

## SADCAS CEO Elected AFRAC MRA Council Chair



Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO was unanimously elected as the Chair of the African Accreditation Cooperation's Mutual Recognition Arrangement Council. The elections were held during the 9<sup>th</sup> AFRAC General Assembly meeting held on 28 September 2018 in Balaclava Fort, Mauritius.

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) is a cooperation of accreditation bodies, sub-regional accreditation cooperation's and stakeholders whose objective is to facilitate trade and contribute to the protection of health, safety and the environment in Africa and thereby improve Africa's competitiveness. AFRAC is one of the four pillars of the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) established by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to support intra-African trade, improve the competitiveness of African goods and services and to facilitate health and safety of the public and the environment.

The AFRAC MRA Council makes decisions on the acceptance of applications to the AFRAC MRA and admittance, suspension and tension to the MRA and to oversee the implementation of AFRAC, ILAC and IAF resolutions relevant to the AFRAC MRA Signatories.

Mrs Mutasa a founding member of AFRAC is a peer evaluator and was upgraded to Team Leader at the 9<sup>th</sup> AFRAC annual general meeting. Mrs Mutasa has a first class BSc Honours, Degree in Biological Sciences (Biochemistry and Microbiology) from the University of Wolverhampton (UK) [1981] and MSc Food Science with Distinction from the University of Zimbabwe [1983]. A "Beit Scholar", she attended management development and leadership training programmes in Singapore as a Singapore International Foundation Scholar and in the USA as an Eisenhower Fellow. She has over 36 years' diverse and extensive experience in the food industry, lecturing and agricultural research, standards development and management, conformity assessment and accreditation. Mrs Mutasa joined SADCAS in June 2008 as its first Chief Executive Officer. Mrs Mutasa has held various leadership positions regionally and internationally including being Chair of ISO Policy Committee for Developing Countries (ISO DEVCO) and a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Joint Implementation - Accreditation Panel and Clean Development Mechanism – Accreditation Panel. She is currently an Executive member of the SADCAS Board of Directors, Vice Chairman of the AFRAC, serves on the SADCA and AFRAC Executive Committees and represents SADCAS in ILAC/IAF and AFRAC on the IAF executive Committee.

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