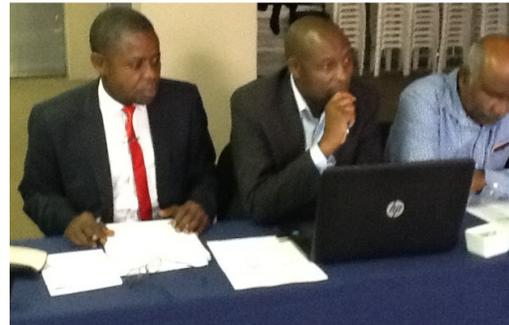
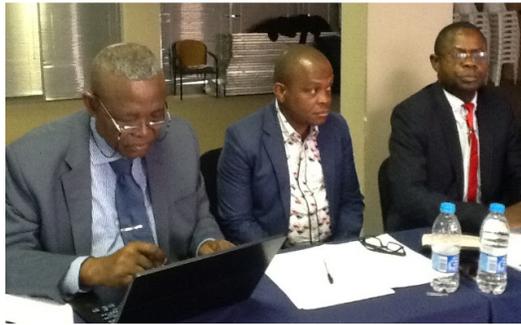


## SADCAS TLAP and CLAP Advisory Committees Meet

The SADCAS Advisory Committees (AC) for the Testing and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programmes held their first meetings on 9 December 2016 in Pretoria South Africa. The meetings which were funded by PTB Germany were attended by 11 CLAP Advisory Committee members, 14 TLAP Advisory Committee members, 3 SADCAS representatives, one facilitator Mr Steven Bruce Sidney and an observer. Advisory Committees advise SADCAS on technical matters and the credibility of SADCAS services hinges on the technical know-how of the Advisory Committees which cover the main disciplines and sectors within which SADCAS operates. Up to date SADCAS has established 3 Advisory Committees one of which was established in 2011 and is specifically for inspection in Zimbabwe and has met 5 times over the years. In 2015 SADCAS set up 2 other Advisory Committees for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Programme (TLAP) and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programme (CLAP) which comprise of carefully selected experts in specific fields of accreditation and covering as much as possible all the 13 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS. According to SADCAS AP 11: Terms of Reference, Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees, Advisory Committees are required to meet at least once a year.



### Joint Advisory committee meeting in session

The joint meeting started with welcome remarks from the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa who expressed thanks to PTB – Germany for sponsoring these first meetings of the Advisory Committees and gave a brief background on the establishment of SADCAS and the TLAP and CLAP ACs briefly highlighting their roles and responsibilities. She then outlined the purpose of the AC meeting which was to: Give an overview of SADCAS and update on developments in SADCAS; Explain the Terms of Reference and responsibilities of AC; Provide update on the ISO/IEC 17025 revisions which is the key accreditation standard for testing /calibration laboratories; Discuss programme specific issues for TLAP and CLAP during which the accreditation process would be outlined; Elect Chairmen of the Advisory Committees and Establish Documents Working Groups (WGs) as necessary to assist SADCAS in commenting on regional and international technical documents as required by SADCA, AFRAC and ILAC of which SADCAS is a member.



Mrs Mutasa and Ms Ranorovelo during the joint meeting

This was followed by a detailed presentation on the overview of SADCAS and an update on developments in SADCAS. In ensuing discussions members wanted to know more about SADCAS services which information was provided. The Technical Manager, Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo presented on the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee based on SADCAS AP 11 during which she covered the role of the AC, membership of the AC, the Chairperson and roles of the Chairperson, Secretariat functions and the functions of the AC and confidentiality. The Chair Mrs Mutasa then requested the meeting to brainstorm on how to ensure that the AC meetings are sustained as planned noting the geographical diversity of AC members with SADCAS servicing the needs of 13 SADC Members States. A number of suggestions were discussed and in conclusion it was agreed that to hold AC meetings in conjunction with other regional meetings such as the SADC TBT Structures annual meeting which some of the member attend and to look for funding on a part sharing basis until such that time that AC members can meet their own costs.

Mr Steve Sydney Co Convenor of ISO CASCO WG 44 gave an update on the revisions of the ISO/IEC 17025. The presentation focused on the changes made in the standard and the expected means of implementing the new requirements. He mentioned that the standard has been aligned with the ISO 9001 standard and the layout has been changed to assume a process-based approach. Mr Sydney also outlined the process of reviewing the standard and the stage at which the WG is. He also informed members that ILAC had issued a transition period of 3 years from the date of publication of the new version. Following extensive discussions on the revisions, the Chair thanked Mr Steven Sidney for his time to inform members of the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17025 the key accreditation standard for testing and calibration laboratories.

**TLAP Advisory Committee Break Out Meeting** – The AC TLAP break out session was chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa. Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Lead Assessor and Program Coordinator for TLAP gave a presentation on the SADCAS Accreditation process covering the scopes of assessments, 5 stages of the accreditation process namely application & document review, pre-assessment which is an optional stage, initial assessment, surveillance assessment and re-assessment; the assessment checklists: Management

requirements, technical requirements, witnessing, vertical and PT forms; and participation of assessors/experts in an assessment team and the expertise required based on the scopes of the assessments. In ensuing discussions members wanted to fully understand the process and raised issues which were later identified for future deliberations by the Committee such as the following:

- Accreditation scoping in the area Radiometry and Dosimetry.
- Validation of Microbiological and chemical test methods.

A Document Working Group (DWG) comprising of the following 5 members was established and Mr Muyila from Malawi was elected as Chairman of the AC. The AC agreed to meet in November 2017 to review progress with development of agreed documents.

**AP Advisory Committee Break Out Meeting** - The CLAP Advisory Committee break out meeting was chaired by Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager. Mr Victor Mundembe a SADCAS Assessor and member of the AC, gave a presentation on the SADCAS Accreditation Process covering the same aspects as above but specifically for the CLAP. En ensuing discussions focused on issues of competency which were well captured by all members who fully understood their role in providing technical expertise to support the accreditation process.

Many issues for future deliberations were identified but the AC members agreed to prioritize the activities and focus on the following 2 issues:

- Uncertainty of measurements: Develop specific requirements per scope based on SADCAS TR 12.
- Mass Metrology: Develop technical requirements for calibration/weighing instruments.

All the AC members present at the meeting indicated their interest in commenting on the regional and international documents hence all constitute the DWG. Mr Victor Mundembe was unanimously elected the Chairman of the CLAP AC. Due to the nature of the documents to be developed the AC members agreed to allocate a full day during the SADC TBT Annual meetings in March 2017 to look at the first drafts, as most of the AC members will be attending the SADC MET meetings. The CLAP AC also agreed to meet in November 2017 to consider the drafts.



Advisory Committees members pose for a group photo after the meetings

After the breakout meetings all the members reconvened into one meeting for the closure and photo session. The technical knowledge and experience of the Advisory Committees which cover the main disciplines and sectors within which SADCAS operates is key for the integrity and credibility of the services delivered. The meetings therefore provided the opportunity to identify areas for future work.

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