

Societe Surveillance Miniere Accredited

Societe de Surveillance Miniere (SSM) has been accredited by SADCAS and through this accreditation SSM has been granted the unique accreditation number TEST-5 0028 indicating that SSM is now a SADCAS accredited testing laboratory for Chemical Analysis of mineral concentrates Analysis of total copper, total cobalt and total iron in copper, and cobalt ores and concentrates by 4-acid digestion and quantitative determination by Atomic Absorption; Analysis of impurities in copper metal by SPARK emission spectroscopy; and Determination of mass loss during drying of bulk material, concentrates of Cu, Co, Pb, Zn, Ni. The SSM is the 28th testing laboratory and the 2nd facility in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to be accredited by the SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS). The SSM certificate which was issued on 13 October 2017 is valid for 5 years and expires on 12 October 2022.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 23 March 2018 at the Conference Centre of the Provincial Chamber of Commerce in Lubumbashi, DRC. The ceremony was held in conjunction with an awareness workshop of the importance and benefits of accreditation which was attended by over 150 delegates from the mining, health and manufacturing sectors, regulators, academic sector, Chamber staff, government officials and conformity assessment bodies and the press. In his opening remarks the President of the Provincial Chamber of Commerce for Katanga region Mr Eric Monga Mumba noted the importance of accreditation to the DRC economy in general and specifically the mining sector which is DRC's largest source of export income and provides jobs for many. He thanked ASCOLAB, the Laboratory Association of DRC for organizing the awareness workshop and which was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. In his concluding remarks Mr Monga Mumba who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SSM committed to support ASCOLAB activities throughout DRC in order to enhance the competitiveness of DRC's exports.



Mr Johnson proudly displaying the certificate with Mr Monga Mumba looking on

In her speech before the certificate handover Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer noted that DRC is endowed with a number minerals key of which are cobalt, copper, diamond, tantalum, tin, gold etc. In 2009, the DRC had an estimated \$24 trillion in untapped mineral deposits, including the world's largest reserves of coltan and significant quantities of the world's cobalt. She noted however that most of the minerals are exported in their raw form. "Given these high production rates and growing global demand for finished mineral products

value addition is imperative”, Mrs Mutasa remarked. The mining sector has the relative advantage of gaining in competitiveness at fewer costs through adapting the final production to international standards. She further said that the mineral processing sector is identified in the SADC Industrial Policy as one of the priority sectors for development. Testing Laboratories play a critical role in the mining and mineral processing sector in that they conduct mineral assays in support of exploration, research, grade control in the processing plant. Laboratories are also involved in environmental monitoring of mining activities. “Mining companies make decisions about exploration and grading based on the data generated by these analytical laboratories” she said. Accreditation which is the process by which an authoritative body i.e. SADCAS gives formal recognition that an organization/person is competent to carry out specific tasks involves the creation of confidence in the work carried by laboratories, certification and inspection bodies collectively known as conformity assessment bodies. Accreditation is the basis of trust amongst trading partners. Mrs Mutasa reminded SSM of surveillance assessments undertaken annually during the validity of the certificate to determine continued compliance. She also advised that ISO/IEC 17025 the standard that SSM have been accredited to has been revised with the new standard having been published on 30 November 2017. The International laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has agreed on a three year transition from date of publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 and SADCAS has issued a transition policy TR 14 which is available on the SADCAS website. She also advised of the newly launched training courses on the new standard and encouraged SSM to ensure that they meet the transition timelines so as to maintain the well-deserved internationally recognized accreditation which SSM worked so hard for.



Group photo after the ceremony

In his acceptance speech Mr Mutale Deroyer Johnson the Director General of SSM noted that accreditation is a solid tool for marketing. Accreditation is not an end in itself he said. He informed delegates in attendance that SSM will use accreditation for continuous improvement purposes in their strive for excellency in service delivery. He assured SADCAS that they would ensure continued compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 so as to maintain their accreditation which they worked so hard for. He advised that the other SSM laboratories would also embark on the accreditation journey. He then encouraged other laboratories to start now to work towards accreditation which may very well be a regulatory requirement in the very near future in DRC especially in the mining sector. He also

committed to extend their accreditation to other tests such as water, waste water, environmental and soil testing etc. In his concluding remarks Mr Johnson called upon the international community not to doubt accredited test results from the DRC. He expressed his hope and expectations of change, through the internationally recognized accreditation, in the way the international community looked at DRC's technical competency.



SSM staff pose for a photo at the Company's exhibition stand with Mrs Mutasa and Messrs Johnson on the right and Didier Makonga first left

The SSM is a private mining surveillance Company whose laboratories are involved in chemical analysis of ores extracted under a mining right and the detection and quantification of any other mineral substance associated with metal analysis. The laboratory is also involved in the analysis of plant feeds, the analysis of effluents including mill effluents and any other analysis related to mining research, exploitation and environmental activities. The SSM Laboratory uses techniques that meet international standards and is equipped with modern equipment.

The application for accreditation was received on 13 January 2015 before SADCAS had achieved international recognition. In an effort to ensure the credibility of the SADCAS accreditation, the SSM application was processed under the SADCAS Twinning Partnership Agreement with the Tunisian Accreditation Council (TUNAC) which was signed on 20 February 2014. The objective of the Twinning Partnership Agreement was to ensure that SADCAS has the necessary infrastructure for the handling of accreditation applications, assessment of conformity assessment bodies and surveillance assessment of accredited facilities in French and using a technically recognized quality management system in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 the standard which accreditation bodies have to comply with and be peer evaluated against for international recognition. The initial assessment was conducted from 23 to 24 March 2017 and following which and only after the clearance of findings, separate but the same decision was made by the respective accreditation bodies to accredit SSM in the said scope.

