

ZAMBIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS – TESTING LABORATORIES ACCREDITED

Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) Testing Laboratories have been accredited by SADCAS in the scope of chemical analysis of potable water and animal feeds, and physical testing of latex condoms. The Accreditation covers various tests i.e. determination of moisture and volatile matter in animal feeds using the Thermogravimetric Technique, determination of mineral elements in animal feeds and potable water using the Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry and determination of package integrity, lubricant quantity, length, width, thickness, water leakage and burst volume and pressure in latex condoms. Through this accreditation ZABS Testing has been granted the unique accreditation numbers **TEST - 5 0018** and **TEST -11 0003** indicating that ZABS Testing is now a SADCAS accredited testing laboratory for Chemical analysis of water and animal feeds and for physical testing of latex condoms. Zambia Bureau of Standards Testing is the 22nd testing laboratory and the 3rd facility in Zambia to be accredited SADCAS. The ZABS Testing certificate which was issued on 3 December 2015 is valid for 5 years and expires on 2 December 2020 and throughout which surveillance assessments will be undertaken to check continued accreditation.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 11 March 2016 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia. In his opening remarks the Executive Director of ZABS, Mr Manuel Mutale outlined the accreditation roadmap and plans for the future. He also informed delegates about the rebranding of ZABS including the much more visible marks of conformity. The Chairperson of the ZABS Standards Council Dr David Nama, welcomed guests to the cocktail party and highlighted the significance of the accreditation achievement to both the ZABS and the Zambian economy and congratulated management and staff of the ZABS for the achievement. He also thanked the government of Zambia for its unwavering support to the ZABS over the years and thanked all the cooperating partners who had provided equipment for the ZABS laboratories.



Enjoying the traditional dancing Group looking on are from left to right Guest of Honour Mrs Margaret Mwanakatwe, Honourable Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Dr David Nama Chairman ZABS Standards Council, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, SADCAS CEO and Mrs Pasi Acting Permanent Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mr Manuel Mutale, Executive Director ZABS

Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer advised the delegates that SADCAS, the first multi economy accreditation body in the world had been accepted as signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) for the testing and calibration laboratories accreditation programmes having undergone the rigorous process of peer evaluation in May 2015. The decision was reached on 4 November 2015 in Milan, Italy and having already been accepted into the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) MRA on 8 October 2015. "With this achievement, the accreditation certificate issued to ZABS Testing and all other certificates issued by SADCAS for testing and calibration laboratories accreditation programmes are now internationally recognized" she said. In congratulating the ZABS Testing, Mrs Mutasa advised of the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17025 the standard that ZABS Testing have been accredited to which is expected to be published in 2017. "ZABS being the National Standards Body of Zambia I have no doubt that you are monitoring and contributing to the revision of the standard" she said. She also encouraged ZABS to extend the scope of accreditation to the other scopes of testing.

In his/her note address the guest of honour, Mrs Margaret Mwanakatwe, Honourable Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, congratulated ZABS for the rebranding which will no doubt contribute to the buy Zambia campaign. She acknowledged the importance of accreditation to the national economy and reiterated her Ministry's continued support to the development of the Zambian quality infrastructure. She then congratulated the ZABS not only for its accreditation achievement but for the valuable role that the organization is playing in the Zambian economy as the national standards body of Zambia and encouraged local companies to utilize ZABS services. The Honourable Minister also congratulated SADCAS on the achievement of signatory status through which accredited test certificates issued by the ZABS will be internationally recognized.



Proudly displaying the accreditation certificate are Guest of Honour Mrs Margaret Mwanakatwe, Honourable Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Dr David Nama Chairman ZABS Standards Council

In between the speeches guests were entertained by a drama group who effectively and in a simple and comic manner laid out the benefits of accreditations especially to the manufacturing sector. The vibrant performances by a traditional group of dancers brought the ceremony to life. During the ceremony, ZABS staff were recognized for their efforts which resulted in the accreditation of ZABS Testing as well as ZABS Metrology Section which was accredited in 2015. The certificates of recognition were presented by the Honourable Minister Mrs Mwanakatwe.



Guests at the ceremony



ZABS staff receiving certificate of recognition from Honourable Minister

A vote of thanks was given by a representative of manufacturers who applauded ZABS for the accreditation and encouraged ZABS to extend its scope to the other areas of testing. The handover ceremony was attended by over 50 stakeholders including representatives of industry, government officials, ZABS Standards Council members, management and staff and the media.

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