

SADCAS ACCREDITS FIRST FACILITY IN ZANZIBAR - MNAZI MMOJA HOSPITAL'S PATHOLOGY LABORATORY

To celebrate its accreditation Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory held a ceremony on Tuesday 20 September 2016 at the Hospital Cafeteria in Zanzibar during which the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer handed over the accreditation certificate to the Honorable Dr Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Minister of Health for Zanzibar.

Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory is the 15th medical laboratory to be accredited by SADCAS and has been accredited in the scopes: Haematology; Tuberculosis; and Parasitology in accordance with ISO 15189: 2012. Through this accreditation, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation number: MED 015; indicating that Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory is now a SADCAS accredited medical laboratory. The certificate which was issued on 26 July 2016 is valid for 5 years until 27 July 2021. Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's Pathology Laboratory is in fact the 1st facility in Zanzibar and the 6th medical laboratory in the United Republic of Tanzania to be accredited by SADCAS.



Honourable Dr Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister of Health and Honourable Mrs Harusi Said Suleiman, Deputy Minister of Health and guests

Dr Marijani, Laboratory Director and Dr Ali, Executive Director Mnazi Mmoja Hospital and guests

In his welcome remarks Dr Muhidin, the Master of Ceremony welcomed guests and outlined the event's programme. The Laboratory's Nominated Representative, Mr Mohamed Soud Mohamed shared with guests the journey towards accreditation which started in 2008 with the help of CDC through the ICAO and Zanzibar Aids Control Programme, undergoing initial assessment in July 2015 and achieving accreditation almost a year later in July 2016. He shared with guests the challenges faced during the journey towards accreditation in particular inadequate technical knowledge to address some aspects of the standard, stock supplies and equipment calibration, enrolling tests with External Quality Assurance (EQA) providers and the accreditation costs. He then appealed for collaborative efforts between the Hospital and Ministry of Health in order to maintain accreditation for which equipment has to be serviced and maintained, the Laboratory has to participate in EQA and meet the accreditation fees. He also advised of the Laboratory's intention to extend the scope of accreditation to other tests and urged the Ministry to also consider the accreditation of district hospital laboratories in Zanzibar such as Makunduchi, Kivunge, Abdalla Mzee, Chake Chake, Wete and Vitongoji.

In her remarks before handing over the certificate, Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer noted the role of medical laboratories in providing diagnosis and management system for the physician to use in the care of patients. "The competence and efficient operation of a medical laboratory as well as timeous delivery of medical laboratory services to the physician is therefore critical. Accreditation which is the process of independently evaluating competency is the strategy for medical laboratories to achieve this" she said. She noted that a number of countries in the region, including the United Republic of Tanzania have embraced accreditation as a strategy for the competence of medical laboratories and this has spurred interest in the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Programme with 27% of the accredited facilities and 21% of the

applications under process being medical laboratories. Mrs Mutasa encouraged Mnazi Mmoja Pathology Laboratory to maintain their accreditation throughout the validity period of the accreditation certificate during which SADCAS would undertake surveillance assessments annually to ensure continued compliance. In congratulating the Pathology Laboratory for the noble achievement Mrs Mutasa in Swahili said “Hongera Sana”.



Honourable Dr Kombo emphasizing a point in his key note address



Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS CEO making her remarks

Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony, and after being welcomed and introduced by the newly appointed Executive Director of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Dr Ali Salum Ali, the guest of honor Honourable Dr Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Zanzibar Minister of Health congratulated Pathology Laboratory for the achievement and urged them to safeguard the hard earned accreditation. He further committed his Ministry’s continued support to the Hospital in its efforts to improve patient care and strengthen community confidence in results and urged the other district Hospitals’ laboratories to implement laboratory management systems benchmarking from Mnazi Mmoja Hospital’s Pathology Laboratory.



Mrs Maureen Mutasa handing over the certificate to Honourable Dr Kombo



Proudly displaying the certificate are Dr Marijani and Mr Mohamed Soud Mohamed the Nominated Representative of Pathology Laboratory Mnazi Mmoja Hospital



Mnazi Mmoja Hospital and Pathology Laboratory Management with the Honourable Dr Kombo and Dr Suleiman and Mrs Maureen Mutasa pose for a Group photo after the ceremony

The ceremony started off and ended with Moslem prayers. After the ceremony, the SADCAS CEO briefly toured the accredited Laboratory.

