFP – Angola were awarded certificates of recognition for their effort and contributions towards SADC accreditation goals. The NAFP Award ceremony was held in conjunction with the 12th SADCAS Annual General Meeting held on 15 March 2017 at The George Hotel in Manzini Swaziland. Following the Board's decision undertaken at its 48th Meeting held on 16 February 2017, 2 Awards were presented with **NAFP – Swaziland** winning the **Most Effective NAFP** Certificate of Recognition and **NAFP-Angola**, the **Most Improved NAFP** Certificate of Recognition.

The 2017 Awards are based on the reports for the period 1 January to 31 December 2016 using five (5) criteria weighted as follows:

- ❑ Appointed by respective government to serve as NAFP **(10)**;
- ❑ Shall have served as NAFP for at least two (2) years **(5)**;
- ❑ Regularly and timeously submits quarterly reports on activities to SADCAS **(20)**;
- ❑ Effectively progressed implementation of their respective country's action plan **(30)**; and
- ❑ Contributed towards SADCAS goals **(35)**.

The criteria are weighted according to their importance with the latter 2 criteria being considered key. The criteria on Contributions towards SADCAS goals also took into account facilitation of payments of government contributions towards SADCAS sustainability.

Based on all the reports for the period 1 January – 31 December 2016, an evaluation matrix and a summary of NAFPs quarterly reports submissions and estimate realization for the period were prepared which formed the basis of the nominations. There was a slight decline in action plan implementation by NAFPs with the average being 73% for 2016 compared to 75% for the 2015 year. NAFPs – Angola and Zimbabwe registered improvements whilst NAFPs, DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia registered a decline in estimate realization. NAFPs Botswana and Lesotho's average estimate realization for the period under review remained at the same level as for the 2015 year.

Based on the evaluation matrix NAFP-Swaziland was identified for the **"2017 Most Effective NAFP Award"** with NAFP-Swaziland coming up with the highest score at 93 followed by NAFP-Botswana at 87. NAFPs Angola registered the highest improvement over the past year and was identified for the **"2017 Most Improved NAFP Award"** with **NAFP-Angola** coming up with the highest estimate realization improvement of 12 and a total score of 83.

NAFP-Swaziland continued to make great effort in awareness raising and promotional activities. The two NAFPs Mrs Sthembiso Sybil Dlamini and Ms Phindile Priscilla Dlamini were appointed in 2006 and 2010 respectively and made very good progress in the implementation of national action plan which contributes to SADCAS goal realization. That was evidenced by the highest country average of realization of 87%. NAFP - Swaziland submit regularly quarterly reports and usually well ahead of the prescribed times. During the period under review, SADCAS received another accreditation application from a testing laboratory from Swaziland, undertook 4 training courses and received 4 expressed interests on training. NAFP – Swaziland facilitated the full payment of Swaziland contributions to SADCAS and submitted an updated database of CABs operating in the country which was presented in the prescribed format.

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NAFP–Angola made great effort in awareness raising and promotional activities. The two NAFPs, Mrs Indira Coelho Verissimo E Costa and Mrs Perola Agnela Isaac da Silva Neto were appointed respectively in 2015 and 2016 and made very good progress in the implementation of national action plan which contributes to SADCAS goal realization. That was evidenced by a high country average of realization of 85% compared to 73% in 2015. During the period under review, SADCAS received an expressed interest in accreditation from Angola and 2 interests expressed on training. SADCAS held the first 2 training courses in Angola sponsored by PTB Germany and with the facilitation of the NAFP. NAFP – Angola also facilitated the payment of Angola’s full contributions towards SADCAS’ sustainability. The Certificate of Recognition was received by Mrs Perola Agnela Isaac da Silva Neto on behalf of Mrs Indira Coelho Verissimo E Costa who regrettably could not attend the ceremony.



From left to right: Mr Mfundo Maphanga, Sectoral Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Swaziland, Mrs Maureen Mutasa SADCAS CEO, Mr Steve Sidney SADCAS Board Chairman, Mrs Sybil Dlamini FPs- Swaziland, and Mr Emmanuel Jinda Chairman of the Human Resources and Remuneration Committee

Proudly displaying the Most Improved Award is NAFP–Angola flanked by other staff from NAFP office and SADCAS Board Members

The NAFP Award ceremony is an annual event held in conjunction with the SADCAS Annual General Meeting to recognize NAFPs efforts and contributions towards SADC goals on accreditation.

Zambia Appoints New NAFPs



On 13 January 2017, The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in Zambia appointed two new National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP), Mr Hans Yamba, Senior Economist as the 1st NAFP and Ms Charity Kasoma, Economist as the 2nd NAFP. Mr Yamba and Ms Charity replace Mr Moses Ngosa and Mrs Gladys Bwalya Banda respectively. Mr Ngosa who went on study leave whilst Mrs Banda was redeployed by the Ministry. Both Mr Yamba and Ms Kasoma served as 1st NAFP–Zambia and as 2nd NAFP – Zambia before from 21 November 2014.

SADCAS Holds Assessor Conclave

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) secured funding from PTB Germany to hold an assessor conclave. The assessor conclave was held on 8 December 2016 at the Holiday Inn Express in Sunnypark in Pretoria, South Africa and was attended by 80 assessors, SADCAS staff and facilitators. Accreditation assessments are undertaken, on behalf of SADCAS, by a pool of SADCAS registered assessors who make recommendations for accreditation to the SADCAS Accreditation Approvals Committee (AAC). By 31 December 2016, SADCAS had registered 79 Technical assessors and 35 Lead Assessors. Continuous communication between SADCAS and the pool of assessors is key in ensuring consistency, integrity and continuous improvement of our services as SADCAS strive to consolidate and streamline service delivery to the target population. SADCAS is in its 9th year of operation as a multi economy accreditation body and has gathered some assessment experiences enough to meet and share concerns and also to hear from assessors how SADCAS can continuously enhance service delivery.

The objective of the assessor conclave was therefore to: Provide a platform for sharing SADCAS concerns and to hear at first hand from the assessors how SADCAS can continuously enhance service delivery; Finalize the Assessor/Expert Information and Guidance Handbook; Inform assessors of developments in SADCAS; Advise TLAP and CLAP assessors of the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17025 the most popular key accreditation standards for the TLAP and CLAP for which SADCAS is signatory to the ILAC MRA; Inform CLAP assessors of ILAC P 10 and SADCAS TR 12: Technical requirements on estimation of uncertainty of measurement for uniformity and consistency in interpretation during assessments. Inform respective assessors of the key changes in the newly published standards ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17065 for which there are applications under process and for which SADCAS is working towards international recognition of the CBAP – Product and Management Systems; and Inform assessors of the Medical Laboratories accreditation Programme (MLAP) of the available Proficiency Testing schemes and the participation and performance of medical laboratories from the 13 Member States serviced by SADCAS.

The assessor conclave programme started with welcome remarks by the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa during which she outlined the objective of the conclave and programme of the day, and thanked PTB Germany for sponsoring the Conclave. She then gave an overview on SADCAS and updated all the participants on developments in SADCAS. This being the 1st Assessor Conclave attended by all assessors, a series of presentations were made by Mrs Jeanne Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager on assessor issues such as assessor commitments, accreditation process timelines and the need for assessors to undertake their tasks in a timely manner, claims and timelines for submission thereof, and records. This was followed by a presentation by Mr Francois Beneke, a SADCAS Lead Assessor on assessor soft skills highlighting the importance of communication, teamwork and collaborations, adaptability, problem solving rather than fighting with the facility and making critical observations during assessments. All these presentations generated a lot of discussion amongst the assessors who wanted to ensure thorough understanding of all these assessors issues.

Some time was spent going through each of the clauses of the draft SADCAS Assessor/Expert Information and Guidance Handbook which was prepared by a Task Force of Assessors chaired Mr Xavier Mugari and benchmarking from the SANAS Assessor Handbook. The Handbook is a consolidation of information for reference by SADCAS assessors and experts. It is aimed at enabling SADCAS assessors and experts to carry out assessment activities efficiently and effectively so as to arrive at the same conclusion i.e. consistency in assessment conclusions. The Handbook is set to be published by end of the 2016/17 financial year.



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Participants at the Assessor Conclave

The assessors then went into programme specific issues for one and a half hours during which various aspects of the assessment processes were discussed.

The Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme (IBAP) Breakout Session was attended by 7 participants. The breakout session was chaired by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa who gave a brief outline on the SADCAS IBAP with 4 inspection bodies from Zimbabwe accredited and 2 other applications under process including an application from Democratic Republic of Congo in the scope of "Timber Inspection". The session started off with a presentation on SADCAS TR 05: Criteria for the accreditation of inspection bodies' performing inspection in terms of the pressure vessels/ boilers regulations in Zimbabwe followed by another presentation on the recently published TR 13: Criteria for the accreditation of inspection bodies performing inspection of metallic tanks. The presentations which were aimed at promoting an understanding of the requirements against which assessors evaluate were made by Mr Danmore Mabambe a SADCAS Trainer and assessor on the programme.



IBAP breakaway session

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Discussions ensued to better understand the requirements of TR 05 and TR 13 and how to apply them consistently during an assessment. In the last presentation for the break out session Mrs Mutasa presented an update on the developments in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation ILAC Inspection Committee (ILAC IC) based on her attendance to annual meeting held on 29 October 2016 in New Delhi, India.

Certification Bodies Accreditation Programme (CBAP) Breakout Session was chaired by Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo and attended by 6 participants. Mrs Oliviah Zimba made two presentations focused on the changes in the two key certification bodies accreditation standards namely: ISO/IEC 17021:2011: Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 (same title) Part 1: Requirements; and ISO/IEC Guide 65: General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems to ISO/IEC 17065:2012: Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services. Areas where assessors required clarification were identified and discussed accordingly.



Mrs Oliviah Zimba receiving a token of appreciation from Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo SADCAS Technical Manager

Testing and Calibration Laboratories Programme (TLAP and CLAP) Breakout Session was attended by 52 participants and chaired by Mrs Pinkie Malebe.

The session started with a presentation by Mr Steve Sydney, Co-convenor of the ISO CASCO Working Group 44 and Chairperson of the SADCAS Board of Directors. The presentation focused on the changes made in the standard and the expected means of implementing the new requirements. Mr Sydney also outlined the process of reviewing the standard and the stage at which is the Working Group is i.e. at the Final Draft (FDIS). He indicated that the new standard gives an option of using ISO 9001 as a basis for addressing the management requirements of the standard. Mr Sydney told the meeting that upon publication of the standard and during the transition period, the assessors will continue to use the 2005 version of the standard for assessments and raise nonconformities. The assessors will also consider the requirements of the new standard and raise observations which should be addressed in order to close the gap between the old and the new standard. He also mentioned that ILAC members had agreed on a 3 year transition period from the date of publication of the new standard.

Discussions ensued on the various aspects of the revised standard for clarity purposes.

The next presenter during this break out session was Mr Neville Tayler, SANAS Accreditation Manager for the Calibration Program who presented on the ILAC P10 - Policy on measurement traceability. Subsequent to that, and in line with ILAC P10, SADCAS has developed a document TR 12 – Estimation of the Uncertainty of Measurement by Calibration Laboratories and Specification of Calibration and Measurement Capability on Schedules of Accreditation. Here again discussions ensued on various aspects of ILAC P 10 and SADCAS TR 12 for a thorough understanding and advice on what aspects to look at during an assessment.



Participants during the TLAP and CLAP Breakout Session

Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme (MLAP) Breakout Session break out session was chaired by Mrs Eva Muronda and attended by 13 participants. Presentations were made by Ms Sibongile Zimuto Director ZINQAP Trust, Zimbabwe, Mr Celeste Mc Pherson and Ms Zazi Molebatsi, Programme Managers National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) on the various PT schemes on offer by the respective organizations which are both accredited to ISO/IEC 17043.

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The presentations made listed the PT schemes offered by the respective PT providers highlighting the accredited schemes and their plans to extend the scopes of PT schemes. On challenges faced, the NHLS highlighted that facilities enrolled on their various schemes but did always return the results sometimes due to equipment being out of order or other reasons. This is of great concern because of the huge resources that are put at waste both on the PT providers' side and the facilities side that would have paid at the beginning of each year. Facilities do not read the instructions on the PT panels. High staff turnover in the facilities to which PT services are provided was cited as another challenge. On the poor in-country distribution networks, customs requirements and clearing of packages, limited appreciation of the importance of EQA and failure to return results on time as challenges faced. ZINQAP however outlined the solutions being implemented to address these challenges. Discussions were held on the various aspects in particular how the PT Providers calculate of the mean values and interpretation thereof. The session was also an opportunity for the assessors to give feedback from assessed facilities on the PT provision service such as delays in the returning PT participation results, a matter being looked at by the PT providers. Enquiries were also made on the training programmes offered by ZINQAP and it was noted that facilities needed to fully appreciate the importance of PT participation for patient care. The meeting also encouraged the PT providers to incentivize their services by providing a certificate of participation to the facilities. PT providers could also send out reminders to Laboratories of the due date for submission of results.



Participants during the MLAP Breakout Session

The breakout sessions were very useful and the participants felt that in future more time should be allocated for breakout sessions for programme specific discussions. All the assessors re-convened for the closing session during which Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo thanked all present for making time to attend the meeting and the fruitful deliberations that ensued. She thanked the facilitators who were each given a token of appreciation. She advised the assessors that all the suggestions for improvement of the assessor conclave were noted and would be taken into account when developing the next assessor conclave programme and also in improving the SADCAS website. The Conclave ended at 17:00 hours with a vote of thanks by Mrs Nanhuck, on behalf of all the assessors, to SADCAS for organizing such a successful Conclave and also to PTB Germany for sponsoring the event. The credibility of SADCAS accreditation services hinges on the competence of assessors who undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS. Continuous communication between SADCAS and the pool of assessors is key in ensuring consistency, integrity and continuous improvement of SADCAS services. The assessor conclave provide the platform to do just this. SADCAS made available electronically all the presentations made during the conclave. The next Assessor meeting will be held in 2018.

SADCAS Trains Experts on ISO/IEC 17021 Assessor Course

In an effort to increase its pool of assessors, 21 experts from 12 SADC Members States namely: Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe including two SADCAS staff members were trained as ISO/IEC 17021 assessors in January and February 2017. The training was held under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF 10 REIS project and was facilitated by John and Monica Peart.

The first stage of the training was held from 16 to 20 January 2017. This was theoretical based covering the clauses of the ISO/IEC 17021 standard and related IAF MD documents with a lot of interaction and group exercises during the training. All the 21 experts successfully completed the first stage of the training.

The second stage was held from 20 to 22 February 2017 and was attended by all the 21 experts. The training covered the practical session during which the experts were trained on the assessment techniques using SADCAS assessment forms and procedures. The experts had an opportunity to discuss and comment on individual vertical forms which were completed as part of an assignment after completion of stage one.

As at 22 March 2017, twelve out of the 21 trainee assessors who successfully completed the ISO/IEC 17021 assessor training course were mentored in March 2017, with the remaining 8 expected to be mentored during the course of the year.



Training in Session

SADCAS Assessors Attend Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty Training

SADCAS assessors participated in a 5-day Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty Training presented by Mr MJ McNerney of Quality Africa Network PTY Ltd from the 30th of January to the 3rd of February 2017, at Sheraton Hotel, Pretoria, South Africa.

The training was attended by 16 Assessors from the SADC region. The assessors were from The Medical (4), Testing (9) and Calibration (3) Laboratories Accreditation Programmes. The TBT – SPS Technical Advisor EU EDF 10 SADC REIS Programme, Dr Geoff Visser welcomed the participants to this very important workshop.

The objective of the training was to equip laboratory personnel with a broad -base background on the tools required to perform method validation and verification, train participants on understanding the statistical tools in terms of their principles, applications and constraints and equip assessors on how to assess the requirements for method(s) validation and uncertainty of measurement in laboratories.

At the beginning of the workshop the Trainer Mr McNerney explained to the participants that some people had wrong beliefs about validation. Some think that standard methods do not require further verification of performance capability whilst others think that a superficial level of comparison against a known benchmark will suffice for either validation or verification. He told the participants that more data or reams of data seem impressive but that it was important for an assessor to evaluate what the laboratory has made as a conclusion and not to be blinded by the data.



Delegates at pose for a photo

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The Trainer took the participants through the following aspects over the 5 days:

- ❑ The scope and application of validation/verification techniques,
- ❑ Statistical tools used in validation of Quantitative Methods,
- ❑ Validation of Qualitative Methods
- ❑ Measurement Uncertainty.

A lot of calculations were involved in the training as participants delved into the statistics involved with method validation and measurement uncertainty. The training was intensive, rigorous and informative.

Commenting on the training the trained assessors said that as laboratory experts, they were equipped with knowledge to assess and design simple but effective validation programmes using the statistical methodologies described in the workshop. The assessors further said that the course was very informative and equipped them well to perform assessments competently.

SADCAS is grateful to the SADC REIS programme for the training. This training is critical to the skills required for assessor's competency.

CDC Botswana Sponsors Training of Medical Staff in ISO 15189

The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Botswana sponsored the training of medical laboratories staff on ISO 15189. The training courses which were held consecutively from 6 to 10 and 13 to 17 February 2017 were both held at the Oasis Motel in Tlokweng, Gaborone in Botswana. The training courses were conducted by SADCAS.

A total of 25 participants attended the first course from 16 hospital laboratories of which 2 are private hospital laboratories whilst 24 participants from 17 hospital laboratories and CDC.

Both courses were opened by the CDC representative Mrs Modukanele who in her welcome remarks highlighted the importance of the training and urged participants to learn a lot from the SADCAS Trainer and after the training, to utilize the skills and knowledge attained. For the first course, the SADCAS Technical Manager, Ms Ranorovelo then gave a brief overview of the SADCAS and thanked CDC for the continual support of these trainings whilst Ms Linda Dirorimwe the SADCAS Accreditation Administrator made similar remarks at the second course following which the SADCAS Trainer, Dr Farojdeo Hemraj was introduced. The SADCAS Trainer, Dr Hemraj has been conducting these trainings since 2008 and has a lot of experience in medical laboratories management systems which will benefit each and every participant.



Participants Pose for a photo

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easy, illustrated many clauses with several life examples in laboratory practice. The NAFP – Botswana, Mr Mmatli finally declared both training courses closed.

Judged by the feedback from participants, the courses were well organized, very useful and met participants' expectations.

During the closing sessions held on the last day of the courses after the examinations, Mr Edward Mmatli, NAFP - Botswana thanked the participants, the CDC and expressed his wish that the participants will be committed to put in practice what they had learnt. The Trainer thanked the participants for the invaluable collaboration through the regular interaction and fruitful discussions on pertinent topics, which contributed to the success of the training course. He also thanked the administration and catering personnel of the conference venue for the arrangements and the support in terms of logistics and other facilities. Participants through their chosen representatives from the 2 courses expressed their gratitude to SADCAS for organizing the course which was very fruitful and in particular they showed their appreciation to the Trainer who, whilst making the understanding of the ISO 15189

SADCAS Holds First ISO 15189 Training in Swaziland

SADCAS conducted a 5 days' training course on ISO 15189 at Lugogo Sun Hotel I Ezulwini, Swaziland. This is the first course on ISO 15189 to be conducted in Swaziland by SADCAS. The training course which was held from 20 to 24 February 2017 was sponsored by ICAP. The objective of the course was to train management and staff of medical laboratories from Swaziland on requirements, implementation and internal auditing of the standard.

A total of twenty four (24) participants from 24 medical laboratories mainly Government Hospitals Laboratories attended the course. Participants comprised of management, supervisors and laboratory technologists.



Participants at the ISO 15189 training course held in Swaziland

The training course started with an introduction of the SADCAS training team by, Mrs Sybil Dlamini the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Swaziland. This was followed by opening remarks which were delivered by Ms Phindile Priscilla Dlamini - the Chief Quality Systems Administrator who is also the 2nd NAFP - Swaziland. She welcomed and thanked the participants for attending the training course. She thanked the donor partner- ICAP for sponsoring the participants and then welcomed and thanked, Dr Hemraj Farojdeo, the SADCAS Trainer, for coming to Swaziland and also wished the participants a fruitful week and declared the training workshop open.

During the closing session held on the last day of the course after the examination, Mrs Sybil Dlamini and Ms Phindile Priscilla Dlamini, the NAFP-Swaziland

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expressed their wish that the participants will be committed to put in practice whatever they had learnt. The Trainer thanked the participants for the invaluable collaboration that made the training course successful particularly through the regular interaction and fruitful discussions on pertinent topics. On behalf of the participants, Ntombizile Dlamini thanked ICAP, MITC and MOH for allowing the participants an opportunity to learn about the ISO requirements. She promised the audience that participants will never again be scared of audits and or assessments because they now know what auditors/Assessors are looking for and thanked the Trainer for impacting knowledge to the participants.

First ISO/IEC 17025 held in Madagascar

SADCAS conducted its first training course in Madagascar. The five-day ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, implementation and internal auditing course was attended by a total of 10 participants from Air Madagascar. The participants included the calibration laboratory staff including technicians and supervisors as well as the responsible for quality. Air Madagascar is located in the capital city of Madagascar, Antananarivo. Air Madagascar has a calibration laboratory which is very well-equipped. The training course was held at the Company's Training room.

The training course started on Monday, 27 February 2017 with brief welcome remarks by Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager. In her opening remarks, Ms Ranorovelo welcomed the SADCAS Trainer, Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama and thanked Air Madagascar for organizing this training course which was being conducted in French and for the first time in Madagascar. She noted that the Trainer has hands on extensive experience in implementing calibration laboratory management systems having himself managed an accredited laboratory from which Air Madagascar stand to benefit. She also gave a short overview of SADCAS and the importance of accreditation. She then declared the training course open.

The Trainer thanked Air Madagascar for the warm welcome and for the beautiful facilities. He then urged all participants to actively participate in the training course. The Trainer started the course by asking each of the participants to introduce themselves outlining their position and responsibilities within the Company. The participants then articulated their expectations from the training course with most of the participants wanting to have an in-depth understanding of ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, development and implementation and to acquire knowledge on audit principles, audit process and how to conduct internal audit and gain auditing skills.



Participants during the training course

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A pre-course quiz was undertaken right at the beginning of the course to determine the level of understanding of the standard and areas of focus during the week. The training program was followed as scheduled. Every day, there were theoretical and practical sessions where participants undertook exercises based on the standard and internal auditing elements of the course. At the end of the training course participants write an examination to assess the level of understanding.

At the end of the course, Mr Herivelo Ramarozatovo, Air Madagascar Senior Vice President- Maintenance & Engineering, on behalf of Director General of Air Madagascar, thanked SADCAS for conducting the training which will improve management of Air Madagascar's Calibration Laboratory. He challenged and urged all participants to implement the knowledge acquired from the 5 days' training course. He added that SADCAS had empowered them with a tool to improve the calibration services. The Trainer thanked the Company for their hospitality and the participants for their active good interactions and discussion throughout the training course. One of participant thanked the Trainer and Air Madagascar Management for the investment made in training staff on ISO/IEC 17025.

Accreditation in Supporting Public Policy

The international accreditation organizations ILAC and IAF together with ISO and the *Independent International Organization for Certification* (IIOC) have established a website www.publicsectorassurance.org to showcase different global examples where accreditation has been used to support public policy efforts. From assisting forensic science in the UK, to effective voluntary programmes in the US, to improving the delivery of food safety in Australia, to protecting consumers in the safety of products in the Gulf Coast Countries, to supporting sustainable animal health in Botswana, the site demonstrates real examples where public policy is being delivered using accreditation.



Each topic contains case studies of how governments and regulators have used accredited conformity assessment, plus independent published research and supporting information.

A link to the public sector assurance site is provided on the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org under the window on links.



Delivering confidence, Assuring competency



Upcoming Training Courses

COURSE	DATE(S)	VENUE COUNTRY/CITY	FEES (BWP)	FEES (USD)
ISO 15189 Internal Auditing	19 to 21 May 2017	Botswana (Gaborone)	In-house	-
ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements & Internal Auditing	12 to 16 June 2017	Swaziland (Mbabane)	In-house	-
ISO 15189 Requirements & Internal Auditing	20 to 24 February 2017	Swaziland (Mbabane)	In-house	-
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	17 to 21 July 2017	Zimbabwe (Harare)		750.00
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	24 to 28 July 2017	Namibia (Windhoek)	8,500	
ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements & Internal Auditing	31 July to 4 August 2017	Gaborone, Botswana	8,500	

To register for any of the above courses please download SADCAS F 70 (b) - Training Booking Form from SADCAS website: http://www.sadcas.org/sadcas_forms.php or contact SADCAS at info@sadcas.org for more information.

SADCAS offers accreditation programmes for:

- Calibration laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025;
- Testing laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025;
- Medical laboratories in accordance with ISO 15189;
- Management systems certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021;
- Product certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065; Personnel certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17024; and
- Inspection bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020.

SADCAS Training Courses

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) provides training for conformity assessment bodies' management and staff. Conformity assessment bodies (CABs) include calibration/testing laboratories, medical laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

SADCAS Trainers

SADCAS draws its trainers from a pool of qualified and experienced experts from the SADC region who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters be it system implementation and/or assessments.

Training Programmes

SADCAS currently offers the following accreditation training courses:

Five-Day Requirements and Internal Auditing Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for medical laboratories**
- ISO 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing [Bridging course] **for medical laboratories**
- ISO/IEC 17020 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for inspection bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for management systems certification bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Internal auditing **for calibration/testing laboratories**

The objective of the 5-day courses is to provide an insight into the respective system standard's requirements and implementation as well as to guide CAB's personnel on how to prepare and carry-out an internal audit so as to monitor compliance with the system standard. These courses are made relevant and practical as they include case studies and exercises that reflect the respective professional disciplines. In order to objectively assess participants, an examination is written at the end of each course. Participants are also evaluated throughout the course.

Three-Day ISO/IEC 17025 International Auditing

The objective of the 3-day training course is to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to laboratory staff. The course covers the following main topics:

- ✓ Introduction to Auditing
- ✓ The Audit process
- ✓ Reporting and corrective actions
- ✓ Auditor competence
- ✓ Benefits of an auditing

One-day Awareness Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 for **medical laboratories**
- ISO/IEC 17020 **for inspection bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17025 **for calibration/testing laboratories**

The objective of the one day awareness training courses is to create awareness on the benefits and importance of accreditation and the requirements of the respective accreditation standards.

The SADCAS courses can be conducted in-house. In-house courses have the following benefits:

- ✓ You choose the venue of the course in
- ✓ You choose the date of the course
- ✓ Cost effective as a number of staff can be trained at the same time
- ✓ Promotes team work as members have access to the same consistent information

For more details please contact SADCAS

Email: info@sadcas.org

Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC 17000:2004 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles	International standard to be revised
ISO/IEC DIS 17011 Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies	Close of voting
ISO/IEC 17021-2: 2016 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems	International standard published
ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems	International standard published
ISO/IEC TS 17021-4: 2013 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 4: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of event sustainability management systems	International standard confirmed
ISO/IEC NP 17021-10 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems	New project approved
ISO/IEC TS 17023: 2013 Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits	International standard confirmed
ISO/IEC DIS 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories	DIS ballot initiated for 12 weeks
ISO/IEC DTR 17028 Conformity assessment - Example of a certification scheme for services	Close of voting/ comment period
ISO/IEC NP 17029 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities	New project approved
IAF ID:2017 IAF Medical Device Nomenclature (IAF MDN) including Medical Device Risk Classifications	Issue 1, issued on 30 January 2017; application from 30 January 2017. This document, developed to support IAF MD 8 & MD 9, provides long established medical device names and classifications where risk classifications do not exist in the Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN)

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STANDARD	STATUS
A 021-01 AFRAC MRA WG Terms of Reference	Published in February 2017 This document outlines the terms of Reference of the AFRAC MRA Documents Working Group.
TP 003-01 AFRAC Guidelines on the methods for stating test and calibration results	Published in December 2016 This document gives guidelines on the method for stating test and calibration results and compliance with specifications, and is based on ILAC-G8 2009
P004-1 Joint peer evaluations with other regional cooperations	Published in January 2017 This document outlines the procedures to be followed when conducting joint peer evaluations with other regional cooperations.
M002-02 AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)	Published in February 2017 The document establishes and states the general policies governing AFRAC's MRA
M003-01 AFRAC Structure of the MRA and the procedures for extending the MRA	Published in February 2017 This document describes the procedures for the adoption of international documents.

Diary of Upcoming Events

DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
11 May 2017	SADCAS HRRC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
11 May 2017	SADCAS FRAC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
11 May 2017	SADCAS Board of Directors	Johannesburg, South Africa
9 - 12 May 2017	JCGM WG 1 (GUM) meeting	Paris, France
10 - 11 May 2017	43 rd EEE-PT WG meeting	Spain
14 - 19 May 2017	Joint ILAC/AFRAC/SADCA Peer Evaluation of SADCAS	Gaborone, Botswana
15 May 2017	JCGM Plenary meeting	Paris, France
15 -16 May 2017	ISO/TC 212/WG 1 meetings	Beijing, China

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DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
16 - 19 May 2017	JCGM WG 2 (VIM) meeting	Paris, France
23 - 24 May 2017	EA General Assembly	Ljubljana, Slovenia
11 - 15 June 2017	JCTLM Executive meeting	Athens, Greece
19 - 23 June 2017	ISO TC 69 Plenary meeting	Cape Town, South Africa
27 - 29 June 2017	40 th REMCO meeting	Berlin, Germany
26 - 30 June 2017	23 rd ARSO General Assembly	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
24 - 25 April 2017	ISO CASCO Policy meetings	Vancouver, Canada
26 - 28 April 2017	ISO CASCO 32 nd Plenary meeting & Workshop	Vancouver, Canada
1 - 2 May 2017	Workshop for AFRAC Peer Evaluators	Pretoria, South Africa
3 - 5 May 2017	AFRAC Mid-term meetings	Pretoria, South Africa

PUBLISHED BY:

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