

## SADCAS Accredited Another Medical Laboratory in Botswana—Princess Marina Medical Laboratory

SADCAS accredited another medical laboratory in Botswana. Princess Marina Hospital Laboratory is the 5<sup>th</sup> medical laboratory in Botswana and the 11<sup>th</sup> to be accredited under the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Program. Princess Marina Hospital Laboratory has been accredited in the scopes: Haematology; Serology; Blood Bank; Chemistry; and Microbiology in accordance with ISO 15189: 2012. Through this accreditation, Princess Marina Hospital Laboratory based at Plot 1836 Hospital Way in Gaborone has been granted the unique accreditation number: MED 011 indicating that the Princess Marina Hospital Laboratory is now a SADCAS accredited medical laboratory. The accreditation certificate which was issued on 25 June 2015 is valid for 5 years until 24 June 2015.

The accreditation certificate handover ceremony was held on 28 August 2015 at The Paddock, in Gaborone, Botswana and started off with a prayer and followed by introductions by the Laboratory Manager, Ms Shirley Johane. Welcome remarks were given by Dr Kelebogile Motumise who congratulated the Laboratory staff for the achievement which he said was a token of excellence. In his remarks Mr Lawrence Masvingise, the Laboratory Quality Officer outlined the journey towards accreditation a process which he compared to the cutting of a rough diamond. An application for accreditation was submitted to SADCAS in December 2013 culminating in accreditation in June 2015. In his remarks Mr David Matema, the Chief Medical Scientific Officer marveled at the progress made in implementing the Ministry's goal of having 19 medical laboratories accredited by 2019 with 8 public medical laboratories already accredited which he said was contributing to enhanced health care delivery in Botswana.

In the certificate handover remarks Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO noted that the use of accreditation is expanding both in terms of greater reliance by regulators and business. In many economies now accreditation is being embraced by governments as a mandatory activity in many regulated areas such as health care because of the benefits accreditation brings to help governments meet their responsibilities and safeguard the public. "The focus on delivering excellence within the health care sector is underpinned by accreditation", she said. Accreditation supports and delivers the aim of consistent high quality care with reliable outcomes that patients can trust and provides a piece of mind that the service will meet expectations. Mrs Mutasa encouraged Princess Marina Hospital Laboratory to maintain its accreditation throughout the validity period of the accreditation certificate during which SADCAS would undertake surveillance assessments annually to ensure continued compliance. She also encouraged the Laboratory to extend its scope of accreditation to other scopes of operation under the SADCAS Medical laboratories Accreditation Programme.



Mrs Maureen P Mutasa handing over the certificate to Dr Motumise



Mrs Mutasa congratulating Ms Johane with Dr Motumise and Mr Lawrence Masvingise looking on



Princess Marina Hospital Laboratory staff proudly display their Certificates Appreciation

The ceremony was attended by over 55 people. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the Laboratory staff in recognition of their achievement. The vote of thanks was given by Ms Tswelelo Kahiya the Hospital Matron after which dinner was served followed by a party to celebrate the achievement.

