

SADCAS Staff Trained on Revised QMS

On 23 November all SADCAS Management and staff were trained on the revised SADCAS Quality Management System. The training which was organized by the Quality Manager, Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo was conducted at the SADCAS Offices in Gaborone.

SADCAS achieved signatory status to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for the Testing and Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Schemes (TLAS and CLAS) to ISO/IEC 17025 on 04 November 2015 and 28 October 2017 for the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) and the Inspection Bodies Accreditation Schemes (IBAS). The SADCAS Management System was based on the ISO/IEC 17011:2004 – *General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies*. The ISO/IEC 17011 standard was revised and subsequently published on 30 November 2017.

Following the revision and the publication of the ISO/IEC 17011:2017 - Conformity assessment - Requirements for Accreditation Bodies accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies, SADCAS embarked on a process of aligning its management system to the requirements of the new standard. The project started in February 2018 with a gap analysis of the Quality Management System then the revision of the SADCAS Policy Manual SADCAS PM 01 which was approved by the SADCAS Board of Directors at its meeting held in September 2018. This was followed by the revision of the associated Procedures and the forms. For purposes of familiarity and ownership, all relevant SADCAS staff members were involved in the review and revision of the documents. The revised documents were published in November 2018.

The training course started off with opening remarks by the Quality Manager who articulated the objective of the training which was to ensure that staff is familiar with the revised Management System documents especially the terminology, amendments made on the existing documentation, new documents (policies, procedures and forms) that had been developed and the changes in the processes as required by the new standard. The SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa then presented the key changes to the SADCAS Policy manual followed by presentations by Ms Ranorovelo on the key changes to the accreditation process and Ms Linda Dirorimwe on the changes to the accreditation administration procedures.

The main documents discussed were SADCAS AP 12 Part 1 – Accreditation Process for Testing/Calibration and Medical Laboratories and SADCAS AP 12 Part 2 and Part 3 for Inspection Bodies and Certification Bodies respectively, SADCAS AP 21: Management of Impartiality and SADCAS AP 22: Determination of competence criteria for personnel involved in the management and performance of SADCAS accreditation activities. Emphasis was made on the changes in all the accreditation stages such as Pre-assessments, Document Reviews, Initial Assessments, On-site Periodic on-site Assessments and Re-assessments.



The staff has started implementing the requirements of the new standard and looking forward to a peer evaluation against the new standard in May 2019.