SADCAS Accredits First Management Systems Certification Body

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is proud to announce the accreditation of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe Certification Services (SAZ Certification Services) in the scopes: Quality Management Systems; Environmental Management Systems; and Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015. This makes Standards Association of Zimbabwe Certification Services the first management systems certification body to be accredited by SADCAS. Through this accreditation, Standards Association of Zimbabwe Certification Services has been granted the unique accreditation numbers QMS-CERT 001 (ISO 9001:2008 and 2015), EMS-CERT 001 (ISO 14001:2004 and 14001:2015) and OHS-CERT 001 (OHSAS 18001: 2007) indicating that SAZ Certification Services is now a SADCAS accredited management system certification body.

The SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Programme – Management Systems (CBAP- MS) was established in June 2010 and is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies providing conformity assessment services to organizations for their management systems, products as well as personnel. Third party management systems certification is a frequently specified requirement to operate in the global market place. Third party management system certification can demonstrate compliance to a standard, code of practice or regulatory requirements. Management System certification bodies are accredited to the international standard, ISO/IEC 17021-1: Conformity assessment—Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems—Part 1: Requirements. The standard sets out principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of audit and certification of management systems of all types (e.g. quality/environmental/occupational health and safety management systems) and for bodies providing these activities. Accreditation which is an independent evaluation of management systems certification bodies against ISO/IEC 17021-1 by an authoritative body, in this case SADCAS, confirms the competence, consistency and impartiality of the certification body.

Throughout the world many countries now rely on accreditation as a means of independently evaluating competence of certification bodies. There are many reasons why you should use the services of an accredited management systems certification body.

Inside This Issue

De-risk your procurement by taking the guesswork out of choosing a certification body. Accreditation gives you confidence that you will get the service that best meets your requirements.

Win new business particularly since the use of accredited conformity assessment services is increasingly a requirement in both the public and private sector.

Control costs with the help of knowledge transfer since the accredited certification body can be a good source of impartial advice.

Demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal action.

Reduce paperwork and increase efficiency by reducing the necessity to re-audit your business.

Gain access to international market. SADCAS CBAP-MS is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011.

SADCAS has another 3 management systems certification bodies at the various stages of processing.

SADCAS Holds 13th Annual General Meeting

The 13th SADCAS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 14 March 2018 at The Birchwood Hotel – Johannesburg, South Africa in conjunction with the 33rd SADC TBT Cooperation Structures meetings. Forty-seven General Assembly members and observers attended the SADCAS AGM.

Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors, Mr Steven Bruce Sidney welcomed members and observers to the meeting. In his report to the AGM the Chairman reported on further progress made during the past financial year in fulfilling the SADCAS mandate. He noted the continued growth in SADCAS business not only in terms of field and scope of accreditation but also in terms of geographical and sector coverage. As at 28 February 2018, SADCAS had issued 100 accreditation certificates to 75 accredited facilities in 10 SADC Member States namely: Botswana (17), Democratic Republic of Congo (3), Madagascar (1), Mozambique (1), Namibia (5), Seychelles (2), Swaziland (2), Tanzania (18), Zambia (5) and Zimbabwe (20) and one non SADC member State Ghana (1). Accreditation of new facilities grew by 34% whilst total accreditation certificates grew by 30% over the February 2017 cumulative figures. During the period SADCAS also accredited its first facility in Madagascar. At the same time SADCAS received 48 accreditation applications from 12 SADC Member States with SADCAS receiving its first applications from Lesotho and Malawi during the 3rd and 4th quarter of the 2017/18 financial year. As at 28 February 2018 SADCAS had cumulatively conducted 136 training courses in all the SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS, representing a 12% growth in training courses offered over the February 2017 statistics. Training courses are generic and designed to promote accreditation and an understanding of the accreditation requirements.

The medical scheme Advisory Committee met for the first time on 5 December 2017 and identified future work items. The testing and calibration schemes 2nd AC meetings were also held on the same day whilst the 7th AC meeting for inspection bodies in Zimbabwe was held in September 2017.
The pool of assessors continues to grow with SADCAS having registered 103 Technical Assessors and 36 Lead Assessors by 28 February 2018. The Technical Assessors grew by 30% following the registration of the assessors trained under the auspices of the SADC EDF 10 REIS Programme whilst the Lead Assessors grew by 3%. A further group of experts from those countries where French and Portuguese are the business language are yet to be mentored.

In his report, the Chairman also highlighted SADCAS achievement of signatory status in the ILAC and AFRAC MRAs for its medical laboratories (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) accreditation schemes in October and September 2017 respectively. This was after having undergone an extraordinary peer evaluation for scope extension from 14 to 19 May 2017. With this additional achievement the certificates issued by SADCAS for testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), medical laboratories (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) are now all internationally recognized.

The meeting also deliberated on other AGM business including the:

- Adoption of the 9th SADCAS annual report including the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017;
- Ratification of the 2018/19 budget;
- Confirmation of appointed Baker Tilly; and
- Appointment of UPT Secretarial Services as the Company Secretary.

Elections were also held for 3 Board positions.

The 2018 NAFP certificates of recognition for the “Most Improved NAFP” and “Most Effective NAFP” were also presented during the 13th AGM.

### Board Members Elected at 13th Annual General Meeting

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

According to Article 8 of the SADCAS Articles of Association the number of members of the Board of the company shall not be less than 7 at any given time. At the 13th SADCAS AGM elections were held for 3 Board positions. Mr Emmanuel Jinda who provides expertise on human resources and governance served his first term as a member of the SADCAS Board of Directors was re-elected for a second term having put himself up for election. He is also the Chairman of the Human Resources and Remuneration Committee (HRRC) of the Board. Mr Davlin DM Chokazinga, who provides expertise on Standardization/Conformity Assessment/Accreditation and Technical Infrastructure and General Management had served his first term as a member of the SADCAS Board of Directors was re-elected for a second 3 year term having put himself up for election. He also serves on the HRRC of the Board.

Following the reassignment of Mr Sadwick Mtonakutha after restructuring of the SADC Secretariat, Dr Lineo Lomkhosi Mkhotla–Gama who provides expertise on regional integration, quality assurance, standards and quality inclusion was appointed to represent the SADC Secretariat on the Board and subsequently elected onto the SADCAS Board of Directors at the 13th AGM to serve her first 3-year term. She is the Senior Program Officer - TBT/SPS and serves as the link between SADCAS and the SADC Secretariat.

Following the elections, the SADCAS Board of Directors now comprises of 7 members 6 of whom are non-executive members and one Executive.
SADCAS/SANAS Joint Communiqué—SADCAS Achieves Signatory Status in ILAC MRA for Medical Testing (ISO 15189) and Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020)

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) scope in the International laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement has been extended to include Medical Testing to ISO 15189 and Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020 following an extraordinary joint peer evaluation successfully held from 14 to 19 May 2017 by ILAC and the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). The decision was made by the ILAC Arrangement Council at its meeting held on Saturday, 28 October 2017 in Vancouver, Canada.

With this additional achievement the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS for the Medical Laboratories and Inspection Bodies’ accreditation programmes are internationally recognized thus enhance the acceptance of medical test/inspection results across national borders, remove the need for repetitive testing/inspection of products traded internationally and in the case of medical improves patient care.

SADCAS is recognized by the SADC Council of Ministers as a subsidiarity institution of SADC. SADCAS draws its mandate from Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade and as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between SADCAS and SADC. SADCAS provides accreditation services to 13 SADC Member States who do not have a national accreditation body namely: Angola; Botswana; Democratic Republic of Congo; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This communiqué serves to inform all medical testing and inspection bodies about the way forward regarding accreditation following SADCAS’ achievement. A number of scenarios are considered as follows:

1. **For all medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)** accredited under the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement (TPA), The South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) certificate will be valid until the upcoming surveillance assessment and thereafter SADCAS will be the sole provider of accreditation services to your facility. Your organization’s listing will be removed from SANAS directory of accredited facilities and you will be required to return the SANAS accreditation certificate and schedule of accreditation and to destroy any other materials that refers to SANAS accreditation.

2. **For all medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)** whose applications are in progress and or were accredited under the SADCAS/SANAS TP from 28 October 2017, only a SADCAS certificate will be issued.

3. **For all medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)** at the various stages of accreditation process by SANAS and which may have missed the changeover plan and may have set up the system based on the SANAS requirements, SANAS will notify them to changeover to SADCAS but continue to proceed with the application until accreditation and to changeover thereafter.

4. **All new applications received by SANAS from the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS** from 28 October 2017 shall be referred to SADCAS.
5. **SANAS accredited medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) in the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS**—Upon expiry of the current SANAS certificate, SANAS will no longer be legally able to provide accreditation to the said facilities. Should the said facilities wish to continue with accreditation, they shall forward their application to SADCAS. Such accredited facilities can transfer their SANAS accreditation to SADCAS prior to the expiry of the current SANAS certificate. In all these cases, should the facility’s decision be to continue with accreditation then the facility shall inform SANAS at least three (3) months in advance.

SADCAS accreditation documents and application forms are available from the SADCAS website: [http://www.sadcas.org/policies-and-procedures-english](http://www.sadcas.org/policies-and-procedures-english) or else we refer you to contact the SADCAS Technical Manager on: jfranorovelosadcas.org for the Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme and the SADCAS Programme Coordinator for the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme on: emuronda@sadcas.org for more information.

Meanwhile SADCAS is also working towards signatory status for its certification bodies—management systems (ISO/IEC 17021-1) and certification bodies—product (ISO/IEC 17065) accreditation programmes, and any applications from such certification bodies shall continue to be processed under the SADCAS/SANAS TPA until SADCAS has achieved international recognition in the AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement/International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Arrangement.

---

**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 Ranorovelosadcas.org; info@sadcas.org
The Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) has extended the scope of accreditation by achieving accreditation for Histamine test in fish. The Food Chemistry Laboratory (FCL) achieved accreditation for histamine test in November 2017 and the certificate was handed over to the CEO of SBS Mr Andy Ally on the 27th March 2018 by the Technical Manager of SADCAS (Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service) Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo.

The Environment Laboratory was the first laboratory in Seychelles to be accredited. The accredited parameters are pH, Conductivity, Sulfate, Nitrate, Nitrite, Fluoride and Chloride in potable water and Mercury, Lead and Cadmium in fish.

The testing laboratories at the SBS is the official testing laboratory for the Competent Authority (Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit) for the testing of fish and fish products which are exported to the European Union (EU). Competent Authority uses the Test Reports from the Laboratory to issue export certificate. It is a requirement of the EU Directive that the fish and fish products exported to the EU are tested in an accredited laboratory. It is mainly to meet this requirement that the Food Chemistry Laboratory had to achieve accreditation.

Histamine is a naturally occurring substance that can be found in our bodies and ubiquitously throughout the animal kingdom, as well as in some plants and bacteria. Histamine is involved in the body’s immune response to pathogens and allergens. It plays a central role in causing many of the symptoms of allergies such as inflammation and itching.

In certain fish, particularly in the families Scombridae and Scomberesocidae, such as tuna, mahi-mahi (Dorado) and marlin, high levels of histamine can form due to time and temperature abuse. It is imperative to keep fish at a temperature below 4.4°C or less as soon as possible after harvest since certain bacteria in the flesh of the fish can stimulate the formation of high levels of histamine which may lead to histamine poisoning.

Symptoms of histamine poisoning include tingling or burning in and around the mouth or throat; rash or hives on the upper body; drop in blood pressure; headache; dizziness; itching of the skin; nausea; vomiting; diarrhoea; asthmatic-like constriction of the air passage; heart palpitation; and respiratory distress. Symptoms usually occur within a few minutes to a few hours of consumption and last from 12 hours to a few days.

The method used for testing of histamine is the EU recommended method using HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatograph). Histamine is first extracted from fish as a solute after precipitation of the insoluble protein by perchloric acid. After the addition of buffers, they are derivatised by dansylation with dansyl chloride which reacts with proteins to form dansylated amino acid rendering them visible under Ultra Violet (UV) light. To stop reaction, ammonium hydroxide is added. Histamine is then separated from other biogenic amines and detected by ultraviolet-visible detector at wavelength of 245 nanometre (nm) and quantified.

In order to achieve accreditation, laboratory staff were trained on operation of High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC), method validation, uncertainty estimation, requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard, requirements of the Accreditation Body and were attached to overseas accredited laboratories. The laboratory participates in Proficiency Test Programmes and has quality control programmes in place to ensure accurate results.

SBS is planning to accredit more tests in future which includes tests for coconut oil and tests for microbiological parameters in water and fish.
SADCA Holds 22nd General Assembly Meeting

The 22nd SADCA General Assembly meeting was held on 15 March 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was chaired by Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama, the SADCA Chairperson and attended by representatives from SADC Member States, SADC Secretariat, Ministry of Trade and Industry in South Africa, international Cooperating Partners such as UNIDO, PTB-Germany, and ISO. SADCAS was represented at this meeting by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the Technical Manager and Mrs Pinkie Malebe, by the Coordinator of the testing laboratories accreditation scheme (TLAP).

The purpose of the meeting was to: update members on developments in SADCA which was presented by the Chairperson; report on activities undertaken from the various SADCA Committees which were respectively presented by the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Chair, Technical Committee (TC) Chair, Marketing and Communication Committee (MCC) Chair; approve the 2017 SADCA Annual report; approve the 2018/19 Work Plans; approve documents developed/revised during the year; inform on the theme for the 2018 World Accreditation Day, "Accreditation: Delivering a Safer World" and to encourage each SADC Member State to commemorate the World Accreditation Day on 9 June 2018; provide reports from the SADC Secretariat and the different Cooperation Partners; and to elect new office bearers.

The meeting was very interactive following which thirty four (34) resolutions were taken and the following is a highlight of the key resolutions passed:

- Members noted the importance of SADCAS as a multi-economy Accreditation Body established to service the accreditation needs of 13 SADC Member States and congratulated SADCAS for the achievements so far including the achievement of signatory status in the AFRAC and ILAC MRAs for testing and calibration to ISO /IEC 17025, medical to ISO 15189 and inspection to ISO/IEC 17020 and the number of accreditations granted to facilities in the SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS as well as the geographical coverage with SADCAS having accredited in 10 SADC Member States and 1 non SADC member state. To this regard, SADCA encouraged SADC Member States to utilize the services provided by SADCAS.

- The members recognized efforts made by the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) in their respective countries in supporting SADCA through awareness and promotion activities. However, the need to look at challenges faced by NAFPs and to explore means of assisting NAFPs to make them more effective was noted by SADCA.

- SADCAS main challenges were noted as: (i) the staggered inflow of Government contributions towards its sustainability for the period 2012 – 2017 for which 2 SADC Member States (Tanzania and Zambia) had not paid their contributions which hampered operations with some activities having to be deferred. The slow inflow of contributions for the 2017 to 2022 strategic period of which 33% is supposed to be paid by 31 March 2018 and of which only 3 countries had paid by 13 March 2018 namely Angola; Seychelles and Madagascar; (ii) the limited resources allocated to the National Accreditation Focal Points and frequent turnover of NAFPs hampering promotional and marketing efforts; (iii) the number of registered assessors of which although the pool of registered assessors has grown the numbers are not yet sufficient to cover the scope of anticipated demand and be locally based so as to reduce accreditation costs.

- The 2018/19 Work Plans for SADCA Executive Committee, MRA Committee, TC and MCC were approved.

- The approval by the General Assembly of a number of documents including: A001-06 SADCA Bylaws; A010-02 SADCA TC Terms of Reference; A012-01 SADCA MRA Council/Committee Terms of Reference; A017-01 SADCA MCC Terms of Reference; and A018 SADCA ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Transition Plan.


The new Office Bearers were elected during the General Assembly namely: Mr Morgan Keeper (BOBS) as the SADCA Vice Chair; Mr Ron Josias (SANAS) as SADCA MRA Committee Chair; Mrs Pinkie Malebe (SADCAS) as SADCA MRA Committee Vice Chair; and Mr Mahesh Koolwont (MAURITAS) as the TC Vice Chair.
Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd has been accredited by SADCAS and through this accreditation NMTL has been granted the unique accreditation number TEST-5 0029 indicating that NMTL is now a SADCAS accredited testing laboratory for Chemical Analysis of metallurgical ores. Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd is the 29th testing laboratory and the 17th facility in Tanzania to be accredited by SADCAS. The certificate which was issued on 1 December 2017 is valid for 5 years and expires on 30 November 2022.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 23 February 2018 at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The ceremony was attended by the Company’s directors, staff, clients, government officials and had a strong press presence. In his opening remarks the Chief Operations Officer Mr Happiness Nesvinga gave a background on when the Company was established and its importance in the mining sector not only in Tanzania but in the EAC region as a whole. He then outlined the journey towards accreditation which started in 2016 and culminating with accreditation in December 2017. The Chief Operations Officer noted that some mining companies were sending samples for analysis to South Africa etc. due to unavailability of internationally recognized laboratory services. “All this will come to pass now that Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd has been accredited”, he remarked. The District Commissioner of Nyamagana in Mwanza where Nesch Mintec is based, Ms Mary Tesha Onesimo, then introduced the guest of honour Professor Shukran Manya who is the Commissioner of Minerals. In his remarks the guest of honour highlighted the importance of accurate, reliable and reproducible test results in the mining sector and congratulated Nesch Mintec on the achievement of internationally recognized accreditation. He then called upon SADCAS to ensure continued accreditation of Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd.
In her speech before the certificate handover Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer noted that a number of SADC countries’ economies rely heavily on mining and mineral exploitation with Tanzania being one of them. Tanzania is endowed with a number minerals key of which are copper, gold, silver, diamonds and tanzanite etc. Tanzania as you all know is an exclusive product of this country. Tanzania is the fourth-largest gold miner in Africa behind South Africa, Mali, and Ghana, and in 2010 accounted for 2% of the world’s gold output. The fuel mineral under extraction is natural gas. The mining industry of Tanzania provides jobs for over one million people in Tanzania, the majority being employed in artisanal mining operations. The mining sector is a major source of foreign currency for Tanzania.

She noted that most of the minerals are exported in their raw form. Given these high production rates and growing global demand for finished mineral products value addition is imperative. Mrs Mutasa said that the mining sector has the relative advantage of gaining in competitiveness at fewer costs through adapting the final production to international standards. She further said that the mineral processing sector is identified in the SADC Industrial Policy as one of the priority sectors for development. Testing Laboratories play a critical role in the mining and mineral processing sector in that they conduct mineral assays in support of exploration, research, grade control in the processing plant. Laboratories are also involved in environmental monitoring of mining activities. "Mining companies make decisions about exploration and grading based on the data generated by these analytical laboratories" she 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 is the basis of trust amongst trading partners. "During the validity of the certificate SADCAS will undertake surveillance assessments to check continued accreditation and will not hesitate to suspend or withdraw accreditation" Mrs Mutasa remarked. She then urged Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd to extend the scope of accreditation to the other tests such as water, environmental and soil testing. She also advised that ISO/IEC 17025 the standard that Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd have been accredited to has been revised with the new standard having been published on 30 November 2017. The International laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has already agreed on a three year transition from date of publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 and SADCAS has already issued a transition policy TR 14 which is available on the SADCAS website. She also advised of the newly launched training courses on the new standard and encouraged Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd to ensure that they meet the transition timelines so as to maintain your warranted internationally recognized accreditation which they worked so hard for.
ADCAS is delighted to announce the re-accreditation of the Botswana National Dosimetry Laboratory. Through this reaccreditation the National Dosimetry Laboratory has been re-granted the unique accreditation number TEST-70001 indicating that the National Dosimetry Laboratory is accredited in the scope “radiation dosimetry testing”. The certificate which was reissued on 21 February 2018 is valid for 5 years until 20 February 2023.

The Botswana National Dosimetry Laboratory is the first and only dosimetry laboratory in the 13 SADC Member States excluding South Africa and Mauritius, to be accredited in the scope “radiation dosimetry testing” by SADCAS. The facility was originally accredited on 28 January 2013. The certificate which was issued on 28 January 2013 was valid for 5 years until 27 January 2018. Throughout the validity of the certificate SADCAS undertook annual surveillance assessments based on which the National Dosimetry Laboratory maintained their accreditation. The reassessment was undertaken from 30 to 31 October 2017.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 1 March 2018 at the Radiation Protection Inspectorate Conference Room in Gaborone, Botswana. The ceremony which was attended by the Board of Directors, management and staff of the Radiation Protection Inspectorate was graced by Honourable Dr Alfred Madigele, the Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology under which the Radiation Protection Inspectorate falls.

In his welcome remarks the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Radiation Protection Inspectorate His Excellency Ambassador Molosiwa Selepeng outlined the role played by the Inspectorate in monitoring radiation in the environment as well as by users. He then reminisced on the journey towards initial accreditation and reaccreditation. He then expressed his appreciation to the team that had worked tirelessly to maintain the accreditation and achieve reaccreditation.

In her speech before the certificate handover Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer highlighted the importance of measuring, calculating and assessing ionizing radiation dose absorbed by the human body citing the aftermath of the Chernobyl or Fukushima radiological release incidents. She also noted the extensive use of health physics dosimetry for cancer treatment. “The determination of an absorbed dose is complex and depends on many external and internal factors’ she 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 dosimetry laboratories. Accreditation increases the accuracy, reliability and reproducibility of test results. Dosimetry laboratories therefore play a critical role in environmental monitoring as well as in assessing ionizing radiation dose absorbed by the human body. Mrs Mutasa then urged the National Dosimetry Laboratory to extend its scope of accreditation to the other scopes and challenged the Honourable Minister to have research laboratories under its ambit such as the Environmental Laboratory, and Instrumentation Laboratory under the Radiation Protection Inspectorate, research laboratories at the Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI); and Botswana International University of science and technology (BIUST) which all support infrastructural development accredited. “Accreditation of all these research laboratories is key to enhance confidence in results” she said. Mrs Mutasa also advised that ISO/IEC 17025 the standard that National Dosimetry Laboratory have been accredited to has been revised with the new standard having been published on 30 November 2017. The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has already agreed on a three year transition from date of publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 and SADCAS has already issued a transition policy SADCAS TR 14 which is available on the SADCAS website. She also
advised of the newly launched training courses on the revised international standard and encouraged the National Dosimetry Laboratory to ensure that they meet the transition timelines so as to maintain the well-deserved internationally recognized accreditation which they have worked so hard for.

The Guest of Honour Honourable Dr Madigele articulated the term dosimetry in Setswana and pledged his continued support to National Dosimetry Laboratory so as to maintain their accreditation. He outlined the benefits that the Radiation Protection Inspectorate had realized from the accreditation of the laboratory such as the recognition of the Inspectorate by the IAEA as a Centre of Excellence. In 2015, Botswana was chosen as the host for a regional training course on quality management system for dosimetry services to allow IAEA Member States from Africa to appreciate and tap into the accreditation experience of the NDL. Further, owing to her achievement in implementing a laboratory quality management system and providing accredited radiation monitoring services through the National Dosimetry Laboratory, Botswana was in 2017 invited by the IAEA to be part of the Steering Committee to establish the ALARA Network for the Africa Region. The Network has been established and is used as a platform to share experiences and best practices on dosimetry with Botswana being at the forefront of quality management system issues. These recognitions and invitations made in favour of Botswana are a vote of confidence in the country and in the quality of its radiation monitoring system because of its accreditation status. He then challenged the Laboratory to maintain its accreditation and also to transition timeously to the revised international standard ISO/IEC 17025 published on 30 November 2017.
A vote of thanks was given by Mr Thapelo Otukile the Director of the Radiation protection Inspectorate.

**SADCAS Value Proposition**

- **Delivering confidence**
- **Assuring competency**
SADCAS Advocates for Support in Madagascar

On 11 January 2018, Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical and Mr Seraphin Razafimahafaly, the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Madagascar met Mrs Josielle Rafidy the new Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Consumption in Madagascar. The objective of the meeting was to provide a brief overview of SADCAS, to present the roles and responsibilities of the NAFP and to advocate for the Ministry’s support of awareness/promotion activities in Madagascar.

This meeting was also an opportunity for Ms Ranorovelo to present the 3rd Strategic Plan for the period from beginning 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2022 for which commitment was made by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade to meet the operational budget deficit of US$ 2.38 million. To this regard, Ms Ranorovelo summarized the various meetings held culminating with the 29th SADC CMT meeting in August 2017 during which the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade approved the proposed support to SADCAS for the period 2017 – 2022 by the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS as outlined in the schedule of contributions.

Mrs Josielle Rafidy thanked SADCAS for the courtesy call even though she had already been briefed by Mr Razafimahafaly about SADCAS and the roles and responsibilities of the NAFP. Mrs Rafidy appreciated the initiative taken by SADCAS to come and explain more about SADCAS activities and the importance of accreditation following which she indicated that the Ministry would pay its contribution as per the SADC CMT decision to SADCAS. Madagascar subsequently paid its 33% of its contribution thereafter and within the agreed timelines.

Eleventh NAFP Annual Meeting Held on 8 December 2018

The 11th SADCAS NAFP Annual meeting was held at Garden Court OR International Airport Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa on 8 December 2017. The meeting was attended by 15 NAFPs from 9 of the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS and 4 SADCAS staff. National Accreditation Focal Points from (1); Botswana (2), Lesotho (2), Madagascar (1); Malawi (2); Mozambique (1); Namibia (2), Seychelles (1); Swaziland (2) and Zambia (2) attended the meeting. The following countries did not attend the meeting: Angola; Democratic Republic of Congo; Tanzania; and Zimbabwe. Attendance costs to the meeting were sponsored under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF 10 REIS programme.

The main purpose of the meeting was to develop the framework for the 2018/19 marketing plan. The output from the meeting will be populated, finalized and circulated to NAFPs by 28 April 2018 for comment by 5 May 2018 following which the Marketing Plan shall be finalized by 10 May 2018 and submitted for approval by the SADCAS Board of Directors at its meeting to be held on 17 May 2018.
The meeting was also an opportunity to update NAFPs on developments in SADCAS and to review inflows of Governments Contributions towards SADCAS sustainability beyond 2017 of which NAFPs were requested to assist in following up on. For this purpose the NAFPs were given copies of the appeal letters sent to their respectively countries’ Ministers responsible for trade/industry. Noting that some of the NAFPs were attending the meeting for the first time, some time was spent in reviewing the roles and responsibilities of NAFPs.

On NAFP activities, the meeting reviewed the activities undertaken in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} quarter and their performance thus far in the financial year. Progress with the development of databases of conformity assessment bodies and regulators operating in the 13 SADC Member States was also reviewed. As at the time of the meeting, NAFPs from 8 SADC Member States namely: Angola; Botswana; Madagascar; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Swaziland; and Zambia had submitted their countries’ databases whilst NAFPs Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe had not yet submitted their databases which shall be submitted based on the template provided by 28 February 2018. On training services the NAFPs were advised of the recently published ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and SADCAS intention to launch a training course on this revised key accreditation standard for testing and calibration laboratories. The NAFPs were requested to promote the training course in their respective countries and to submit training needs for the 2018/19 financial year timeously for incorporation into the SADCAS training calendar for the year and using the template published in 2017 or that purpose. The Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors Mr Steven Bruce Sidney gave a motivational address to the NAFPs highlighting their importance not only towards the achievement of SADCAS goals but their national accreditation goals.
A total of 15 resolutions were passed during the meeting which was chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO with Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo, SADCAS Technical Manager as the Secretary. At the end of the meeting Ms Linda Diorinwe the SADCAS Accreditation Administrator and Mr Mogae Molaoa the SADCAS Administrative Assistant, distributed the 2016/17 annual report, the 9th annual report to be published by SADCAS and was published in CD format. Each NAFP was given 5 copies for distribution to the Ministers responsible for Trade/Industry, Permanent/Principle Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Trade/Industry, respective representatives on the Trade Negotiation Forum, other senior officials in the Ministry responsible for Trade/Industry and to the NAFP supervisors.

The meeting which started at 09:00 hours ended at 17:00 hours concluding a very busy week of Advisory Committees meetings, training workshop and the NAFP annual meeting.

**NAFPs Swaziland and Zimbabwe Scoop the 2018 Certificates of Recognition**

The National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) for Swaziland Zimbabwe were awarded certificates of recognition for their effort and contributions towards SADC accreditation goals. The NAFP Award ceremony was held in conjunction with the 13th SADCAS Annual General Meeting held on 14 March 2018 at The Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. Following the SADCAS Board’s decision undertaken at its 53rd Meeting held on 15 February 2018, 2 Awards were presented with NAFP–Swaziland winning the Most Effective NAFP Certificate of Recognition and NAFP-Zimbabwe, the Most Improved NAFP Certificate of Recognition.

The 2018 Awards are based on the reports for the period 1 January up to 31 December 2017 using five (5) criteria weighted as follows:

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

The criteria were weighted according to their importance with the latter 2 criteria being considered key. The criteria on Contributions towards SADCAS goals also took into account facilitation of payments of government contributions towards SADCAS sustainability.
Based on all the reports for the period 1 January to 31 December 2017, an evaluation matrix and a summary of NAFPs quarterly reports submissions and estimate realization for the period were prepared which formed the basis of the nominations. There was a slight decline in action plan implementation by NAFPs with the average being 69% for 2017 compared to 73% for the 2016 year. NAFPs – Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe registered improvements whilst NAFPs Angola, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia registered a decline in estimate realization. NAFPs Seychelles’ average estimate realization for the period under review remained at the same level as for the 2016 year.

Based on the evaluation matrix NAFPs-Swaziland was identified for the 2018 Most Effective NAFP Award with NAFP-Swaziland coming up with the highest score at 93. NAFP Zimbabwe registered the highest improvement over the past year and was identified for the 2018 Most Improved NAFP Award with NAFP-Zimbabwe coming up with a score at 78.

**Most Improved NAFP Award**

NAFP – Zimbabwe - The two NAFPs Ms Riyana Chibanda and Mrs Mildred Machiri were appointed in 2015 and in 2008 respectively and have made good progress during the period under consideration as evidenced by a high country average on national action plan realization 80%. Awareness and promotion activities were the main activities undertaken with a survey and meetings being held with accredited and under process CABs to understand the challenges that they were facing in remitting foreign currency as payment for services rendered. Meetings were also held with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe who have been facilitating payments since that meeting. Three applications for accreditation from a medical laboratory, an inspection body and a certification body were received, 2 expressed interests in accreditation and 4 expressed interests in training were received by SADCAS during the period under review albeit holding one training course during the year.

As at 31 December SADCAS had accredited the highest number of facilities in Zimbabwe at 20 followed by Tanzania at 18 and Botswana at 16.
Most Effective NAFP Award

NAFP-Swaziland continued to make great effort in awareness raising and promotional activities. The two NAFPs Mrs Sthembiso Sybil Dlamini and Ms Phindile Priscilla Dlamini were appointed in 2006 and 2010 respectively and made very good progress in the implementation of national action plan which contributes to SADCAS goal realization. This is evidenced by the highest country average of realization of 91%. NAFP-Swaziland submit regularly quarterly reports and always well ahead of the prescribed times. During the period under review, SADCAS received 2 accreditation applications from a testing and calibration laboratory from Swaziland, undertook 4 training courses and handled 5 expressed interests on training.

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

ASCOLAB and Provincial Chamber of Commerce Partner in Accreditation Awareness Raising in DRC

The National Laboratory Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo (ASCOLAB) together with the Provincial Chamber of Commerce (FEC) for Katanga region hosted an awareness workshop on the importance and benefits of accreditation. The workshop which was sponsored by the Provincial FEC was held on 23 March 2018 at the FEC’s Conference Centre in Lubumbashi, DRC and was attended by over 150 delegates from the mining, health and manufacturing sectors, regulators, academic sector, Provincial FEC’s staff, government officials, conformity assessment bodies and the press. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama, the President of ASCOLAB and Chairman of SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) and Mrs Maureen Mutasa the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Various conformity assessment bodies from the private and public sector ranging from research, academic laboratories, private independent testing laboratories to Company testing laboratories (mining, cement petroleum) and hospital medical to independent medical laboratories displayed at the exhibition. An accreditation certificate handover ceremony for Societe Surveillance Miniere was also held in conjunction with the workshop. Prior to the workshop and upon arrival in Lubumbashi, the SADCAS CEO paid a courtesy call on the President of the provincial FEC together with the President of ASCOLAB.

The workshop was opened by the President of the Provincial FEC for Katanga region, Mr Eric Monga Mumba who in his remarks welcomed the delegates to the workshop which is very important to the DRC’s economy and noted the importance of accreditation to the DRC economy in general and specifically the mining sector which is DRC’s largest source of export income and provides jobs for many. He thanked ASCOLAB, for organizing the awareness workshop. In his concluding remarks Mr Monga committed to support ASCOLAB activities throughout DRC in order to enhance the competitiveness of DRC’s exports.

This was followed by a presentation on the importance and benefits of accreditation by Mr Kanama who in his presentation defined the term accreditation, the difference between accreditation and certification and outlined the requirements for accreditation highlighting the principles of accreditation. Convincingly Mr Kanama explained to the many delegates why a conformity assessment body should be accredited and outlined the global accreditation infrastructure. In her presentation, Mrs Mutasa started off by noting that accreditation is still a fairly new concept in the region and therefore promoting the benefits and importance of accreditation and marketing of accreditation services has been SADCAS
thrust. She quoted from an African saying which goes “If you want to go quickly, go alone but if you want to go far then go together”. “In accreditation we want to go far thus partnerships in awareness raising is the way to go” she said. She then applauded ASCOLAB and the provincial FEC for their partnership in hosting this awareness workshop and further encouraged the 2 organizations to also work with the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) DRC which is housed within the Congolese Control Office (OCC). She then outlined the accreditation infrastructure of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of which DRC is a member. She also gave a background on the establishment of SADCAS highlighting the reasons why the region decided on a multi economy accreditation body citing the limited resources in the region and the limited clientele base for accreditation in some countries to ensure sustainability of the national accreditation body. She proudly informed the delegates of the achievements made by SADCAS so far having issued 100 certificates to 75 facilities in 10 SADC Member States and one in Ghana and achieved signatory status in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation’s Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) for testing and calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), medical testing (ISO 15189) and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). She also advised of the progress made in accrediting in French of which SADCAS entered into a Twinning partnership with the Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC). “With all these achievements, SADCAS is ready to service DRC’s accreditation needs” she remarked. Both the presentations generated a lot of interest with participants wanting to more about the accreditation process, costs and timelines. Participants also expressed their interest in being members of ASCOLAB.

A ceremony to handover the accreditation certificate to Societe de Surveillance Miniere (SSM) was held in a session of the workshop following Mrs Mutasa’s presentation. Societe de Surveillance Miniere (SSM) has been accredited by SADCAS in the scope for Chemical Analysis of mineral concentrates: Analysis of total copper, total cobalt and total iron in copper, and cobalt ores and concentrates by 4-acid digestion and quantitative determination by Atomic Absorption; Analysis of impurities in copper metal by SPARK emission spectroscopy; and Determination of mass loss during drying of bulk material, concentrates of Cu, Co, Pb, Zn, Ni.
The SSM is the 28th testing laboratory and the 2nd facility in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to be accredited by the SADCAS. The SSM certificate which was issued on 13 October 2017 is valid for 5 years and expires on 12 October 2022. The SSM is a private mining surveillance company whose laboratories are involved in chemical analysis of ores extracted under a mining right and the detection and quantification of any other mineral substance associated with metal analysis. The laboratory is also involved in the analysis of plant feeds, the analysis of effluents including mill effluents and any other analysis related to mining research, exploitation and environmental activities. The SSM Laboratory II utilise des techniques qui répondent aux normes internationales et est doté d’un équipement moderne. uses techniques that meet international standards and is equipped with modern equipment. Son personnel hautement qualifié, bénéficie des formations régulières tant au niveau national qu’international.

In his speech after receiving the certificate, Mr Mutale Deroyer Johnson the Director General of SSM noted that accreditation is a solid tool for marketing but is not an end in itself he said. He informed delegates that SSM will use accreditation for continuous improvement purposes in their strive for excellency in service delivery. He assured SADCAS that they would ensure continued compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 so as to maintain their accreditation which they worked so hard for. He advised that the other SSM laboratories would also embark on the accreditation journey. He then encouraged other laboratories to start now to work towards accreditation which may very well be a regulatory requirement in the very near future in DRC especially in the mining sector. The Director General of SSM committed to extend their accreditation to other tests such as water, waste water, environmental and soil testing etc. In his concluding remarks Mr Johnson called upon the international community not to doubt accredited test results from the DRC. He expressed his hope and expectations of change, through the internationally recognized accreditation, in the way the international community looked at DRC’s technical competency.

During the afternoon session various presentations were made by accredited and non-accredited laboratories showcasing their services and in the case of Mutanda Mining (MUMI) whose laboratory is accredited by SADCAS showcased the benefits realized from accreditation inspiring the other laboratories to go for accreditation.

Whilst the afternoon session was ongoing some delegates undertook a tour of Brasimba a brewery and soft drinks manufacturer in Lubumbashi. Brasimba has 3 laboratories namely the Chemical, Microbiological and Organolectic testing.

The workshop was a great success judged from the number of delegates, their active participation and interest in accreditation matters. The DRC is one of the fastest growing economies in the SADC region. The mining industry is DRC’s largest source of export income and provides jobs for many, the majority being employed in artisanal mining operations. The DRC is endowed with a number minerals key of which are cobalt, copper, diamond, tantalum, tin, and gold as well etc. In 2009, the DRC had an estimated $24 trillion in untapped mineral deposits, including the world’s largest reserves...
of coltan and significant quantities of the world’s cobalt. DRC is beginning to realise the importance and need for accreditation as a transparent, non-discriminatory mechanism to assure competence of testing laboratories, increase safety, reliability and competitiveness of products thus enhance market access and facilitates trade. DRC realizes that ultimately accreditation contributes towards national social and economic development.

ASCOLAB is a National Laboratory Association (NLA) and non-government association of the DRC aimed at promoting accreditation, organizing trainings and information exchange, coordinating scientific and technical cooperation between the Congolese laboratories, carrying out Testing, Calibration and Medical analysis. ASCOLAB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SADCAS in April 2017. The main purpose of the MOU is to cooperate in raising awareness on accreditation matters.

ASCOLAB and the Chamber of Mines will in the near future formalize their relationship through an MOU.

More Assessors Registered

In February 2018, SADCAS registered one Lead Assessor, 11 Technical Assessors and one Technical Expert were approved for registration as SADCAS Assessors/Experts. Out of the 11 Technical Assessors, 1 was registered under the testing laboratories accreditation scheme (TLAP); 3 under the medical laboratories accreditation scheme (MLAP); 3 under the certification bodies accreditation scheme (CBAP) and 4 under inspection bodies’ accreditation scheme (IBAP). Two (2) of the registered assessors are conversant in French. SADCAS also extended the field of expertise of one 1 MLAP assessor to Molecular Biology scope and to cover CD 4 under the Haematology scope.

With these additional registrations, SADCAS has now has a total number of 36 Lead Assessors (LA), 103 Technical Assessors (TA) and 4 Technical Experts (TE). Refer to Figures 1, 2 and 3 for breakdown of assessors by field of accreditation and by language.
Advisory Committees News

Second Advisory Committee Meetings for CLAP and TLAP

The 2nd meetings of the Calibration and Testing Laboratories Accreditation Schemes (CLAP and TLAP) Advisory Committees AC.02 and AC.03 respectively were held concurrently on 5 December 2017 at Premier Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. The AC.02 meeting was attended by 8 out of 12 registered members and 2 SADCAS representative whilst the AC.03 meeting was attended by 8 out of 19 registered members and 2 SADCAS representative. The turn-out of the AC.03 was lower compared to the previous meeting as most of the TLAP AC members were attending UNIDO training for the SADC Laboratory Associations conducted during the same week as the AC meeting. Attendance to both these meetings was sponsored by PTB Germany with very few members meeting their own travel and subsistence costs.

CLAP AC.02 Meeting

Mr Victor Mundembe welcomed the members to the 2nd meeting of AC.02 and reminded members about their roles and responsibilities as AC members. Having given a brief background on the technical documents developed since the last meeting and the rationale for their development, the Chairman outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to review two specific TR documents: SADCAS TR XX - Criteria for Laboratory Accreditation in Mass Metrology and SADCAS TR XXX - Contributions to uncertainty of measurements during calibration of weights; and to agree on any other documents to be considered.
Mr Victor Mundembe welcomed the members to the 2nd meeting of AC.02 and reminded members about their roles and responsibilities as AC members. Having given a brief background on the technical documents developed since the last meeting and the rationale for their development, the Chairman outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to review two specific TR documents: SADCAS TR XX - Criteria for Laboratory Accreditation in Mass Metrology and SADCAS TR XXX - Contributions to uncertainty of measurements during calibration of weights; and to agree on any other documents to be considered.

Most of the meeting was spent on reviewing the documents. The review was undertaken clause by clause after which it was agreed that the Convenor would incorporate all comments/additions discussed during the meeting in the draft documents.

The Committee identified 3 other technical requirements documents for development related to Volume, Temperature and Dimension Metrology.

**TLAP AC.03 Meeting**

The acting Chair, Mrs Yomisi welcomed members from various member countries to the second meeting of the TLAP AC.02 following the successful 1st Advisory Committees meeting that was held at Holiday Inn Express, Pretoria, South Africa. She thanked PTB Germany for sponsoring this second meeting of TLAP & CLAP Advisory Committees and also thanked members who were able to fund part of their attendance costs. The acting Chair reminded the members about the role of the Advisory Committee, being to provide appropriate technical guidance on matters within specific field of expertise and that members of AC were appointed by their respective Organizations/Associations. She noted that some of the AC members were registered SADCAS assessors.

In line with the purpose of the meeting, most of the meeting was devoted to discussing and defining accreditation scopes in the radiometry and dosimetry laboratories, reviewing and finalizing 2 technical documents namely: Criteria for validation of methods used by chemical laboratories and related industries; and Criteria for validation and quality assurance in Microbiological testing which had been identified and prioritized during the 1st meeting for development.

Regarding the definition of accreditation scopes in the Radiometry and Dosimetry laboratories, members unanimously agreed with the recommendation for Testing Laboratories to be classified under the Radiation Dosimetry – Testing scope while the Calibration laboratories are to be classified under Radiation Dosimetry – Calibration scope. With these agreed definitions SADCAS TG 03: Areas of Accreditation will now be revised to incorporate these scopes under the respective fields and be published by 28 February 2018.

Members then went through the drafts for the validation of microbiology and chemical methods clause by clause and agreed on the amendments to be affected. One of the AC members Mr Ncube was tasked to provide a rounding off policy to be considered by SADCAS as a guide document and to also give an example of rounding off figures of the Criteria for validation of methods used by chemical laboratories and related industries. In conclusion, the members unanimously agreed to adopt the 2 draft Guidance documents with the proposed amendments.

The Committee identified 4 other technical documents for development during the course of the year and consideration at the next meeting of the AC as follows:

- Control Charts for Chemical and Microbiological Testing;
- Rounding - off policy;
- Uncertainty of measurement in microbiology; and
- Method validation in radiation Dosimetry.
Combined AC.02 and AC.03 Session

In a combined session of TLAP and CLAP Mr Steve Sydney, the Chair of the ILAC Laboratory Committee and Co-Convenor of the ISO/CASCO Working Group 44 gave an overview of the main changes of the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard starting with the history of the evolution of the standard from Guide 25, ISO/IEC 17025:1999, ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and the new version being ISO/IEC 17025:2017. He informed the joint meeting that the main changes to the standard were to align the layout of the standard with other related standards. He highlighted that Laboratories would not have to change their quality manuals especially for the technical requirements which have been moved to clause 7 of the new standard. Mr Sydney indicated that the significant change would be the inclusion of risk management and that sampling was now an accreditable stand-alone activity. The SADCAS CEO, Mrs Mutasa added that SADCAS is working on the transition policy which has since been published and uploaded on the SADCAS website at the end of January 2018.

This was followed by an update on developments in SADCAS which was presented by Mrs Mutasa highlighting the achievement of scope extension to medical and inspection in the ILAC MRA and the plans to undergo peer evaluation for the management systems and product certification bodies accreditation programmes in 2019 for signatory status in the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Arrangement (IAF MLA).
SADCAS Advisory Committee for Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme (MLAP)

The 1st meeting of the MLAP AC04 was attended by 13 out of 20 registered members and 2 SADCAS representatives at Premier Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa on 5 December 2017. Attendance to this meeting was sponsored by PT Germany.

The meeting started with welcome remarks from the SADCAS CEO and words of thanks to PTB – Germany for sponsoring the first meeting of the MLAP AC. The CEO then gave a brief background on the establishment of SADCAS and background on the establishment of the AC briefly highlighting their roles and responsibilities. She then outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to: Give an overview of SADCAS and update on developments in SADCAS; Explain the Terms of Reference and responsibilities of the AC; Discuss programme specific issues for MLAP during which the accreditation criteria and process will be outlined and reviewed; Identify areas requiring technical supporting documents and set up respective Working Groups to develop accreditation criteria documents including for Blood Transfusion facilities for which SADCAS has received expressed interest in. Elect AC chairperson for the Committee; and Establish Documents WG as necessary to assist SADCAS in commenting on regional and international technical documents as required by SADCA, AFRAC and ILAC of which SADCAS is a member.

This was followed by a detailed presentation on the overview of SADCAS and an update on developments in SADCAS.
The Programme Coordinator MLAP and Secretary of the AC, Mrs Eva Muronda then gave an overview of the MLAP highlighting the number of accreditations by scope and geographical diversity and trends in findings raised during assessments to ISO 15189. In ensuing discussions members shared experiences and developments regarding the accreditation of medical laboratories in their respective countries and benchmarked on the successes noted in Botswana and Tanzania which have amongst the highest accreditations with other countries such as Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Zambia coming up. From these discussions and the presentation on trends in findings raised from assessments members were able to identify areas requiring the development of technical documents.

The Programme Coordinator MLAP then presented on the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee, 5 stages of the accreditation process namely application & document review, pre-assessment which is an optional stage, initial assessment, surveillance assessment on an annually basis and re-assessment; the assessment checklists. From the discussions a number of areas for improvement, areas where supporting technical guidance documents were required and issues for further deliberations by the Committee were identified.

Based on all the discussions held, Mrs Muronda then presented a summary of the areas requiring technical supporting documents which after some deliberations were streamlined and prioritized into the establishment of three (3) Working Groups to develop the supporting documents for each of the prioritized areas namely Microbiology WG, Blood Transfusion WG and PT/ILC/Alternatives WG. All the members of the MLAP AC volunteered to be on the Documents Working Group to comment on international and regional accreditation documents. Ms Mokobela was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Committee which was subsequently accepted by the SADCAS CEO.

Kelebeletse Mokobela Appointed Chairperson of SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme Advisory Committee

Ms Kelebeletse Mokobela as the first Chairperson of the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme (MLAP) Advisory Committee (AC). She was elected Chairperson at the 1st meeting of the AC held on 5 December 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa. SADCAS ACs provide appropriate technical guidance on matters within specific fields of expertise. The credibility of SADCAS services hinges on the technical knowledge and experience of the Advisory Committees which cover the main disciplines and sectors within which SADCAS operates. Advisory Committees are comprised of members appointed by respective organizations/Associations and technical assessors.

Ms Mokobela is the Chief Medical Laboratory Scientist working for Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness based in Nyangabgwe Hospital which is one of the two regional hospitals in the country. As a Laboratory Manager at Nyangabgwe from 2011 – 2015 she was able to guide and lead the Laboratory through the development and implementation of Quality Management Systems that led to the accreditation of the Laboratory to ISO 15189 in 2014. She worked as the Botswana National Quality Manager from 2009 – 2012. Under her service four public laboratories were accredited to ISO 15189. A holder of a Master of Science Degree in Clinical Microbiology from Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia in 2004, Ms Mokobela has authored a number of technical papers which have been published in various international journals. She is a certified SLMTA Master Trainer and has since conducted trainings in several countries including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Uganda and Botswana. She is a member of the SLMTA Governance Board. She is currently a trainee assessor for ISO 15189.

Due to her contribution in transforming service delivery Ms Mokobela has received several awards which include Best Change Agent in the Botswana Public Service Awards in 2016, August Performer in the corporate category at Ministry of Health and Wellness Awards in 2017 and the Superintendents awards at the Nyangabgwe Hospital Awards in 2015. Due to her extensive knowledge and experience in quality management systems Ms Mokobela was assigned the Nyangabgwe Hospital Quality Manager to guide and drive the hospital accreditation process.

The SADCAS MLAP was established in June 2010 and up to date SADCAS has accredited medical 21 laboratories both in the SADC region and outside the region; The programme is internationally recognised having recently been admitted to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Medical testing (ISO 15189) on 28 October 2017, following an extraordinary peer evaluation from 14 to 19 May 2017.
Invitation to Register as SADCAS Assessors

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

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

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

Applications shall be addressed to:
Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo
Technical Manager
P Bag 00320
Gaborone, Botswana
Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org

SADCAS Staff and National Accreditation Focal Points Attended Training on ISO/IEC 17011:2017

The training workshop of ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies was held from 6 to 7 December 2017 at Garden Court OR Tambo International Airport – Johannesburg, South Africa. The training which was attended by SADCAS staff and National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs), was fully sponsored under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF REIS Programme. The training was very ably facilitated by Mr Mahmoud Eltayeb.

The objective of the course was to train SADCAS staff and NAFPs on the requirements, implementation and transition to the new standard ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 which was published in November 2017. The course content included: A history of the standard, a comprehensive elaboration on each clause of the standard highlighting the changes made, an account on the ILAC/IAF and AFRAC Transition requirements, a review of the SADCAS quality policy manual to align it to ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and development of the SADCAS transition plan to the revised ISO/IEC 17011.
Continued from p 26

The facilitator highlighted the following key changes of the standard:

- The standard has been aligned with the common structure of CASCO documents;
- Mandatory wording for impartiality, confidentiality, complaints and appeals has been incorporated;
- For the management system 2 options i.e. Option A and Option B have been included;
- Proficiency testing (PT) has been identified as an accreditation activity;
- Definitions have been changed, deleted and clarified as necessary;
- The concept of risk based thinking has been introduced; and
- Competence criteria have been incorporated.
The theoretical sessions were interspaced with the practical sessions where participants undertook exercises based on the standard requirements. The sessions generated a lot of discussions and also provided the participants with the opportunity to put into practise what they had learnt. The group sessions included activities on the requirements of the standard and on development of SADCAS transition plan.

Judged by feedback from the participants, the course was well organised, very useful and met participant’s expectations. Participants were enlightened of the requirements and implementation of the new standard.

The training ended on a high note with the handing over of certificates by the SADC EU EDF 10 REIS Programme officer to the participants who successfully underwent the training.
The international accreditation organizations ILAC and IAF together with ISO and the Independent International Organization for Certification (IIOC) have established a website www.publicsectorassurance.org to showcase different global examples where accreditation has been used to support public policy efforts. From assisting forensic science in the UK, to effective voluntary programmes in the US, to improving the delivery of food safety in Australia, to protecting consumers in the safety of products in the Gulf Coast Countries, to supporting sustainable animal health in Botswana, the site demonstrates real examples where public policy is being delivered using accreditation.

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

A link to the public sector assurance site is provided on the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org under the window on links.
Training on the **NEW!! ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard Now on Offer**

The following training courses based on the **New!! ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard now on offer**

- One-day ISO/IEC 17025 Awareness
- 3-day ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditing
- 3-day ISO/IEC 17025 Bridging Course (to the new standard)
- 5-day ISO/IEC Requirements and Internal Auditing

**To register for training please contact SADCAS:** Email: info@sadcas.org or Tel: +267 313 2909/10

**SADCAS Holds New ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in Swaziland**

Following the publication of the revised ISO/IEC 17025: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories on 30 November 2018 SADCAS launched the following training courses based on the revised standard:

- One-day ISO/IEC 17025 Awareness
- 3-day ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditing
- 3-day ISO/IEC 17025 Bridging Course (to the new standard)
- 5-day ISO/IEC Requirements and Internal Auditing

By 31 March 2017 SADCAS had successfully held the following 8 training courses on the standard:

- 3 x One-day ISO 17025 Awareness
  - The Swaziland Ministry of Natural Resources & Energy, held on 2 February 2018 in Mbabane Swaziland;
  - Botswana Institute for Technology and Innovation (RITRI) held on 26 February 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana; and
  - Water Utilities held on 6 March 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana.

- 4 x Five-day ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements, implementation and Internal Auditing Course
  - The Swaziland Ministry of Natural Resources & Energy, held from 19 to 23 February 2018 in Mbabane Swaziland;
  - Open course held from 19 to 23 February 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana;
  - Open course held from 26 February to 2 March 2018 in Harare, Zimbabwe;
  - Botswana Geoscience Institute held from 12 to 16 March 2018 in Lobatse, Botswana.
One three-day ISO/IEC 17025 Bridging Course for Water Utilities Corporation held from 7 to 9 March 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana.

The feedback on the training courses conducted so far has been very positive with participants saying that the courses are well arranged, very informative and engaging.

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has already agreed on a 3 year transition from the date of publication of the standard. According to SADCAS TR 14: SADCAS Policy ISO/IEC 17025 Transition. According to SADCAS TR 14 any applications for accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 submitted to SADCAS after 1 July 2018 shall be based on the latest version of the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. For those laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005, the three year transition period will conclude on 30 November 2020 and all testing/calibration laboratories are expected to be in full compliance with the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and have new accredited certificates issued. If by 31 July 2020 SADCAS cannot confirm compliance with the new version of the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017, then accreditation against ISO/IEC 17025:2005 shall be suspended on 30 November 2020. No accreditation against ISO/IEC 17025:2017 shall be granted.

Training on the new standard is inevitable.

For information of future training courses on ISO/IEC 17025-2017 and any other key accreditation standards please visit the SADCAS website under the window on training services www.sadcas.org

**Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe Trained on ISO/IEC 17020**

SADCAS was engaged by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) to conduct a five days’ training course on ISO/IEC 17020 requirements, implementation and internal auditing. The training course was held at Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, 106 Baines Avenue, Harare from 20 to 24 March 2018. A total of ten (10) participants. The participants comprised of MCAZ inspectors and personnel from the Quality Assurance Department.

The course started off with the MCAZ Quality Assurance Manager Mrs Alphosene Chikowore introducing the Trainer, Mr Danmore Mabambe. This was followed by the participants introducing themselves, paying particular attention to what they do and their course expectations. A comprehensive elaboration on each clause of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 was made by the Trainer. Examples on how some organisations have met the requirements were also given. Course participants were given the opportunity to ask questions on each clause for clarifications and various examples were given by the Trainer referencing their respective work places. On internal auditing the Trainer covered the reasons for carrying out internal audits, the audit process (including how to conduct the opening and closing meetings), positive and negative characteristics of an auditor, and competence requirements for auditors.

There was a lot of discussion and interaction throughout the whole training programme which was interspaced with exercises. The group was very eager to acquire knowledge and valuable experience was gained by the participants as confirmed by the feedback from the participants.

The MCAZ is a statutory body established by an act of Parliament, The Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act (MASCA) [Chapter 15.03]. The mandate of the MCAZ which is the successor of the Drugs Control Council (DCC) and the Zimbabwe Regional Drug Control Laboratory (ZRDCL) is to protect public health ensuring that accessible medicines and allied substances as well as medical devices on the market are safe, effective and of good quality through enforcement of adherence to standards by manufacturers and distributors. MCAZ services range from evaluation/registration to licencing/enforcement to pharmacovigilance and clinical trials to laboratory services. The Chemistry Laboratory which is capable of performing comprehensive analytical work on a wide range of medicinal substance, oral and injectable contraceptives using pharmacopoeia and validated in-house methods is accredited in various scopes by SADCAS.
ADCAS was engaged by the Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership for HIV Research and Education to conduct a 5 days’ internal auditing training course. The 5 days’ course was held at Woodlane Hotel, Riverwalk in Gaborone, Botswana from 19 to 23 February 2018 and was attended by 25 participants from 4 organizations:

- Botswana Harvard HIV Research Laboratory (BHHRL) (22);
- National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) (1);
- National Health Laboratory (NHL) (1); and
- National TB Reference Laboratory NTRL (1).

The workshop started with welcoming and opening remarks by Mr Edward Mmatli the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Botswana which is housed in the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry. He thanked the participants for attending the training course and wished them a fruitful week and then declared the training workshop open having introduced the SADCAS Trainer Dr Farodjeo Hemraj. The Trainer then requested participants to introduce themselves and to state their expectations from the workshop which are summarized below:

- Knowing more about the ISO 15189 Standard and interpretation and transition from ISO/IEC 17025;
- Identifying areas of improvement;
- Learn the standard requirements and auditing requirements, validation and measurement uncertainty; and
- How to conduct internal audits for ISO 15189:2012

The Trainer started then with an overview of what laboratory accreditation is, the benefits of accreditation and explained the difference between certification and accreditation. He elaborated on the important terms related to accreditation after giving the scope of the new ISO 15189: 2012 including quality, competency, quality management systems, policy, process and procedures as well as objectives and plans. In the following sessions over 3 days, the Trainer explained and discussed the main management and technical requirements of ISO 15189.

On Day 4, the topic of method validation and verification was further discussed and the concept of measurement uncertainty was introduced. The importance of internal auditing was highlighted. The Trainer elaborated on the audit process, benefits of auditing, attributes of auditor, and on nonconformities. The participants discussed the checklist for internal auditing based on ISO 15189. The Trainer also elaborated on how to prepare for accreditation and described the main steps involved in the accreditation process as laid down by SADCAS.

For more information on training
Visit SADCAS website: www.sadcas.org or contact SADCAS Office on:
Tel: +267 3132909 or Email: info@sadcas.org

Continued to p 33
On the last day of the course, a general revision on the main themes presented throughout the course was held during which participants were given opportunity to seek additional explanations on pertinent aspects of the ISO 15189 before writing the examination. The theoretical sessions were interspaced with practical sessions where participants undertook exercises based on the standard requirements and internal auditing elements.

During the closing session held on the last day of the course after the examination, Mr Edward Mmatli expressed his wish that the participants will be committed to put in practice of whatever learnt. He also thanked the administration and catering personnel of the Conference Venue for arrangements and the support in terms of logistics and other facilities. He then declared the training workshop closed. One participant, Mr Terence Mohammed, on behalf of all participants thanked the SADCAS for the course and the administration for this opportunity provided. He also expressed their appreciation to the SADCAS Trainer for his invaluable input and to have made the training course successful particularly through the regular interaction and fruitful discussions on pertinent topics.
SADCAS successfully held another training course on Validation/Verification of Methods and on Measurement Uncertainty for fifteen (15) laboratory staff members from various testing laboratories in Swaziland. The training course was organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE) with participants being drawn from various Laboratories namely:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE) (12);
- Biogas Investments (1);
- Swaziland Water Services Corporation (1); and
- Swaziland Royal Police (1).

The participants consisted mainly of laboratory staff who are active in water and effluent testing and in fuel testing. The training was held at the Mountain Inn Hotel, Mbabane, Swaziland from 19 to 23 March 2018. This was the 3rd such training course to run by SADCAS.

The training course was formally opened by Ms Sybil Sthembiso Dlamini, the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Swaziland who welcomed all participants and expressed her gratitude, on behalf of all the trainees, to the MNRE for sponsoring the training course. She also read out a welcoming message from SADCAS.

The Trainer highlighted the objectives of the course in that full participation from all trainees was required from the outset so that the learning objectives of individuals and group exercises and class discussions could be achieved. The training was very intensive and required basic understanding of mathematics. The course covered statistical fundamentals before progressing to relatively advanced concepts of statistical techniques that are used in both method validation/verification and in calculating measurement uncertainty of test results. Practical and group work was interspersed throughout the training programme and consisted of exercises in: Hypothesis testing; t-test applications; ANOVA Analysis; F-Tests; Ruggedness testing; Linearity testing; LOD & LOQ; Measurement uncertainty (Type A & Type B); and a group Exercise on measurement uncertainty using real data produced by a fish-testing laboratory.

In general, the trainees were well focused throughout the week. The course was formally closed by Ms Dlamini (NAFP) and Ms Phindile Dlamini who emphasized the importance of producing reliable test results in support of economic and social development in Swaziland. She encouraged all trainees to apply the knowledge that they have gained in the pursuit of accreditation of test laboratories in Swaziland.

Feedback forms were completed by fourteen (14) of the fifteen (15) participants. The overall response from the participants was that the training was very detailed and informative, well presented and that the Trainer was highly skilled, knows the subject and gave practical examples and exercises. The participants also said that the training course achieved all its objectives and empowered and enlightened them. The course was a success based on both the feedback from participants and the outcome of the examination with 87% of the participants passing a relatively difficult examination.
SWASA Staff Trained on ISO/IEC 17021-1

SADCAS was engaged by the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade to conduct a five days’ training course on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 Requirements and Implementation and Internal Auditing for the Swaziland Standards Authority (SWASA) staff. The training course was funded under the Trade related Facility (TrF). The TrF is a mechanism for financial and technical support to be given to SADC Member States to assist them to implement commitments made under the SADC Protocol on Trade and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union (EU) and the SADC EPA Group. The overall objective of the TrF is to improve the participation of SADC Member States in regional and international trade in order to contribute to sustainable development in the SADC region. Specifically the TrF aims to enhance the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade and the EPA so as to increase intra and inter regional trade flows of concerned Member States.

Certification bodies provide conformity certificates to organizations for their management systems, products as well as personnel. Third party management systems certification is a frequently specified requirement to operate in the global market place. Third party management system certification can demonstrate compliance to a standard, code of practice or regulatory requirements. Management System certification bodies are accredited to the international standard, ISO/IEC 17021: Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems Part 1: Requirements. The standard sets out principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of audit and certification of management systems of all types (e.g. quality or environmental management systems) and for bodies providing these activities. Accreditation which is an independent evaluation of management systems certification bodies against ISO/IEC 17021-1 by an authoritative body, in this case SADCAS, confirms the competence, consistency and impartiality of the certification body. Throughout the world many countries now rely on accreditation as a means of independently evaluating competence of certification bodies. With the launch of the SADC Free Trade Areas in 2008, accreditation is playing a key role in facilitating trade.

A total of 9 participants from 6 organizations namely: Swaziland Water Services Corporation (1); Swaziland Standards Authority (4); National Health Laboratory of Swaziland (1); Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade (1); Mananga Sugar Packers (1); and University of Swaziland (1) attended the training course which at held at Sibane Hotel in Ezulwini, Swaziland from 19 to 23 February 2018.

The course started with opening remarks which were made by the Mrs Sybil S Dlamini National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Swaziland who welcomed all the participants to the course and expressed her expectation of a fruitful training program for the benefit of SWASA Quality Assurance Department as it works towards accreditation to the latest version of ISO/IEC 17021 -1:2015. She then introduced the Trainer to the participants and declared the training course open. The participants then introduced themselves and expressed their expectations from the course.

The group expected to learn how to interpret the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Standard so that they can improve their documentation and implementation. They also expressed the need to learn how to conduct internal audits and how to manage independence and impartiality in such audits.

The training focused on the requirements of the Standard, the principles and the phases of an audit. Questions from participants were answered by the Trainer accurately and to the satisfaction of the participants. The training course was interspaced with practical examples and exercises which were all done with seriousness and everyone participated actively. Participants learnt a lot from the exercises and committed to review their own documentation and implementation of the system, including better planning and preparations for internal audits.

Continued to p 36
On the last day of the training course, closing remarks were made by Ms Sihle Zwane, the Executive Director of SWASA, Ms Sihle Zwane and Mrs Sybil Dlamini who both thanked the Trainer and participants for active interactions. The Executive Director of SWASA encouraged participants especially from the SWASA Quality Assurance Department to go back and implement what they had learnt so as to achieve accreditation. The NAFP- Swaziland hoped for effective internal audits to monitor compliance with the system and for improvement purposes.

The examination was written on Friday, 23 February 2018 having undertaken a general revision on the main themes presented during the whole course was carried out by the Trainer. Participants were also continuously evaluated by the Trainer during the training course. The feedback forms were completed by all the nine delegates who participated in the course. The overall response was that the course was well planned, organized and presented, was relevant and met participants’ expectations.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

In an effort to continuously improve its accreditation services thus serve customers better, SADCAS undertook a customer satisfaction survey during the 2017/18 financial year.

The Customer satisfaction survey form was circulated to clients electronically on an ongoing basis for completion as they receive accreditation services from SADCAS. The feedback is analyzed on an ongoing basis with any suggestions for improvement being considered and implemented accordingly. Seventy-one forms were circulated and 35 responses were received. The following results are based on an analysis of all the feedback received during the period beginning 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

- 100% rated SADCAS overall accreditation services from good to excellent with 97% rating from very good to excellent. Refer to Figure 1.
- 100% rated SADCAS accreditation for accuracy and completeness of technical information from good to excellent with 97% rating from very good to excellent. Refer to Figure 2.
- 100% rated SADCAS accreditation process timelines from satisfactory (7%), good (5%), very good (47%) to excellent (41%). Refer to Figure 3.
- 100% rated professionalism of assessment team from very good (46) to excellent (54%). Refer to Figure 4.
- There was an improvement in overall satisfaction on accreditation service during the 2017/18 year when 100% rated overall satisfaction from good, very good to excellent compared to 94% for the 2016/17 financial year.
- There was an improvement in all aspects for which feedback was sought from clients over the 2016/17 financial year as follows:
  - Accuracy of completeness of technical information – 97% vs 81% in 2016/17
  - Accreditation process timelines – 88% vs 64% in 2016/17
  - Professionalism of assessment team – 100% vs 89%.
Continued from p36

**Figure 1 - Overall Satisfaction on Service Received 2017/18 Year**

- Excellent: 60
- Very Good: 37
- Good: 3
- Satisfactory: 0
- Poor: 0

**Figure 2 - Accuracy & Completeness of Technical Information 2017/18 Year**

- Excellent: 57
- Very Good: 40
- Good: 3
- Satisfactory: 0
- Poor: 0

**Figure 3 - Accreditation Process Timelines 2017/18 Year**

- Excellent: 41
- Very Good: 47
- Good: 5
- Satisfactory: 0
- Poor: 0

**Figure 4 - Professionalism of Assessment Team 2017/18 Year**

- Excellent: 54
- Very Good: 46
- Good: 0
- Satisfactory: 0
- Poor: 0

**Figure 5 - Overall Satisfaction on Service - 2017/18 compared to 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14**

- **2013/14**
  - Excellent: 17
  - Very Good: 22
  - Good: 2
  - Satisfactory: 3
  - Poor: 0

- **2014/15**
  - Excellent: 36
  - Very Good: 32
  - Good: 16
  - Satisfactory: 16
  - Poor: 0

- **2015/16**
  - Excellent: 60
  - Very Good: 56
  - Good: 52
  - Satisfactory: 37
  - Poor: 0

- **2016/2017**
  - Excellent: 67
  - Very Good: 64
  - Good: 0
  - Satisfactory: 0
  - Poor: 0

- **2017/2018**
  - Excellent: 36
  - Very Good: 32
  - Good: 16
  - Satisfactory: 16
  - Poor: 0
SADCAS requirements on Proficiency Testing (PT)/Inter Laboratories Comparisons (ILC) applicable to Testing Laboratories are outlined in the following documents:

- **SADCAS PM 01** - "SADCAS Policy Manual", Clause 6.13.1;
- **SADCAS TR 02** - "Accreditation Requirements", Clause 3.2.4; and
- **SADCAS TR 08** - "Proficiency Testing and Other Programmes Requirements for Testing and Medical Laboratories"

According to SADCAS policy on PT/ILC applicant and accredited laboratories are required to participate in appropriate PT/ILC in order to demonstrate their capabilities and to assure the validity of their test/calibration results. Laboratories are required to maintain complete records of participation in the PT/ILC schemes and to have procedures for evaluating performance and implementation of corrective actions. SADCAS assesses PT/ILC performance during initial assessments, surveillance and reassessments. If the results of participation are outside the acceptable limits, corrective actions shall be instituted. If causes for unacceptable results are not found within a reasonable time or if a laboratory is not undertaking suitable investigation to solve the problem, then the accreditation for the specific parameter/method/analysis may be suspended or terminated.

As per the above-mentioned documents, Technical Assessors are expected to evaluate the adequacy and the implementation of PT/ILC activity plan of testing laboratories during an assessment. However, it was noted during the SADCAS Internal Audit held in October 2017 that some of the Technical Assessors who assessed testing laboratories do not fully evaluate PT/ILC and furthermore mark the last part of SADCAS F 61(e) "Proficiency Testing/Inter Laboratories Comparisons ISO/IEC 17025" as “Not Applicable”. This was due to the fact that SADCAS omitted to amend SADCAS F 61(e) after publication of Issue 1 of SADCAS TR 08 on 24 April 2013 and Issue 2 of SADCAS TR 08 on 29 September 2014. To this regard, SADCAS F 61(e), page 3, Clause 5.9, the last part has been amended to include the relevance of PT/ILC for Testing Laboratories according to SADCAS TR 08.

This Communiqué serves to inform respective accreditation scheme Technical Assessors about the amendment made to SADCAS F 61(e) and to remind them to evaluate the compliance of testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) against the requirements of SADCAS Policy on PT/ILC as stipulated in the above-mentioned documents.
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.

The site was launched in October at the ILAC and IAF conference in Vancouver. Additional case studies will be added in the coming months to ensure that it can be a valuable resource to promote the use of standards and accreditation to the business community. The site aims to mirror the success of [Public Sector Assurance](http://www.public-sector-assurance.org), a similar site that promotes the value of accreditation to policy makers.
A laboratory’s fulfillment of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 means the laboratory meets both the technical competence requirements and management system requirements that are necessary for it to consistently deliver technically valid test results and calibrations. The management system requirements in ISO/IEC 17025 are written in language relevant to laboratory operations and operate generally in accordance with the principles of ISO 9001.
Publication of SADCAS TR 15, 16, 17 and 18

This serves to announce the publication of the following documents by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS):

- **SADCAS TR 15 – Contributions to Uncertainty of Measurement in Mass Metrology.** The purpose of this document is specifically to consider contributors to uncertainty of measurements during the process of calibration of weights and weighing instruments.

  This document is applicable to Southern African Development Community Accreditation System (SADCAS) accredited Laboratories.

- **SADCAS TR 16 – Criteria for Laboratory Accreditation in Mass Metrology.** The purpose of this document is to define the specific environmental, general and technical requirements to be met by accredited laboratories in the field of mass metrology.

  This document is applicable to Southern African Development Community Accreditation System (SADCAS) accredited Laboratories. This document does not address the requirements for accreditation of facilities for compliance to national legal metrology legislation.

- **SADCAS TR 17 - Criteria for Validation of Methods Used by Chemical Laboratories and Related Industries.** This document defines the concepts and processes of method validation and to provide technical requirements in order to facilitate a uniform approach to method validation. This document amplifies ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and lists SADCAS requirements applicable to the validation of methods in chemical laboratories.

  These criteria are applicable to chemical testing of Coal, Oil, Petroleum, Metals, Minerals, Food, Pharmaceuticals, Water and related industries.

  Sampling, sample handling and transportation do not form part of this document.

- **SADCAS TR 18 – Criteria for Validation and Quality Assurance in Microbiological Testing.** This document defines the technical requirements for quality control, quality assurance and the validation of methods in microbiological testing laboratories.

  This document contains supplementary requirements for meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. Whenever doubt may exist, ISO/IEC 17025:2017 remains the authoritative document in establishing the competence of a laboratory to produce valid measurements.

The documents were published on 19 and 24 March 2018 and the date of implementation for these documents is 1 April 2018. All the above documents are available on the SADCAS website [http://www.sadcas.org/document-type/policies-and-procedures](http://www.sadcas.org/document-type/policies-and-procedures).

SADCAS TR 15 and 16 were prepared by the CLAP Advisory Committee (AC.02) and approved by SADCAS on 19 March 2018 whilst TR 17 and 18 were prepared by the TLAP Advisory Committee (AC. 03) and approved by SADCAS on 24 March 2018.
## Training Calendar for the Period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DATE(S)</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>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>09 -13 April 2018</td>
<td>Namibia, Windhoek</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness</td>
<td>27 April 2018</td>
<td>Tanzania, Mwanza</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>04 – 06 June 2018</td>
<td>Botswana, Gaborone</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>03 - 07 July 2018</td>
<td>Angola, Luanda</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) July 2018</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>11 to 13 July 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>16 – 20 July 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>24 - 28 July 2018</td>
<td>Seychelles, Mahe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) July 2018</td>
<td>Namibia, Windhoek</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>06 – 10 August 2018</td>
<td>Botswana, Gaborone</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>13 August 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>14 – 18 August 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>Inhouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) August 2018</td>
<td>Namibia, Windhoek</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>10 to 12 September 2018</td>
<td>Tanzania, Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>- 570</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging</td>
<td>01 to 13 September 2018</td>
<td>Zimbabwe, Harare</td>
<td>- 560</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness</td>
<td>01 October 2018</td>
<td>Angola, Luanda</td>
<td>- TBA</td>
<td></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 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;
- 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

### Courses and Details

<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 Bridging</td>
<td>02 - 04 October 2018</td>
<td>Angola, Luanda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) October 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>22 – 26 October 2018</td>
<td>Botswana, Gaborone</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>22 – 26 October 2018</td>
<td>Lesotho, Maseru</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>05 – 09 November 2018</td>
<td>Mozambique, Maputo</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Awareness</td>
<td>05 November 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>06 – 10 November 2018</td>
<td>Swaziland, Mbabane</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>12 – 16 November 2018</td>
<td>Zimbabwe, Harare</td>
<td></td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>(TBA) February 2019</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Validation &amp; Measurement Uncertainty</td>
<td>(TBA) February 2019</td>
<td>Gaborone, Botswana</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing</td>
<td>04 – 09 March 2019</td>
<td>Namibia, Windhoek</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SADCAS Training Courses

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

SADCAS Trainers

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

Training Programmes

SADCAS currently offers the following accreditation training courses:

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

- ISO 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing *for medical laboratories*
- ISO 15189:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing [Bridging course] *for medical laboratories*
- ISO/IEC 17020 Requirements and Internal Auditing *for inspection bodies*
- ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing *for management systems certification bodies*
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 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 Accreditation Scopes

SADCAS is proud to announce the accreditation of more facilities in Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the accreditation of scope extension in DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These accreditations are since 1 December 2017 to 31 March 2018. For full list of accredited facilities please go to SADCAS website: [http://www.sadcas.org/accredited-organizations](http://www.sadcas.org/accredited-organizations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization &amp; Location</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Date of Accreditation</th>
<th>New Accreditations</th>
<th>Scopes Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omamanya Laboratory Services (Pty) Ltd, Namibia</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005</td>
<td>2017-12-01</td>
<td>TEST-3 0003 Civil Engineering</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nesch Mintec Tanzania Ltd</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005</td>
<td>2017-12-01</td>
<td>TEST-5 0029 Chemical Analysis - Minerals</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antech Laboratories, Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005</td>
<td>2017-12-01</td>
<td>TEST-5 0030 Chemical Analysis - Minerals</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaborone Laboratory Services, Botswana</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005</td>
<td>2018-02-21</td>
<td>TEST-1 0014 Microbiological Analysis – Food &amp; Water</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Fish Quality Control Lab, Tanzania</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005</td>
<td>2018-03-20</td>
<td>TEST-1 0015 Microbiological Analysis - Food &amp; Water</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Veterinary Laboratory, Botswana</td>
<td>Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2005</td>
<td>2018-03-20</td>
<td>VET 003 Microbiology- Bacteriology (Clinical Samples), Dairy Hygiene (Milk and Milk products), Food Hygiene (Meat and Meat products, Animal Feeding Stuffs, Treated Water) • Chemistry – Residue Analysis • Histopathology – Livestock Feed • Virology – Serum and Plasma • Serology – Serum and Plasma</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISOCAL Calibration Laboratories, Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025:2005</td>
<td>2017-12-13</td>
<td>CAL-14 005 Temperature Metrology</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued to p 46
### Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization and Location</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Date of Accreditation</th>
<th>New Accreditations</th>
<th>Scopes Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Benedict’ Ndanda Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania</td>
<td>Medical to ISO 15189:2012</td>
<td>2012-12-11</td>
<td>MED 021 Clinical Chemistry TB – Gene Xpert</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OHS-CERT 001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1 (Certification to OHSAS 18001:2007)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17000:2004 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles</td>
<td>International standard to be revised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC WD 17000 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles</td>
<td>Working Draft (WD) study initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17021-5:2014 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 5 Competence requirements for auditing and certification of asset management systems</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17021-6:2014</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17021-7:2014</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC AWI TS 17021-8</td>
<td>Working Draft (WD) study initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17021-9:2016</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC TS 17021-10:2018</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC DTS 17021-11</td>
<td>Working Draft (WD) study initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17024:2012</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC TS 17027:2014</td>
<td>International standard confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC WD 17029</td>
<td>CD study/ballot initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC NP TR 17032</td>
<td>New Project approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/NP TS 17033</td>
<td>New Project approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STANDARD</td>
<td>STATUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services</td>
<td>Close of review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILAC R1:03/2018 Management of ILAC documents</td>
<td>This document provides rules and procedures for the publication and classification of ILAC documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF/ILAC A1:01/2018 IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements) : Requirements and procedures for evaluation of a Regional Group</td>
<td>This document provides ILAC and IAF with requirements or criteria and procedures for evaluating Regional Groups for the purpose of recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF/ILAC A2:01/2018 IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements) : Requirements and procedures for evaluation of a Single Accreditation Body</td>
<td>This document provides ILAC and IAF with requirements or criteria and procedures for evaluating single Accreditation Bodies for the purpose of qualifying them to sign applicable multi-lateral mutual recognition arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF/ILAC A3:01/2018 IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements) : Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017</td>
<td>This document provides a tool for the evaluation and report preparation process: (1) to allow an evaluated accreditation body (AB) to present information about how it addresses its performance; and (2) to provide template for the evaluation team to present this information as an evaluation report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF/ILAC A6:01/2018 Approval process for IAF/ILAC A – Series documents</td>
<td>This document describes the procedures to be followed in the development, approval and maintenance of IAF/ILAC A – Series documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAF MD 1:2018 IAF Mandatory document for the audit and certification of a management system operated by a multi-site organization</td>
<td>Issue 2, issued on 29 January 2018; Application from 29 January 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This document is for the audit and, if appropriate, the certification of management systems of organizations with a number of sites with a single management system</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This document provides requirements for the migration from OHSAS 18001:2007 to ISO 45001:2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This document for the consistent application of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 for the accreditation of Certification Bodies providing certification of occupational health and safety management systems (OH&amp;SMS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Diary of Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 April 2018</td>
<td>21st CASCO TIG Meeting</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 April 2018</td>
<td>29th CASCO CPC Meeting</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 26 April 2018</td>
<td>CASCO Plenary</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 April 2018</td>
<td>CASCO Workshop</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 April to 2 May 2018</td>
<td>ARAC General Assembly</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 2018</td>
<td>SADCAS HRRC Meeting</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 2018</td>
<td>SADCAS FRAC Meeting</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 2018</td>
<td>SADCAS Board of Directors</td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 to 24 May 2018</td>
<td>45th EEE-PT WG Meeting</td>
<td>Helsinki, Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 June 2018</td>
<td>World Accreditation Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 to 23 June 2018</td>
<td>AFRAC ISO/IEC 17025 Training</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 to 26 June 2018</td>
<td>AFRAC Peer Evaluators Training</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 to 29 June 2018</td>
<td>AFRAC Mid-term Meetings</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 July 2018</td>
<td>SADCAS/SANAS TPA M.30</td>
<td>Pretoria, South Africa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>