Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO was unanimously elected as the Chair of the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Cooperation (SADCA). The elections were held during the 23rd SADCA General Assembly meeting held on 14 March 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia. She takes over the Chair of SADCA from Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama who chaired SADCA from 2015. This is the second time that Mrs Mutasa has chaired SADCA having chaired from 1999 to 2004.

The Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) is a Cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. SADCA is a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperation Structure established under the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade and currently comprises of 19 Members: 3 Arrangement Members (MRA Signatories) namely MAURITAS, SADCAS and SANAS; 8 Ordinary Members; and 8 Stakeholder Members. SADCA Membership covers all 15 SADC Member states namely: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. SADCA launched its MRA for Testing and calibration laboratories accreditation schemes in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 on 14 March 2019.

Speaking after the election, Mrs Mutasa thanked the outgoing Chair for his leadership which had led to the launch of the SADCA MRA. She also thanked the members for the confidence shown by electing her to chair SADCA, a position she had held in the past. “We have launched the SADCA MRA and let us hope that this rejuvenates us to work towards international recognition. This is not an easy process” she remarked. She then accepted to take on the SADCA agenda forward on condition that all members work together as a team towards goal achievement. She then ended her acceptance speech by quoting from an old saying which goes “A bundle of trees tied together are difficult to break”. “Let us work together as a team to achieve the SADCA goals” she said.

Mrs Mutasa a founding member of SADCA holds 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 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, Chair of the AFRAC MRA Council, serves on the SADCA and AFRAC Executive Committees and represents SADCAS in ILAC/IAF and represents AFRAC on the IAF executive Committee.