

## SADCAS Holds 3<sup>rd</sup> Assessor Conclave

SADCAS held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Assessor Conclave on 11 December 2018 at The Aviator Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Assessor Conclave was attended by 50 assessors, SADCAS staff and facilitators. Accreditation assessments are undertaken, on behalf of SADCAS, by a pool of SADCAS registered assessors who make recommendations for accreditation by the SADCAS Accreditation Approvals Committee (AAC). By 31 December 2018, SADCAS has registered 105 Technical Assessors and 36 Lead Assessors. The assessor conclave which was organized by SADCAS, was partly sponsored by PTB Germany who met the conference package, with assessors this time paying for their own travel and subsistence. The objective of the one- day assessor conclave was to update assessors on developments in SADCAS, accreditation in general and to provide a platform for sharing of concerns and to hear at first hand from assessors how SADCAS can continuously enhance service delivery.



Assessor conclave in session



Delegates at Assessor Conclave

The assessor conclave programme started with welcome remarks by the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa during which she outlined the objective of the conclave and programme of the day, and thanked PTB Germany for sponsoring the conference package. The assessors were then updated on developments in SADCAS by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa the SADCAS CEO followed by a presentation on SADCAS policy on metrological traceability and how to assess its implementation, an issue raised in the extraordinary peer evaluation of SADCAS. This presentation was made by Mr Victor Mundembe the Chair of the SADCAS Advisory Committee and Technical Assessor for the Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme. The SADCAS Technical Manager Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo walked assessors through the main changes made to the assessment procedure following the publication of the revised ISO/IEC 17011 in November 2017, the standard which SADCAS has to comply with for international recognition. Mrs Pinkie Malebe the Assessor conclave Programme Director and Scheme



Delegates at Assessor Conclave

Coordinator Testing presented on the need for assessors to maintain professional approach when conducting an assessment and facilitated a discussion on what needs to be done to maintain this professionalism focusing on issues for which negative feedback had been received by SADCAS.

During break out sessions assessors were kept up to date with developments in accreditation at international level, key changes to ILAC and IAF documents of as appropriate and appraised of the various documents which were published by the respective SADCAS Scheme Advisory Committees since the last meeting.



Assessor Breakaway sessions

A session was held in the afternoon of the Assessor Conclave during which assessors were trained on risk based approach to assessments one of the new concepts which has been incorporated into the revised ISO/IEC 17025 published in November 2017. The training course was facilitated by Mr Steven Bruce Sidney.

SADCAS would like to thank PTB Germany for partly funding the assessor conclave and to Team SADCAS for organizing the Conclave. The credibility of SADCAS accreditation services hinges on the competence of assessors who undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS. Continuous communication between SADCAS and the pool of assessors is key in ensuring consistency, integrity and continuous improvement of SADCAS services. The assessor conclave provides the platform to do just this. All the presentations made at the Conclave will be made available electronically to all assessors. The next Assessor meeting will be held in 2020 at a date still to be advised but not in December as a number of assessors had already gone on leave by the time this 3<sup>rd</sup> assessor conclave was held.

