World Accreditation Day Commemorations in the SADC Region

Botswana

statement, Trade and Industry in conjunction with SADCAS celebrated 2019 World Accreditation Day (WAD) in Rakops, Botswana on 7 June 2019. The celebration activities included presentations and exhibition by key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. Presenters were drawn from stakeholder organizations such as SADCAS, Lamworld Technologies, Water Utilities Corporation (WUC), Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories and Botswana Bureau of Standards whose presentations addressed their services in relation to the theme. The 2019 WAD video from ILAC and IAF which showcased how accreditation.

In her address, Ms Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager explained the aims of WAD which is to raise awareness on the need and importance for accreditation. She then articulated the theme for 2019 WAD Accreditation: “Adding value to the supply chain” and informed delegates about SADCAS services and how SADCAS was adding value to the supply chain in Botswana. She then ended her presentation by urging conformity assessment bodies to embrace accreditation and utilise SADCAS services which as she remarked “is right by your doorstep”, noting that SADCAS Offices are located in Botswana. This was followed by a speech by Mr Obed Motsomi a regular at WAD celebrations in Botswana who defined a supply chain and elaborated on the importance of metrology and traceability of measurement along the supply chain.
The Quality Coordinator, Water Utilities Corporation, Mr Moagi Letsamao, presented on the Role of Testing Laboratories in Adding Value to Supply Chains. He defined supply chains as networks of all the individuals, organizations, resources, activities and technology involved in the creation and sale of a product, from the delivery of source materials from the supplier to the manufacturer, through to its eventual delivery to the end user. He pointed out the role of testing in ensuring product safety (Microbial contamination and Chemical contamination), building consensus (standards development), improving processes (production) and confirming compliance to standards, for achieving customer satisfaction. He further showed that laboratory accreditation is the best assurance that the data you are relying on was generated in a competent laboratory.

In his presentation Mr William Abram, Quality Manager at Diagnofirm an accredited medical laboratory based in Gaborone, showed that supply chains are the lifeblood of any business, impacting everything from the quality, delivery, and costs of a business’s products and services to customer service and satisfaction to ultimately profitability and return on assets. He explained that laboratory equipment goes through a complex manufacturing and distribution process in which individual laboratories may have to navigate between Ministries of Health, independent donors and the open market to acquire all the equipment they need to function effectively. He further explained that there are numerous laboratory commodities for a single test and these must be indi-vidually tailored to a laboratory’s specific environment and situation. It is estimated that 70% of all healthcare decisions affecting diagnosis or treatment involve a pathology investigation diagnosis, treatment, and subsequent therapeutic monitoring are often dependent on a range of pathology-based results. The importance of quality laboratory services is indisputable. Laboratory services support clinical practice by providing information for differential diagnosis, for clinicians to choose appropriate treatment regimens, and for monitoring treatment. Monitoring tests enable clinicians to determine whether treatment is efficacious or toxicity is developing, allowing them to take action to protect the patient.
In the last presentation, Mr Pilot Masunga, Manager-Testing, Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) explained what an inspection involves throughout the supply chain starting with the inspection of raw materials to check compliance with specifications to in process inspections through to final product inspection. He also informed of the different types of inspections that may be used throughout the supply chain emphasizing on the use of an accredited inspection body in order to assure confidence that can be relied upon by governments to meet their regulatory and legislative responsibilities. The presentations were followed by lively discussions on matters of concern and also recommendations to address these concerns. Recommendations were also made to improve future celebrations.

The celebrations were attended by 120 participants including the Assistant Minister of Investment Trade and Industry, Honourable Karabo Scoroat Gare who officially opened the celebrations, Boteti Sub-District leadership including the Council Secretary, District Officer - Administration from the District Commissioner’s Officer, village development committee members from Rakops and other nine (9) surrounding villages, Kgosi of Rakops, Kgosi Diane Jacobs who conducted the welcome remarks as well as Dikgosi from nine (9) surrounding villages, and councillors from Tsienyane East and West.

The closing remarks were given by the Councillor of Tsienyane West Honourable Hon. Batoli Manyuni.

Based on the feedback from participants, the celebrations were appreciated by the participants who were of the view that the Ministry has to do more to raise public awareness on accreditation as it impacts on the livelihood of the Consumers. Three conformity assessment bodies, namely: Water Utilities Corporation (WUC), Betach Laboratories and Botswana Energy Regulator (BERA) exhibited their services during the mini conference.

The celebrations were promoted through consultative meetings with community leaders prior to the event. Community leaders such the Commissioners’ Office in Lethakane, Rakops Kgosi, Rakops Social and Community Development Officers, and Rakops Hospital laboratory personnel were consulted and successfully mobilized participants resulting in a full-house. Promotional material such as teardrop and banners were acquired and used during the event. Department of Industrial Affairs and SADCAS promotional material as well as 2019 WAD promotional material from the IAF and ILAC were also distributed during the day.

**Eswatini**

The Kingdom of Eswatini joined the whole world in celebrating 2019 WAD. The celebrations were in the form of a workshop which was attended by 85 delegates including Senior Government Officials, captains of industry and conformity assessment bodies’ personnel.

The event which was directed by Mr Thokozani Mvubu, Energy Officer in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, was graced by the presence of the Acting Principal Secretary, Ms Zamokuhle Mthethwa. In her opening remarks, Ms Mthethwa, welcomed everyone and gave background to the celebrations. She further emphasized the importance of accreditation in the supply chain highlighting the fact that procurement was often responsible for up to 70% of companies’ expenditure (Source: The Chartered Institute of Procurement) and disruption could affect profitability, brand reputation and customer loyalty. She then encouraged all those involved to embrace accreditation.

Four presentations were made during the workshop starting with the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) who gave a presentation on how accreditation adds value to supply chains, followed by a presentation made by a representative of the Ministry of Finance, Supply Chain Department who presented on the importance of supply chain in Government. The CEO of the Eswatini Public Procurement Agency also gave a presentation entitled “Towards Sustainable Public Procurement People, Planet and Profits”. The last presentation on the importance of accreditation and how the laboratory association offers help, was made by a representative of the National Laboratory Association of Eswatini.
All Media houses such as the Swazi Observer, the Times of Eswatini, Channel Swazi, Eswatini Broadcasting Information Services and the Swazi Television were there to cover the event. The NAFP was also interviewed by the Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services about the WAD creating more awareness to the public about the theme and accreditation in general.

Participants were given a chance to ask questions after each presentation. This allowed participants to deal with the matter at hand thoroughly.

The closing remarks were given by Ms Phindile Priscilla Dlamini, the Chief Quality Systems Administrator who is also the 2nd NAFP for Eswatini. She thanked everyone for attending the workshop held to celebrate WAD thus create awareness on accreditation.

**Seychelles**

Seychelles joined the whole World to celebrate the World Accreditation Day 2019. The authorities and the conformity assessment bodies’ community in Seychelles understand and value the benefits and the importance of the Accreditation, and acknowledge the support provided by SADC through its cooperation structures and its partners, to Member States to achieve accreditation. This is evidenced through the activities that were organized on the 14 June 2019 at Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS), Standard House in Mahe, Seychelles to celebrate 2019 World Accreditation Day (WAD).

His Excellency, the Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr Vincent Meriton, under whose portfolio falls the SBS, the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Seychelles, was the guest of honour for the event. In his address the Vice President recalled the theme of this year’s WAD: “Accreditation Adding Value to Supply Chains” and congratulated and commended SBS Staff for the role they play in standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology issues in Seychelles. He then reminded the audience that: “Good governance is about having standards and this is what
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you are living and doing here every day. Little do we realise as we go about our daily lives that everything is about standards,” His Excellency pointed out. The Vice president then announced that next year WAD will be celebrated over a week to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation, quality control and standardisation amongst the populace and with SBS playing the key role in this. He then promised the full support of the Government for the materialisation of this programme.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SBS, Mrs Sreekala Nair, in her presentation stressed on the importance of this year’s theme. She noted that businesses nowadays look for the most cost effective ways to do business and their supplies come from different sources from different parts of the world but the risk is that it is difficult to ensure quality, safety, reliability of products and service they get from all these suppliers and providers, thus the importance to ensure they are dealing with accredited suppliers. Accreditation ensures competence, integrity, and impartiality of an organisation and services and products provided by an accredited body are more credible and reliable. “The success of a business depends on its supply chain and if the supply chain fails the business also will not succeed,” Ms Nair said, highlighting that the theme is very relevant and fitting for the SBS.

The SBS Board Chairman, Dr Bernard Monnaie in his speech drew the audience’s attention to the many competing products and services available to choose from today. “As consumers we are increasingly challenged to decide on which of them to buy. Accreditation helps us do so by enabling suppliers to provide assurance of the quality and authenticity of what they offer,” he said. “It also helps importers and border controllers to refuse entry to goods that do not live up to their claims. Important consequences of such entry refusals include financial and reputational costs to suppliers,” he emphasised. He then called upon business to take steps to add more value to their operations, products and services through accreditation.

The one-day celebration of the WAD which was attended mainly by representatives of conformity assessment bodies ended with a guided tour of the SBS laboratories. Prior to the celebrations, on the 9 June 2019 a press release was issued on the WAD 2019.
Tanzania celebrated the World Accreditation Day (WAD) on 4th of July 2019 at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) headquarters in Dar es salaam, Tanzania. The conference was attended by 50 participants from public and private sector including procurement companies, clearing and forwarding companies, academics institutions and conformity assessment bodies as well as the media. Promotional materials such as pull up banners and accreditation posters were placed at strategic areas at the venue to draw the attention of participants on the event. The event was graced by Honourable Eng. Stella Manyanya (MP) Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade.

The WAD ceremony started with welcome remarks from the TBS Director General, Dr. Ngenya Yusuf who expressed a word thanks to the guest of honor Eng. Stella Manyanya (MP). He mentioned the purpose of the WAD which is to create awareness on the importance of accreditation and promised that the next year celebration will be held on the 9 June 2020. He also provided chance for self-introduction to each participant and then welcomed the Deputy Minister.

The Honorable Eng. Stella Manyanya (MP) the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade congratulated TBS for organizing a half day seminar to celebrate WAD. In her remarks, Honourable Eng Manyanya acknowledged participation of both public and private sectors. She noted the role of accreditation as one of the quality infrastructure tools used to provide assurance that the conformity assessment bodies are competence to carry out specific tasks. She also emphasized the important roles the supply chains play in delivering products and services that need to meet the requirements of the stakeholders from complex systems crossing multiple borders to new and diverse market. She urged the supply chains to use the available accredited and certified services to ensure sustainable and responsible supply and further insisted conformity assessment providers to maintain accreditation and expand scope of the accreditation.

Several presentations were made during the celebrations around the 2019 WAD theme by Ms Stella Mrosso, NAFP - Tanzania on how accreditation adds value to supply chains and updated participants on developments in SADCAS. Senior Metrologist from an accredited calibration laboratory, Mr. Adam Ziagi, articulated how calibration services add value.
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to goods and services delivered by supply chains through accurate and traceable measurements. A representative of the National Health Laboratory Quality Assurance and Training Centre (NHLQATC), Ms Ester Mwavika presented on how improved supply chains have contributed to the enhancement of medical laboratories to offer reliable services in terms of quality, accurate, reliable and timely test results. This was followed by a presentation by Mr Anectus Nduguru, Senior Quality Assurance Officer from an accredited testing laboratory on the role of testing services in ensuring conformity of products and services delivered through supply chains. Last but not least Mrs Kezia Mbwambro, Chairperson of National Laboratory Association (NLA) presented on the importance of the Association in networking, sharing experiences and in addressing common challenges faced by laboratories.

The celebrations were very successful and the discussions during conference were very informative. Closing remarks were given by Ms Anna Mhalu on behalf of Director of Testing and calibration Engineer Johannes Maganga.

Accreditation: Adding Value to Supply Chains

June 9, marks WAD as a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. The inaugural WAD was celebrated in 2008.

The theme for 2019 World Accreditation Day is "Accreditation: Adding Value to Supply Chains" and highlights the role of accreditation in adding value to supply chains.

What are supply chains?

A supply chain is defined as the sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of a commodity. Supply chains provide a vital role in delivering products and services for consumers, business and the public sector in a timely, cost-efficient and quality manner. Supply chains are constantly evolving from complex systems crossing multiple borders to new and diverse supply chains aimed at ensuring all stakeholders’ requirements are met, including the need for ensuring sustainability and responsible supply.

What are the Issues?

Although businesses have been producing items with goods sourced from around the world for many years, supply chains are now significantly more complex in terms of the speed, scale, depth, and breadth of global interactions.
The global nature of supply chains and retail markets means that businesses have to operate in multiple and often differing regulatory environments. Determining the quality, authenticity and traceability of raw materials or components requires credible and trustworthy information. As innovation accelerates and the lifecycle of products shortens, markets become more unpredictable and exert increased pressure on supply chains. Businesses need to manage their exposure to risk or disruption from data security breaches or system failures. Effective selection of sustainable suppliers not just in terms of financial stability, but also Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

**The Role of Accreditation**

Accreditation and, with it, other quality infrastructure tools such as standards, metrology and conformity assessment, provide widely accepted tools that help deliver value to the supply chain. These tools help with trust and assurance, enabling confidence in both final products and services and the manner in which they are placed on the market and used.

From the accreditation of laboratories which test for quality and safety of drugs and food, the inspection of manufacturing processes, to the accredited certification of food manufacturers to food safety standards, accreditation adds value to supply chains by supporting the wide spectrum of needs of interested parties.

Accreditation determines the technical competence, integrity and impartiality of conformity assessment service providers i.e. testing/calibration laboratories, certification and inspection bodies. Accreditation, underpinned by internationally agreed standards, adds value to supply chains as businesses seek to maximize value and satisfy contractual terms, while maintaining a level of confidence that products meet technical specifications and are safe to use. Accreditation ensures the impartiality, competence and consistency of Conformity service providers. Accreditation, therefore, plays an important role in reducing the costs of trade and doing business; enhancing technology transfer; and enhancing the integration into global supply chains through trust between business partners.

**Delivering Confidence in the Supply Chain**

Given the complexity of today’s supply chains, reassurance in the measurements, tests, inspections, and certifications that are performed in another jurisdiction or market sector is essential. Without a level of confidence, the free exchange of goods and services risks being hampered by technical barriers or varying levels of quality, thereby increasing costs for importers and consumers. Such complexity also makes it cost prohibitive for governments or regulators to carry out all the laboratory testing, inspection, and certification necessary to protect public health and safety. A solution that is increasingly being adopted is for governments to establish regulations which specify requirements to be met and procedures to be employed for demonstrating compliance, with the option for private sector providers to earn recognition to carry out the verification of compliance processes.

Conformity assessment is used to verify that products and services meet standards or technical specifications. In the regulated sector, conformity assessment demonstrates compliance with legislative requirements. In the voluntary sector, conformity assessment provides assurance to consumers and importers that the products and services they procure meet specification. Accreditation assesses and declares the technical competence of these organizations in order to provide confidence in their results or test data.

**Supporting Supply Chains through International Recognition**

Accreditation bodies (ABs) are established to ensure that testing laboratories, certification and inspection bodies collectively known as conformity assessment bodies (CABs) are subject to oversight by a competent body. Internationally recognized accreditation bodies, which have been evaluated by peers as competent, sign international arrangements that facilitate the acceptance of products and services across borders, thereby creating a global infrastructure to support trade, regulatory approval processes, and confidence in the supply chain.

The system of accreditation has been estimated to cover economies that represent 96% of global GDP (Source: World Economic Forum). The Arrangements are managed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), in the fields covering accreditation of certification bodies and verification/validation bodies, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), in the areas of laboratory and inspection body accreditation. This system helps to ensure work carried out by
ABs is consistent across the globe and maintains international standards from one accreditation body to others. As a result, products and services tested, inspected or certified once under the IAF and ILAC umbrella can be accepted everywhere with equal confidence.

**Increasing Recognition**

In recent years, there has been a growing trend towards greater recognition of accreditation and the acceptance of the arrangements by governments and regulators. The European Union (EU) trade agreements signed with Japan, Canada, Switzerland, and Tunisia cite the use of accredited conformity assessment to ensure harmonized free trade. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) operates a single Market Regulatory System referencing accreditation as an essential tool for the implementation of the regulatory system and is used in all regulations to assure the competence of notified bodies. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) endorses accreditation to underpin the conformity assessment component of the APEC agreements. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has included accreditation of electrical and electronic equipment as a means of demonstrating the specified requirements are met. The mainstream acceptance of accreditation by both pan-regional bodies and domestic regulators within individual governments also helps WTO member governments to meet their responsibilities under the TBT Agreement and the SPS Agreement. In the UK, the Institute of Directors recognizes accredited certification to ISO 9001 as a measure in their annual Good Governance report, as does the Global Innovation Index, which rates economies on their performance. The Association of Risk Managers (AIRMIC), now recognize the value of accreditation.

**Accreditation Adding Value to Supply Chains**

Accreditation operates across all sector supply chains ranging from Healthcare and medical devices; Construction; Energy; Clothing and textiles; Toys and electronics; IT and communications to Food safety and water supply. Accreditation offers a range of services that can add value and manage the potential risks in supply chains through the assessment of certification, inspection, testing, and calibration services. By demonstrating the competence, impartiality, and capability of these organizations, accreditation underpins the credibility of goods and services, allowing procurement and supply chain managers to better.

**Accreditation Supporting Procurement**

IAF “CertSearch” which was launched recently is a tool that supports procurement officials. IAF CertSearch is database of internationally recognized accreditation certificates issued by certification bodies. The platform which currently contains 700,000 management system certificates from accredited suppliers will allow purchasers to check if their potential suppliers hold such certificates. It can be used to authenticate internationally recognized accreditation certificates.

**SADCAS Adding Value to Supply Chains**

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) is a multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade with the primary purpose of ensuring that conformity assessment service providers operating in those SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to an oversight by an authoritative body. SADCAS services the accreditation needs of 14 SADC Member States namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe, excluding South Africa and Mauritius who have fully operational and internationally recognized national accreditation bodies, South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) and Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS). Although Angola has launched its national accreditation body and Zambia has indicated its intention to establish a national accreditation body, both these national accreditation bodies are not yet operational hence conformity assessment bodies in these countries will continue to be serviced by SADCAS in the foreseeable future.

SADCAS is signatory to the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and ILAC MRAs for the testing and calibration laboratories accreditation schemes in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025, medical testing in accordance with ISO 15189 and inspection in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020. Hence the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS for testing/calibration/medical laboratories and inspection bodies’ accreditation schemes are all internationally recognized. In May
2019 SADCAS underwent re-evaluation for purposes of maintaining its ILAC MRA signatory status and at the same time scope extension to cover the IAF MLA Main Scope Management Systems Certification Sub-Scope Quality Management Systems (QMS). The Team has recommended that the AFRAC MRA signatory status of SADCAS for Testing and Calibration according to ISO/IEC 17025, medical testing accreditation according to ISO 15189 and inspection accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 be continued; AFRAC MRA signatory status of SADCAS for QMS certification body accreditation to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 be granted; and that the transition of the SADCAS management system from ISO / IEC 17011: 2004 to ISO / IEC 17011: 2017 has been successfully completed. The next full AFRAC MRA re-evaluation of SADCAS will take place no later than 1st June 2023.

SADCAS is now in its 11 year of operation and as at 31 July 2019 had issued 128 accreditation certificates to 103 accredited facilities in 12 SADC Member States and one non-SADC Member State Ghana. At the same time SADCAS has 67 accreditation applications under process. SADCAS had cumulatively undertaken 177 training courses in all SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS as well as in Uganda in order to promote a thorough understanding of accreditation requirements.

SADCAS Undergoes Re-evaluation

SADCAS went through a re-evaluation and scope extension from 27 May to 01 June 2019. The purpose of the re-evaluation was to determine whether SADCAS can maintain international recognition status for the testing and calibration laboratories achieved in 2015 and the medical laboratories and inspection bodies accreditation schemes achieved in 2017; to extend scope of international recognition to IAF Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) in the main scope Management Systems Certification, Sub- scope Quality Management Systems (QMS); and to determine whether SADCAS has fully transitioned from ISO/IEC 17011: 2004 to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017.

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with, and against the requirements specified in AFRAC M001 and IAF/ILAC A2, by a team of 5 members namely: Mr Moslem Barrak as the team leader and member responsible for certification (Main Scope (ISO/IEC 17021-1) and Sub-scope Quality Management Systems (QMS) (ISO/IEC 17021-3)); Mr Marcel Gbaguidi (Deputy Team Leader and team member responsible for Testing (ISO/IEC 17025); Mr Adel Rezk, team member responsible for Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025); Mrs Shelli Turner as the team member responsible for Medical Testing (ISO 15189); and Mrs Susannah Munyiri-Ochieng as the team member responsible for Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). Two trainee evaluators also participated in the peer evaluation with Mr Mahesh Koolwont as Trainee evaluator for Testing and Ms Meseret Tessema as Trainee evaluator for Medical Testing.

The peer evaluation started off with an opening meeting on Monday 27 May 2019. The opening meeting was attended by all SADCAS staff. The office evaluation was undertaken at SADCAS Offices in Gaborone on 27, 31 May and 1 June 2019 whilst the witnessing was undertaken in Botswana and Zimbabwe from 28 to 31 May 2019. The closing meeting was held on Saturday, 1 June 2019 with the team recommending that:

- The international recognition of SADCAS for Testing and Calibration laboratories accreditation schemes according to ISO/IEC 17025 and for medical testing accreditation according to ISO 15189 be continued;
- The international recognition of SADCAS for inspection accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 be continued;
- The international recognition of SADCAS in the main scope Management Systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Sub-scope QMS to ISO/IEC 17021-3 be granted;
- The transition of the SADCAS management system from ISO / IEC 17011: 2004 to ISO / IEC 17011: 2017 has been successfully completed; and
- That the next full re-evaluation of SADCAS takes place no later than 1st June 2023.

subject to clearance of the findings raised during the re-evaluation. The team raised 2 nonconformities and a number of concerns and comments.
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During the re-evaluation, the team noted that all the SADCAS personnel met and interviewed had been very transparent, fair and collaborative; SADCAS permanent staff are skilled and satisfactorily technically qualified for the functions they perform, and the organization has a good foundation of accreditation experience; the competence of the assessment teams witnessed was high; that SADCAS has access to a sufficient number of well qualified, experienced and competent Team Leaders, Technical Assessors and Technical Experts; and that the SADCAS accreditation process appears to be very effective.

Speaking during the closing meeting the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa was very happy with the outcome noting that this was the 1st re-evaluation of SADCAS which also included scope extension as well as transition from ISO/IEC 17011: 2004 to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017. She then thanked Team SADCAS for their hard work and dedication towards goal achievement and the peer evaluation team for a thorough and value adding evaluation. Since all the findings raised were in SADCAS control, the CEO advised the Team that SADCAS will start working on root cause analysis and propose corrective action to address all the findings raised soon after the peer evaluation with the hope of having a decision made on signatory status at the 10th AFRAC General Assembly scheduled to be held in September 2019 in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire and the ILAC and IAF meetings scheduled to be held in October 2019 in Frankfurt, Germany.

On 01 June 2019 SADCAS hosted a dinner at the Rodizio Restaurant in Gaborone, Botswana which was attended by all the peer evaluators and SADCAS Management and Scheme Coordinators.

SADCAS CEO Attends the 31st SADC CMT Meeting

The 31st meeting of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade (CMT) was held on 14 June 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia. SADCAS was represented at the meeting by the SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen P Mutasa. Other side meetings were also held with the Tanzanian, Zambian and Zimbabwean delegations.

Funding of SADCAS for the period 2012 to 2017 and 2017 to 2022 was a matter on the agenda of the meeting. Although there was not much discussion on the respective items the Chair Honorable Tjekero Twya the Namibian Minister of Industrialization Trade and SME Development urged all Member States to pay their dues timeously to enable SADCAS to get on with its work. He urged Member States to work as a family and to promote our own organizations referring to SADCAS. The Namibian Minister was in fact the guest of honour at the SADCAS’ 10 years celebrations held in March 2019.

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On the sidelines of the SADC CMT meeting meetings held with the:

- **Tanzanian Delegation** led by his Excellency Ramadhan Mwinyi and Mr Athuman Nkungu who reiterated their commitment to pay the long outstanding contributions for the 2012 to 2017 period and the 2 contributions for the period 2017 to 2022. His Excellency Mwinyi assured SADCAS that Tanzania will pay its contributions and advised that he had already written to Treasury to affect the payments.

- **Zimbabwean Delegation** to meet the new Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr Raj Modi and the new Permanent Secretary, Dr Mavis Sibanda and to thank Zimbabwe for paying their contribution which had been received just prior to the CMT meeting on 7 June 2019.

- **Botswana Delegation** to thank Botswana for fully paying its contribution towards SADCAS sustainability for the period 2017 to 2022.

- **Zambian** Honourable Chris B Yaluma, the Minister of Commerce Trade and Industry. This meeting was held after the CMT meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to the Minister why Zambia should continue to contribute towards SADCAS sustainability.

Based on the outcome of the 31st SADC CMT meeting and the assurances given during the meetings held on the sidelines of the CMT we can be optimistic that all the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS will contribute towards SADCAS sustainability. SADCAS on its part will continue to follow up on contributions and sent another set of reminders by end of July 2019. It should be noted that the SADC CMT meetings is loaded and not much time is allocated for discussions, a lot more is actually achieved on the sidelines of the CMT meetings at least when it comes to SADCAS funding issues.
AFRAC Holds Mid-term Meetings

The 2019 mid-term AFRAC meetings were held from 29 April to 01 May 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meetings which were held in conjunction with the ISO/CASCO meetings were hosted by the Kenyan Accreditation System (KENAS) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS). The SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was represented at the mid-term meetings by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the CEO, Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo, the Technical Manager and Mr Victor Mundembe, Scheme Coordinator Calibration, Verification, Inspection and Certification.

Prior to the meetings, 2 training workshops for peer evaluators were held from 27 to 28 April 2019. The training workshops were on Risk Management in Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies held on 27 April 2019 and AFRAC Decision Making Procedures: Guide for Peer evaluators held on 28 April 2019. The training workshops which were facilitated by Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb and sponsored by PTB Germany were attended by 18 participants of whom 3 are trainee peer evaluators from SADCAS, Mrs Ranorovelo, Mr Victor Mundembe and Mr Xavier Mugari.

Thereafter on 29 April 2019, the AFRAC mid-term meetings started with the MRA Committee and Technical Committee meetings running in parallel followed by the Marketing Communications Committee (MCC) and MRA Council meetings on 30 April 2019. The mid-term meetings ended with the Executive Committee meeting which was held on 1 May 2019. The SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa attended the MRA Committee, MRA Council and the AFRAC Executive Committee meetings whilst Ms Ranorovelo and Mr Victor Mundembe attended the Technical Committee and MCC meetings. Following her election at the 9th General Assembly meeting held in Mauritius, Mrs Mutasa chaired her first MRA Council Meeting during these 2019 mid-term meetings.

The MRA Committee meeting was attended by 7 out of the 9 members and the Secretariat. A number of issues were discussed during the meeting which passed a total of 19 resolutions. The MRA Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and agreed to recommend that the term of office of the MRA Committee Chair and Vice Chair be changed to 4 years and may be re-elected. This change which has to be effected in the Bylaws was proposed taking into account the need for continuity and noting that the evaluation cycle is 4 years. The MRA Committee which comprises of one representative each of the Stakeholder and Associate members,
amongst the other members agreed to request the respective categories to nominate their representatives who shall attend the next MRA Committee meeting. The term of office of the Associate and Stakeholder representatives on the MRA Committee was set at 2 years and may be reconsidered.

The MRA Committee reviewed accreditation body transitions to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 and noted that all transition action plans were being implemented as scheduled and that transitions evaluations had all been scheduled to meet the AFRAC timeline of 2 years from the date of publication of ISO/IEC 17011: 2017. The MRA Committee however urged all accreditation bodies and peer evaluators to respect the timelines of the peer evaluation process. Progress reports on ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 transitions were also presented and it was agreed that a standard format for reporting be used by members so as to properly monitor the transitions.

The MRA Committee reviewed accreditation bodies’ transitions to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 and noted that all transition action plans were being implemented as scheduled and that transitions evaluations had all been scheduled to meet the AFRAC timeline of 2 years from the date of publication of ISO/IEC 17011: 2017. The MRA Committee however urged all accreditation bodies and peer evaluators to respect the timelines of the peer evaluation process. Progress reports on ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 transitions were also presented and it was agreed that a standard format for reporting be used by members so as to properly monitor the transitions.

Sometime was spent discussing the extension of the AFRAC MRA to cover product certification (ISO/IEC 17065), Personnel certification (ISO/IEC 17024), Proficiency Testing (PT) (ISO/IEC 17043), Reference Materials Providers (RMP) (ISO/IEC 17034), Energy Management Systems of which some AFRAC members are already offering and with some having applied for international recognition from other regions or from ILAC. The MRA Committee agreed to recommend to the MRA Council that AFRAC apply to IAF and ILAC for the extension of MRA scope to Product Certification and PT respectively as soon as an application is received from one of the accreditation body members. This was approved by the MRA Council taking into account the recommendation made during the April 2019 ILAC/IAF meetings, to the ILAC/IAF Joint General Assembly that any extension of scope applied for by an accreditation body must be applied directly to AFRAC and not to ILAC or IAF. To this end the Committee delegated the Secretariat to request accreditation body members to
nominate candidates to be trained as peer evaluators in the prioritized scopes of Product certification PT, RMP, Product and Personnel certification with the product certification training taking place during the 10th General Assembly, PT and RMP course taking place during the 2020 mid-term meetings and Personnel certification course taking place during the 2020 General Assembly meetings. In an effort to improve the quality of self-evaluation reports in accordance with the revised IAF/ILAC A3 published in April 2018, thus facilitate the peer evaluation processes, the MRA Committee resolved to hold a half day workshop at the 10th General Assembly. The workshop shall be attended preferably by the Quality Manager and the Director/CEO of the accreditation body as well as the Team Leaders of evaluation teams. Mr Mahmoud El Tayeb, a seasoned evaluator was appointed to facilitate the training course.

During the meeting, the MRA Committee adopted the following ILAC and IAF documents published since the last meeting:

- ILAC G26:11/2018 – Guidance for the Implementation of a Medical Accreditation Scheme;
- ILAC P8:03/2019 – ILAC MRA supplementary requirements for the use of the accreditation symbol and for claims of accreditation status by accredited CAB’s; and
- IAF MD 11:2019 – IAF mandatory document for the application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for audits of integrated management systems.

It was also agreed that the Secretariat should publicize on the AFRAC website any newly published documents for members’ attention and implementation as relevant.

Following Mrs. Mutasa’s stepping down as the MRA Committee Documents Working Group (DWG) Convener, having been elected as the MRA Council Chair, the MRA Committee thanked Mrs. Mutasa for her commitment and hard work. At the subsequent AFRAC Executive Committee meeting Ms. Susan Ochieng Munyiri was appointed as Convener of the reconstituted Document Working Group subject to acceptance by KENAS. The reconstituted DWG will now be responsible for all AFRAC documents. All these recommendations from the MRA Committee were considered at the 7th MRA Council and 13th Executive Committee meetings held on the 30 April and 1 May 2019.

The MRA Council passed a total of 13 resolutions most of which were approved by the Executive Committee as presented. Concern was expressed on non-attendance of office bearers to AFRAC meetings due to lack of governments’ support and the AFRAC Executive Committee agreed to request for PAQI’s intervention in the matter. Noting that the current MRA Committee Chair is not a member of the MRA Council and further noting that the Chair of the MRA Committee presents reports and recommendations for consideration by the Council, it was proposed that MRA Chair be invited to attend MRA Council meetings. This was agreed upon by the Executive Committee. The MRA Council also recommended to the Executive Committee that the term of Office of the MRA Council Chair and Vice Chair be changed to 4 years for the same reasons put forward for changing the MRA Committee Chair and Vice Chair’s terms of office. This recommendation was agreed upon by the Executive Committee.

Discussions were held on voting performance by members and it was agreed that a recommendation be made to the Executive to consider measures to be taken on members that do not achieve the threshold voting performance which according to the AFRAC Bylaws is set at 75%. A Task Force comprised of Mr Hany El Desouki, Dr Lawrena Okoro and Mr Phaloane was set up to look into the matter and to report at the next meeting.

The AFRAC Executive Committee meeting was held on 1 May 2019 passed 21 resolutions. During the meeting the Executive dealt with strategic issues such as: AFRAC transition to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017; report on progress with corrective action from the internal audit which was undertaken in September 2018; considered the report of the Task Force established to investigate an appeal on membership received from one of the AFRAC member; global pool of evaluators with other regions of which AFRAC has a technical agreement; reviewed progress with the 5 year strategic plan; 5th Management review which was subsequently circulated to members for approval after the meeting; and registration of AFRAC. Regarding the registration of AFRAC, a tender was floated for the registration of AFRAC and a Task Force established to
Continued from p 15

evaluate the tenders presented its recommendations which were approved by the Executive Committee. On finances the Executive Committee considered the 2018 financial report and reviewed the 2019 budget. The Executive Committee also received reports and considered recommendations from the various Committees including the Technical Committee, Marketing and Communications Committee. Reports on attendance to ILAC/IAF and PAQI meetings were also considered. On upcoming elections, the Executive unanimously nominated SANAS to continue as the Secretariat and agreed to recommend SANAS election at the 10th General Assembly.

The 10th AFRAC annual meetings will be held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire from 23 – 27 September 2019 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

The mid-term AFRAC meetings were well organized with all training workshops and meetings being held at Radisson Blue Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. At these mid-term meetings SADCAS increased its representation to 3 and this allowed SADCAS to participate in all the scheduled meetings.

Many thanks to the host KENAS for the excellent arrangements made for our attendance.
AFRAC Participates in TUNAC Celebrations to Mark 25 Years of Service and World Accreditation Day

The African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC) participated at the Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC) joint celebrations to mark 25 years of accreditation service and to celebrate 2019 World Accreditation Day. For this joint celebration, TUNAC hosted a forum under the theme “TUNAC Accreditation: At the Service of Tunisian Economy” followed by a lunch on 27 June 2019. The forum which was attended by 250 guests was held at the El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel in Tunis, Tunisia and was graced by Honourable Mr. Slim Feriani, the Tunisian Minister of Industry and SMEs. Guests included representatives of AFRAC, Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) represented by Mr. Metaab Mezini, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) representative, Mr. Rafik Fekih, Belgium Accreditation Body (BELAC) represented by the Director, Ms. Maureen Logghe, former directors of TUNAC including Mrs. Dorsaf Zangar Labidi and Mr. Anouar Zouari, industry associations and conformity assessment bodies mainly from Tunisia. The AFRAC was represented at the forum by Mrs. Maureen Mutasa, the Vice Chairman of AFRAC. Although PTB Germany was not represented at the forum they congratulated TUNAC on the occasion of the 25 years anniversary over a video conferenced message and presented a bouquet of flowers.

In her address, the AFRAC Vice Chair Mrs. Maureen Mutasa congratulated TUNAC for 25 years of credible accreditation service and for 2019 World Accreditation Day. She then informed about the purpose of World Accreditation Day which is to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation which she said has an impact on every aspect of our daily lives, health, economic and social development, facilitating trade, in protecting the environment in which we live etc. She informed about the past themes of World Accreditation Day and the theme for 2019 World Accreditation Day which is Accreditation: Adding value to supply chains and articulated the role of accreditation in helping to deliver value to supply chains. She then briefly reminisced on the establishment of AFRAC and progress to date with AFRAC having achieved international recognition in the International Accreditation Forum Multi-Lateral Arrangement (IAF MLA) and the International Accreditation Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) in May 2018. This international recognition of AFRAC MRA is a key milestone enabling the full integration of Africa into the world trading system” she said. She noted that the recognition could not have come at a more opportune time following the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 52 countries and ratification by 24 countries. “Technically the AfCFTA is now in force unlocking a market of 1.3 billion people across African Borders” she remarked. She noted that TUNAC a founding member of AFRAC, one of the 3 first signatories of the AFRAC MRA, was working with other accreditation bodies in Africa in developing accreditation infrastructure. It is with the foregoing that Mrs. Mutasa expressed AFRAC desire that TUNAC re-joins the AFRAC as an Arrangement member so that Tunisia benefits from the opportunities presented on the continent, one of the few regions in the world that is growing.
In the keynote address, the Honourable Minister welcomed the special guests, the ARAC and AFRAC Vice Chairs, BELAC and UNIDO representatives. He noted the remarkable progress made by Tunisia over the years including the achievement of signatory status in international accreditation arrangements which was contributing towards economic and social development of Tunisia and TUNAC’s participation in regional accreditation activities by ARAC, AFRAC and the European Accreditation (EA) with the Honourable Minister confirming the decision by TUNAC to extend its scope of signatory status for which applications would be selectively submitted to ARAC and AFRAC. He then highlighted the importance of accreditation to national economic and social development and thanked all who had contributed to TUNAC’s success and the cooperating partners UNIDO, PTB Germany and SIDA for their support. After the keynote address the Honourable Minister presented plaques to the guest speakers and accreditation certificates to the first 10 testing laboratories accredited to the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 published in November 2017. A certificate was also presented to the only medical testing laboratory accredited by TUNAC so far.

The second session of the forum started off with a presentation by Mrs Noura Haddaoui, TUNAC who reminisced on the establishment of TUNAC highlighting the key milestones and achievements to date. This was followed by presentations by representatives of National Union Chamber of Testing Laboratories, National Union Chamber of Metrology, Office of the Upgrade and Tunisian Export Promotion Center “CEPEX” on the various programmes in place to assist conformity assessment bodies to work towards accreditation. A series of testimonials were then presented by various accredited conformity assessment bodies during which they shared the challenges faced and how these had been addressed and also highlighting expected service improvements by TUNAC.

Guests were treated to a sumptuous lunch to celebrate the 25 years’ milestone and World Accreditation Day.
The 2019 ILAC Mid-term meetings were held in Mexico City from 4 to 11 April 2019. Ms Ranorovelo attended the ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC), ILAC Arrangements Committee (ARC) and ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) meetings.

**ILAC AIC** - The meetings were mainly focused on ILAC guidance and policy documents which were under revision and/or to be circulated to members for comments/ballots. ILAC G3 - Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors Used by Accreditation Bodies; ILAC G17 - Introducing the concept of uncertainty of measurement in testing; ILAC G18 - Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories; ILAC G24 - Guidelines for the determination of calibration intervals of measuring instruments for which a joint TCD OIML D10/ILAC G24 was ready for circulation; ILAC G28 - Guidelines for the formulation of scopes; ILAC P9 - Policy for participation in PT activities; ILAC P10 - ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results; and ILAC P14 - ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration. In addition, it was discussed the Bio banking workshop to be held in Frankfurt 2019 meeting, a Workshop on 17025:2017 on implementation to be arranged during the 2020 ILAC meetings; a Position paper to be developed related to ISO/IEC 17025, Clause 7.6.1 which requires evaluation of measurement of uncertainty in sampling; the WADA guide on scopes for WADA developed and to be circulated for ballot; and the Joint communication on accreditation of NMIs slightly updated and survey on its use presented.

**ILAC ARC** - The meetings were focused on the maintenance of ILAC P4 and ILAC P5 and ILAC R6 which respectively deals with MRA Policy & Management; MRA Scopes & Obligations; and MRA & Procedure for expansion of scope of ILAC arrangement. The 3 documents were reviewed and the summary of comments were presented but comments around “Sampling” received could not be addressed during the meeting as it need face to face meeting. The matter will be referred to ILAC AIC as Sampling is part of the Conformity Assessment activity and do not need a separate MRA; the publication of ILAC P8 revised (Use of accreditation symbol) which was published on 31 March 2019 with the agreed one-year implementation date, March 2020; the revision of ILAC G21 (Cross Frontier accreditation – principles for cooperation) taking into account the view of a legal opinion and that the revision should be considered as a policy. The objective is to have a Policy on non-competition and a policy can be established regarding cooperation between ILAC MRA Signatories carrying out assessments in economies other than their own. It was concluded that the document will be presented to ILAC EXCO then sent to ARC members for comments.

Discussions were held on the participation of ILAC and IAF at the three meetings of ISO/CASCO WG 23 held in September 2017, February 2018 and November 2018 during which ISO/CASCO reviewed QS-CAS-PROC/33, CASCO standards (Rules on balloting and commenting CASCO Standards; process of exemption of one common element, issue on language); and CASCO common elements (impartiality, confidentiality, appeals, complaints, competence and Management systems. All comments received were reviewed in March 2019 and the final documents will be discussed at the next meeting to be held in September 2019.

Following the publication of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and comments received, it was also discussed to reconsider and evaluate the need of the Management of Extraordinary Events in light of the risk-based approach which is already part of the international standards documents. It was questioned if there was a need for a common IAF/ILAC document for extraordinary events or to consider extraordinary events for regional group. To this regard it was proposed to have Workshop in Beijing meeting to share information on this topic.

**ILAC IC** - The meeting was mainly focused on the revision of ILAC P15 – Application of ISO/IEC 17020 for the accreditation of inspection bodies. The amendments to ILAC P15 were mainly changes in Annex 1 and 2, examples included, additional guidance, and editing (rewording). The document will be circulated for comments and the final review of ILAC P15 will be held in October 2019 at the next ILAC meetings.

Some ISO/CASCO Documents were also mentioned:
- Common elements for which members were referred to AIC meeting report;
- Greenhouse gases 14065 for which members were referred to ISO/CASCO report)
- Validation and Verification: ISO 17029
- Revised ISO/IEC 17000 – soon to be circulated for comments.
Discussions were also held on the Frequent Ask Questions (FAQ): Disclaimer published on website, Procedure for handling FAQ presented; Committee to respond to questions (rules, representatives) and the answer will be discussed at the next meeting.

A Workshop on impartiality and risk analysis will be arranged in October 2019. Members were therefore requested to submit cases which will be discussed by different groups. From this workshop it is expected to have a documentation for future use by accreditation bodies, which can be part of FAQs with answers.

The 17th Eastern and Southern Africa Laboratory Managers Association (E-SALAMA) Annual Training Workshop and Conference was held at the University of Botswana main campus from 10 to 14 June 2019.

The annual conference was hosted by BOLAMA, the Botswana chapter of E-SALAMA. The theme for the training workshop and conference was “Leadership and Management; Key Drivers for Competent Technical Services Towards Innovation and Sustainable Knowledge-based Economy.”

The training and conference were attended by about 60 participants from Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Zimbabwe. The training workshops conducted from 10-11 June 2019 were geared towards training laboratory managers and practitioners in the member countries to achieve best operating practices, standardization and accreditation of their laboratories. The first 3 days were practical Laboratory training in the state-of-the-art University of Botswana laboratories in an array of areas and topics ranging from Biosafety, emergency response planning in testing laboratories, Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), Glassblowing, records Management, Biosafety, Analytical Instruments preventive Maintenance, inventory Management to name but a few.

The ESALAMA conference which was held from 12 to 14 June 2019 was graced by the Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry (Botswana represented by Mrs Masego B Marobela, the Managing Director of Botswana Bureau of Standards. Mrs Marobela gave the key-note address. The official opening by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Tertiary Education Research Science and Technology Dr Theophilus Mooko. In her key note address, the Permanent Secretary emphasized on the need to embrace technology, standardization and accreditation of laboratories to assure customer and stakeholder competence, training and development of the laboratory workforce in support as drivers of knowledge-based economies.

SADCAS was invited as stakeholder and a networking partner to give a presentation relating to Accreditation. Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the Scheme Coordinator for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme represented SADCAS and gave 2 presentations on:

- SADCAS – Delivering Confidence and Assuring Competency; and
- SADCAS accreditation costs.
The 2 presentations covered SADCAS background, its mandate, governance, SADCAS milestones and the future prospects. The presentation on accreditation costs sought to address the notion and belief that accreditation costs, particularly SADCAS accreditation fees are high. The presentation gave a breakdown of SADCAS fee structure, strategies employed to maintain competitiveness of SADCAS fees such as using locally based assessors to reduce travel costs and using multi-skilled assessors to minimize the numbers of assessors in a team.

The presentations evoked a lot of interest and discussions especially pertaining to the accreditation process and the accreditation cost. There were a lot of very fruitful discussions and presentation of papers and research finding by academics from member countries.

The next ESALAMA conference is planned for December 2019 at a date and venue to be advised.

Phase 2 PTB Germany Project Kicks Off

SADCAS secured funding from PTB Germany for capacity development of testing laboratories from the pharmaceutical sector in 8 SADC Member States namely: DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Phase 1 of the project which took place in Malawi, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zimbabwe ended 30 June 2019. Phase 2 of the project started in June 2019 and will run until 31 December 2019. Phase 2 of the project will run in DRC, Madagascar, Namibia and Zambia. Selection of the participating laboratories has already been undertaken and scheduling of the training courses is underway with the first course scheduled to be held in September and the rest by 30 November 2019.

The objective of the project is to train management and staff of testing laboratories involved in the pharmaceutical sector including the drug regulatory authority on ISO/IEC 17025: 2017: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, the key accreditation standards applicable to testing laboratories including those which operate in the pharmaceutical sector in order to prepare them for accreditation. Thus, contribute to the strengthening of regulatory as well as manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical processing sector and enhance the competitiveness and integration into the world markets. The training programme comprises of two training courses, a one-day awareness course on ISO/IEC 17025 followed by an intensive five days’ ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, implementation and internal auditing course.

The pharmaceutical sector which develops, produces, and markets drugs/medicinal plant materials for use as medications is identified in the SADC Industrial Policy as one of the priority sectors for development in selected value chains. Within this sector accreditation plays a key role from research to production of medicines and in strengthening the regulatory capacity. Accreditation which is the process of providing recognition that an organization/person is competent to undertake specific tasks is now widely accepted as a transparent and nondiscriminatory means of assuring technical competence of testing/certification/inspection collectively known as conformity assessment service providers. This training came at an opportune time as efforts are underway to strengthen the region’s conformity assessment infrastructure as part of the industrialization strategy.

Based on the successful outcomes of the Phase 1 of the project i.e. in creating awareness on the need and importance of accreditation and imparting the necessary knowledge and skills to laboratory staff from this very important SADC developmental sector, in order for the trained staff to go and implement ISO/IEC 17025 in their laboratories and to monitor compliance thereof, SADCAS is optimistic of achieving Phase 2 outcomes.

Accreditation: Accredited once, accepted Everywhere
The Business Benefits of Standards and Accreditation

There are many cases where standards and accredited conformity assessment help businesses of any size and sector reduce costs, increase productivity and access new markets. They can help to:

- Build customer confidence that your products are safe and reliable
- Meet regulation requirements, at a lower cost
- Reduce costs across all aspects of your business
- Gain market access across the world

Business Benefits [www.business-benefits.org](http://www.business-benefits.org) is a website jointly developed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), ILAC, International Organization for Standards (ISO), Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), and International Certification Network (IQNet), that showcases these benefits through case studies, research papers, and supporting materials. The examples published on the site cite tangible financial data to evidence the cost savings achieved whether through resource efficiency or meeting regulation at lower cost, the value of accessing new markets, or savings achieved through recognition from organisations such as insurers, regulators or purchasers. The site contains case studies from multinationals such as IBM, Chrysler, and Hitachi to national companies such as Aberdare Cables and Pretoria Portland Cement Company.
Under the Eye of AFRAC Peer Evaluator

Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS)

I am a holder of a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences Honours Degree from the University of Zimbabwe, with more than 12 years of Clinical diagnostic experience including more than 5 years of supervisory experience. I also hold certificates in internal auditing and Quality Management Systems based on ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189 from BOBS and SADCAS.

Prior to qualification and registration with SADCAS, I went through the Technical Assessing Techniques course based on ISO 15189 in 2015. Subsequently, I went through further assessor training and monitoring with SADCAS before qualifying as a Technical Assessor for the Medical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme in 2017.

Up to date, I have conducted 12 assessments on behalf of SADCAS, one of which was under the eye of AFRAC and ILAC peer evaluators. SADCAS, as an AB, is recognized by AFRAC and ILAC. The purpose of the peer evaluation was to establish confidence whether SADCAS is reliable and competent to deliver services according to standards or normative documents. It was a great pleasure for me to have been part of the assessment team under evaluation/witnessing by AFRAC/ILAC peer evaluators. When SADCAS asked me to take part in that particular assessment, mentioning that at the same time SADCAS will be undergoing peer evaluation, I gladly accepted the assignment. I took the peer evaluation as an opportunity to identify areas for improvement as far as my assessment skills are concerned. In as much as the aim of the peer evaluation was to establish the competence of the accreditation body as a whole, in my opinion, the competence of the accreditation body is a function of the total competence of each individual team member. As such, the experience was an opportunity to get feedback on my individual performance as an assessor. The lessons learnt in the process have definitely helped in improving my assessment skills.

Thank you all at SADCAS for the great opportunity; it was quite a great experience!

Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS)

On the 2nd day 28 May 2019, the AFRAC peer evaluators Messrs Gbaguidi and Koolwont and Mrs Pinkie Malebe travelled to Bindura, Zimbabwe for the witnessing of the SADCAS assessment; this is where the SADCAS assessors are observed conducting an assessment by the peer evaluators to evaluate if the assessment is done in line with the SADCAS procedures and the requirements of the standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017. I was the Team Leader for the assessment and the Technical Assessor was Mr Paul Kavul from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The facility is a mineral testing laboratory for a mine in Bindura, Zimbabwe.

As the Scheme Coordinator and SADCAS Team Leader for TLAS, my Scheme was evaluated; the peer evaluators conducted an office evaluation on 27 May 2019, reviewing documents and files and verifying alignment and implementation of the SADCAS management system to the requirements of the revised ISO/IEC 17011:2017. Being my first experience to be peer evaluated and directly responsible for ensuring maintenance of SADCAS international recognition, it was a nerve wrecking experience prior to the evaluation due to the anxiety regarding what could go wrong.
Knowing that we had been working hard throughout and ensuring compliance with all the applicable requirements, the office evaluation went much better than I had expected.

Being an initial assessment, the assessment was conducted over 2 days; 29-30 May 2019 with myself Mrs Malebe as the Team Leader, Mr Paul Kavul as the Technical Assessor for the Chemical analysis scope. The 2 AFRAC evaluators served as observers. The assessment was conducted as planned under the watchful eyes of the Peer evaluators. The on-site assessment or witnessing was not a problem even though we had the peer evaluators observing the entire process and “taking notes”. The experience in conducting the assessments assisted a great deal as I conducted the assessment as usual. At times I even forgot I was under observation.

The peer evaluators were calm and didn’t interfere with the assessment process hence made the entire process comfortable for the assessors and their presence was not felt that much. After the closing meeting on day 2 of the assessment (30 May 2019), the peer evaluators gave us (the assessment team) feedback. The team travelled back to the SADCAS office in Gaborone, Botswana for a wrap up of the evaluation and closing while Mr Paul Kavul travelled back to DRC.

Overall it was a great experience for me to be fully involved and accountable in a peer evaluation; the anxiety was there initially but all went well. We are looking forward to the next AFRAC visit in 2023.

**Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS)**

In May 2019 in Zimbabwe, the SADCAS assessment team for the Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (IBAS) was witnessed by the AFRAC peer evaluation team as part of the re-evaluation of SADCAS to maintain international recognition of its IBAS which was originally achieved in 2017.

I was part of the assessment team that was witnessed during a periodic on-site assessment of an accredited inspection body in Zimbabwe which is accredited in the scopes “In-service” and “manufacturing” of pressure vessels/boilers. In that assessment team I was a Technical Assessor.

The peer evaluation experience was edifying. The AFRAC peer evaluation witnessing process was to be germane, candid and earnest and served as an essential tool for continuous improvement of the assessment process.

**Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (IBAS)**

SADCAS Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) was re-evaluated by AFRAC from the 27th of May to the 1st of June 2019. This coincided with the evaluation of scope extension to the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme for Management Systems (CBAS-MS), and came on the heels of my assumption of duty as SADCAS Scheme Coordinator on the 1st of April 2019. What would have otherwise been a baptism of fire turned out to be an opportunity for an intensive induction into my new role in accreditation at SADCAS. I was going to be under the eye of an AFRAC peer evaluator both as a Scheme Coordinator for CLAS and as a Technical Assessor for one of the periodic on-site assessments sampled for witnessing.

The hat I wore first was that of Scheme Coordinator. Having reviewed the Peer Evaluation programme I decided to focus on the identified clauses of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and relevant ILAC documents to which the Peer evaluator was assigned the lead responsibility of evaluating requirements and writing up findings. These included, as a minimum, the process requirements, ILAC P10 and ILAC P14. Areas that peer evaluator was expected to contribute with relevant information also received appropriate attention from the SADCAS CLAS representatives. Preparations included ensuring that records were up to date, fully indexed and filed in their appropriate locations and that evidence was readily available and easily retrievable to demonstrate implementation. The evaluation at SADCAS’ offices was
undertaken during the morning of the 27th of May, prior to the witnessing of assessments and also during the morning of the 1st of June, after the witnessing activities.

The witnessing of the facility I was assigned was undertaken on the 30th of May in Blantyre, Malawi. For that I had to wear another hat of the Technical Assessor: Mass Metrology. I had a welcome breather on the 28th of May as the peer evaluator had to travel to Eswatini to witness another assessment of an accredited calibration laboratory. Prior to the witnessing, I had to remind myself to stay calm. Panic would be my worst enemy as that could negatively impact on my performance and compromise on the ability to demonstrate the expertise, the quality and thoroughness of the assessment, knowledge of and adherence to procedures. I remembered an expression my team leader had once used at a previous assessment that I was attending as a monitor for another technical assessor. She had introduced me to the facility as “a fly on the wall”, whose presence should not be of bother. In other words, one should adopt a “business as usual” approach.

I was fortunate that I had to travel with the peer evaluator, as we had to catch the same flight connection from Johannesburg to Blantyre. It provided an opportunity to warm up to his presence, under the circumstances. I got to understand and appreciate his religious and cultural values, and his vast knowledge and experience in another part of the world. We chatted at ease.

The assessment witnessed was at a facility at which I was previously a team member during the initial assessment of that facility, fortunate enough to have a very experienced and knowledgeable Team Leader. Subsequently I had attended to the on-site clearance of findings for the facility. I was thus comfortable with the task at hand, though I could not shrug off the nervousness completely.

A SADCAS representative I was alert to information that may be donated by the peer evaluator. My understanding of the overall objective of the peer evaluation is about demonstration of conformity and competence and confirmation of the equivalence of SADCAS’ processes and systems to those of other ILAC-MRA signatories. It was no surprise then that the peer evaluator adopted a more friendly approach that facilitated exchange of information. During the witnessing it became apparent that the peer evaluator was not going to be a nuisance, as he indeed behaved like a “fly on the wall”. The downside to that was that he hardly gave any feedback during the witnessing. He finally did so upon return to the office, to which time he remarked that he was very impressed by the manner in which we conducted the assessment. By then I had to wear the hat of the Scheme Coordinator again.

Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme—Management System (CBAS-MS)

As a SADCAS Technical Assessor, I had an opportunity to undertake an assessment at one of the Management Systems Certification Bodies (CB) under the eye of an AFRC peer evaluator. This was part of SADCAS’ expansion of its international recognition to the main scope Management systems ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the sub-scope quality management system. As the saying goes “Iron sharpens iron”, and I can reflect the good memories of the assessment and feedback given by the Peer Evaluator after the assessment. Learning never ends and this peer evaluation provided a platform to sharpen my skills. The peer evaluation took place from 28-29 May 2019.

To undertake effective assessments, it is key that an assessor has good depth knowledge of ISO/IEC 17011, the Accreditation Body’s policies and procedures and requirements of other normative documents such as IAF MDs 5, 17 etc, the management system(s) that the CB is applying. It was pleasing to note that the peer evaluator expressed satisfaction with the way that we undertook the assessment and the conclusions made. As a Technical Assessor, one has to work under the guidance of the Team Leader and this is key to ensure that the objectives of the assessment are met. I am very much grateful in that I worked with a very experienced Team Leader who provided the necessary guidance and support for me to carry out my technical duties effectively.

This peer evaluation brought learning points in the following areas:

- Witnessing of audits should be planned and undertaken in line with requirements of IAF MD 17.
- Documentation evaluation should be a thorough process so that nonconformities relating to documentation are avoided or minimised during the onsite assessment.
I am also grateful to the CB’s personnel who were corporative throughout the assessment process which made us to conclude the assessment as per the set timeframes. Not to go without mentioning the SADCAS administrative personnel who worked behind the scenes in arranging everything necessary for the assessment and peer evaluation to sail smoothly.

Having gone through this process, I am greatly motivated to undertake more assessments and play my part in SADCAS attaining international recognition to accredit CBs. I look forward to be part of peer evaluators in future the necessary guidance and support for me to carry out my technical duties effectively.

**Publication of Issue 2, SADCAS F 121: Compliance to SADCAS Policy on Metrological Traceability**

This serves to announce the revision and publication of **Issue 2 of SADCAS F 121: Compliance to SADCAS Policy on Metrological Traceability** which was published on 02 July 2019.

This document has been revised to ensure that assessors record adequate information on metrological traceability during SADCAS assessments as required in **SADCAS TR 09: Criteria for Performing Calibration and Intermediate Checks on Equipment used in Accredited Facilities**.

SADCAS F 121 applies to all SADCAS accredited facilities and SADCAS Assessors.

SADCAS F121 was revised by SADCAS Scheme Coordinator - Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) and approved by the SADCAS Technical Manager.

The published document is available on the SADCAS website: [http://www.sadcas.org/compliance-metrological-traceability](http://www.sadcas.org/compliance-metrological-traceability)

**Publication of Issue 2, SADCAS TR 14**

This serves to announce the publication of Issue 2 of SADCAS TR 14: SADCAS Policy- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition. This document provides for the application of ILAC **Resolution GA 20.15** on transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The revised version of the document was published on 10 July 2019.

SADCAS TR 14 applies to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accredited Testing/Calibration laboratories and Testing/Calibration laboratories whose applications are under process. SADCAS Assessors are to re-familiarize with the policy as they evaluate the transition of accredited laboratories.

Clause 2.4.2 of the document was amended to clarify the implication to facilities if they do not comply with the new version of standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by **31 July 2020**.

Clause 2.4.3 further clarifies action to be taken by SADCAS if facilities do not satisfactorily clear nonconformities raised against the new version of standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by **30 November 2020**.

SADCAS TR 14 was prepared by SADCAS Technical Manager and approved by the SADCAS CEO.

SADCAS undertakes internal audits, as scheduled, in order to determine and monitor compliance of its quality management system (QMS) with ISO/IEC 17011, determine the suitability and whether the QMS is effectively implemented and maintained and to identify opportunities for improvement. Following the revision of ISO/IEC 17011 the international standard that SADCAS has to comply with in order to be internationally recognized and noting the revision of ISO 19011 the international standard which provides guidelines for auditing management systems, SADCAS organized an internal auditing training course which was successfully held from 2 to 4 April 2019, at Woodlane Hotel, Riverwalk, Gaborone, near the SADCAS Offices. The training course was very ably facilitated by Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb.

The main objective of the training was to develop a diverse pool of qualified and competent internal auditors, knowledgeable in accreditation that would undertake SADCAS internal audits in an independent, impartial and objective manner, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011:2017, ISO 19011, SADCAS policies and procedures and all ILAC/IAF interpretations thereof. The training course was attended by 8 SADCAS staff including 2 new staff, 6 locally based assessors and one NAFP- Botswana.

The training covered an overview of ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 requirements zooming into the internal audit requirements in ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 and the importance and purpose of internal audit and the internal audit reference documents. This was followed by the elaboration of the internal audit process covering all the stages of the audit process from developing the audit program, planning for the audit, performing the audit through to preparation & distribution of the audit report and corrective action and follow up. Auditor competence audit documents were also covered during the course and so were useful lessons from internal audits.

The training course was interspaced with case studies on each of the topics of the course. These case studies were done in groups with each group presenting on their work. This made the course very interactive and very active. An examination was administered to all trainees at the end of the training, in order to qualify them as SADCAS internal Auditors.

The training of SADCAS internal auditors marks a significant milestone in SADCAS’ implementation of the revised ISO/IEC 17011:2017 international standard on accreditation. The internal audits will be undertaken by qualified personnel, chosen from a broad pool of auditors that will ensure that each auditor is independent of the area audited, i.e. no auditor shall audit his/her own work.
Mr Victor Rodreck Mundembe has been appointed Scheme Coordinator and joined SADCAS in April 2019. He brings to SADCAS over 20 years’ experience in Scientific, Industrial and Legal Metrology and related conformity assessment and accreditation activities. Mr Mundembe holds a BSc Honours Degree in Physics (with book prize) and a BSc General Degree in Maths and Physics from the University of Zimbabwe and certificates in Quality Management Systems and Internal Auditing based on ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17020 from SANAS and SADCAS.

Mr Mundembe a Trainee peer evaluator, is also a registered Technical Assessor under the Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme and has participated in over 28 assessments on behalf of SADCAS and the Mauritius Accreditation Service.

Mr Mundembe started his career as an Industrial Metrologist at Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre – National Metrology Institute (SIRDC-NMI), Zimbabwe and progressed to Head of Temperature Metrology Laboratory and Head of Quality Assurance in an occupation that lasted 12 years. He joined the Namibian Standards Institution in 2010 as Manager: Metrology, a position he held until 2018.

In his capacity as a SADCAS Scheme Coordinator, Mr Mundembe is responsible for coordinating the following accreditation schemes in order to achieve SADCAS strategic targets:
- Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS)
- Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS)
- Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme – Management Systems (CBAS – MS)
- Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme – Product (CBAS – Prod)
- Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS)

In his capacity as Scheme Coordinator, Mr Mundembe is responsible for coordinating and managing all accreditation applications received under CLAS, IBAS, CBAS-MS, CBAS-Prod and LMAS, planning and conducting assessments based on ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO/IEC 17021-1, ISO/IEC 17065 standards and SADCAS, ILAC, IAF and relevant legal requirements. Mr Mundembe is also responsible for implementing action plans from the SADCAS Strategic Plan.

Mr Mundembe is married to Chiratidzo and they are blessed with a son and two daughters.

SADCAS welcomes Mr Mundembe to a dedicated hardworking team of staff and look forward to his contribution in growing SADCAS in line with its strategy.

Mr Xavier Mugari has been appointed SADCAS Quality Manager and joined SADCAS in May 2019. He brings a wealth of experience in establishing, implementing and managing quality systems. Mr Mugari holds Master of Business Administration Degree (UNZA), Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences Honours Degree (UZ), Diploma in Quality Management (Ireland) and Certificate in Total Quality Management (UNISA).

Mr Mugari a trainee Peer Evaluator, is also a registered Assessment Team Leader under the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) where he has participated in over 41 assessments. Having undergone Technical Assessor training in 2009 under the SADC/EU EDF 9 programme, Mr Mugari was subsequently qualified then registered as Technical Assessor for MLAS. He holds certificates in Internal Auditing based on ISO/IEC 19011, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 15189 from SADCAS and SANAS.

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In his capacity as Quality Manager, Mr Mugari is responsible for coordinating and managing SADCAS Quality Management System (QMS) and ensure that it complies with requirements of ISO/IEC 17011, AFRAC, SADCA, ILAC and IAF in order to maintain the international recognition of SADCAS. Prior to joining SADCAS, Mr Mugari worked as a Consultant at the Clinical & Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI).

Mr Mugari is married to Vongai and they have 4 children.

SADCAS welcomes Mr Mugari to a hardworking and dedicated team of staff and look forward to his contribution in growing SADCAS in line with its strategy.

SADCAS Staff Attend AFRAC Training for Peer Evaluators

SADCAS staff and trainee Peer Evaluators Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo - Technical Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari, Quality Manager and Mr Victor Rodreck Mundembe, Scheme Coordinator attended another Peer Evaluator Training held from 27 to 28 April 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The training was held prior to the 2019 AFRAC mid-term meetings, in conjunction with the ISO/CASCO meetings that were hosted by Kenya Accreditation System (KENAS) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS). The training workshops which were very ably facilitated by Engineer Mahmoud Eltayeb and sponsored by PTB Germany were attended by a total of 18 AFRAC Peer Evaluators and Trainee Peer Evaluators. The training was on Risk Management in accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) and on AFRAC decision making procedures and peer evaluators guide.

The training on Risk Management in Accreditation of CABs covered the following areas:

- Review of key aspects of risk management;
- Risk-based thinking in different accreditation standards;
- Common understanding of the outcome of the risk management process; and
- Review of the possible tools used by Peer Evaluators to evaluate the accreditation body’s ability to address risks and opportunities in its operations and to assess the CAB’s ability to address their own risks and opportunities.

The training on AFRAC Decision Making Procedures covered the following AFRAC documentation:

- Policies and Procedures for an Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) among accreditation bodies (ABs);
- Structure of the MRA and Procedure to Extend the Arrangement;
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- Task Force Group Review of Evaluations - Evaluation Summary Report and Recommendations to the MRA Council;
- Checklist for Peer Evaluation;
- Procedure for the Selection of Peer Evaluators;
- Evaluation Program Template;
- Evaluation opening and closing meeting agendas;
- Attendance register; and
- Performance Log for Team Member

In the final part of the training the Facilitator walked participants through the Peer Evaluators' guide. The guide enables the harmonization of the work of AFRAC evaluators during the evaluation process including preparing, planning and conduct of the evaluations in a consistent and equivalent manner. It can also be used by accreditation bodies that are subject to these evaluations by AFRAC evaluation teams against the AFRAC MRA requirements for acceptance as a signatory to the AFRAC MRA.

The training workshops were interspaced with group discussions making them highly interactive. Besides being informative and empowering, the training workshops demystified the concept of risk-based thinking which has been introduced to the accreditation processes developed by accreditation bodies and in all accreditation standards. The workshops further gave guidance on the revised AFRAC policies, procedures and forms used in decision making and comprehensively discussed the AFRAC Peer Evaluators Guide.

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**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  
SADCAS  
P Bag 00320  
Gaborone, Botswana  
Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org
The Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation’s Building Materials Science Division (BITRI BMSD) has been accredited by SADCAS in the scopes: Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. The BITRI BMSD is the 19th conformity assessment body in Botswana, the 5th civil engineering and 2nd mechanical engineering testing laboratory in the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS, to be accredited by SADCAS. Through this accreditation, the BITRI Building Materials Science Division has been granted the unique accreditation numbers TEST-3 0005 and TEST-6 0002. The accreditation which covers the testing laboratory located at Maranyane House, Plot 50654, Machel Drive, here in Gaborone, Botswana is for a number of test methods namely: Determination of compressive strengths of concrete (0 – 3000 kN) according to BOS 27 using cube press; and Determination of tensile strength of steel according to ASTM E8/E8M. The certificate which was issued on 3 April 2019 is valid until 30 November 2020 the transition deadline for the 2005 version of ISO/IEC 17025, the international standard that BITRI BMSD has been accredited to.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 4 June 2019 at the BITRI Offices in Gaborone Botswana. The Director Research and Partnerships, Dr Bathsheba Mbongwe gave the welcome remarks and introduced the guests. This was followed by a speech by Dr Esau Masuku, Lead Researcher in the BMSD who chronicled the accreditation pathway followed from the operationalization of the BMSD to accreditation of this important Division of BITRI.
Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer noted that the initial assessment of BITRI BMSD was undertaken by a team of 3 assessors over 2 days from 30 to 31 January 2018 and involved the assessment of 3 Technical Signatories for each method. The team was led by a Motswana, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for the testing laboratories accreditation scheme under which BITRI has been accredited. Although it took BITRI BMSD 3 years to work towards and achieve accreditation, Mrs Mutasa applauded the Division for being the fastest conformity assessment body to address findings and be accredited within 2 months of the initial assessment. Noting that BITRI BMSD had been accredited to the 2005 version of ISO/IEC 17025, Mrs Mutasa reminded the Laboratory about the publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025, the international standard that the Laboratory has been accredited to and encouraged the Laboratory to embark on transition noting that the deadline for transition to the 2017 version of the standard is November 2020.

In his acceptance speech Professor Masupe, the Chief Executive Officer of BITRI was excited over the achievement and thanked the BMSD Management and staff for the achievement which he said was ground breaking being the first research laboratory to be accredited in this scope. He informed the audience about the plans of having all the BITRI laboratories accredited so as to have confidence and reliability of the results churned out by BITRI.

The BITRI was established in 2012 with the mandate of identifying, developing and/or adapting appropriate technology solutions that provides sustainable innovative solutions through co-creation and collaboration in line with national priorities and needs of Batswana. The Institute is currently working on a number of projects including the investigation of the potential of local raw materials for the production of Portland cement clinker which is being done by the BMSD. Other projects include mineral beneficiation, use of ethanol as domestic fuel, developing diagnostics kits for detection of foot and mouth disease a project which BITRI are working with the Botswana Vaccine Institute and the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory, pasteurization filters for use in hospitals etc. Testing is at the core of BITRI services as a research institute. The BITRI Building Materials Science Division alone covers a wide range of technical disciplines including aggregate testing, durability testing of concrete products, physical property testing of cement and metals. ISO/IEC 17025 is the international standard that testing laboratories have to comply with in order to be accredited.

The vote of thanks was given by Professor Asare who confidently declared, with the enhanced confidence realised from accreditation, that BITRI was open for business. After the vote of thanks guests were treated to a cocktail party to celebrate the achievement. The SADCAS CEO was accompanied to the ceremony by Mrs Pinkie Malebe and Ms Linda Di-rorimwe from the SADCAS Corporate Unit.
The Municipal Council of Mbabane’s Laboratory has been accredited by SADCAS in the scope: Microbiological Analysis. The accreditation which covers the testing laboratory located at Civic Offices, Mohlokohla Street, Mbabane, Eswatini is for a number of test methods namely: Determination of Fecal Coliforms in water; Determination of Fecal Streptococci in water; and Determination of Escherichia Coli and Total coliforms in water. Through this accreditation, the Municipal Council of Mbabane’s Laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation number TEST-1 0017. The certificate which was issued on 30 March 2019 is valid until 30 November 2020 the transition deadline for the 2005 version of ISO/IEC 17025, the international standard that RSSC has been accredited to.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 17 June 2019 at the Civic Offices in Mbabane, Eswatini. The ceremony was held to celebrate the re-certification of the Municipal Council of Mbabane to ISO 9001: 2015 by TUV Rheinland and accreditation of the Municipal Council Laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 by SADCAS. The guest of honour was his Royal Highness Prince Simelani Dlamini, the Minister of Urban Housing and Development who was represented at the ceremony by Mrs Lomakhosi Dlamini the Under Secretary from the Ministry. The ceremony which was directed by Ms Siphelele Kwanyana, the Assistant Information and Public Relations Officer of the Municipal Council Mbabane started off with opening remarks by Mr Gideon Mhlongo, the Chief Executive Officer of Municipal Council Mbabane. In his opening remarks the CEO informed guests about the reason why the Laboratory had embarked on the journey towards accreditation and shared with guests the journey that the Laboratory had travelled culminating with the achievement of accreditation. “Getting to the top is not as tough as maintaining accreditation and certification” he warned his staff not to be complacent but to continue to work hard not only to maintain the accreditation and certification but for continuous improvement in service delivery. He then introduced His Worship Counsellor S Dube, the Mayor of Mbabane who took to the podium and gave his address.

In his address His Worship the Mayor of Mbabane Municipal Council informed the guests of the Council’s recently adopted a 5-year integrated development plan (IDP) which is the roadmap for the Council for the next five years. The IDP has 7 development pillars namely: environmental sustainability; effective infrastructure development; integrated public transport system; safety and security; sustainable development; effective governance and responsiveness; financial sustainability. In line with the IDP, Mbabane Council adopted the vision becoming a world class city offering quality life and opportunities for all. It is through this vision that the Council has committed to work tirelessly to ensure that Mbabane is a safe place with good infrastructure and service delivery mechanism.

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Accreditation and certification are a means of showcasing to the country and international community that Mbabane is a city offering quality life. Reducing air pollution and water pollution are an attempt to align to the UN SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, 13: Climate action and 15: Life on land. Council is cognizant that these systems will help Council meet customer expectations and continuous achievement. “They add value to the Council service delivery” he said. The Mayor noted that Mbabane is the 1st Council in Eswatini to achieve both certification to ISO 9001:2015 and accreditation of its Laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025: 2005. He noted that attaining these standards is a matter of pride, fruits of hard work and strengthens the Council to provide good service delivery. He commended the entire management and staff for the achievement. He concluded his speech by asking all to stand up and recite the Mbabane Team Spirit Council slogan “Pambili Mbabane Pambili, Pambili vision 22 Pambili, Pambili first world city status Pambili”. Literally translated into English says: Forward with Mbabane Forward, Forward with vision 22 forward, Forward with first world city status, forward”.

The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) Supervisor and Director within the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mrs Phindile Dlamini also gave some remarks during the ceremony and thanked UNIDO for the assistance provided to Municipal Council of Mbabane amongst other conformity assessment bodies to work towards accreditation. The TUV General Manager Systems Ms Nomsa Dlamini who certified Municipal Council of Mbabane also gave a speech during the ceremony.

In her speech and noting that the ceremony was to celebrate certification of the Municipal Council and accreditation of the Municipal Council Laboratory Mrs Mutasa explained the difference between accreditation and certification and highlighted the benefits of accreditation to the Laboratory, the Council and the nation as a whole. She then congratulated the Laboratory for the achievement which she attributed to the Council’s commitment, goal congruency, teamwork and good leadership. Noting that Municipal Council of Mbabane’s Laboratory had been accredited to the 2005 version of ISO/IEC 17025, Mrs Mutasa reminded the Laboratory about the publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 in November 2017 and encouraged the Laboratory to ensure timeous transition so as to maintain accreditation which the Council has worked so hard to achieve. She also encouraged the Laboratory to extend its scope of accreditation to those technical disciplines that they have not yet been accredited in.

In the remarks by His Royal Highness Prince Simelani Dlamini read on his behalf by the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Housing and Development, Mrs Lomakhosi Dlamini congratulated the Municipal Council of Mbabane for its commitment towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) of which
Eswatini is signatory to and in particular SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation and SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities. The accreditation and certification are concrete evidence of excellence in service delivery”, he said whilst concluding his remarks.

From Left to Right: Mrs Sybil Dlamini, Mrs Mutasa, Mrs Phindile Dlamini, Mr Gideon Mhlongo and Mrs Lomakhosi Dlamini

Mr Gideon Mhlongo proudly displays the accreditation certificate with Mrs Busangaye Masina Director Community Services and Laboratory Staff

Cleopatra playing country music

Traditional dancers

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The speeches were interspaced with country music played by Cleopatra an award winning country singer from Eswatini and traditional dancers showing off their skilfully dancing to the African drum beat. After the ceremony the invited guests toured the Laboratory. The main purpose of the Municipal Council of Mbabane’s Laboratory is to assess the quality of not only potable water but food amongst other products so as to ensure that safe food products and water are supplied to Mbabane residents and visitors. Water is an essential part of everyday life and clean water is a basic and crucial human rights issue. The key issues of concern with drinking water are whether the water is safe, free of pathogens, toxins and contaminants and in the case of bottled water issues of trust are being raised on the labelling of the water and the way bottled water is produced as well as the environment in which the water is produced and the origin of the water. She further noted that the Laboratory covers a wide range of technical disciplines including microbiology, chemical and physical tests on water and food samples. The laboratory also tests samples for other clients besides the Council.

Guests and Council Executive and Management then proceeded to the Mountain Inn for lunch. The handover ceremony was attended by about over 30 Mbabane Council Executive, management and staff, Manzini Council Management, Government Officials from the Ministry of Urban Housing and Development, the NAFPs-Eswatini and the media.

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Accreditation in Supporting Public Policy

The international accreditation organizations ILAC and IAF together with ISO and the Independent International Organization for Certification (IOIC) 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.
Revised Corrective Action Timelines

Following SADCAS Peer Evaluation conducted in 2017 feedback was given for SADCAS to consider reviewing the corrective action timelines for periodic on-site assessments. Peer evaluators considered the 3 months’ timelines given to address nonconformities raised from periodic on-site assessments to be too long, where the facilities are expected to have systems in place and able to timely manage their processes.

In considering the feedback from peer evaluations and in its endeavour to improve its processes, SADCAS reviewed baselines for corrective action timelines for both initial assessment and periodic onsite assessments. Information gathered indicated that some conformity assessment bodies (CABs) are still not able to meet the 3 months corrective action timelines for Initial assessments while for periodic on-site assessments the average time taken fall within 3 months.

In this regard that SADCAS has revised the corrective action timelines for periodic on-site assessments from 3 months (90 days) to 2 months (60 days) while the corrective action timeline for initial assessments remains at 3 months (90 days).

Please note that SADCAS TG 01 – Information for Organizations Applying for Accreditation has been revised to address the revised timelines. SADCAS F 61 C – Assessment Recommendation Report has been revised to differentiate the corrective action timelines for the different types of assessments. Reference is also made to SADCAS TG 04 – Guidance for Addressing and Clearing Nonconformities.

This communiqué serves to inform all accredited CABs to note and comply with the revised corrective action timelines for periodic on-site assessments of 2 months. All applicant CABs are to note and comply with the corrective action timeline for initial assessments of 3 months.

All assessors are reminded to communicate the revised corrective action timelines accordingly to the CABs during the assessments.

SADCAS Accredits Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation

The Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC)’s Agriculture Laboratory has been accredited by SADCAS in the scope: Chemical Analysis. The accreditation which covers the testing laboratory located at RSSC Mhlume Estate in Mhlume, Eswatini is for a number of test methods namely: Determination of mineral elements in plant leaf and irrigation water; Determination of electrical conductivity and pH in irrigation water; and Determination of brix and sucrose content in cane extract. The certificate which was issued on 26 March 2019 is valid until 30 November 2020 the transition deadline for the 2005 version of ISO/IEC 17025, the international standard that RSSC has been accredited to.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 13 June 2019 at the RSSC Country Club in Mhlume, Eswatini. The guest of honour was Honourable Senator Manqoba Khumalo, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry. The ceremony started off with the hoisting of the flag and opening of the Laboratory plaque followed by a tour of the laboratory.

After the tour of the laboratory, guests then proceeded to the Club where the rest of the ceremony was held. The RSSC General Manager Operations Mr Patrick Myeni gave the welcome remarks and outlined the key milestones in the journey towards accreditation. This was followed by words of appreciation by the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Eswatini Mrs Sthembiso Dlamini, who could not hide her excitement at the accreditation of RSSC Agricultural Laboratory and shared with guests how the NAFP with funding from Government had trained a number of laboratories from Swaziland, as part of national capacity development in the area of accreditation. The RSSC Agricultural Laboratory was one of the many laboratories trained in 2016 and had in just over 2 years worked towards and achieved accreditation of a number of test methods.
Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer noted that the RSSC Agriculture Laboratory provides analytical services to small and large-scale sugar cane growers in Eswatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Taiwan. In addition to sugar cane agriculture, the Laboratory also provides analytical services to other agricultural farmers for produce such as fruit, vegetables, forestry and many others. The RSSC Agriculture Laboratory services various key sectors such as cane production, distilleries, fertilizer manufacturers, academic and research. “Testing is at the very core of the RSSC Agriculture Laboratory’s services and ISO/IEC 17025 is the international standard that testing laboratories have to comply with in order to be accredited” Mrs Mutasa said. Accreditation which is the process by which an authoritative body i.e. SADCAS gives formal recognition that an organization/person is competent to carry out specific tasks involves the creation of confidence in the work carried by laboratories, certification and inspection bodies collectively known as conformity assessment bodies. “Accreditation enhances the confidence and trust in research results” she said.

In his speech Mr Nick Jackson, the Managing Director congratulated and thanked Mr Vusi Sibanyoni, the Laboratory Manager and his team for the achievement. He then articulated the importance of this achievement to the RSSC vision of being a leading and world class sugar Company and shared with delegates their plans to also work towards GLOBAL GAP certification.

In the keynote address the Minister, Honourable Senator Manqoba Khumalo congratulated the RSSC for the achievement. He highlighted the importance of the sugar industry to Eswatini’s economy contributing 80% of the national GDP whilst creating 30% of national employment. Apart from sugar, Eswatini also exports wood pulp, cotton, beef and soft
drink concentrates mainly to South Africa, South Africa followed by Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia and Norway. With the increasing globalization of markets, accreditation is critical to the trading process and in ensuring a level playing field for exports and at the same time ensuring that imports meet internationally recognized levels of quality, performance and safety. Eswatini has identified 5 key sectors for economic development and agriculture is the way to change the fortune of the country” he said. He then thanked the team at RSSC for working tirelessly to achieve this milestone and encouraged the Company to maintain its internationally recognized accreditation.

The vote of thanks was given by Ms Lungile Masango RSSC Head of Governance, Risk and Compliance after which everybody was invited to lunch. The ceremony was directed by Mr Sifiso Nyembe. The handover ceremony was attended by about over 40 RSSC management and staff, Government officials, NAFP-Eswatini, invited guests and the media. It was also an opportunity to discuss with the Honourable Minister about Eswatini’s contribution towards SADCAS sustainability for the period 2017 to 2022 with assurances from the Minister that he would give the matter his utmost attention. He expressed his Government’s appreciation of the services provided by SADCAS.

Malawi Bureau of Standards Trained on ISO/IEC 17025:2017

SADCAS was engaged by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) to provide training on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing course for Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) laboratory personnel. The training was held from 13 to 17 May 2019 at Malawi Sun Hotel – Blantyre, Malawi. Twenty participants from MBS Food Chemistry, General Chemistry, Instrumentation Support Services Unit (ISSU), Microbiology, Pesticides and Petrochemicals Laboratories attended the training. The group comprised of a laboratory head, laboratory personnel who had not received such training, including two administrators.

On day one, the training started off with registration from 08:00 to 08:30 which was administered by SADCAS. The opening was delayed awaiting the arrival of the MBS Director General – Mr Symon Mandala and Mr Chisale a Director in the Ministry of Trade. Mr Phillip Makhumula, Programme Coordinator from Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) was also present during the opening.
Mr Stephen Kuyeli, MBS Director Testing Services gave the welcome remarks and introduced the participants by indicating the respective laboratories where they came from. Mr Makhumula briefly outlined the role of GAIN in supporting Malawi’s compliance with the fortification programme for selected foods. He stated that GAIN sponsored the training course to enable the accreditation of MBS laboratories after a consultant’s report on testing capacity of Malawian laboratories.

During his opening speech the MBS Director General, Mr Mandala noted that the training followed the initiative being implemented under the food fortification programme where GAIN is assisting Malawi in building capacity to monitor food fortificants. He expressed hope that more laboratories of MBS would be accredited. On behalf of the Malawi Government, Mr Mandala thanked GAIN for funding the training. He also appreciated the efforts of SADCAS in organizing the training. Mr Mandala thanked the trainer for making himself available to facilitate the training for the second time. He encouraged the participants to work hard and to pass the examination at the end of the week.

On behalf of SADCAS the trainer thanked Malawi Bureau of Standards for the confidence they showed by choosing SADCAS to conduct the training and noting that this was after a similar training was held in Blantyre in September 2018. He also took the opportunity to congratulate MBS for achieving accreditation of their aflatoxin testing laboratory. He further advised the participants that the course would be intensive and urged them to be punctual and to take the group work and homework seriously.

The training started off with the pre-course quiz from 10:00 to 10:20 hours. This was followed with participants introductions and their expectations amongst which were to: improve skills and knowledge to implement ISO/IEC 17025:2017; improve skills in internal auditing; understand the management system requirements; understand the difference between ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017; understand the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 requirements; learn how to implement ISO/IEC 17025:2017; understand the link between management system auditing and policies; and how to implement the standard. Thereafter events proceeded according to the programme with the day ending at 17:00 hrs.
As for the rest of the days the training proceeded as per programme covering the following topics:

- Competence of a laboratory
- Structure of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard (New standard)
- Understanding ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard requirements
- Developing a suitable Quality Management System
- Understanding impartiality
- Basic understanding of method validation and uncertainty of measurement
- Basic understanding of process approach and risk based thinking
- Internal auditing tools, techniques and process
- Maintenance and improvement of a laboratory quality management system
- Accreditation process

On day five, the examination was administered from 13:10 to 14:45 hours after which participants completed the course evaluation forms.

In his closing remarks the trainer thanked the timekeeper, the hotel management & staff, Mrs Thoko Masiye and Mr Makhumula in absentia for their efforts during the SADCAS training course. He also thanked MBS for facilitating the printing of audit checklists. Lastly, the trainer thanked the participants for their active participation, sharing experiences and serious execution of the practical exercises. He wished them success in their efforts to achieve accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The training ended at 15:03 hours with a prayer led by Mr Harlord Hekere.
CIDRZ Trained on ISO 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing and Awareness Courses

In an effort to consolidate competent personnel in the laboratory the Centre for Infectious Disease and Research Institute in Zambia (CIDRZ) invited SADCAS to training their staff on the following courses:

- Five-day ISO 15189 Requirements, Implementation & Internal Auditing; and
- One-day ISO 15189 Awareness.

The training courses were held from 15 to 20 July 2019 at CIDRZ Conference Centre – Lusaka Zambia respectively.

**Five-day ISO 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing - 15 to 19 July 2019**

The training started with registration of all the participants followed with an introductory address from the Laboratory Director, Mr David Ojok, who welcomed the participants from CIDRZ, the Trainer and SADCAS Training Administrator Ms Linda Dirorimwe. The latter in her address elaborated on the importance of laboratory accreditation and on the growing interest in accreditation in developing countries. She added that CIDRZ has already been accredited and has requested this training to consolidate competent personnel in the laboratory. She thanked CIDRZ for showing commitment in providing better health care to the population. Ms Dirorimwe then introduced the SADCAS trainer Dr Hemraj, who in turn thanked the Laboratory Director and participants for their presence and for showing particular interest in the workshop. The trainer described briefly the structure of the course and added that the five-day course would be an intensive one but of which participants would benefit through interactive sessions whilst sharing their experience and knowledge.

This was followed by participants’ introductions who stated their expectations from the workshop amongst which were to:

- Know more about the ISO 15189 Standard and interpretation;
- Identify areas of improvement;
- Learn the standard requirements and auditing requirements, validation and measurement uncertainty; and
- Learn how to conduct internal audits for ISO 15189.

The training started off with an overview on accreditation, the benefits of accreditation and the difference between certification and accreditation. The Trainer elaborated on the important terms related to accreditation including quality, competency, quality management systems, policy, process and procedures as well as objectives and plans.

During the course of the week the training covered the following topics:

- Overview of accreditation
- ISO 15189 standard requirements i.e. management and technical requirements
- Internal auditing tools and techniques and processes
- Validation methods and procedures

Every day there were theoretical sessions interspaced with practical sessions where participants undertook exercises based on the standard requirements and internal auditing elements. A practical session was organized in which each participant was given an opportunity to carry out an internal audit based on their selected clauses from the checklist and to write down the nonconformities as necessary.

The examination for the five-day course was written on Friday, 19th July 2019 after a general revision on the main themes presented during the course of the week was carried out by the Trainer. All the participants passed the examination.
One-day ISO 15189 Awareness - 20 July 2019

On Saturday, the 20th July an awareness course was held at the same venue. Thirty participants from different departments attended the training. The opening remarks were given by the Quality Officer, Ms Namatama Simatele in the absence of the Laboratory Director who joined at a later stage.

This was followed by participants’ introductions indicating their respective function and what they expected from the course. The trainer explained briefly the course objectives and gave the programme outline. The Trainer went through the overview of accreditation vs. certification and outlined the benefits of accreditation. The worldwide trends in accreditation and the global accreditation structure were also discussed and this was followed by an overview on SADCAS.

The management and technical requirements of the ISO 15189:2012 standard were briefly described and discussed. In the last part, the SADCAS Accreditation process and the fee structure were also discussed.

A general discussion followed with a summary of main decisions reached.

Judged by the feedback from participants, the courses (including the awareness course) were well organized, very useful and met participants’ expectations. The objectives of the courses were met with all participants successfully passing the examination for the five-day course.

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
SADCAS
P Bag 00320
Gaborone, Botswana
Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org
Background

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) is a multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade. The primary purpose of SADCAS is to ensure that conformity assessment service providers operating in those SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to oversight by an authoritative, reliable and efficient body. SADCAS services the accreditation needs of 14 SADC Member States namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe, excluding South Africa and Mauritius who have fully operational and internationally recognized national accreditation bodies, South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) and Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS). Although Angola has launched its national accreditation body and Zambia has indicated its intention to establish a national accreditation body, both these national accreditation bodies are not yet operational hence conformity assessment bodies in these countries will continue to be serviced by SADCAS in the foreseeable future.

SADCAS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee under the Botswana Companies Act, 2003 (Act No. 32 of 2004). SADCAS is a subsidiarity Institution of SADC having been approved as such by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2007. The relationship between SADCAS and SADC is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on General Cooperation. SADCAS Headquarters are situated at Gaborone, Botswana.

The set up and operationalization of SADCAS was funded by the Norwegian Government to the tune of NOK 13 million in a 5-year project that ended in March 2012. In order to ensure continuity of SADCAS in the 2013/14 financial year, the Norwegian Government provided additional funds amounting to NOK 1.55 million.

SADCAS generates its own income from accreditation services and training on accreditation associated activities. SADCAS operational budget deficit is funded by the Governments of SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS. The contributions towards SADCAS sustainability are based on the accreditation market potential in those SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS.

SADCAS thrust has always been to reduce dependency on donor/government funding by increasing own earned income. Based on the projected income and expenditure the break-even point for total expenses is projected to be achieved after the strategic plan period in 2022/23. Refer to Figure 1. This is the basis upon which Governments agreed to funding SADCAS operational budget deficit.

The purpose of this Communiqué is to communicate and explain the basis of the SADCAS accreditation fee structure to stakeholders (internal and external) i.e. staff, assessors, trainers, Board members, National Accreditation Focal Points, accredited and applicant conformity assessment bodies. To conformity assessment bodies this communiqué is also designed to highlight that accreditation is an investment from which returns should be realized.

![Figure 1 - Break Even Analysis (2017-2022)](image-url)
As at 31 July 2019, SADCAS had cumulatively issued 128 accreditation certificates to 103 accredited facilities in 12 SADC Member States and one non-SADC country Ghana. At the same time SADCAS had 64 accreditation applications from 12 SADC Member States and one non-SADC country Cote d'Ivoire at the various stages of processing. SADCAS business is growing steadily not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of geographical, field and sectorial coverage. Dependency on donor/governments funding has been steadily reducing as operational income has been increasing. As at 31 March 2019 and based on audited financial statements dependency on Government funding was at 25%. Refer to Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Governments/Donor Dependency

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dependency</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SADCAS Fee Structure

The SADCAS fees are based on a cost recovery model in order to ensure clients meet the cost of the service provided to them. SADCAS fees are publicly available from the SADCAS website in SADCAS AP 02: SADCAS Service Fees. The fees are updated regularly.

The components of the SADCAS service fees are outlined in Table 1 and are based on an assessor unit which is one assessor per day. All travel and subsistence are billed at cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>The application fee is non-refundable and includes one document review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-assessment Fees</td>
<td>The rate is charged per assessor unit and is normally undertaken by one assessor over one day. Excludes travel costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Assessment Fees</td>
<td>Initial assessments are carried out by a minimum of two assessors, i.e. one Team Leader assessor and one technical assessor. Excludes travel costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Accreditation Fees</td>
<td>Charged annually based on the number of assessor units required to assess the facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope Extension Fees</td>
<td>The fees for scope extension are for the additional technical time required to cover the extended scope.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continued from p 45

Increases over the past 10 years

The increases effected over the past 10 years is as summarised in Table 2. The increases have been based on the inflationary levels for that period and also taking into account feedback from CABs on level of fees and the need for SADCAS fees to remain competitive bearing in mind the strategic intent.

Table 2 – Increases Effected over the Past 10 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategy to Maintain Competitive Fees

The following strategies have been put in place for SADCAS fees to remain competitive:

- **Locally based assessors** – Travel and subsistence currently constitutes 40% to 60% of the accreditation costs. Accreditation costs can be managed by using locally based assessors thus reducing the travel and to an extent subsistence costs. As at 31 July 2019 SADCAS had registered 39 Team Leaders; 116 technical assessors and 4 technical experts. Efforts are underway to develop the SADCAS pool of assessors so that they are locally based in order to minimize travel and subsistence costs of assessors and to also cover the language diversity.

- **Multi skilled assessors** – Use of multi skilled assessors in assessment teams so as to minimize the number of assessment teams’ members thus manage the travel costs. This strategy is being used especially under the MLAS.

- The introduction of **risk-based assessments concepts** in scheduling of assessments may result in the reduction of the number of periodic on-site assessments undertaken during a cycle as long as the interval is not more than 2 years.

- **Discounts** have been introduced for those organizations who have a group of CABs accredited by SADCAS.
Continued from p 46

- Increasing Clientele base
  - Promoting the benefits of accreditation and advocating for the use of accreditation in both the voluntary and regulatory areas so as to create the clientele base for SADCAS.
  - Training on accreditation matters so as to promote a thorough understanding of accreditation requirements.
  - Development of new accreditation schemes such as the Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme which is being explored during the 2019/20 financial year to create a clientele base.
  - Encouraging SADC Member States to develop technical assistance projects to develop CAB capacity in the area of accreditation. Projects such as the UNIDO project at regional level and bilateral projects, Trade Related Facility through which a number of countries have benefited on accreditation
  - Promoting achievement of signatory status in MRAs and working towards international recognition for the other schemes on offer that are not yet recognized.

Determining Cost of Accreditation

The cost of accreditation is based on the fee structure. The costs depends on a number of factors as follows:

- Scope(s) of accreditation;
- Number of parameters to be assessed;
- Number of personnel to be assessed;
- Travel & Subsistence of assessors; and
- Assessor fees.

When a quotation is accepted by conformity assessment body an invoice is issued. Payment shall be affected before any document review and assessment can be undertaken.

Terms and Conditions

Invoices are raised in BWP/USD and are due and payable in full. Terms of payment are 30 days from the date of invoice. All costs regarding transfer must be paid by the facility and must be communicated to their bank. Initial assessment fees must be fully paid before accreditation is granted. Annual fees are invoiced in April of each year and cover the period until 31 March of the following year. Accredited facilities that do not pay within 60 days or fail to make an arrangement to pay the annual fees will be placed on suspension. Failure to pay fees within the stipulated time shall result in accreditation being withdrawn. SADCAS accepts payments by bank cheque/bank drafts and electronic transfers. SADCAS Bank details are indicated on each raised invoice.

Conclusion

SADCAS fees are reviewed annually and at all the reviews serious considerations are given taking into account the need to maintain competitive fees. With the strategies in place to maintain competitive fees and taking into account the strategic intent to break even on operational costs the premise upon which Government funding was introduced, and further noting that the stage of development of SADCAS, SADCAS service fees are fairly priced to recover all direct and indirect costs associated with the service.

Accreditation is an investment and not a cost as it provides a number of benefits:

- It is a means of demonstrating competence to clients both internal and external
- It is a guarantee for reliable test results
- It increases reliability and quality of products
- It reduces costs associated with repetitive testing and lost time is minimized
- It is a global market requirement and enhances market access
- It facilitates trade and economic growth.
- which are showcased on these sites. The results from above studies do indicate that conformity assessment bodies are realizing increased business returns from accreditation.
Continued from p 47

The business benefits of standards and accreditation [https://business-benefits.org/] and the public sector assurance [https://publicsectorassurance.org/] websites jointly developed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), ILAC, International Organization for Standards (ISO), Independent International Organization for Certification (IIOC), and International Certification Network (IQNet), showcases these benefits through case studies, research papers, and supporting materials. SADCAS has submitted cases which are showcased on these sites. The results from above studies do indicate that conformity assessment bodies are realizing increased business returns from accreditation.

Maureen P Mutasa
Chief Executive Officer

Steven Bruce Sidney
SADCAS Board Chairman

Training on Validation/Verification of Methods and Measurement Uncertainty

SADCAS also offers training on Validation/Verification of Methods and measurement Uncertainty.

The objective of the Validation & Verification of Methods is to:

- Bring the participants from fundamental principles of descriptive statistics with the emphasis on hypothesis testing for the determination and verification of:
  - Trueness (Bias)
  - Precision
  - Linearity of calibration curves
  - Working Range
  - Selectivity/specificity
  - Ruggedness & Robustness
  - Sensitivity
  - Limit of Quantification
  - Limit of Detection

The objective of Measurement Uncertainty is to:

- Remove the mystique surrounding the concept of Measurement Uncertainty;
- Promote a practical methodology, based on GUM requirements to calculate measurement uncertainty over the working range of the method;
- Promote acceptable forms of expression of Measurement Uncertainty associated with any results.
- Create an understanding of the requirement of validation and verification and their respective applications in terms of both ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189
- Ability to design a validation or verification programme

Accreditation: Accredited once, accepted Everywhere
# Upcoming Training Courses 2019 to 31 March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Venue (Country/City)</th>
<th>Fees (BWP)</th>
<th>Fees (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>23 - 27 September 2019</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness</td>
<td>14 October 2019</td>
<td>Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness</td>
<td>14 October 2019</td>
<td>Lusaka, Zambia</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>15 – 19 October 2019</td>
<td>Lusaka, Zambia</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>15 - 19 October 2019</td>
<td>Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) October 2019</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) October 2019</td>
<td>Tanzania, Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>- 890</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>28 Oct – 01 Nov 2019</td>
<td>Botswana, Gaborone</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>28 Oct – 01 Nov 2019</td>
<td>Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>04 – 08 November 2019</td>
<td>Ongwediva, Namibia</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness</td>
<td>04 November 2019</td>
<td>Kinshasa, DRC</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>05 - 09 July 2019</td>
<td>Kinshasa, DRC</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness</td>
<td>11 November 2019</td>
<td>Antananarivo, Madagascar</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>12 – 16 November 2019</td>
<td>Antananarivo, Madagascar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) November 2019</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>9,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>11 – 15 November 2019</td>
<td>Zimbabwe, Harare</td>
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<td>ISO 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>(TBA) February 2020</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>9,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>10 - 13 February 2020</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
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<td>Namibia, Windhoek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) February 2020</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>09 - 13 March 2020</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To register for any of the above open courses please download SADCAS F 70 (b) - Training Booking Form from SADCAS website: [http://www.sadcas.org/sadc-as-forms-english?page=2](http://www.sadcas.org/sadc-as-forms-english?page=2) or contact SADCAS at info@sadcas.org for more information.
Training Courses Offered by SADCAS

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 17025:2017 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

Three-day ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging Course to the new standard

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
## New Accreditations, Scope Extensions, Suspensions and Withdrawals - 1 December 2018 to 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization &amp; Location</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>New Accreditations</th>
<th>Scopes Extension</th>
<th>Suspension</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mbeya Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania</td>
<td>Medical to ISO 15189</td>
<td>2019-04-05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MED 003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zambia Metrology Agency</td>
<td>Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td>2019-04-23</td>
<td>• CAL-8 009 Mass</td>
<td>• CAL-9 004 Volume</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• CAL-2 005 Dimension</td>
<td>• CAL-14 005 Temperature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botswana Institute for Technology Research &amp; Innovation (BITRI)</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td>2019-04-23</td>
<td>• TEST-3 0005 Civil</td>
<td>• Engineering</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• TEST-6 0002 Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<td>Namibian Standards Institution</td>
<td>Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td>2019-05-13</td>
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<td>Tanzania Bureau of Standards</td>
<td>Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td>2019-05-29</td>
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<td>• CAL-8 010 Mass</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• CAL-9 005 Volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botswana Harvard HIV Ref Laboratory</td>
<td>Medical to ISO 15189</td>
<td>2019-06-18</td>
<td>MED 031</td>
<td>• Chemistry</td>
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<td>• Hematology</td>
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<td>• Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>• Serology</td>
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<td>Doubletime Investments (Pvt) Ltd t/a Non-invasive Technologies Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020</td>
<td>2019-06-05</td>
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<td>INSP-5 005</td>
<td>Pressure Equipment</td>
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<td>Diagnofirm Medical Laboratory, Botswana</td>
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<td>MED 012</td>
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<td>Irvine’s Zimbabwe Zimvet Laboratory</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td>2019-07-23</td>
<td>VET 004</td>
<td>• Serology</td>
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<td>GeoAngol, Geologia e Sondagem, S.A Angola</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025</td>
<td>2019-07-23</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC DIS 17000 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles</td>
<td>Draft International Standard (DIS) registered Closing of voting</td>
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<td>ISO/NP TS 17021-12 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 12: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of collaborative business management systems</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC DIS 17029 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities</td>
<td>Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) ballot initiated: 8 weeks</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC NP 17030 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for third-party marks of conformity</td>
<td>New project approved</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC PRF TR 17032 Conformity assessment - Guidelines and examples of a certification scheme for processes</td>
<td>FDIS registered for formal approval</td>
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<td>ISO/TS 17033 Conformity assessment – Ethical claims, Labels and supporting information – Requirements</td>
<td>International standard under publication</td>
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<td>ISO/IEC 17050-1:2004 Conformity assessment -- Supplier’s declaration of conformity -- Part 1: General requirements</td>
<td>International standard under periodical review</td>
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<td>ISO/NP 22003 Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management system</td>
<td>New project approved</td>
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<td>ISO 14065:2013 Greenhouse gases - Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition</td>
<td>International standard to be revised</td>
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<td>ISO/DTS 23406 Nuclear sector - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of quality management systems for organizations supplying products and services important to nuclear safety (ITNS)</td>
<td>Committee Draft approved for registration as Draft International Standard</td>
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<th>STANDARD</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ILAC G 27:07/2019</strong> Guidance on measurements performed as part of an inspection process</td>
<td>This document is intended to provide guidance on measurements carried out as part of an inspection activity for both inspection bodies and the accreditation bodies assessing inspection bodies. The key objective of this guidance is to help ensure the validity of the measurements performed as part of inspections carried out in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020. It also provides examples via case studies of measurements carried out in inspection that may need to take into consideration the requirements included in ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ILAC P4:05/2019</strong> ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy and Management</td>
<td>This document provides details on the objectives, foundation, management, procedures and decisions associated with the ILAC MRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ILAC P5:05/2019</strong> ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations</td>
<td>This document describes the elements of a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as the Arrangement) for testing and calibration laboratory and inspection body accreditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ILAC R6:05/2019</strong> Structure of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Arrangement</td>
<td>This document describes the structure of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement as well as the steps to be used by ILAC to consider and approve new international accreditation programs for inclusion in the ILAC Arrangement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IAF MD 5:2019</strong> Determination of Audit Time of Quality, Environmental, and Occupational Health &amp; Safety Management Systems</td>
<td>Issue 4, Issued 07 May 2019, application from 07 May 2020. This document is mandatory for the consistent application of the relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for audits of quality, environmental, and occupational health and safety management systems. All clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 continue to apply and this document does not supersede any of the requirements in that standard</td>
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### STANDARD

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<td><strong>IAF MD 11:2019</strong> IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems</td>
<td>Issue 2, Version 2, issued on 03 July 2019; application from 17 January 2021. This document provides requirements for the application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for the planning and delivery of audits of IMS and, if appropriate, the certification of an organization’s management system(s) against two or more sets of audit criteria/standards. Version 2 was published 03 July 2019 after agreement by letter ballot to change the application date to 17 January 2021.</td>
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<td><strong>IAF MD 17:2019</strong> Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies</td>
<td>Issue 2, Issued 07 May 2019, application from 07 May 2020. This document is mandatory for the consistent application of the relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment - General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A001-05 AFRAC Bylaws</td>
<td>Issued in July 2019 This document defines the formal structures and rules of procedure of AFRAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>A007-04 AFRAC EXCO Terms of Reference</td>
<td>Issued in July 2019 This document defines the rules of procedure of the AFRAC Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>A012-04 AFRAC MRA Committee Terms of Reference</td>
<td>Issued in July 2019 This document outlines the Terms of Reference of the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A020-03 AFRAC MRA Council Terms of Reference</td>
<td>Issued in July 2019 This document outlines the Terms of Reference of the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Council</td>
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### Diary of Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 – 9 August 2019</td>
<td>4th SADC Annual Industrialization Week</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 – 20 August 2019</td>
<td>IAAC General Assembly</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 – 18 August 2019</td>
<td>39th SADC Summit</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August 2019</td>
<td>SADCAS HRRC Meeting</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATES</td>
<td>MEETINGS</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August 2019</td>
<td>AFRIMETS – Future of Food Testing and Regulation Event</td>
<td>NMISA, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 18 September 2019</td>
<td>NLA Tests &amp; Measurements Conference</td>
<td>Misty Hills, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 September 2019</td>
<td>Advisory Committee for Inspection</td>
<td>Harare, Zimbabwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 – 20 September 2019</td>
<td>42nd ISO General Assembly</td>
<td>Cape Town, South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 – 25 September 2019</td>
<td>ISO CASCO WG49 (5th meeting) ISO/IEC 17000</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 21 September 2019</td>
<td>AFRAC Executive Committee Strategic Planning Session</td>
<td>Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 – 27 September 2019</td>
<td>10th AFRAC Annual Meetings</td>
<td>Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 – 26 September 2019</td>
<td>19th International Metrology Congress (CIM 2019)</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 – 27 September 2019</td>
<td>ISO CASCO WG23 (5th meeting) CASCO common elements</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>6th Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) Meeting</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>14 October 2019</td>
<td>World Standards Day</td>
<td>Worldwide</td>
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<td>21 – 30 October 2019</td>
<td>ILAC/IAF Annual Meetings 2019</td>
<td>Frankfurt, Germany</td>
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<td>October 2019</td>
<td>83rd IEC General Meetings</td>
<td>Shanghai, China</td>
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