

## **SADCAS MEETS WITH MRS ZAKEYO PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MALAWI MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

SADCAS met with the Mrs Christine Zakeyo the Principal Secretary of the Malawi Ministry of Trade and Industry on 21 March 2022 at the Ministry's Office at Oak House in Lilongwe. The SADCAS delegation was made up of the Mr Davlin MD Chokazinga a member of the SADCAS Board of Director and the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa. The meeting was also attended by Mr Silas Sindi the Assistant Director for Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the Ministry on developments in SADCAS, pre-sensitise the Government of Malawi on the levels of contributions towards SADCAS sustainability for the 2022 to 2027 strategic period and appeal to the Government of Malawi to support SADCAS funding requirements at the upcoming 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade.

The SADCAS Board member Mr Chokazinga thanked the Principal Secretary for the warm welcome and for affording SADCAS the opportunity to meet. He then outlined the purpose of the meeting and called upon the SADCAS CEO to give a brief update on developments in SADCAS highlighting how SADCAS was meeting Malawi's accreditation needs. She noted that in Malawi SADCAS had accredited 10 conformity assessment bodies including Malawi Bureau of Standards' Calibration, Testing and Certification departments and a number of medical laboratories such as Balaka Dream laboratory, Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust, Mwaiwathu Private Hospital Laboratory, Malawi HIV National Reference Laboratory etc. At the same time seven (7) applications were at the various stages of accreditation with a further three (3) expressed interest in accreditation from Malawi. SADCAS had undertaken seven (7) training courses in Malawi all in an effort to promote an understanding of accreditation requirements thus prepare conformity assessment bodies for accreditation. In Malawi, SADCAS had registered four (4) technical assessors, one (1) Team Leader and a Technical expert. Efforts are ongoing to build assessor capacity in Malawi with a number of experts currently undergoing training as assessors to complement the pool of assessors.



From left to right: Mr Chokazinga, Mrs MP Mutasa, Ms Zakeyo and Mr Sindi

On Government contributions towards SADCAS sustenance, Mr Chokazinga informed the meeting that all outstanding contributions for the period 2012 to 2017 had been received whilst for 2017 to 2022, 86% of the contributions had been paid with 14% still outstanding from two (2) SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS. He then thanked the Government of Malawi for fully paying her contribution for the 2012 to 2017 and 2017 to 2022 contributions towards SADCAS sustainability.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> strategic period starting from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027, Mr Chokazinga informed on the strategic planning session held from 30 September to 1 October 2021 culminating in the approval of the 2022 to 2027

strategic plan at the November 2021 Board meetings. Mrs Mutasa then briefed the meeting on the business objectives for the period and the human and capital resources required to meet the business objectives. She then detailed the contributions that would be required from the SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS and provided the details of the contributions for the Government of Malawi. The SADCAS CEO appealed to the Government of Malawi to continue supporting SADCAS funding requirements which are reducing as SADCAS is working towards reaching breakeven point on operational costs. In conclusion Mr Chokazinga thanked the Government of Malawi for the funding accorded and appealed for continued support for the period 2022 to 2027. He then informed the meeting of Mrs Mutasa's impending retirement and assured the Ministry of a smooth handover.

Mrs Zakeyo expressed the Government's appreciation for the good work done by SADCAS and thanked SADCAS for including Malawi in her programmes from which the country has benefited through trade facilitation citing the exportation of rice and maize.

Following on from the meeting Mrs Mutasa paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr Nancy Saungweme the Zimbabwe, Ambassador to Malawi.



From left to right: H.E. Dr N Saungweme and Mrs Mutasa

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