



# THE PIONEER

SADCAS NEWSLETTER

NOV 2023 EDITION – ISSUE 46

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Note From The Editors**

**3**

**CEO's End of year Message**

**4**

## **General and Leading Stories**

**6**

- SAZ celebrates accreditation for Product Certification and World Standards Day
- SADCAS attends Heads of Forensic Science Workshop in Malawi
- SADCAS attends Annual ZASCO Conference
- SADCAS CEO attends Botswana Geoscience Institute Accreditation Award Ceremony

## **Regional and International Interactions**

**16**

- Highlights of the 14th AFRAC GA
- Highlights of ILAC- IAF Annual Meetings

## **Marketing & Promotion**

- SADCAS meets with key stakeholders in Botswana
- SADCAS CEO featured on The Patriot on Sunday

## **NAFP News**

**24**

- NAFPs Holds 17th Annual Meeting

## **Assessors Corner**

- Under the eye of Technical Expert - CBAS
- Under the eye of an Assessor - CBAS-Product

## **Advisory Committees Corner**

**28**

- AC.01 IBAS Zim Holds 13th meeting
- AC.02 CLAS Holds 8th meeting
- AC-03 MLAS holds 7th meeting
- AC-04 MIAS holds 5th meeting
- AC-08 LMAS holds 4th meeting

## **News on Services**

**38**

- SADCAS Holds ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal audit training for BUMNMI
- SADCAS Holds ISO 17025:2022 Requirements and Internal audit training (Open Course)
- New accreditations August to November 2023

## **Staff News**

**43**

- SADCAS Finance Staff attend BICA International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) workshop
- Nicole Sekgoma attends ISO/IEC 17025 Audit Training
- SADCAS closes the year in style with a Christmas Party
- Kaone Phindela promoted to Accreditation Administrator

## **Adverts**

- Invitation to Register Technical Experts- Prioritized Scopes
- Assessor Advert



**Mr Xavier Mugari**



**Mr Boniface Badubi**

**We are pleased to present Issue 46 of the SADCAS Newsletter (November 2023 Edition) to keep our readers updated on accreditation activities in the region and beyond. This issue unpacks news on accreditation activities undertaken by SADCAS and developments in the field of accreditation.**

This year all SADCAS Advisory Committees (AC) meetings were held virtually. SADCAS Advisory Committees are a fundamental and vital component of operating technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committees is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process.

In spirit of promoting stakeholder engagement, SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa paid courtesy calls to several stakeholders including United Nations Botswana, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Botswana, Ministry of Health Botswana, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Japanese Embassy and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB).

It has been a momentous and an incredible year for SADCAS, and as the year comes to a close, we wish you a happy and restful holiday!

Happy reading!



**Eve Christine Gadzikwa**  
SADCAS Chief Executive Officer

## END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The year 2023 was a hive of activity for SADCAS with many successful projects and activities having been accomplished throughout the year which were mainly centred around closing capacity gaps, identifying areas for improvement of the Quality Management System, enhancing efficiencies, collaborating with other regional and international accreditation bodies, community engagement, maintaining relevance of SADCAS to its wide stakeholder base and empowering the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs). The overall aim of these efforts was to increase the uptake of accreditation and training services in the SADC Region in line with the SADCAS mandate and vision.

As at September 2023, SADCAS had cumulatively accredited 267 facilities, issued 323 Certificates and registered 67 applications which were under process at different stages. The incremental growth witnessed during the period under review necessitated the organisation to closely monitor increasing workload and address any capacity gaps. The multi-economy accreditation body recruited additional manpower during the year in line with its HR Plans to adequately resource all accreditation and administrative support processes and to cope with additional demands. In addition, it became evident that the only way to keep up with the fast-paced growth was to automate a number of the processes. Therefore, SADCAS embarked on a Digital Transformation journey as a means of enhancing efficiency of SADCAS operations; this project launched in 2023 will be implemented in 2024.

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The 4-year cycle Peer Re-Evaluation process of SADCAS Accreditation service by AFRAC which was undertaken from 29 May – 03 June 2023 to evaluate signatory status in compliance with ISO 17011. At the end of the process, the Peer Evaluation team confirmed that; the overall operation of SADCAS is in accordance with the requirements of AFRAC M001-04 and SADCA M001-02. In particular: SADCAS operates its testing, medical and calibration laboratories, inspection body accreditation programme(s) and its management systems accreditation programme with sub-scopes in QMS, EMS, FSMS and OH&SMS substantially in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017; Product Certification Bodies accredited by SADCAS were also assessed as part of the scope of the Peer Evaluation exercise and was found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and applicable IAF Mandatory Applications (IAF MD), thus SADCAS was successfully granted continued signatory status and scope extension in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065. The Peer Evaluation Team also confirmed the technical competency and experience of SADCAS permanent staff SADCAS. The maintenance of signatory status and scope extension for Product Certification Bodies accredited by SADCAS has given SADCAS a big boost in terms of enhancing confidence in the AB and providing assurance to its stakeholders. With this solid endorsement, SADCAS is now exploring new opportunities for further development

in other relevant areas e.g., Medical Imaging, Forensic Testing, Proficiency Testing Accreditation Schemes among others.

SADCAS recognises the importance of keeping close to its stakeholders and as such, continued to participate in regional and international meetings namely; SADCA, AFRAC and IAF/ILAC. In addition, SADCAS organised a special Annual NAFP Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 23rd November 2023 to update and equip the National Accreditation Focal Points who are the administrative arms of SADCAS in the region to promote the benefits of accreditation.

Earlier in the year, on 27 February 2023, SADCAS had announced the publication of SADCAS TR 29 - SADCAS Policy on ISO 15189:2022 Transition, Issue 1 by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS). The purpose of this document was to define the SADCAS policy on ISO 15189:2022 and the process to be followed by Medical Laboratories to ensure successful transition to the revised standard. The document applies to ISO 15189:2012 accredited Medical Laboratories and new applicants under the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS).

The published document is available on the SADCAS website: <https://www.sadcas.org/sadcas-policy-iso-151892022-transition>. As the year comes to an end, we take this opportunity to remind all Medical Laboratories to adequately prepare for this transition and that, ISO 15189:2012: Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence ceases to be valid on 06 December 2025.

The world convened at the COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirate from 30 November until 12 December 2023. COP28 is the United Nations Climate Change Conference where leaders converged for the 28th time to agree on ways to address the unabated climate crisis, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

COP28 President-designate Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber highlighted: "City leaders have been at the forefront of climate action – accelerating ambition, delivering results and dealing with climate impacts in real-time. By bringing hundreds of local leaders to COP28, we will foster new, multi-level partnerships to help fast-track the energy transition, fix climate finance, focus on people, lives and livelihoods, and make sure local voices are heard at the international climate table." Looking

ahead to the next 10 years, climate and environmental risks will dominate global risk perception, with failure to mitigate climate change the most pressing, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report 2023. The role of accreditation as a tool to provide assurance in climate action therefore, cannot be ignored. Accreditation bodies around the world including SADCAS are alive to climate change realities and will double their efforts to assure competency of conformity assessment bodies operating in environmental sector through internationally recognised accreditation under the MRA/MLA Arrangements.

Lastly, let me on behalf of SADCAS extend a heartfelt appreciation to all our valued clients, stakeholders, donors, international cooperating partners, the Board, Management and Staff for your continued support and contribution during the year. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to working with you again in the coming year.

**We wish you a Festive Christmas and a Joyous New Year with your loved ones.**

**Eve Christine Gadzikwa**  
SADCAS Chief Executive Officer

## SAZ CELEBRATES ACCREDITATION FOR PRODUCT CERTIFICATION AND WORLD STANDARDS DAY



SADCAS Certification Scheme Coordinator, Mr Victor Rodreck Mundembe delivering speech during the ceremony.

SADCAS is proud to announce the accreditation of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe - Certification Services (SAZ-CS) to ISO/IEC 17065:2012. This makes SAZ-CS, situated at 66 Craster Road, Southerton, Harare and at 32A Simon Mazorodze Road, Mutare, Zimbabwe the second certification body to be accredited by SADCAS under the Product Certification Scheme. Through this accreditation, the SAZ-CS has been granted accreditation to the following scopes:

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Product Certification to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and ISO/IEC 17067:2013 Type 5, IAF Code 6; accreditation number **PROD-CERT 002. (Wood and Wood Products)**

ZWS 120:2022 Eucalyptus poles, cross-arms and spacers for power distribution and communication systems

- ZWS 553:2014 Hardwood poles, droppers, laths, guardrail posts and spacer blocks

This means that SAZ-CS is now a SADCAS accredited product certification body. The accreditation certificate issued on 18 August 2023 is valid for 5 years and will expire on 17 August 2028, prior to which the CB will be expected to apply for renewal of accreditation.

The accreditation certificate handover ceremony was held on Friday the 13th of October 2023 at the Celebration Centre, Borrowdale, Harare, Zimbabwe. The ceremony was officiated by the Honorable Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr Sithembiso Nyoni, represented by Engineer Macheka Muchumairi, and SADCAS NAFF, Mrs Riyana Chibanda, other attendees were:

- ISO Secretary General, Sergio Mujica (Virtual)
- Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana Prof Alexander Grant Ntrakwa
- The Africa Organisation for Standardization (ARSO) President & Ghana Standards Authority Director General, Professor Alex Dodoo
- Government Officials here present
- Representatives of the Standards Development Levy Fund
- SAZ Board Chairman, Commissioner Rose Mpofu
- SAZ Board Members
- SAZ Acting Director General, Mr Cosmus Mukoyi
- SAZ Management and Staff; and
- Media Representatives

In his opening remarks, SAZ Acting Director General, Mr Cosmas Mukoyi, welcomed and expressed gratitude to attendees to celebrate World Standards Day celebrations. He introduced the guest of honour Engineer Macheka Muchumairi observed all the protocols. He indicated that he was pleased to announce the accreditation of SAZ Mutare branch that had attained accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065 on the product mark scheme and asks all to give the Team a round of applause. Mr Mukoyi narrated the theme of this year's World Standards Day celebrations which was "Shared Vision for a Better World" Focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being. The theme underscores the importance of preventing needless suffering from preventable diseases and premature death by focusing on key targets that boost the health of a country's overall population. Mr Mukoyi then extended a special welcome to SADCAS Certification Scheme Coordinator, Mr Victor Rodreck Mundembe who delivered accreditation certificates on behalf of the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa.

In his certificate delivery speech, Mr Mundembe started by thanking Mr Mukoyi for the invitation, indicating that SADCAS is very humbled by the honour. Mr Mundembe then presented the background of SADCAS, a multi-economy accreditation body established as per Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade. He added, the primary purpose of SADCAS is to ensure that conformity assessment service providers operating in those SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to an oversight by an authoritative body. SADCAS services the accreditation needs of 14 SADC Member States namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Zimbabwe; Zambia; and Zimbabwe. Mr Mundembe explained that SADCAS is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the Botswana Companies Act CAP: 42:01. SADCAS is a subsidiary Institution of SADC and its Headquarters are situated at Gaborone, Botswana.

Mr Mundembe explained that SADCAS, the first multi economy accreditation body in the world is now in its 15th year of operation and has proved to be a viable, cost effective and sustainable model which optimizes limited financial and human resources. A number of other regions in the world such as the Gulf region, Economic Community of West African States (UEMOA), Caribbean Islands etc. have benchmarked on the "home grown" SADCAS model. Mr Mundembe reiterated that the Republic of Zimbabwe being a member of SADC falls under the jurisdiction of SADCAS that is, SADCAS as the regional accreditation body is legally mandated to accredit in Zimbabwe. Mr Mundembe gave the accreditation statistics as at 31 August 2023, SADCAS has Issued 325 accreditation certificates to 270 facilities in 13 SADC Member States of which 47 (9% of SADCAS accredited facilities) are from Zimbabwe; 2 Calibration Labs, 14 Testing Labs, 20 Medical Labs, 5 Inspection Bodies, 2 certification bodies and 3 Veterinary laboratories. This is quite significant and Zimbabwe should be commended for taking a bold step towards enhancing the credibility of its conformity assessment bodies through internationally recognized accreditation.

Mr Mundembe announced that Standards Association of Zimbabwe – Certification Services was the first Certification Body (CB) to be accredited by SADCAS in Zimbabwe. In fact, SAZ-CS is only the second CB in the region to be accredited by SADCAS under the SADCAS Product Certification Scheme. He stated that today is indeed your day and you have every reason to be proud of this noble achievement. Congratulations SAZ for this fantastic achievement.

- SAZ CS (Management Systems Certification) is accredited to ISO/IEC 17021-1 subs-copes QMS, EMS, OHSMS, FSMS and HACCP. SAZ was the pioneer in the SADC region in terms of accreditation of Management System Certification and has many codes and food chain categories already accredited.
- SAZ Inspection is accredited according to ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection of pressurised equipment for both in-service and manufacturing.
- SAZ Testing Laboratories is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 under the testing scope.
- Zimbabwe Metrology Agency (Scientific and Industrial Metrology) is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 under the calibration scope.
- Zimbabwe Compulsory Standards Agency is accredited to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 under the Inspection Scope; and

In view of the theme for this year’s World Standards Day 2023 “Shared Vision for a better World: Focussing on SDG 3; Good Health and Wellbeing”, Mr Mundembe stated that SADCAS, through accreditation is directly in support of the SGD 3 of ensuring good health and wellbeing for all. We have accredited facilities in the different sectors that include Food Testing Laboratories, Bodies Certifying and Inspecting Food and Agricultural Products, and Medical Testing laboratories. Medical Testing, of which we have accredited over 140 laboratories in the region, directly monitors and test indicators for target 3.3 of SDG 3 being HIV Testing, Malaria Screening, Virology testing for Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis and screening for non-communicable diseases as well Endocrinology for Cancer etc. He encouraged users of accreditation services to visit the SADCAS Website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org) to review the database of accredited facilities where one can download the **Certificates and Schedules of Accreditation** on which the full scopes are published.

Mr Mundembe spoke to **IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF ACCREDITED PRODUCT CERTIFICATION:**

Accreditation is an independent evaluation of product certification bodies by an authoritative body. In this case, in accrediting SAZ –CS, SADCAS confirms the competence, consistency and impartiality of the SAZ Certification Body.

The benefits of accreditation include, but are not limited to the following:

**In terms of national authorities and regulators:**

Accreditation moderates the need for additional legislation as well as reduces the risk of unintended consequences.

- Internationally recognized certification provides regulators with a robust and credible framework to accept accredited certifications from overseas accredited certification bodies with an equivalent level of confidence as if carried out in the local economy.

**In relation to Businesses:**

Internationally recognized certifications allow certificates to be recognized around the world thus reduces the risk of products being rejected by international trading partners, and the need to have products re-evaluated on entry into each country.

- Supports businesses in the supply chain against potential liability claims.
- Accreditation serves as a credible and effective marketing tool that enhances market access by providing confidence through assuring competence and impartiality confirmed by authoritative body such as SADCAS.

**For Consumers:**

Consumer confidence can be gained from products that are accompanied by an accredited certificate of conformity.

- Provides assurance that products placed on the market from whichever country of origin meet quality and safety standards.

In a nutshell, accredited certification makes good business sense, enhances confidence in products and services in a country and also at a national level, contributes to economic development.

**INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF SADCAS CERTIFICATION BODIES ACCREDITATION SCHEME**

The SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Schemes for Management Systems (CBAS-MS) and Product Certification (CBAS-Prod) were established in June 2010 (13 years ago). The CBAS is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011, the international standard that accreditation bodies have to comply with to be internationally recognized. SADCAS CBAS – MS is internationally recognised following achievement of signatory status in the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (IAF MLA) to the following sub-scopes under the Main Scope Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1):

- Quality Management Systems (QMS) – [Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3, Level 5: ISO 9001];
- Environmental Management Systems (EMS) – [Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-2, Level 5: ISO 14001];
- Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) – [Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021- 10, Level 5: ISO 45001]; and
- Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) – [Level 4: ISO/TS 22003, Level 5: ISO 22000].
- SADCAS CBAS-Product is internationally recognised following the acceptance of SADCAS as a signatory member of the AFRAC MRA for Product Certification to ISO/IEC 17065 on 27 September 2023. AFRAC Peer Evaluators successfully witnessed and evaluated the assessment of SAZ CS in Mutare and Harare in May 2023.

SADCAS has published the Certificates and Schedules of Accreditation on the database of accredited facilities, publicly available on the SADCAS websites.

SADCAS has so far accredited seven (8) certification bodies from six (6) SADC Member States. An additional two (2) applications from certification bodies from two (2) SADC Member States are currently under process.

**SPECIFYING ACCREDITATION OF CONFORMITY CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SERVICES**

Mr Mundembe took the privilege to raise a pertinent issue which SADCAS hopes regulators can champion in the region being, **specifying accreditation of conformity conformity assessment services** such as Certification and Inspection as one of the requirements for their designation by regulators. This will go a long way to ensure the competence and capability of the various conformity assessment services and reliability of the results thereby supporting those who are making decisions in relation to the development and implementation of government policies. Accreditation bodies such as SADCAS which are signatories to the International Accreditation Forum’s Multilateral Recognition Arrangement will underpin the acceptance of certificates issued internationally, removing the need for costly and time-consuming repetitive certifications.

In congratulating **Standards Association of Zimbabwe Certification Services, Mr Mundembe once again said MAKOROKOTO AMHLOPE** for this noble achievement. Well done Mr Cosmos Mukoyi, Mr Ranganai Mutonono, Mr Maxwell Nyanungo, Ms Nozipho

Matshitse and your team, and requested a round of applause to this powerful Team! Welcome to the exclusive club of internationally recognized accredited product certification bodies.

**Keynote address by the guest of honour, Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade - Hon. Exaud Kigahe (MP)**

With those remarks from Mr Mundembe, the SAZ Board Chairperson Commissioner, Rose Mpofu was requested to receive the accreditation certificate. Mr Mundembe proceeded to hand over the accreditation certificate and the accompanying Schedule of Accreditation.



**Mr Mundembe handing over the accreditation certificate to SAZ Board Chairperson, Commissioner Rose Mpofu, while the SAZ Acting CEO Mr Cosmos Mukoyi looks on.**

The World Standards Day celebrations then proceeded with:

- Speech by Guest of Honour, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon Dr Stembiso Nyoni G G Nyoni
- Speech by Guest Speaker Prof Alex Dodoo, President of the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) and Director-General of the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA).

# SADCAS ATTENDS HEAD OF FORENSIC SCIENCE WORKSHOP IN MALAWI



SADCAS Assessor French, Mr Vikash Ramessur giving a presentation about SADCAS during the workshop.

**SADCAS Assessor French, Mr Vikash Ramessur attended the Head of Forensic Science Workshop held on the 25-26 September 2023 in Salima, Malawi. During the workshop Mr Ramessur presented on the SADCAS vision, accreditation processes and the benefits of accreditation to the SADC Forensic Community.**

## Background History:

The SADC community comprises of 16 countries namely: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, DR Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The main protocol that binds the SADC member states

is to facilitate trade by lowering customs taxes and facilitating simple access to ports, among other things.

However, with growing businesses and easy travel between SADC countries, visas are no longer required. This has raised security concerns and cross-border crimes such as trafficking of people, including children and women, drugs, and firearms.

## Objective of the meeting:

- To harmonise the methods, know-hows and sharing of resources within the region so that there can be sharing of intelligence information in order to fight cross borders crimes.
- To identify steps to be taken to achieve the harmonisation.

In order to achieve harmonisation for forensic intelligence information sharing, the main aspect to consider is the Accreditation of Forensic Laboratories under the ISO/IEC Standards 17025:2017 within the region.

Amongst the 16 SADC member states, there are currently two accredited forensics facilities including: Mauritius Forensic Science Laboratory and the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority DNA Laboratory of Tanzania.

# SADCAS PARTICIPANT À L'ATELIER HEAD OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LES 25 ET 26 SEPTEMBRE 2023



par Mons. VRamessur, Assesseur Français

## But:

Sensibiliser les délégués des États membres à la vision de la SADCAS, aux processus d'accréditation et aux avantages pour la communauté médico-légale de la SADC.

## Historique :

La communauté de la SADC comprend 16 pays, à savoir : Angola, Botswana, Comores, RDCongo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maurice, Mozambique, Namibie, Seychelles, Afrique du Sud, Tanzanie, Zambie, Zimbabwe.

Le principal protocole qui lie les États membres de la SADC est la facilitation des échanges entre ces pays, où il y a une réduction des droits de douane et un accès facile aux ports, etc.

Cependant, avec la croissance des entreprises et la facilité de passage d'un pays de la SADC à l'autre où le visa n'est plus un soucis, un nouveau problème de sécurité transfrontalier a surgis comme traite des êtres

humain, de drogues durs/synthétiques, d'armes à feu où possible terroriste.

## Objectif de la rencontre :

- Harmoniser les méthodes, les savoir-faire et le partage des ressources au sein de la région afin qu'il puisse y avoir un partage d'informations de renseignement afin de lutter contre la criminalité transfrontalière.
- Identifier les mesures à prendre pour parvenir à l'harmonisation.

Afin de parvenir à une harmonisation pour le partage d'informations de renseignement médico-légal, le principal aspect à prendre en compte est l'ACCREDITATION DES LABORATOIRES MÉDICO-LÉGAUX selon les normes ISO/IEC 17025 :2017 dans la région.

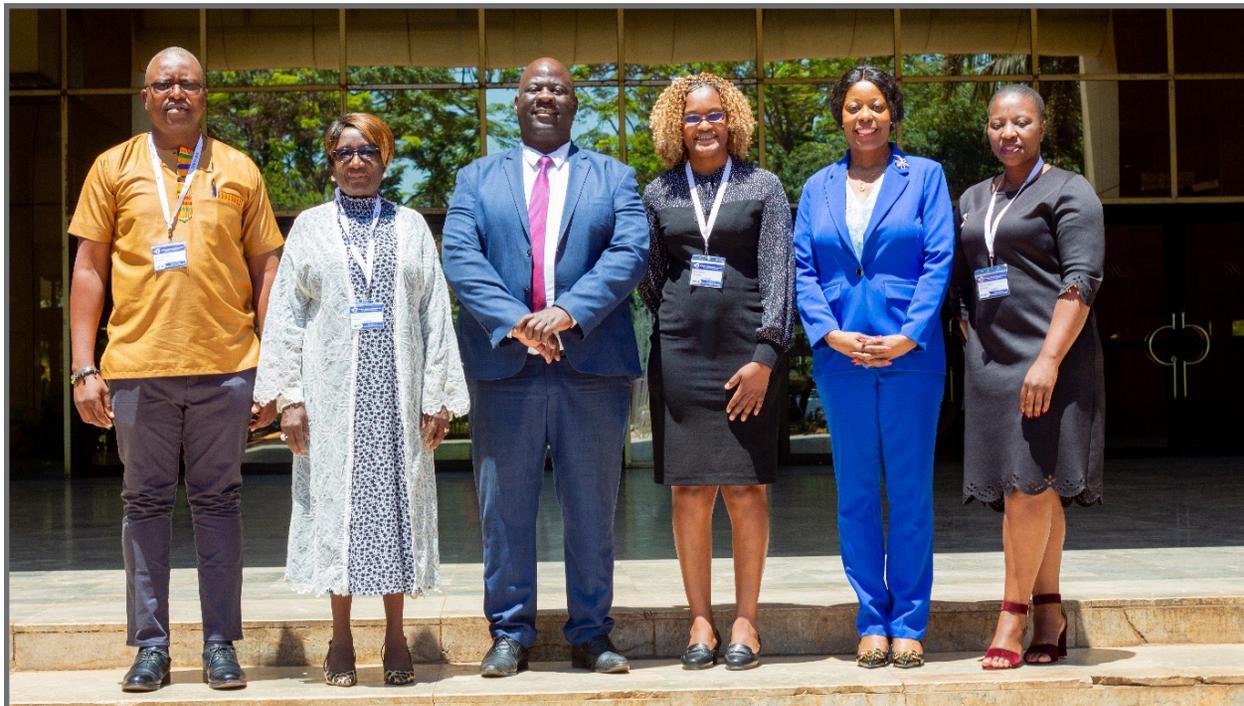
A noter que les installations médico-légales de seulement deux pays parmi les 16 États membres de la SADC sont actuellement accréditées. Il s'agit du **Mauritius Forensic Science Laboratory** et du **Government Chemist Laboratory Authority DNA Laboratory of Tanzania**.

Le partage des données entre les États membres qui ne sont pas accrédités est très difficile, car les informations peuvent être mal interprétées, car leurs systèmes de détection des crimes ne sont pas du même niveau.

La participation à cette réunion a donné à la SADCAS l'occasion de présenter les services fournis par la SADCAS et les développements futurs pour garantir que les installations médico-légales des États membres puissent être accréditées. La SADCAS a actuellement investi dans le recrutement d'évaluateurs techniques dans le domaine de la criminalistique.

## SADCAS ATTENDS ANNUAL ZASCO CONFERENCE

SADCAS participated in ZINQAP's Annual Scientific Conference from 3 to 4 October 2023 at Rainbow Towers Harare, Zimbabwe under the theme One health for Sustainable Health Solutions. One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems.



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa with delegates during the conference.



SADCAS Medical Laboratories Scheme Coordinator, Ms Eva Muronda participated in the ZINQAP's Annual Scientific Conference.

The conference was attended by over 100 delegates drawing presenters from local and regional institutions in the human, animal and environmental sectors. The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa and SADCAS Medical Laboratories Scheme Coordinator, Ms Eva Muronda attended the 2-day conference.



**SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa giving a presentation on developments at SADCAS.**

SADCAS CEO gave a presentation on exciting developments at SADCAS, the SADCAS CEO highlighted that one Health recognizes the health of people, animals, and the environment are interconnected and that the concept encourages multi-disciplinary collaboration to better understand and manage issues related to their interfaces.

She emphasised that the value of taking a One Health approach has been endorsed worldwide by international institutions and stakeholders, which call for enhanced intersectoral collaboration locally, nationally and globally to better understand and manage the health challenges faced today and attain optimal health for people, animals and environment.

Ms Gadzikwa further shared the SADCAS mandate and how accreditation is pivotal in the one health approach, ISO 15189:2022 Transition Policy which is published and available on the SADCAS website.

SADCAS had the opportunity to network with the various stakeholder at the event including accredited and applicant laboratories in both the human and animal sectors. The conference established a foundation for potential future partnerships with different organizations as Laboratories begin the accreditation process.



## SADCAS CEO ATTENDS BOTSWANA GEOSCIENCE INSTITUTE ACCREDITATION AWARD CEREMONY



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa handing the accreditation certificate to Minister of Minerals and Energy, Honourable Lefoko M. Moagi.

**Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI) is under the Ministry of Minerals and Energy. BGI was formed in 2014, with a mandate to undertake research in the field of geosciences and provide specialised geoscientific services, be a custodian of geoscience information, promote the search for and exploration of any mineral in Botswana and to act as an advisory body in respect to of geosciences and geohazards. BGI is located at Khama Avenue 1, Plot 11566, Lobatse, Botswana and received its accreditation from SADCAS on 21 June 2023 as a testing laboratory.**

Through this accreditation Botswana Geoscience Institute has been granted a unique accreditation number TEST-50081 indicating that BGI is now an internationally recognised testing body accredited to international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The certificate of accreditation was issued on 21 June 2023 and is valid for 5 years until 20 June 2028. SADCAS attended the Certificate Hand-Over Ceremony that was held on 3 November 2023 at BGI Office, Lobatse, Botswana. The Ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Honourable Lefoko M. Moagi. The grand event was attended by Senior Government officials, BGI CEO-Olefile Cisco Mashabila, BGI Board members, BGI staff, media and Lobatse community members.

In his keynote address, Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Minister of Minerals and Energy, Honourable Lefoko M. Moagi said the accreditation was a testament to BGI's team commitment to achieving excellence. He further noted that BGI demonstrated its value proposition to the mineral sector and aligned with government Vision 2036.



**SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa giving her keynote address.**

On presenting the certificate to the Minister, SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, congratulated BGI on its milestone on achieving its accreditation after a journey of over three years. She highlighted that the event's theme aligned with World Accreditation Day 2023, "Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade", The theme highlighted how accreditation activities and accredited conformity assessment support the ongoing global supply chain restrictions that continue to be a source of challenge to trade as organisations seek new markets and investment opportunities globally.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 14TH AFRAC GA



The 14th AFRAC General Assembly (GA) was held at the Eka Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya on 29 September 2023. The GA meeting was attended by Member Accreditation Bodies (ABs), PTB-Germany, PAQI, ARSO, ASLM, development partners and other stakeholders. SADCAS was represented at the meeting by Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Pinkie Malebe, the Technical Manager and Mr. Xavier Mugari, the Quality Manager. The meeting was chaired by Dr Ron Josias, the AFRAC Chair and Mr. Hanie El Desouki, the AFRAC Vice-Chair. Key outcomes of the GA were as follows:

- Approval of Committee workplans for 2024;
- Approval of 2024 EXCO workplan;
- Approval of documents;
- Elections of Office-Bearers; and
- Approval of General Assembly Resolutions

A total of 34 resolutions were passed by the AFRAC GA. Some of the key resolutions passed were as follows:

- The GA congratulated SADCAS for maintaining their AFRAC MRA signatory status in the scopes of Testing, Calibration, Medical testing, Inspection and Management System Certification in sub-scopes: QMS, EMS, FSMS and OH&SMS. The GA further congratulated SADCAS for extending their scope of recognition to include Product Certification.
- The GA congratulated the members, MRA Council, Committees, the Secretariat and the evaluators for their work and contributions resulting in the extension of AFRAC's scope of recognition under the ILAC MRA for PTP and RMP, and under the IAF MLA for Product Certification & Certification of Persons.
- The GA congratulated SADCA on achieving its recognition as a recognized Regional Accreditation Cooperation through the ILAC MRA and the IAF MLA.
- The GA expressed its appreciation to PTB-Germany for the presentation of their report and their continued financial support of AFRAC since its inception and looks forward to continued support.
- The GA congratulated the MRA Committee, Technical Committee and MRA Council for their work done in extending AFRACs MRA to include:
  - ISO 21001 (Educational organizations – Management systems for educational organizations);
  - ISO 28001 and ISO 28003 (Security management systems for the supply chain – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of supply chain security management systems);
  - ISO/TS 22003 – Food safety management systems - FSSC 22000; and
  - ISO 13485 (Medical Devices Management Systems) including the subsequent recognition by IAF for this scope.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF IAF ANNUAL MEETINGS

The International Laboratory Accreditation (ILAC) is the International organization for accreditation bodies operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 and involved in the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies of Calibration Laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025, Testing Laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025, Medical Testing Laboratories to ISO 15189, Inspection Bodies to ISO/IEC 17020 and Proficiency Testing providers. While the International International Accreditation Forum (IAF) is a worldwide association of accreditation bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, processes, services, personnel, validation and verification and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.

The purpose of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) is to ensure mutual recognition of accredited certification and validation/verification statements between signatories to the MLA, and subsequently acceptance of accredited certification and validation/verification statements in many markets based on one accreditation.

The IAF-ILAC annual meetings were held in Montreal, Canada from 06 – 15 November 2023. SADCAS CEO Ms Eve Gadzikwa and the Technical Manager attended the annual meetings.



Following a series of management committee meetings for both the ILAC, IAF and joint IAF/ILAC meetings, the 27 th ILAC General Assembly meetings were held on Monday 13 and Wednesday 15 November 2023. The GA agenda covered the ILAC Chair's address and Executive Committee report; Membership Status reports; Financial Report; and

reports from the Arrangement Council, Arrangement Management Committees, Marketing and Communications, Stakeholder Forum and the Joint Development Support Committees. Nominations for the ILAC Executive Committee positions, Financial Audit Committee and the Appeals Board were undertaken on the first day of the GA followed by election of office bearers on 15 November 2023. A total of 27 resolutions were passed by the AFRAC GA.

Some of the key resolutions passed were as summarized;

- The 2024 Budget was approved with the GA while noting that the reserves to expense ratio is below the agreed minimum percentage set by the GA.
- The GA endorsed the withdrawal of IAF/ILAC A1/A2 Addendum 01/2021 IAF/ILAC - Approach to Remote Peer Evaluations of Regions and Single Accreditation Bodies during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Meaning that peer evaluations will only be conducted on-site.
- The GA received with appreciation at the ILAC/IAF Joint General Assembly the presentations and reports provided by AFRAC, APAC, ARAC, EA, IAAC and SADCA.
- The GA, acting upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approved that the ILAC General Assembly in 2024 according to Article 19 paragraph 3 of the articles of association, be postponed by a maximum of five months and therefore shall be held before the end of November 2024.

## WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

### ILAC AIC 06 – 07 November 2023

The ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) is responsible for harmonization and improvement of accreditation practice at the international level. The committee is involved in the investigation of technical issues related to accreditation and the development of technical documentation related to ILAC's work. The ILAC AIC has a large number of working groups and subgroups according to the different accreditation standards cross cutting issues and topics of special interest.

the meeting covered reports from technical committees and working groups on some of the documents that have been under development and reviews in a bid to align with changes to the standards.

**ILAC P9** - Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing; Comments on the document were discussed and members agreed on the requirement for the ABs to assess the justification to use alternative approaches other than PT and or ILCs. It was agreed that the P9 with the compromise on the sentence will go for ballot.

### WG Forensics

ILAC G19 – modules in Forensic Sciences was published in June 2022 and requires alignment with ISO 15189 for Forensic Laboratories implementing ISO 15189. Revision limited to Annex C, to align Update ISO 15189 in correlation tables to 2022 requirements

- Tables C.1 and C.4 only

TC 272 – Working Group on Forensics convener reported on the status of developments with ISO 21043 as follows;

- Part 1 – Terms and definitions (published 2018; revision at CD stage)
- Part 2 – Recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage of items (published 2018; ballot for systematic review closes 02 Dec)
- Part 3 – Analysis (CD stage)
- Part 4 – Interpretation (CD stage)
- Part 5 – Reporting (CD stage)

**ISO/IEC 17020 Revision** - The vote to start the revision of ISO/IEC 17020 has commenced. The WG has 3 co-conveners with 94 experts and 2 ILAC experts. ILAC has the right to nominate 3 experts. Technical committee will undertake a Conveners mentoring Programme to transfer knowledge and experience to future conveners.

The Committee Draft is expected in June 2024, Draft Internal Standard in November 2024, Final Draft Internal Standard in July - August 2025 and publication expected by November 2025.

The DEVCO, CASCO and COPOLCO in 2023 discussed circular economy, and how ISO standards encourage accountability trust and claims of sustainability.

**ISO 19011** is open for revision and a call for nomination to conveners was launched.

The development of **ISO/IEC 17035** "Guidelines for validation and verification programmes" is open for ballot.

**ISO 15189 Transition** – the new version of the standard was published on 06 December 2022 with a 3 year transition period till 05 December 2025. The WG to review and update ILAC G26 – Guidance for the implementation of a medical Accreditation Scheme to align with the ISO 15189:2022 by 01 November 2023.

The convener of the Working Group presented information about the ISO 15189 Working group activities. He reported that there had not been much activities in the standard so far but the presentation is mainly to seek information and feedback on the implementation of ISO 15089:2022 and to establish if there should be a plan for harmonisation with other support standards after enough implementation is done.



Accreditation Bodies reported that a lot of training was conducted for assessors, and there has been feedback from implementing laboratories and that they feel more comfortable with the new standard. Feedback from members was mostly positive highlighted that the transition was easy. Based on the feedback the convener concluded that there is no need yet for harmonisation. It was noted that the requirements of ISO 15190, ISO 22367 and ISO/TS 20658 as used in the accreditation process need alignment to the new ISO 15189. The G26 needs some updates according to the new ISO 15189 for Point of Care Testing.

Accreditation bodies were encouraged to give feedback on the implementation of the new standards and share challenges experienced, if any.

## BIOBANKING

At the GA in 2021, it was agreed to include Biobanking as a new level 2 activity with IO 28387 as the accreditation standard. Review of appendix F in ILAC G18 is in process and discussions ongoing for Biobanking activities (ISO 20387, clause 3.6) relating to accredited organizations not performing distribution of Biobanking material.

The next IAF/ILAC meetings will be held in Berlin, Germany.



## ILAC Document List Updates as at 23 November 2023

Document	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
ILAC G3:08/2020 Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors Used by Accreditation Bodies			R		
ILAC G7:02/2021 Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories				R	
ILAC G8:09/2019 Guidelines on Decision Rules and Statements of Conformity		R			
ILAC G17:2021 ILAC Guidelines for Measurement Uncertainty in Testing				R	
ILAC G18:04/2010 Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories – under revision					R
<b>ILAC G19:08/2022 Modules in a Forensic Science Process</b>	P				
<b>ILAC G24:2022 Guidelines for the determination of recalibration intervals of measuring equipment</b>	P				
ILAC G26:11/2018 Guidance for the Implementation of a Medical Accreditation Scheme		R*			
ILAC G29:06/2020 Guidelines for harmonization of scopes of ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of WADA anti-doping laboratories			R		
<b>ILAC P9:06/2014 ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities</b>					
ILAC P10:01/2020 ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results			R		
ILAC P14:01/2020 ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration			R		
Joint ILAC – CIPM Communication regarding the Accreditation of Calibration and Measurement Services of National Metrology Institutes:2018			R		
Joint ILAC/OIML assessment procedure in the field of legal metrology:2018	R				
<b>Dedicated assessment procedure for ITU-T approved test laboratories</b>	D				
<b>Number of documents published</b>					
<b>Number in total in process</b>	5				

# SADCAS MEETS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN BOTSWANA

As part of ongoing stakeholder engagement, SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa and the Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe paid courtesy calls to various stakeholders, to introduce the mandate of SADCAS, developments in SADCAS as well as identifying possible areas of partnership and mutual interest in areas such as:

- Capacity building for the SADCAS Assessor Development Programme
- Digital Transformation opportunities
- Partnership on business development in new emerging areas such Proficiency Testing, Forensics and Radiation Testing.

The visited key stakeholders included:

1. UN Botswana
2. GIZ Botswana
3. Ministry of Health Botswana
4. CDC Botswana
5. Japanese Embassy



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa with His Excellency Mr. OHMORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana and SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa with UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Zia Choudhury



PTB Germany paid a courtesy visit to the SADCAS Office in Tholo Office Park, Gaborone, Botswana, PTB and SADCAS has a longstanding and fruitful relationship.



SADCAS Team and UN Resident Coordinator's office after the courtesy call.



SADCAS met with CDC Botswana, Acting Country Director, Mr. Hussain Baseer to explore potential partnerships in future.

## SADCAS CEO FEATURED ON THE PATRIOT ON SUNDAY

### Know Your Corporate Leader

**Full Name:** Eve Christine Gadzikwa

**Position:** Chief Executive Officer

**Institution:** SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS)

**Date Started:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

**Nature of business:** SADCAS is a multi-economy accreditation body which aims to provide credible, cost effective, accreditation services for conformity assessment bodies in the SADC Member States.



## NAFPS HOLDS 17TH ANNUAL MEETING



NAFPs with SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa holding certificates after the Marketing & Communications Training facilitated by the Communications & Public Relations Officer, Mr Boniface Badubi

The 17th National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) Annual meeting was held 23 November 2023 at Premier Hotel OR Tambo, Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was attended by ten (10) NAFPs and three (3) SADCAS staff: SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, Training Administrator- Mr Mogae Molaoa and Communications and Public Relations Officers- Mr Boniface Badubi. National Accreditation Focal Points from Botswana (1), Eswatini (2), Lesotho (2), Malawi (2), Namibia (2), Seychelles (1) attended the meeting. The meeting was fully funded by PTB Germany.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss challenges affecting NAFP's effectiveness, to exchange information and ideas to effectively promote accreditation and training courses in their member states and to agree on workable strategies to strengthen working relations between SADCAS and the NAFPs.

A total of thirteen (13) resolutions passed during the meeting which was chaired by the SADCAS CEO, Ms Gadzikwa. The meeting was interactive and productive with NAFPs fully committing to step up their promotion and marketing of SADCAS in their respective member states.

The Communications and Public Relations Officer, Mr Badubi facilitated a Marketing and Communications Training to enable the NAFP's to gain effective communication skills to promote accreditation services and empower them on stakeholder engagement.



**NAFP Seychelles- Ms Corina Chang Ty-Sing awarded for being Most Effective NAFP while NAFP Mozambique scooped Most Improved Award.**

NAFPs who are appointed by their respective governments are mainly responsible for the promotion of accreditation and marketing of SADCAS services within their respective countries. NAFPs are at the frontline of accreditation communication and marketing SADCAS service offering.

## UNDER THE EYE OF A TECHNICAL ASSESSOR- CBAS

Benjamin Mutetwa is a highly experienced Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) practitioner with a deep passion for creating hazard free work environments. He is an ISO 45001 OSH Management Systems Lead Auditor, with over 20 years' experience dealing with OSH matters that include enforcement of OSH legislation, OSH promotions and advocacy, systems development and implementation, applied OSH research that informs targeted preventive measures across a diverse range of industrial sectors that include Chemicals, Mining, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Energy, Construction and Commerce.



Benjamin Mutetwa

"Being a SADCAS Technical Expert, has been quite enriching and dynamic as it has provided me with an opportunity to contribute to CAB validation of their conformity assessment and accreditation processes. Witnessing and or assessing CAB together with their systems auditors has been an exciting experience further deepening my capacity and skills in systems operations and validation. Additionally, working within the SADCAS and CAB ecosystem also revealed the powerful oversight framework that has been designed to validate and maintain credible certification systems."

Benjamin holds a BSc in Chemistry and Biochemistry, MSc in Analytical Chemistry (UZ), Masters in Public Health (MPH) and has just completed his PhD in Public Health with the University of the Witwatersrand.

## UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR – CBAS-PRODUCT

Maxwell Nyanungo is currently a Certification Services Manager with The Standards Association of Zimbabwe. He manages a division in Mutare that focuses on product certification. He has been with the organization for the over twenty-five years. He has extensive experience in : Strength-testing of materials in the physical laboratory, inspection and certification of products, ISO/IEC 9001:2015 lead auditing and the ISO/IEC 17021 internal assessment of the SAZ Certification Services Department.



Maxwell Nyanungo

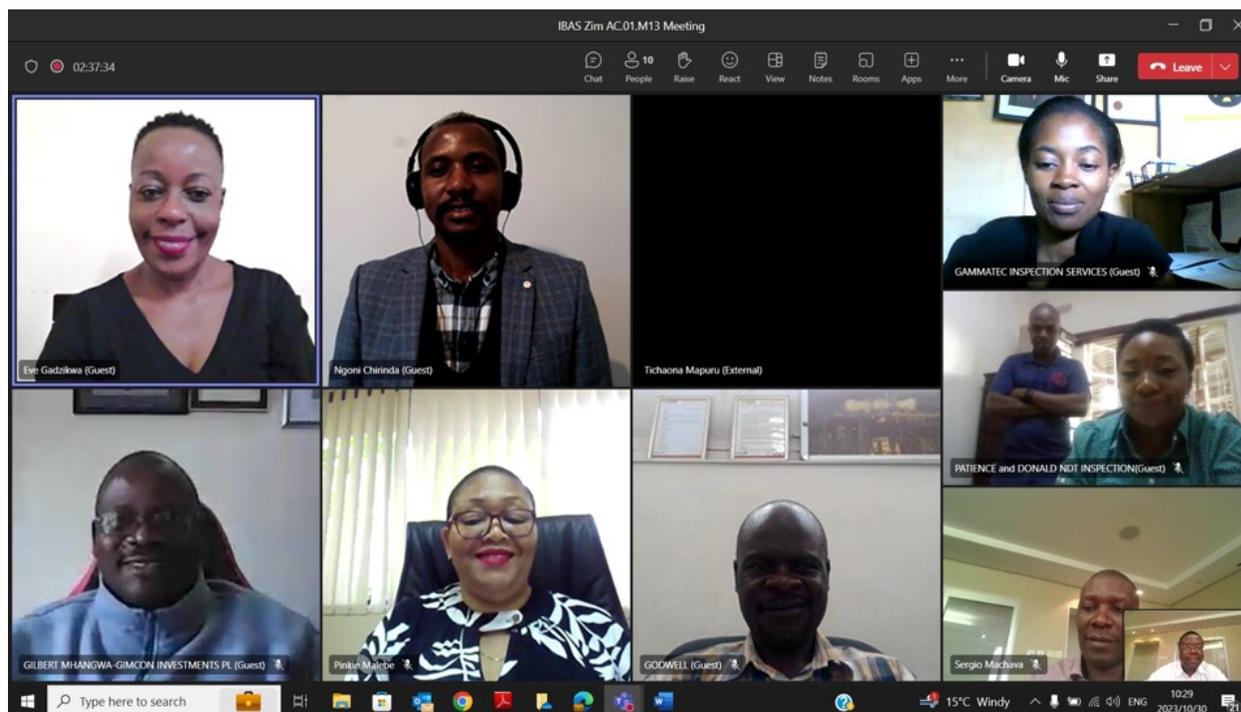
Maxwell holds a Bachelor of Education Degree in Wood Technology and Design from the University of Zimbabwe and a Master's Degree in Commerce (Strategic management) from the Great Zimbabwe University. In addition, Maxwell studied Non-Destructive Testing at the National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (CNESTEN) in Morocco. He is a qualified Level 2 Non-Destructive Testing technician in radiography, ultrasonic, magnetic particle and liquid penetrant testing techniques.

Maxwell has also attended several professional standardization courses in Zimbabwe, South Africa and India. His fields of expertise cover wood products, wood preservation, metals and fabricated metal products, fibres and education.

Maxwell underwent SADCAS Assessor Training courses in ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17065 in 2010 and 2022 respectively. He began his work as Technical Expert for SADCAS in 2023 under the IBAS and Product Certification scopes. Maxwell has found the field of assessment very exciting and is eager to obtain more exposure in the field.

"Assessment provides excellent learning and travel opportunities that enable one to meet and share ideas with other experts"

## AC.01 IBAS ZIM HOLDS 13TH MEETING



The 13th meeting of the Zimbabwe Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS - Zimbabwe) (AC.01) was held on 30 October 2023 remotely for the fourth time.

The Advisory Committee is a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process. SADCAS has clearly defined terms of reference, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

The 13th IBAS Zimbabwe Advisory Committee meeting was well-attended by 10 of the 15 members, a 67 % participation which is over the 25 % quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 13th Advisory Committee Meeting was to receive updates on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee;
- Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;
- Revised SADCAS documents;
- Developments at International Level;
- The following technical documents;
  - Review SADCAS TR 05 - Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection in Terms of the Pressure [Issue 4] to align with current practices, new technologies and new legal requirements;
  - AFRAC Document – Guidance on accreditation of bodies performing NDT;
  - Country Survey Draft Form;
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The meeting kicked off with welcoming remarks from the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa who gave a brief presentation on Updates on Developments at SADCAS.

SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, presented the Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees; Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee and Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;

The meeting was ably chaired by Engineer Ngoni Chirinda. SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for IBAS, Mr Victor Mundembe and the Secretary of the IBAS AC Zimbabwe updated the committee on the following developments at international level by presenting:

- Item 11.1 2023 (22) ILAC IC (22) Draft Minutes.doc
- Item 11.2 Resolutions-AFRAC TC meeting – 27 Sep 2023
- Item 11.3 AFRAC Report to ILAC GA Meetings- October 2023
- Item 11.4 ILAC IC Workshop – Scoping Inspection Activities in AFRAC 10 August 2023
- Item 11.5 Report Workshop -Scoping Inspection Activities in AFRAC 10 August 2023.
- Item 11.6 ILAC-G28\_G07\_2018 Guidelines Inspection scopes.
- Item 11.7 AFRAC TC SC TF Draft Non-Destructive Testings' for Inspection Bodies Guideline.

The Secretary of the AC, Mr Mundembe announced that SADCAS had revised SADCAS F 40d - Checklist ISO IEC 17020-2012 - Checklist for Accreditation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection [Issue 3] to include provisions of the revised ILAC P 15. SADCAS is also developed SADCAS F 128 - Risk Evaluation Form to be implemented prior to undertaking remote assessments.

The meeting agreed on the following actions:

1. The Secretariat to supply the revised SADCAS documents, noting the some of the documents are already available on the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)
2. As part of the newly introduced Advisory Committee function of Identification, analyzing and evaluating risk to impartiality on an ongoing basis; the Committee was requested to review SADCAS BP 06 - SADCAS Risk Profile 2023/24, identify any additional risks and submit comments to the Secretariat
3. As part of Targeted Marketing Visits to Zimbabwe, the SADCAS CEO Mrs Eve Christine Gadzikwa was requested to follow up on engagement with the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development for Zimbabwe with a view to proposing MOU similar to the MOU with NSSA.
4. Following the agreement between all parties to use assessors based in Zimbabwe even though they may be from competing accredited inspections bodies, and as part of the SADCAS Assessor Development Programme, the Secretariat was requested to re-activate Assessors that were previously trained and assign them to suitable assessments while being monitored. The Secretariat was also requested to identify the skills needed for accredited and in process inspection bodies and the IBs and the Committee members were requested to suggest additional names of experts to be trained in assessment techniques for onward qualification as SADCAS assessors.
5. As part of the preparation for the ILAC annual meetings that include the ILAC Inspection Committee Meeting in Montreal Canada, the Secretariat was requested to submit some notes to the CEO and the Technical Manager for their consideration during the meetings.
6. As part of the ongoing review of SADCAS TR 05 - Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection in Terms of the Pressure [Issue 4] to align with current practices, new technologies and new legal requirements, following a report from the DWG, the committee requested the Secretariat to submit an editable version of SADCAS TR 05 for the DWG to incorporate comments made during the meeting before circulating to the Committee for review.
7. The Committee accepted a proposal to review an NDT situational analysis (survey) questionnaire that was drafted by Mr Gilbert Mhangwa. A DWG was established comprising G Mhangwa, G Zimondi, N Chirinda and T Mapuru to finalise the questionnaire and submit to the Committee for comments before it can be circulated to stakeholders to complete.
8. The timelines for all actions were agreed to be **31 December 2023**.

The 14th Advisory Committee for Inspection Bodies in Zimbabwe will be held face to face, in October / November 2024 at a date to be confirmed, in Harare, Zimbabwe.

# AC.02 CLAS HOLDS 8TH MEETING



The 8th meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) (AC.02) was held on the 2nd November 2023 remotely for the fourth time.

The Advisory Committee is a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process. SADCAS has clearly defined terms of reference, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

The 8th CLAS Advisory Committee meeting was attended by 7 of the 16 members from 9 countries, a 42 % participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 8th Advisory Committee Meeting was to get an update on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee;
- Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;

- Revised SADCAS documents;
- Developments at International Level;
- The following technical documents;
- SADCAS TR Y – Time and Frequency Metrology
- SADCAS TR Z Criteria for calibration of tachometers and measurement of rotational speed
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The meeting kicked off with welcoming remarks from the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa who gave a brief presentation on Updates on Developments at SADCAS.

SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe presented the Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees; Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee and Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;

After the plenary session that included AC TLAS and AC MLAS, the Chair, Mr Tebogo S Kajane chaired the AC CLAS break away session.

- Mr Mundembe updated the committee on developments at international level by presenting:
- AFRIMETS 16th GA Resolutions Egypt
- Resolutions -AFRAC TC meeting - 27 September 2023.
- VIM4\_2CD.
- SADCMET 2023 Meeting Botswana Hybrid 4 May 2023.
- 2023 ILAC IC (22) 4 May 2023.

The AC CLAS meeting agreed on the following actions:

1. The Secretariat to supply the revised SADCAS documents, noting the some of the documents are already available on the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)
2. As part of the newly introduced Advisory Committee function of Identification, analyzing and evaluating risk to impartiality on an ongoing basis; the Committee was requested to review SADCAS BP 06 - SADCAS Risk Profile 2023/24, identify any additional risks and submit comments to the Secretariat
3. To participate in their respective National Mirror Committees or otherwise, in the revision of the Vocabulary of International Terms in Metrology (VIM).
4. As part of the preparation for the ILAC annual meetings in Montreal Canada, the Secretariat was requested to submit some notes to the CEO and the Technical Manager for their consideration during the meetings.
5. DWG to finalise the drafts for:
  - SADCAS TR Y – Time and Frequency Metrology
  - SADCAS TR Z Criteria for calibration of tachometers and measurement of rotational speed

The timelines for all actions were agreed to be **31 December 2023**.

The 9th Advisory Committee for Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme will be held remotely in October / November 2024 at a date to be confirmed. The 8th CLAS Advisory Committee meeting was attended by 7 of the 16 members from 9 countries, a 42 % participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 8th Advisory Committee Meeting was to get an update on:

Developments at SADCAS;  
 Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;  
 Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee;  
 Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;  
 Revised SADCAS documents;  
 Developments at International Level;  
 The following technical documents;  
 SADCAS TR Y – Time and Frequency Metrology  
 SADCAS TR Z Criteria for calibration of tachometers and measurement of rotational speed  
 Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The meeting kicked off with welcoming remarks from the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa who gave a brief presentation on Updates on Developments at SADCAS.

SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe presented the Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees; Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee and Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;

After the plenary session that included AC TLAS and AC MLAS, the Chair, Mr Tebogo S Kajane chaired the AC CLAS break away session.

Mr Mundembe updated the committee on developments at international level by presenting:  
 AFRIMETS 16th GA Resolutions Egypt  
 Resolutions -AFRAC TC meeting - 27 September 2023.  
 VIM4\_2CD.  
 SADCMET 2023 Meeting Botswana Hybrid 4 May 2023.  
 2023 ILAC IC (22) 4 May 2023.

The AC CLAS meeting agreed on the following actions:

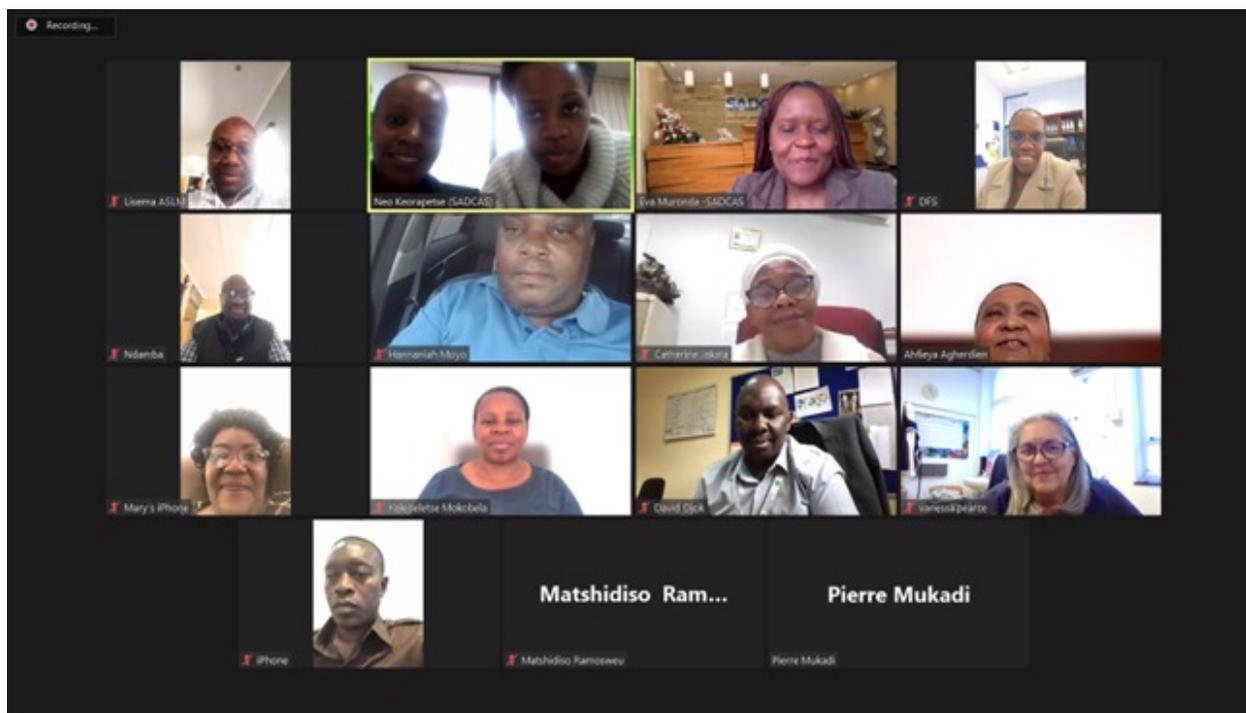
1. The Secretariat to supply the revised SADCAS documents, noting the some of the documents are already available on the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)
2. As part of the newly introduced Advisory Committee function of Identification, analyzing and evaluating risk to impartiality on an ongoing basis; the Committee was requested to review SADCAS BP 06 - SADCAS Risk Profile 2023/24, identify any additional risks and submit comments to the Secretariat
3. To participate in their respective National Mirror Committees or otherwise, in the revision of the Vocabulary of International Terms in Metrology (VIM).
4. As part of the preparation for the ILAC annual meetings in Montreal Canada, the Secretariat was requested to submit some notes to the CEO and the Technical Manager for their consideration during the meetings.
5. DWG to finalise the drafts for:
  - SADCAS TR Y – Time and Frequency Metrology
  - SADCAS TR Z Criteria for calibration of tachometers and measurement of rotational speed

The timelines for all actions were agreed to be **31 December 2023**.

The 9th Advisory Committee for Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme will be held remotely in October / November 2024 at a date to be confirmed.

## AC-03 MLAS HOLDS 7TH MEETING

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) (AC.04) held its 7th meeting on 2 November 2023 virtually, in attendance were a total of thirteen (13) from the SADC member states. SADCAS appreciates the Committee's work which includes the development of technical guidance documents and giving the required clarity and direction to conformity assessment bodies.



The objective of the meeting was to update members on:

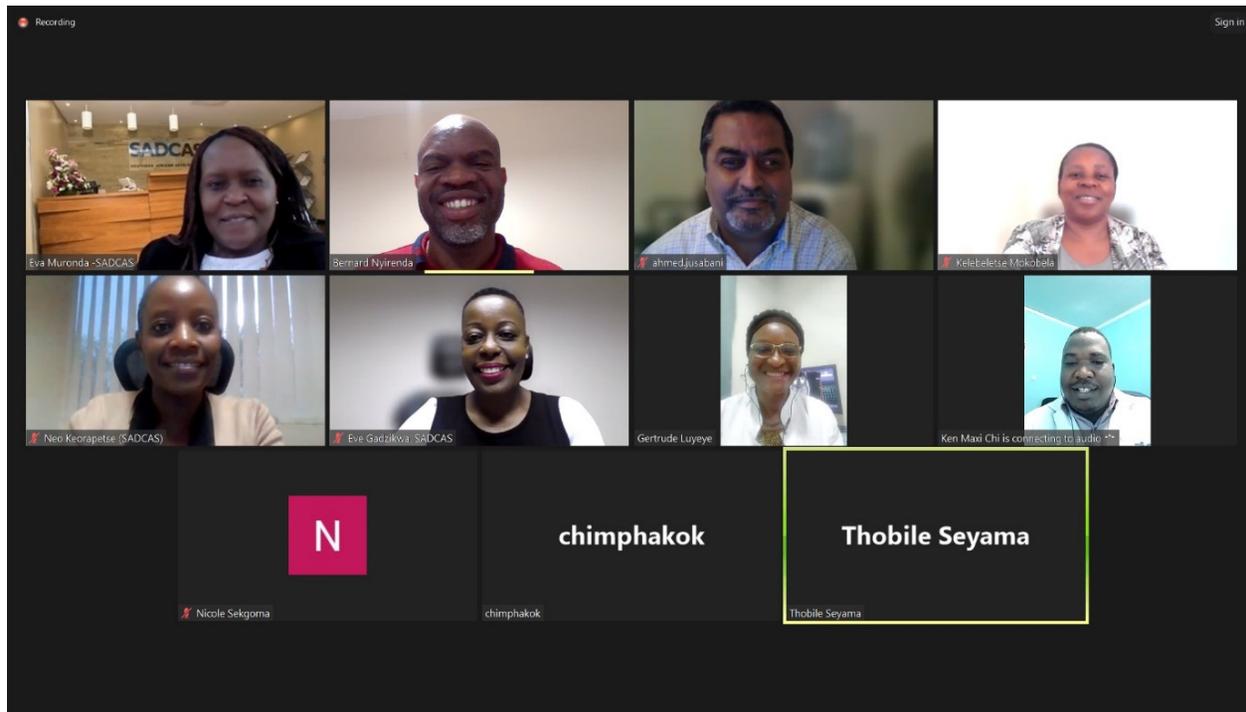
- Developments at SADCAS;
- SADCAS AP 11 - Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees
- SADCAS Peer Evaluation Findings related to Advisory Committees
- Developments at International Level;
- SADCAS ISO 15189 Transition Policy
- The following technical documents;
  - **SADCAS TR X** – draft guidelines on the validation and verification of quantitative and qualitative tests;
  - **SADCAS TR XX** – draft document on Expression of uncertainty in clinical testing;
  - **SADCAS TR XXX** Technical Requirements of a Microbiology Laboratory;
  - **SADCAS TR XXXX** Technical Requirements of Blood Transfusion;
  - SADCAS TR08 Proficiency Testing and other Comparison Requirements for Testing and Medical Laboratories.
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.
- Review of SADCAS Risk Profile

SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa presented an overview of SADCAS an update on developments in SADCAS, followed by a presentation by the Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe on the SADCAS AP 11 - Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees

The meeting agreed to resume working on the documents for Proficiency Testing, Calibration, Expression of Uncertainty of Measurement and Validation and Verification of quantitative and qualitative tests and align them to the requirements of ILAC and ISO 15189:2022 Requirements

The discussions in the meeting were fruitful and the committee commits to continued support to SADCAS in giving the relevant guidance thereby enhancing the credibility of SADCAS services.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE CBAS HOLDS ITS 5TH MEETING



The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) (AC.04) held its 5th meeting on 31 October 2023 virtually, the meeting was attended by seven experts from the SADC member states. The Advisory Committees' ongoing technical assistance plays a pivotal role in the growth of SADCAS. The objective of the meeting was to update AC Members on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- SADCAS AP 11 - Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees.
- SADCAS Peer Evaluation Findings related to Advisory Committees
- Developments at International Level;
- SADCAS ISO 15189 Transition Policy
- The following technical documents;
  - **SADCAS TR X** – Draft Document on General Radiography;
  - **SADCAS TR XX** – Draft Document on Ultrasound.
  - **SADCAS TR XXX**– Computed Tomography (CT); and
  - **SADCAS TR XXXX** – Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).
  - Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

SADCASCEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, presented an overview of SADCAS and shared on the developments in SADCAS. SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe made a presentation on the SADCAS AP 11 -Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees.

The meeting noted the publication of the criteria documents; General Radiography, Ultrasound and the Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme Brochure. The following documents namely Computed tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) were to be finalised in November 2023 as agreed by the members.

SADCAS presented the proposed programme of action of the launch of the scheme in 2024 which required preliminary steps to be conducted as follows:

- Benchmarking with other Accreditation Bodies
- Feasibility Study in the region
- Marketing of Scheme
- Processing of applications
- Launching of the scheme

The meeting was interactive and resolutions were drawn from the meeting to continue the work on more guidance documents and the work towards the launch of the scheme.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MIAS HOLDS ITS 5TH MEETING



The 5th meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS) (AC.05) was held on 03 November 2023 remotely for the fourth time.

The Advisory Committee is a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process. SADCAS has clearly defined terms of reference, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

The 5th CBAS Advisory Committee meeting was attended by 7 of the 15 members from 13 countries, a 47% participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 4th Advisory Committee Meeting was to get an update on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee;
- Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;
- Revised SADCAS documents;
- Developments at International Level;
- The following technical documents;
  - Review of:
    - SADCAS F61 h-1
    - SADCAS F61 h-2
    - SADCAS F 81

to remove unnecessary repetition and providing concise reporting on the witnessing of certification audits and appropriate feedback to the CB Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The meeting kicked off with welcoming remarks from the SADCAS CEO Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa who gave a brief presentation on Updates on Developments at SADCAS.

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, SADCAS Technical Manager. Mrs Malebe then presented the Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees; Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee and Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;

The CBAS AC Meeting was chaired by Mr Fabian Haufiku from Namibia. Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CBAS and the Secretary of the CBAS updated the committee on the following developments at international level by presenting:

- AFRAC Report to IAF ILAC GA Meetings -October 2023.
- Resolutions - AFRAC TC meeting -27 Sept 2023.
- Published IAF\_MD\_28\_Issue 1\_26102023 CertSearch.
- Published IAF\_MD\_27\_22003-1\_Transition\_30082023.
- Published IAF\_MD1\_Issue\_3\_18102023.

The AC CBAS meeting agreed on the following actions:

1. The Secretariat to supply the revised SADCAS documents, noting the some of the documents are already available on the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)
2. As part of the newly introduced Advisory Committee function of Identification, analyzing and evaluating risk to impartiality on an ongoing basis; the Committee was requested to review SADCAS BP 06 - SADCAS Risk Profile 2023/24, identify any additional risks and submit comments to the Secretariat
3. To participate in their respective National Mirror Committees or otherwise, in the revision of ISO/IEC 17065, ISO/IEC 17067, ISO/IEC 17024 and ISO/IEC 17012.
4. As part of the preparation for the ILAC annual meetings that include the ILAC Inspection Committee Meeting in Montreal Canada, the Secretariat was requested to submit some notes to the CEO and the Technical Manager for their consideration during the meetings.
5. In order to progress the review of SADCAS F61 h-1, SADCAS F61 h-2 and SADCAS F 81 to remove unnecessary repetition and provide concise reporting on the witnessing of certification audits and appropriate feedback to the CB Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents a DWG comprising Phillip Mdawe (Eswatini), Rangania Mutonono (Zimbabwe), Irene Mwakatundu-Shapi, Convener (Namibia), Gloria Chaonamwene (Malawi) and Fabian Haufiku (Namibia) was tasked with the initial review.

The timelines for all actions were agreed to be **31 December 2023**.

The 6th Advisory Committee for Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme will be held remotely in October / November 2024 at a date to be confirmed.



## SADCAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LMAS HOLDS 4TH MEETING



The 4th meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Legal Metrology Bodies Accreditation Scheme (LMAS) (AC.08) was held on 01 November 2023 remotely for the third time. The meeting was attended by 6 of the 15 members from 11 countries, a 40 % participation which is over the 25% required for a quorum for an advisory committee meeting.

The Advisory Committee is a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process. SADCAS has clearly defined terms of reference, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

The main purpose of the 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting was to get an update on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee;
- Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;
- Revised SADCAS documents;
- Developments at International Level;
- The following technical documents;
  - Review SADCAS AP 12 Part 1 and Part 2
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The meeting kicked off with welcoming remarks from the SADCAS CEO Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa who gave a brief presentation on Updates on Developments at SADCAS.

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, SADCAS Technical Manager. Mrs Malebe then presented the Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees; Peer Evaluation findings relating to Advisory Committee and Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk;

Chair Mr DD Tau of Botswana chaired the meeting. Mr Mundembe updated the committee on developments at international level by presenting:

- AFRIMETS 16th GA Resolutions Egypt 1st draft.
- Resolutions -AFRAC TC meeting – 27 Sept 2023.
- VIM4-2CD.
- AFRIMETS TC-Legal Metrology 19.07.2023.
- SADC MEL Resolutions 2023-TBTEG.
- 2023 ILAC IC 4 May 2023

The Secretary of the AC Mr Mundembe announced that SADCAS had revised SADCAS F 40d - Checklist ISO IEC 17020-2012 - Checklist for Accreditation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection [Issue 3] to include provisions of the revised ILAC P 15. SADCAS is also developed SADCAS F 128 - Risk Evaluation Form to be implemented prior to undertaking remote assessments.

The meeting Elected Mr Gilbert Mhangwa (Zimbabwe) as the new Chair of the Committee, with Ms Qenehelo Lenka (Lesotho) as the Deputy Chair and agreed on the following actions:

1. The Secretariat to supply the revised SADCAS documents, noting the some of the documents are already available on the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)
2. As part of the newly introduced Advisory Committee function of Identification, analyzing and evaluating risk to impartiality on an ongoing basis; the Committee was requested to review SADCAS BP 06 - SADCAS Risk Profile 2023/24, identify any additional risks and submit comments to the Secretariat
3. To participate in their respective National Mirror Committees or otherwise, in the revision of ISO/IEC 17020, VIM and VIML.
4. As part of the preparation for the ILAC annual meetings that include the ILAC Inspection Committee Meeting in Montreal Canada, the Secretariat was requested to submit some notes to the CEO and the Technical Manager for their consideration during the meetings.
5. To investigate and submit comments on the suitability of:
  - SADCAS AP12 Part 2 for a legal metrology body implementing ISO/IEC 17020.
  - SADCAS AP12 Part 1 for a legal metrology body implementing ISO/IEC 17025.

The timelines for all actions were agreed to be **31 December 2023**.

The 5th Advisory Committee for Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme will be held remotely in October / November 2024 at a date to be confirmed.



## SADCAS HOLDS ISO 15189:2022 REQUIREMENTS AND INTERNAL AUDIT TRAINING FOR BUMMHI

SADCAS recently conducted a series of training courses on ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing for Botswana University of Maryland School of Medicine Health Initiative (BUMMHI) BUMMHI. The first training course was held from 14-18 August 2023 while the second course was held from 4-8 September 2023.

The participants were from BUMMHI as well as those laboratories that are supported by BUMMHI to help in the development of Quality Management Systems, and to gear these laboratories towards accreditation.

The new international standard ISO 15189:2022 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Quality and Competence was published 6 December 2022. This 4th edition of the standard replaces the third edition ISO 15189: 2012. The training offered by SADCAS will ensure that the participants appreciate and understand the requirements such that implementation and subsequent conformity will be a precursor for organizations to maintain accreditation status or gain accreditation.

The main objective of the course is to train all those in medical laboratories either in supporting services, quality management, managerial, including those performing examinations in different departments, in implementation of the new published Standard - ISO 15189:2022 and be able to assess extent of implementation through training in internal auditing. This training was conducted virtually.

There are several benefits for organizations to be accredited, besides efficiency in operations, accreditation in medical laboratories improves patient care outcomes; fosters a culture of quality, competency, and safety, ensures negative risks are monitored and mitigated and lastly promotes communication and staff empowerment. The objective of the course was therefore to train laboratory management and staff members on the requirements and implementation of ISO 15189:2022 and be able to assess extent of implementation through training in internal auditing.

The training facilitator opened the sessions by welcoming all in attendance and outlined the training process. The registration and introductions of all participants followed, whereafter all were asked to share their expectations. The participants were asked to be fully present, take part in quizzes and ask questions to ensure comprehension. Expectations were mostly similar and are summarised as follows:

- Full understanding and application of requirements- ISO 15189:2022.
- Changes made and their impact in already established and implemented system
- Transitioning process- what does it entail.
- Risk management.
- Internal auditing process– auditing extent of implementation of ISO 15189:2022 STD.

The training included group discussions, scenarios, and exercises, as well as an audit session which was conducted on the final day. As part of continuous assessment of competence, participants were also required to sit for an exam on the final day and were then issued with training certificates

## SADCAS HOLDS ISO 17025:2022 REQUIREMENTS AND INTERNAL AUDIT TRAINING (OPEN COURSE)

SADCAS conducted the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing Open Course virtually on 21-25 August 2023. This training was attended by seventeen participants from private testing laboratories as well as government entities.

SADCAS conducted the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing Open Course virtually on 21-25 August 2023. This training was attended by seventeen participants from private testing laboratories as well as government entities.

The Five days' course on the requirements and internal auditing in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 is an intensive training aimed at management and staff involved in the implementation and maintenance of testing/calibration laboratories systems as well as those involved in monitoring system compliance through internal audits.

The training course was interspaced with exercises. The group work were extremely interactive and highly enriching presentations from the wide collection of experiences among the participants. Participants were continuously evaluated throughout the training course

and at the end of the training course participants sat for a written examination to evaluate the effectiveness of the training.

A practical session was organized in which each participant was given an opportunity to carry out an internal auditing based on their selected clauses from the checklist and to write down the nonconformities wherever found. The presentations were highly interactive and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

## NEW ACCREDITATIONS AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2023

	Organization and Location	Date Accredited	Scheme	Accreditation Number	New Accreditations	Renewal of Accreditation	New Scope Extensions	Scope Reduction	Withdrawal of Accreditation
1	Bokamoso Private Hospital Laboratory, Botswana	2023/08/31	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	<b>MED 143</b>	Blood Bank Clinical Chemistry Haematology Microbiology Serology				
2	Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Laboratory, Malawi	2023/08/31	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	<b>MED 144</b>	Molecular Biology				
3	Caltex Company Limited, Tanzania	2023-08-31	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>CAL-8 013</b> <b>CAL-14 010</b> <b>CAL-5 002</b>	Mass Metrology Temperature Force Metrology				
4	Fivet Laboratory Services, Zimbabwe	2023.10.02	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>VET 009</b>	Serology Bacteriology				
5	Turiani Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	11/4/2023	Medical	<b>MED 145</b>	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Serology				
6	Vijibweni Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	11/5/2023	(ISO 15189:2012)	<b>MED 146</b>	Mycobacteriology Serology Parasitology				
7	Mazwi Health Centre Laboratory, Tanzania	11/13/2023	Medical	<b>MED 147</b>	Blood Bank Serology				
8	Dr Atiman Memorial Council Designated Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	11/16/2023	(ISO 15189:2012)	<b>MED 148</b>	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Serology				

SCOPE REDUCTIONS/ WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION									
1	Arthur Davidson CH	2023/04/25	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	<b>MED 062</b>					<b>Clinical Chemistry</b>
2	NIP- Rundu Private Laboratory	2023/07/01	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	<b>MED 053</b>					<b>Clinical Chemistry Haematology</b>
3	Medlane Laboratory, Botswana	2023.10.31	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-1 0022</b>					<b>Microbiological Testing</b>
4	Shabanie and Mashaba Mining Operations Laboratory, Zimbabwe	2023.10.31	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-5 0062</b>					<b>Chemical Testing Minerals</b>
RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION									
1	SGS Inspections, Zambia	02.04.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-5 0007</b>		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			
2	Standards Association of Zimbabwe (Harare & Bulawayo)	2023.03.16	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	<b>TEST-1 0014 TEST-5 0064</b>		Chemical Testing (Water, Fuel)			
3	Antech Laboratories, Zimbabwe	2023.03.21	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	<b>TEST-7 0001</b>		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			
4	Nesch Mintec, Tanzania	2023.03.15	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	<b>TEST-3 0002</b>		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			
5	National Fish Quality Laboratory, Tanzania	2023.03.31	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	<b>TEST-5 0005 TEST-1 0002</b>		Chemical Testing (Fisheries, Water)			
				<b>TEST-1 0015</b>		Microbiology (Fisheries, Water)			
6	Central Veterinary Research Institute, Zambia	25.05.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>VET 002</b>		Veterinary			<b>Chemical Testing</b>
7	Central Veterinary Laboratory, Namibia	28.06.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>VET 001</b>		Veterinary			<b>Food Microbiology</b>
8	Australian Laboratory Group, Zambia Limited	23.06.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-0027</b>		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			
RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION									
9	Water Utilities Corporation, Botswana	14.07.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-5 0009 TEST-1 0004</b>		Chemical & Microbiology (Water)			
10	Rankin Engineering Services, Zambia	04.09.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-3 0004</b>		Civil Engineering			
11	Dundee Precious Metals, Namibia	20.09.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-5 0037</b>		Civil Engineering			
12	Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory	20.09.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>VET 003</b>		Veterinary			
13	OCC Matadi, DRC	27.09.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	<b>TEST-5 0034</b>		Chemical Testing (Water)			

## SADCAS FINANCE STAFF ATTEND BICA INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS) WORKSHOP

On September 20–21, 2023, the SADCAS Finance Unit participated in a workshop on IFRS Presentation and Disclosure Requirements. The workshop's goal was to help financial statement preparers comprehend the disclosure and presentation requirements of IFRS more thoroughly.

The two-day interactive training equipped participants with knowledge about the significance of making sure Financial Statements prepared under IFRS completely comply with the requirements for both current and future IFRS disclosure.

The workshop also explored the advantages of various presentation options from the viewpoints of investors and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

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## NICOLE SEKGOMA ATTENDS ISO/IEC 17025 AUDIT TRAINING

SADCAS Accreditation Administrator, Nicole Sekgoma, attended ISO/IEC 17025 Auditor Training Virtual Workshop from 21st to 25th August 2023. The training was undertaken by Mrs Wedzerai Makaya and facilitated by SADCAS Training Administrator, Mr Mogae Molaoa.

Conducting the workshop virtually permitted the seventeen [17] attendees, based in different countries in the SADC region to participate, such as Botswana, eSwatini, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

The five-day course was kicked off with an in-depth introduction to the ISO/IEC 17025 Standard during the first three days. Mrs. Makaya reviewed the standard from the perspective of the auditor and shared a lot of practical examples based on her past experience and exercises.

The second leg of the workshop covered auditor training followed by group exercises, an exam and a mock audit. Attendees were separated into groups to encourage them to interact and contribute their opinions and experiences while responding to questions in exercises.

At the end of the workshop, the cohort thanked Mrs Makaya for her engaging and inclusive training and Mr Molaoa for his facilitation.

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# SADCAS CLOSES THE YEAR IN STYLE WITH A CHRISTMAS PARTY

On November 30, 2023, the SADCAS Board, Management, and Staff gathered for a Christmas celebration at Mokolodi Bush Kitchen located in Gaborone, Botswana. The management and staff ushered the board members to Gaborone, creating a laid-back atmosphere that allowed for excellent networking over a dinner overlooking the scenic views of Botswana's sunset and wild animals.



## KAONE PHINDELA PROMOTED TO ACCREDITATION ADMINISTRATOR

Kaone Phindela joined SADCAS in July 2022 as an Accreditation Administrator Intern and has been promoted to the position of Accreditation Administrator-MLAS as of October 2023. Kaone's duties entails administering all activities relating to the accreditation process, from application, accreditation and maintenance. She is also responsible for ensuring that travel arrangements are effectively implemented in a timely and cost-effective manner. Kaone brings with her expertise and experience from prior employments in banking, business administration, and customer relations. She was previously employed at Barclays Bank of Botswana (now ABSA) and Botswana Railways, respectively.

Kaone holds a Bachelor of Business Science with majors in Marketing and Management from Monash University, South Africa, and also has a certificate in Enterprise Risk Management from Botswana Accountancy College. In addition, she has successfully completed various courses and trainings including: SADCAS Quality Management System I SO/IEC 17011:2017, First Aid Levels 1 and 2, Safety, Health, and Environmental, and Certificate on Medical Laboratory System ISO 15189:2012.

"Working for SADCAS has been a rewarding journey that has enabled me to learn new things and grow, the office culture is positive and supportive, which gives me confidence that being at SADCAS will be a great experience."



Kaone Phindela

# INVITATION TO REGISTER TECHNICAL EXPERTS - PRIORITIZED SCOPES

SADCAS invites experts with specific technical expertise in the newly introduced Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) and any of the accreditation schemes currently offered by SADCAS to be registered as Technical Experts. A Technical Expert is a person assigned by SADCAS to an assessment team to provide specific knowledge or expertise within the scope of assessment. A Technical Expert works under the supervision of an experienced Team Leader or Technical Assessor.

The following specific areas will be prioritized;

## Technical Experts and Registered Assessors in PROFICIENCY TESTING

## TECHINAL EXPERTS and Registered Assessors in DIGITAL FORENSICS

### MEDICAL IMAGING ACCREDITATION SCHEME (MIAS) – NEW!!

#### Technical Experts with experience in the following;

- General Radiography
- Ultrasound (US)
- Mammography
- Computerised Tomography (CT)
- Interventional Radiography (IR)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (NM)



#### Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS)

Forensic analysis  
DNA Testing  
Civil Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Electrical Engineering  
Radiation Dosimetry  
Non-destructive Testing  
Textile Testing  
Petroleum Products Testing



#### Medical Laboratories accreditation Scheme (MLAS)

Histopathology  
Cytology  
Parasitology  
Endocrinology  
Immunophenotyping  
Blood Banking



#### Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (VLAS)

Mycology  
Parasitology  
Helminthology  
Protozoology  
Histology  
Cytology  
Toxicology  
Pathology



#### Pharmaceutical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (Under TLAS)

Microbiology  
Chemical  
Toxicity  
Medical Devices Testing



#### Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS)

Product Certification  
Personnel Certification  
Food Safety Management Systems  
HACCP  
Environmental Management Systems  
Quality Management Systems



#### Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS)

Verification  
Repair and Maintenance  
Inspection of Products for Sale  
Quantity Control  
Type Testing  
OIML Certification Scheme  
Certification of Verifiers  
Certification of Repairers



#### Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS)

Viscosity  
Electrical – DC low frequency  
Electrical RF  
Fibre Optics  
Force/ Hardness/ Torque  
Flow  
Humidity  
Radio Activity  
Photometry  
Radio frequency  
Time and frequency  
Wind speed  
Acoustics and Vibration  
Radiation Dosimetry Metrology

Technical experts from private and public sectors as well as from technical institutions are invited to apply by completing SADCAS F 26: SADCAS Assessor/Technical Expert Information Record which can be downloaded from the SADCAS website link [http://Microsoft Word - SADCAS F 26 - SADCAS Assessors-Technical Experts Information Record \[Issue 5\]](http://Microsoft Word - SADCAS F 26 - SADCAS Assessors-Technical Experts Information Record [Issue 5])

SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications received to ensure that the experts have the requisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:  
Mrs Pinkie Malebe SADCAS - Technical Manager  
Email:  
[pmalebe@sadcas.org](mailto:pmalebe@sadcas.org);  
[info@sadcas.org](mailto:info@sadcas.org)

# THE BUSINESS BENEFITS OF STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

There are many cases where standards and accredited conformity assessment help businesses of any size and sector reduce costs, increase productivity and access new markets. They can help to:

- Build customer confidence that your products are safe and reliable;
- Meet regulation requirements, at a lower cost;
- Reduce costs across all aspects of your business; and
- Gain market access across the world.

Business Benefits [www.business-benefits.org](http://www.business-benefits.org) is a website jointly developed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), ILAC, International Organization for Standards (ISO), Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), and International Certification Network (IQNet), that showcases these benefits through case studies, research papers, and supporting materials. The examples published on the site cite tangible financial data to evidence the cost savings achieved whether through resource efficiency or meeting regulation at lower cost, the value of accessing new markets, or savings achieved through recognition from organisations such as insurers, regulators or purchasers. The site contains case studies from multinationals such as IBM, Chrysler, and Hitachi to national companies such as Aberdare Cables and Pretoria Portland Cement Company.



The site was launched in October 2017 at the ILAC and IAF conference in Vancouver. Additional case studies will be added in due course to ensure that the site can be a valuable resource to promote the use of standards and accreditation to the business community. The site aims to mirror the success of **Public Sector Assurance**, a similar site that promotes the value of accreditation to policy makers.



The SADCAS offices will be closed on Friday 15 December 2023 and re-open Monday 08 January 2024. SADCAS Board, Management and Staff wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2024.

Take Care and Keep Safe!!!

