

NAFP-Swaziland Awarded Certificate of Recognition

The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Swaziland which is housed within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade was awarded a certificate of recognition for their effort and contributions towards SADC accreditation goals. The NAFP Award ceremony was held in conjunction with the 10th SADCAS Annual General Meeting held on 17 March 2015 in Kinshasa Gombe, DRC.

National Accreditation Focal Points who are appointed by their respective governments are mainly responsible for promoting accreditation and marketing of SADCAS services within their respective countries. They are SADCAS tentacles of reaching out to clients/potential clients as well as stakeholders including the general public in SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS. The NAFP Handbook guides NAFPs in their day to day work. In executing SADCAS activities, NAFPs prepare annual implementation plans in support of SADCAS annual implementation plans in order to achieve SADCAS objectives. The implementation by NAFPs of national action plans is monitored for progress by SADCAS through quarterly reports.

The 2015 NAFP Award is the 7th to be held having had the inaugural ceremony in 2009. The Award is based on the reports for the period 1 January up to 31 December 2014 using five (5) criteria weighted according to their importance with the following 3 criteria considered key thus weighted high:

- 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).

For this award the criteria on contributions towards SADCAS goals also took into account facilitation of payments of governments' contributions towards SADCAS sustainability. Presiding over the Award ceremony, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Maureen Mutasa, said that based on the evaluation and score matrices, the SADCAS Board of Directors at its 39th meeting held on 19 February 2015 decided to award the 2015 certificate of recognition to NAFP- Swaziland with NAFP – Botswana and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as first runner up and second runner up respectively.

NAFP - Swaziland which was established in 2006 is manned by 2 officers Mrs Sybil Sithembiso Dlamini and Ms Phindile Dlamini housed within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade. NAFP - Swaziland made very good progress in implementing their national action plan which contributes to SADCAS goal realization. This was evidenced by the highest country average estimate realization of 86%. The activities included awareness raising and promotional workshop and meetings with stakeholders of which 5 were undertaken, undertook 12 targeted promotional and marketing visits to conformity assessment bodies and regulators, handled and reported on 11 enquiries of which NAFP - Swaziland handled the highest, contributed articles in the Pioneer, distributed SADCAS promotional materials, and produced and distributed marketing regalia. To commemorate World Accreditation Day (WAD), the NAFP took it to the streets and in style by marching from the Mbabane City centre to the venue of the WAD conference. NAFP - Swaziland submitted regularly quarterly reports and usually well ahead of the prescribed times. During the period under review, SADCAS accredited one medical laboratory from Swaziland the first facility to be accredited by SADCAS in Swaziland, undertook 3 training courses and has another 2 courses scheduled to be held by 31 March 2015. The Government of Swaziland has paid 36% of its contribution towards SADCAS sustainability thanks to the NAFPs efforts in pursuing the payment.



The Award Winners Ms Sybil Dlamini and Ms Phindile Dlamini (NAFPs – Swaziland)



From Left to Right Mr Steve Sidney Chairman of SADCAS Board of Directors, Mr Edward Mmatli, NAFP – Botswana and Mrs Eve Gadzikwa Chair HRRC



From Left to Right Mr Steve Sidney Chairman of SADCAS Board of Directors , Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama and Mrs Apauline Matata Feza (NAFP – DRC) and Mrs Eve Gadzikwa Chair HRRC



2015 Award winners pose for a photo with Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS CEO; Mr Steve Sidney and Mrs Eve Gadzikwa

In her acceptance speech and on behalf of the Kingdom of Swaziland, Ms Phindile Dlamini thanked SADCAS for the recognition and the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland for the support towards accreditation activities in the country.

Going forward and from 2016, an Award will be introduced for the most improved NAFP. This will change the landscape for the NAFP Certificate of Recognition and will no doubt motivate other NAFPs.

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