

## OCC Director General Meets with SADCAS

The Director General of the Congolese Control Office (OCC), Dr Celestin Pierre Risasi Tabu Wa M'Simbwa met with the SADCAS Management on 17 May 2017 at the SADCAS Offices in Gaborone, Botswana. Dr Risasi Tabu Wa M'Simbwa was appointed Director General of OCC in November 2016. The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is housed within the OCC. The purpose of the meeting was therefore to introduce himself to the SADCAS and to be informed about the role of the NAFP and SADCAS expectations of an effective NAFP. The meeting was also an opportunity for SADCAS to be updated on DRC's outstanding contribution towards SADCAS sustainability for the period 2012 to 2017, to discuss about SADCAS funding requirements for the period 2017 to 2022 and to discuss the status of accreditations applications from OCC which are under process. The OCC Director General was accompanied to the meeting by Mr Ngyi Miffy, Director of the General Secretariat.



Meeting in session

The OCC delegation was welcomed to SADCAS Offices by the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Maureen Mutasa. The meeting was attended by Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo – the SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Lauren Gudo – the SADCAS Financial Administrator and Ms Linda Dirorimwe – the SADCAS Accreditation /Training Administrator. During the meeting the OCC delegation was appraised of various aspects of SADCAS and the expectations from OCC.

On the role of the NAFPs, the delegation was informed about the need for effective and consistent execution of duties by the NAFP – DRC including the need to submit the training needs for DRC for incorporation into the 2017/18 training calendar and the submission of the 2017/18 national action plan in support of the marketing objectives and initiatives as outlined in the 2017/18 Marketing Plan which was circulated to all NAFPs. The national action plan is to be submitted and evaluated by end of May 2017.



From Left to Right: Ms Ranorovelo, Dr Risasi, Mrs Mutasa and Mr Ngyi Miffy

Regarding contributions towards SADCAS sustainability for the period 2012 to 2017, Dr Risasi Tabu Wa M'Simbwa provided proof of transfer of the outstanding amount of US\$ 31,679 effected in May 2017 which subsequently reflected in the SADCAS account. With this payment, DRC has now fully paid its contribution towards SADCAS sustainability for the 2012 to 2017 period leaving the balance of payment from Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.



Mrs Mutasa presenting SADCAS Folders and T shirts to Dr Risasi Tabu Wa M'Simbwa and Mr Miffy

The SADCAS CEO then presented the SADCAS funding requirements for the strategic period 2017 to 2022. She informed the meeting of the operational budget deficit for the period amounting to US\$ 2.38 million which was to be tabled at the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade (CMT) Meeting scheduled to be held in June 2017. She advised the OCC delegation of the proportion (US\$ 160,670) of this operational budget that the Government of the DRC is to pay based on the formula used which takes into account the clientele base in each SADC Member State serviced by SADCAS. The SADCAS CEO further advised that it is proposed that all Member States' contributions be paid up in full within the first 3 years of the strategic period i.e. by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2020 so as to ensure SADCAS as a going concern. The SADCAS CEO then appealed to the Government of the DRC to support the request for funding of the operational budget deficit of US\$ 2.38 million for the strategic period 2017 to 2022, a matter which will be tabled at the upcoming SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade. She further appealed to the Government of the DRC to pay their first contribution of US\$ 53,021 soon after the funding of the SADCAS operational budget deficit is approved. In response Dr Risasi Tabu Wa M'Simbwa expressed his appreciation of the good work that SADCAS was doing to enhance the competitiveness of DRC goods and services, facilitating trade and enhancing the protection of consumers and the environment and stated that DRC will endeavor to honour its obligations to SADCAS as the country has been benefiting from the activities of SADCAS. He also looked to continued collaboration with SADCAS in his Organization's role as the NAFFP - DRC.

The meeting was also an opportunity of the delegation to establish the status of accreditation applications under process. After the meeting the OCC delegation was taken on a brief tour of the SADCAS offices and introduced to the rest of the staff.

