



THE PIONEER

SADCAS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023 EDITION – ISSUE 45

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Mr Xavier Mugari



Mr Boniface Badubi

We are pleased to present Issue 45 of the SADCAS Newsletter (July 2023 Edition) to keep our stakeholders updated on activities undertaken by SADCAS and developments in the ever-evolving field of accreditation.

This issue unpacks a lot of exciting news from the successful World Accreditation Day activities around the region and SADCAS hosting the first ever ISO 17021 Training in Portuguese.

June 9th, marked World Accreditation Day, a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities.

This year's theme, **Accreditation: Supporting the Future for Global Trade** highlighted how accreditation and accredited conformity assessment

activities support the ongoing global supply chain restricting that continues to be a source of trade normalization as organisations seek new markets and investment opportunities.

WAD Celebrations were exciting in the region, SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Botswana Ministry of Trade and Industry and the event got generous media coverage. Additionally, there was circulation and publication of press releases in various media platforms such as social media, television interviews, virtual and physical workshops/seminars.

NATIONAL DOSIMETRY LAB BOTSWANA ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION THIRD TIME IN A ROW



SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Chritine Gadzikwa Celebrating the NDL achievement with the Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Honourable Thulagano Merafe Segokgo

“National Dosimetry Lab (NDL) of Radiation Protection Inspectorate (RPI) is under the Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology (MCKT). NDL was established in 2007 and it’s mandate is to provide ionising radiation testing and measurements services for all exposure situations. NDL is located at Gaborone International Finance Park, Plot 132 Unit B, Radio Protection Inspectorate, Gaborone, Botswana got accredited by SADCAS on 21 March 2023 as a testing laboratory.”

Through this accreditation National Dosimetry Laboratory has been granted a unique accreditation number TEST-7 0001 indicating that NDL is now an internationally recognised testing body accredited to international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The certificate of accreditation which was issued on 21 March 2023 is valid for 5 years until 20 March 2028.

SADCAS attended a Certificate Hand-Over Ceremony that was held on the 15th June 2023 at Radiation Protection Inspectorate Office, Gaborone, Botswana. The Ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Honourable Thulagano Merafe Segokgo. The momentous occasion was graced by Senior Government officials and Radiation Protection Board Chairman, His Excellency Ambassador Molosiwa Selepeng. SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa officially handed over the accreditation certificate to NDL.

In his acceptance remarks, Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Honourable Thulagano Merafe Segokgo delightfully accepted the certificate for re-accreditation, and remarked on how the NDL journey started in 2013 and the laboratory remained steadfast in getting successfully re-accredited for the third time. He further noted that the commendable achievement was in alignment with his ministry mission of providing globally competitive services. Hon. Segokgo added that NDL provides service to 198 institutions both private and public with 1505 workers being monitored.

On presenting the certificate to the Minister, SADCAS CEO, Ms Gadzikwa briefed the audience about SADCAS, "Honourable Minister, by assuring technical competence through accreditation, as a multi-economy accreditation body, SADCAS plays a key role towards the achievement of SADC goals in industrial development, infrastructural development, trade facilitation and in the protection of health, safety and the environment."

Ms. Gadzikwa further congratulated the National Dosimetry Lab on its huge achievement of becoming an internationally recognized regulator. She further emphasised that the accreditation was in sync with the recently launched National Quality Policy for Botswana which aims to support global trade as well as the health and safety of communities.



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa giving remarks during the ceremony

SADCAS HOSTS INAUGURAL ISO 17021 TRAINING IN PORTUGUESE

SADCAS Conducts First Portuguese Training on ISO 17021:2015, Conformity Assessments - Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems.

SADCAS held from April 8 to 12, 2023 an online course on Conformity Assessment, in accordance with ISO 17021:2015-Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems.

SADCAS, as a regional organization, has adopted the use of three of the four official languages of SADC (with the exception of Swahili), namely English, which is spoken in the Anglophone countries, which constitute most of the countries of the Region, Portuguese which is the official language of Angola and Mozambique, and French, spoken in the DRC and Madagascar.

This was the first course held by SADCAS in Portuguese, and 32 trainees from Mozambique and Angola, Portuguese-

speaking countries at the level of the Southern African region, participated and was sponsored through of the funds of the SADC EU EDF 11 Capacity building of Certification Bodies in the region that Operate in the SADC Industrialisation Priority Areas on ISO/IEC 17021:2015, which aims to strengthen the capacities of certification bodies in the region operating in the SADC Priority Areas of Industrialisation through the international standard ISO/IEC 17021:2015 in the 16 SADC Member States.

The ISO/IEC 17021:2015 standard is a very important instrument, as it establishes the requirements and guidelines for certification bodies involved in the audit and certification of management systems. It aims to ensure that the certification process is consistent, reliable and credible by providing a framework for the evaluation of management systems, including the documentation of processes and procedures.

ISO/IEC 17021:2015 standard, also provides detailed guidance on audit processes and control measures that certification bodies must adhere to during the certification process. This includes planning and conducting audits, collecting and evaluating audit evidence, and making certification decisions based on the evidence collected. It requires certification bodies to ensure that their auditors are competent, knowledgeable and impartial, which helps maintain the integrity of the system.

Since its foundation, SADCAS has cumulatively conducted 217 training courses with the participation of technicians from the 13 SADC member countries, as part of its effort to develop the Conformity Assessment capacities of entities requiring accreditation. However, these trainings were conducted only in English.

The training on the ISO/IEC 17021:2015 standard in Portuguese, had as its main objective, to transmit knowledge about the ISO/IEC 17021:2015 requirements, implementation and internal audit skills, thus strengthening the certification bodies to meet the accreditation standards.

This training action focused on various aspects of the standard, mainly for management system certification issues, the establishment of a robust management system within the certification body, outlining the organizational structure, resources and procedures necessary to ensure

the conduct of audits based on trust in seven principles of this standard, namely: impartiality, competence and consistent operation, further emphasizing the importance of maintaining confidentiality, managing information and dealing with complaints and resources as well as aspects related to the risk-based approach.

After the completion of the course, a final exam was held in which 24 trainees who managed to obtain a minimum grade of 60% of achievement were approved, and the respective certificates were issued.

SADCAS continues to make efforts to support SADC member States in human capacity building in different areas and in the official languages spoken in the region, with emphasis on the conformity assessment component according to ISO Standards.

The realization of the training in Portuguese, on Conformity Assessment, in accordance with ISO 17021:2015-Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Management Systems, constitutes an important milestone for SADCAS, in its effort of regional integration of SADC, in the fulfilment of its mission as an accreditation body and in the performance of its role in the component of technical and human capacity building for the facilitation of regional integration.

SADCAS REALIZA A PRIMEIRA FORMAÇÃO EM PORTUGUÊS SOBRE A NORMA ISO 17021-2015, AVALIAÇÃO DA CONFORMIDADE – REQUISITOS PARA ORGANISMOS QUE FORNECEM AUDIÇÃO E CERTIFICAÇÃO DE SISTEMAS DE GESTÃO.

O SADCAS, realizou de 08 a 12 de Abril de 2023 um curso online sobre Avaliação da Conformidade, de acordo com a Norma ISO 17021:2015-Requisitos para Organismos que Fornecem Auditoria e Certificação de Sistemas de Gestão.

O SADCAS, como organização regional, adotou a utilização de três das 4 línguas oficiais da SADC (com exceção do Swahili), nomeadamente o Inglês, que é falado nos países anglófonos, que constituem maior parte dos países da Região, o Português que é língua oficial de Angola e Moçambique e, o Francês, língua falada na R.D.Congo e Madagascar.

Este foi o primeiro curso realizado pelo SADCAS em Língua portuguesa, e participaram 32 formandos de Moçambique e Angola, países da expressão portuguesa a nível da região da África Austral e contou com o patrocínio através dos fundos da SADC EU EDF 11 Capacity building of Certification Bodies in the region that Operate in the SADC Industrialisation Priority Areas on ISO/IEC 17021:2015, que tem como objectivo o reforço das capacidades dos organismos de certificação na região que operam nas Áreas Prioritárias de Industrialização da SADC através da norma internacional ISO/IEC 17021:2015 nos 16 Estados-Membros da SADC.

A ISO/IEC 17021:2015 é um instrumento muito importante, pois, estabelece os requisitos e diretrizes para organismos de certificação envolvidos na auditoria e certificação de sistemas de gestão. Visa garantir que o processo de certificação seja consistente, confiável e crível, fornecendo uma estrutura para a avaliação de sistemas de gestão, incluindo a documentação de processos e procedimentos.

A ISO/IEC 17021:2015 também fornece orientação detalhada sobre processos de auditoria e medidas de controle que os organismos de certificação devem aderir durante o processo de certificação. Isso inclui planejar e conduzir auditorias, coletar e avaliar evidências de auditoria e tomar decisões de certificação com base nas evidências coletadas. Ela exige que os organismos de certificação assegurem que seus auditores sejam competentes, conhecedores e imparciais, o que ajuda a manter a integridade do sistema.

Desde a sua fundação, o SADCAS realizou de forma cumulativa 217 cursos de formação com a participação de técnicos dos 13 países membros da SADC, como parte do seu esforço para o desenvolvimento das capacidades de Avaliação de Conformidade das entidades que requerem acreditação. Entretanto, estas formações foram conduzidas apenas em língua Inglesa.

A formação sobre a norma ISO/IEC 17021:2015, teve como objectivo principal, transmitir conhecimentos sobre os requisitos ISO/IEC 17021:2015, implementação e habilidades de auditoria interna, fortalecendo assim os organismos de certificação para atender às normas de acreditação.

Esta acção de formação, debruçou vários aspectos da norma, principalmente para questões de certificação do sistema de gestão, o estabelecimento de um sistema de gestão robusto dentro do organismo de certificação, delineando a estrutura organizacional, os recursos e os procedimentos necessários para garantir a realização de auditorias baseado em confiança em sete princípios desta norma, nomeadamente a imparcialidade, competência e operação consistente, enfatizando ainda a importância de manter a confidencialidade, gerenciar informações e lidar com reclamações e recursos bem como aspetos referentes a abordagem baseado no risco.

Após a conclusão do curso, foi realizado um exame final no qual foram aprovados 24 formandos que conseguiram obter uma nota mínima de 60% de aproveitamento, e emitidos os respectivos certificados.

O SADCAS continua a envidar esforços no apoio aos países membros da SADC na capacitação humana em diferentes áreas e nas línguas oficiais faladas na região, com destaque para a componente de avaliação de conformidade de acordo com as Normas ISO.

A realização da formação em língua Portuguesa, sobre Avaliação da Conformidade, de acordo com a Norma ISO 17021:2015-Requisitos para Organismos que Fornecem Auditoria e Certificação de Sistemas de Gestão, constitui um marco importante para o SADCAS, no seu esforço de integração regional da SADC, no cumprimento da sua missão como organismo de acreditação e no desempenho do seu papel na componente de capacitação técnica e humana para a facilitação da integração regional.

QUALI-MED BOTSWANA JOINS EXCLUSIVE CLUB OF ACCREDITED MEDICAL LABS



Quali-med Quality Manager, Mrs Muriel Hlomani with SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa commended Quali-med on the huge achievement of getting accredited

“Quali-med started its operation in July 2012, under the directorship of Dr. Vakai Armstrong Patsika and Mrs. Irene Patsika with its head office located at Plot 183 Khama Avenue, Town Center, Lobatse and another branch was open in 2020 in Gaborone. SADCAS issued accreditation certificate to Quali-med on 24th April 2023.”

Through this accreditation Quali-med Laboratories has been granted a unique accreditation number MED 135 indicating that Quali-med is now an internationally recognised testing body accredited to international standard 10 15189:201 for three (3) scopes namely **medical testing laboratory clinical chemistry, haematology and serology**. The certificate of accreditation which was issued on 21 March 2023 is valid until 20 March 2028.

To mark the momentous occasion, SADCAS attended a certificate hand-over ceremony which was held on the 8th July 2023 at Tlotlo Hotel and Conference Center in Gaborone, Botswana. The ceremony was attended Senior Government officials from Ministry of Health, Quali-med directorship and staff and members of the press. SADCAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa officially handed the accreditation certificate to Quali-med Laboratories.

For her part, the guest speaker from Ministry of Health, Mrs. Kelebeletse Mokobela congratulated Quali-med Laboratories for attaining international recognition in the provision of quality medical services. She stated that medical laboratory services have grown substantial in the past years with the private sector gaining momentum and owning a substantial share of the market. Hence, this will give consumers a wide range of services and competitive healthcare.

In her acceptance speech, Quali-med, Laboratory Manager, Mrs. Irene Patsika shared her journey of establishing the lab after quitting her job and self-financed the project. She shared how it has been a challenging and rewarding journey especially finally getting the SADCAS accreditation.

On presenting the certificate to Quali-med Laboratories, SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa highlighted that, "Medical laboratory services play a pivotal role in ensuring that patients receive the most pertinent treatment and care. It is imperative that medical laboratories effectively meet the needs of all patients and clinical personnel responsible for patient care and any other interested parties. The laboratory's aim is to not only to provide accurate results, but to do so for the right patient within a meaningful timeframe about clinical management, using appropriate laboratory procedures and with respect for ethics, confidentiality and the safety of the patient.

Over the years and with challenges such as HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, cholera, typhoid, Ebola, antimicrobial resistance and especially over the last 24 months or so with COVID-19 pandemic there has been global rapid growth in the various branches of health care services."



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa presenting the accreditation certificate to Lab Director, Mrs Irene Patsika and elated Quali-med team.

HIGHLIGHTS OF IAF/ILAC MID TERM MEETINGS OF MAY 2023

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) mid-term meetings were held in hybrid format from 1 - 8 May 2023. SADCAS was represented at these meetings by Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager and Mr Victor Mundembe, SADCAS Scheme Coordinator. SADCAS participated remotely. Members who attended the face to face were hosted in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The IAF/ILAC mid-term meetings that were attended by SADCAS representatives are:

1. IAF Technical Committee WG Product Certification, 01 May 2023.
2. IAF Technical Committee WG Management Systems Certification (MSC), 01 May 2023
3. IAF Technical Committee WG Auditing Practices Group and Accreditation Auditing Practices, 01 May 2023
4. IAF Technical Committee WG Food, 02 May 2023
5. IAF TC, 04 May 2023
6. ILAC AIC 1–2 May 2023
7. ILAC AIC Working Group ISO 15189
8. ILAC ARC, 3 May 2023

The highlights of the IAF/ILAC mid-term meetings with key issues summarized from discussions and resolutions and related Technical Committee and Working Group or Task Force meetings are as follows:

IAF TC WG on Product Certification, 01 May 2023

- At the May 1 meeting of the IAF TC WG on Product Certification in Belfast it was decided to request some information from the regions, in preparation for its next meeting to be held in Montreal, Canada (November 6-15, 2023).
- There is an ongoing CASCO Internal Ballot (CIB) for the revisions of ISO/IEC 17007 and ISO/IEC 17067, closing July 14, 2023. The Systematic Review of ISO/IEC 17065 should be launched at the conclusion of the CIB.
- ISO/IEC 17067 – Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification and guideline for product certification schemes
- ISO/IEC 17065–Conformity assessment–Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services
- In anticipation of the possible revisions of those

standards, members were asked to submit concerns, ideas or comments that they would like to see addressed in the event that ISO/IEC 17067 and ISO/IEC 17065 are revised. Responses should be submitted as soon as practical but no later than 15 September 2023.

- Discussion ensued on the need to revise IAF MD25: 2022 Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes, given that it was issued on 07 January 2022.

IAF TC WG Management Systems Certification (MSC), 01 May 2023

Update from the IAF CertSearch Database Management Committee Chair Mr Rajesh Maheshwari, since positive member ballot August 22

- Successful IAF member Ballot to change principles occurred in August 22
- IAF Taskforce was established in Dec 22 to draft the Mandatory Document
- CB and AB Data Management Agreements have gone through consultations and have been finalized
- Some 880,000 certifications have been uploaded to date for all status'
- 73 MS MLA ABs and 1316 CBs are participating.
- Users have increased 53% since the ballot in September to 15,388
- Users have concern that the database is not fully populated and are urging IAF to expedite the uploading.
- Key drivers for users needing the database is to demonstrate that suppliers hold valid certifications across their supply chains and networks to meet growing supply chain regulations and frameworks i.e. ESG.
- The main objective is to finalise the IAF MD for the database and transition to a populated database.

IAF Documents - New Publications or New Applications of published Documents since last meeting

- IAF MD 7:2023 IAF Mandatory Document for the Harmonization of Sanctions and Dealing with Fraudulent Behavior, issued 21 Feb 2023, application date 21 Feb 2024
- IAF MD 9:2022 Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485), issued 01 Feb 2022, application date 01 Feb 2023
- IAF MD26:2023 Transition Requirements for ISO/IEC 27001:2022, issued 15 Feb 2023, application date 15 Feb 2023. Revised version due to ISO altering the structure of 27001. Does not impact the transition, clarifications on numbers, added 6.1.3 subclause, etc.
- IAF ID15:2023 Dealing with Fraudulent Behavior, issued 21 Feb 2023, application date 21 Feb 2024.

Other – ISO 37001, ISO 37301, ISO 55000 Audit Time

- audit time requirements associated with them.
- Not included in IAF MD 5; however, some ABs are requiring MD 5 and some CBs are (voluntarily) using the “principles” and structure (ideas) in IAF MD 5.
- IAF (MSC WG) did not come to a common “position”.
- For any new programs/schemes, when there are not audit time requirements, the CB needs to develop a process following the requirements in ISO/IEC 17021-1.
- Some ABs develop the process/requirements through a pilot scheme, working with CBs (as an example).
- Action - Standards are underway with MLA extensions; the notes from the WG will be provided to the Task Forces.

ISO/IEC 17021-1 Supporting (Dash) Documents

- Questioned the Need and Process for Development
- Briefly updated on a CASCO discussion regarding the process for creating the ISO/IEC 17021 supporting dash documents (e.g. ISO/IEC 17021-2).
- The future idea is to incorporate formality around requesting creating supporting documents and possibly include why the supporting document is needed, why ISO/IEC 17021-1 is not enough, etc.

IAF TC WG Auditing Practices Group and Accreditation Auditing Practices, 01 May 2023

- Draw attention to existing documents on shared IAF/ISO website

- Re-start group thinking on further documents, adaptations to APG documents and/or revisions
- Re-establishment of the connection with ISO TC 207 is in progress
- Request that a three-hour meeting of all APGs be scheduled during the November 2023 Annual Meetings to agree upon the documents that are to be developed by each WG.
- Discussion ensued on:
 - The need to share the details of the APG meeting with liaisons
 - Suggestion to request that ISO create a generic group to coordinate efforts of APGs

IAF TC WG Food, 02 May 2023

The WG Food is taking care of a continuously dynamic area. Food, Feed and Agriculture are focal points for consumer interest and standardization efforts as well as a major area for sustainability efforts. Food/feed safety, food integrity, organic production control etc are subject of the WG's discussions.

On 2nd May 2023 the WG had its first in-person meeting since 2019.

The ongoing projects within the remit of the group are:

- Liaison with Codex Alimentarius and ISO TC34/SC17
- TF Organic - under discussion, analysing the developments in regulatory and private schemes
- TF RTTT/GFSI on PRB: auditor certification for food schemes
- TF Use of KPI for CBs in the food sector (prev. RTTT/GFSI Use of KPI)
- Revision of IAF MD16 (ready for WG consensus and to be prepared for IAF ballot)
- Transition rules on ISO 22003-1, 2022 (FSMS-certification) (ready for IAF member ballot)

Two scheme owners (BRCGS and IFS) have recently gained associate member status at IAF and established new MLA sub-scopes. At the TC meeting discussion ensued on the synergies between the WG Sustainability and WG Food.

The next Food WG meeting is scheduled at the 2023 Joint Annual IAF-ILAC Meetings at the Le Westin Montréal Hotel, Montréal, Québec, Canada, 13:00-17:00 (local time) on Tuesday, 7 November, 2023. This event is in person only, no virtual attendance is available.

IAF TC WG Digitalization, 03 May 2023

- The terms of reference are being developed for TC approval at a future meeting
- Developing document(s) or content to be added to existing IAF documents to address remote auditing/assessment
- Suggesting inputs for consideration as potential content by non-IAF organizations, like ISO CASCO, ISO TC 176, ISO TC 207 and others
- Initiating discussion on how to measure effectiveness and efficiency of conformity assessment activities pre-pandemic (when ICT wasn't widely used (as evidenced by the 2016 survey)); during the pandemic (NOW); and for the future - compared to on site.
- Sharing best practices in conducting remote audit/assessment not limited to IAF resources, consider webinars across regions and stakeholder partners.
- Limited revisions of IAF MD1, MD8, MD9 and MD23:
 - A request to proceed with the 30-day ballot following the TC meeting will be submitted to the TC Chair
- Update of IAF MD16 and MD4 and review of IAF ID3
- The next WG meeting will be held prior to the November 2023 Annual Meetings.

IAF TC, 04 May 2023

The IAF TC develops, maintains and revises, as appropriate, IAF documents (mainly MDs and IDs) on the application of standards and guides and similar to ensure the consistent application of conformity assessment standards. Documents are submitted to the voting members for approval as required. The IAF TC currently advances its work through 12 Working Groups and 17 Task Forces. The following is a summary of the key activities that have taken place or are in progress since the previous TC meeting in November 2022. More detail will be provided in the information /decision reports from the WGs and TFs.

Working Groups and Task Forces

The WG Persons now has new co-convenors and has met for the first time to consider future activities and directions, in particular the WG will be taking part in activities and monitoring progress regarding the review and revision of ISO/IEC 17024. The TC Chair has met with the convenors to discuss next steps and future activities.

The WG Product also has a new convenorship team, the meeting taking place during the mid-term meeting in Belfast will cover identifying key topics for the WG. Again, this will include monitoring the expected review of ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO/IEC 17067 later in 2023. The TC Chair has met with the convenors to discuss next steps and future activities.

The new WG Digital has now been formed, a "kick-off" meeting took place at the end of March and the Group will meet during the Belfast Mid-Term meetings. This WG is strategically very important covering the increasing use of technology, remote and innovative auditing and assessing techniques and ensuring IAF is able to support valid initiatives.

The WG Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17011) has not met in this period, this is an ad-hoc group to be called together as needed and there has been no required activity since the last meeting. However, work continues on finalising a revision of MD 15, TC comments are under review. Since the announcement that ISO/IEC 17011 will not be reviewed at this time, a number of issues have been raised to the convenors of this WG that would have been discussed as part of the revision process, however it was agreed that we would consider convening the WG Accreditation to discuss these particular issues.

The TF Database has finished the first draft of the new Mandatory Document covering the various procedures, rules and requirements for operating the database, this has been circulated for TC comment.

TF Counterfeit Certificates:

- A draft ID has been developed by the TF
- Request for approval to fast-tracking of approval of the ID will be submitted to the TC Chair following the meeting
- The ID includes requirements for the IAF Board to work with partners to prevent counterfeit certificates
- Whether a coordination centre should be established to report counterfeit certificates across the globe following the approval and publication of the ID
- Four interviews regarding cybercrime and counterfeit certificates have been recorded.

TF CertSearch Database

- The 30-day TC comment period will conclude on 06 May 2023
- Target to proceed to ballot of the MD by 31 July 2023. Discussion ensued on:
 - Suggestion that ABs who do not agree with the Database Management Agreement should vote against the MD
 - Issues with content of the Database Management Agreement will be addressed by the Database Management Committee (DMC):
 - The wording of the Database Management Agreement is not part of the TF's remit
 - Potential changes to the Database Management Agreement must be considered when commenting on the MD, due to the linkage between the documents
 - Suggestion to defer balloting on the MD until the concerns with the Database Management Agreement are resolved.

TFs on Review and Revision of MD Documents:

MD11

- The revised IAF MD11 has been completed and will proceed to TC ballot
- A half-day meeting is requested for the November 2023 Annual Meetings.

MD12

- A decision has not been made on the direction of travel

- Request for half-day meeting during the November 2023 Annual Meetings.
- It was requested that the TF Co-Convenors provide an updated report.

MD17

- JACB has volunteered to serve as the TF Co-Convenor
- Summary of discussions of the TF meeting held during the Belfast Mid-Term Meetings:
 - Draft of revised IAF MD17 will be reviewed and considered at the November 2023 Annual Meetings
 - Request for four-hour meeting during the November 2023 Annual Meetings

Belfast Workshop – Audit Time

The review of Audit Time processes and requirements continues, following a significant amount of activity within the TF, a major, structured, open workshop took place at the Belfast midterm meetings. This helped guide the future direction of audit time calculation and will help define the next steps for the Task Force, including the need for additional resource. The workshop was open to all IAF members as it was important to get as many views as possible. The WG Digital members also joined this workshop as there was a cross-over between the activities of the new groups.

IAF members will be requested to endorse the TF's (Audit Time) reconsideration of all audit time calculation requirements and methodologies in due course.

Liaisons

The TC Chair has been working with the Secretariat to fill any vacant liaison positions, this is ongoing. The liaisons are very important to IAF's activities as they provide a live link between IAF and regulators, scheme owners, standards committees etc. Members are asked to consider liaison positions as, and when, they arise, and consider getting involved in this important and interesting work.

Regions

Regional representatives are encouraged to present regional update reports as input to these meetings, activities taking place on a regional basis are often of wider interest and could lead to useful discussions.

Publications

Summary:

2 new documents published:

- MD 26 – Transition Requirements for ISO/IEC 27001 – Issued 15 Feb 2023 (application date 15 Feb 2023).
- ID 15 – Dealing with Fraudulent Behavior

1 document revision published:

- MD 7 – Harmonization of Sanctions and Dealing with Fraudulent Behavior – update issued 21 Feb 2024 (application date 21 Feb 2024).

0 documents withdrawn:

10 documents in progress:

- MD 5 – ongoing to major review by the TF Audit Time
- MD 6 – R60 days comments disposition finished – ready for ballot
- MD 11 – Undergoing review by a dedicated TF
- MD 15 – under revision by the WG Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17011), many comments, currently being reviewed.
- MD 17 – undergoing review by a dedicated TF
- MD XX – Use of the CertSearch Database – circulated for TC comment
- The following MDs are under revision specifically covering remote assessment considerations as a result of the Remote Assessment TF (now WG Digital)
 - MD 1
 - MD 8

- MD 9
- MD 23

Reminders:

IAF MD 25: 2022 – criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes – Application Date is January 2024.

The need to be strategic in the establishment of Working Groups (WGs) and Task Forces (TFs) and to create new documents only if they are necessary

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The IAF/ILAC Joint Annual Meetings are scheduled to take place face to face in Montréal, Canada from 09-18 November 2023.

SADCAS ATTENDS THE SADC 38TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TBT COOPERATION STRUCTURES

SADCAS attended the SADCA General Assembly meeting that was hosted in Gaborone, Botswana jointly by Democratic Republic of Congo and the Government of Republic of Botswana. The main highlight was the SADCA World Accreditation Celebrations where it was announced that, on 28 March 2023, SADCA MRA was accepted as a recognised Regional Accreditation Cooperation by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) MRA, for the accreditation of Calibration and Testing laboratories using ISO/IEC 17025. SADCAS joins the rest of the global community in congratulating SADCA for this noble achievement. SADCAS was given an opportunity to present recent developments as an Arrangement Member of SADCA.

Some of the highlights contained in the CEO's presentation included the following updates;

SADCAS is working towards the extension of its signatory status to product certification bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065 through the Twinning Partnership Arrangements with the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). SADCAS had accredited its first Product Certification to ISO/IEC 17065 on 28 December 2022. In terms of its growth, SADCAS CEO highlighted that, the organisation had witnessed unprecedented growth during the period under review.

The meeting was advised that, SADCAS had recorded 24% growth in accreditation certificates and 27% in accredited facilities and that, most of the accredited facilities (47%) fall under the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS), followed by 38% under the Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS).

In addition, she reported that, Calibration Inspection Bodies Veterinary Laboratory, Management Systems Certification Bodies and Verification Laboratories Accreditation Schemes represent 15% of the accreditations had been registered over the past year. At the time of SADCA GA Meetings, SADCAS CEO reported that it had cumulatively undertaken 240 training courses on the key accreditation standards using three (3) official languages: English; French; and Portuguese, 11 of which were conducted online. She attributed the overall growth in accreditations to the combined efforts of the SADCAS team and National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) in the respective Member States that play a vital role in promoting the benefits of accreditation amongst their stakeholders.

SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Gadzikwa and Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe took this opportunity to interact with SADCA Members and National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs).



SADCAS CEO, Mrs Eve Christine Gadzikwa poses with Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe

SADCAS UNDERGOES AFRAC RE-EVALUATION

SADCAS underwent an AFRAC re-evaluation and scope extension from 29 May to 3 June 2023. Peer Evaluation of Accreditation Bodies is undertaken every four years and the last evaluation of SADCAS was undertaken in 2019. The purpose of the re-evaluation was to determine whether SADCAS can maintain international recognition status for the testing and calibration laboratories achieved in 2015 and the medical laboratories and inspection bodies accreditation schemes achieved in 2017, Management Systems Certification achieved in 2020 and to extend scope to product certification. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the requirements of AFRAC M001-04 and SADCA M001-02, the regional accreditation groups that undertake evaluations on behalf of ILAC and IAF.

During the evaluation, the SADCAS office in Gaborone, Botswana was visited and the full scope of accreditation activities was evaluated. The team also witnessed SADCAS

assessments being undertaken in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. According to the report issued to SADCAS by the Evaluation Team at the end of the evaluation, all assessments witnessed were, without exception, of a high standard in terms of their scope and depth. The evaluation team was impressed with the expertise of staff and assessment teams; the quality and thoroughness of assessments; knowledge of and adherence to procedures. The Evaluation Team recommended that SADCAS maintains its international recognition status and in addition extend its scope of accreditation to include Product Certification. This recommendation will be considered by AFRAC and SADCA following which a decision will be communicated to SADCAS.

At the closing meeting, the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, thanked the Evaluation Team, SADCAS staff, SADCAS Assessors and Technical Experts, accredited and applicant organisations involved in the witnessing of assessments for their good work which resulted in a positive outcome.

2023 ANNUAL TBT COOPERATION STRUCTURES MEETINGS

The TBT Annex to SADC Protocol on Trade stipulates that SADC TBT Cooperation Structures, which have mandate covering Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM), meet at least once a year to review and update their annual work programme to furthering TBT agenda of the region. SADC Secretariat convenes the annual meetings in the SADC Member State holding the Chairpersonship of SADC in that particular year.

The 38th SADC TBT Cooperation Structures meetings were held 15-19 May 2023. Initially, the meeting was planned to take place virtually. However, after consulting members, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) hosted the hybrid meetings and the SADC Secretariat made all the arrangements. Members who attended the meetings physically met at Protea Hotel by Marriott Gaborone Masa Square.

SADCAS was represented by the CEO Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, the Technical Manager Mrs Pinkie Malebe and the Scheme Coordinator Mr Victor Mundembe. Ms Gadzikwa and Mrs Malebe attended the meetings physically while Mr Mundembe attended virtually.

The Opening Ceremony, workshop & TBT EG Steering Committee meeting was held on 15 May 2023, following which the following meetings were held:

1. SADCTRLC Meeting: May 16, 2023
2. SADC MEL Meeting: May 16, 2023
3. SADCTBT SC Meeting: May 17, 2023
4. SADCSTAN Meeting: May 17, 2023
5. SADC MET Meeting: May 18, 2023
6. SADCA Meeting: May 18, 2023
7. SADC TBT EG meeting was held on 19 May 2023.

Selected resolutions from SADC MET and SADC MEL:

- SADC MET noted with appreciation the keynote presentation on Metrology in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and thanked Dr Wynand Louw, CIPM President for his keynote address.
- SADC MET noted the PTB report by Ms Jana Bante on discussions with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) about the renewal of the project Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Trade and Consumer Protection in the SADC Region for three more years and requested PTB to support the new project proposals which have been identified under the new SADC PTB project.
- SADC MET resolved that a training workshop on the new OIML D1 Edition 2012 (E) be considered for NMI Directors. The workshop to be held virtually in conjunction with the Strategic Plan workshop will enable NMIs Directors to identify legal infrastructural gaps that this edition introduces to existing national metrology laws as well as the formulation of action plans for addressing these gaps.
- SADC MET congratulated Dr Wynand Louw, Acting CEO of NMISA for his re-election as the CIPM President for another four-year term starting from 21 March 2023.
- SADC MET noted the election of Mr Mathew Ranganai from SIRDC-NMI, Zimbabwe as AFRIMETS Vice-Chair: Scientific, representing SADC MET and wishes him well in his new position.
- SADC MET elected the following office bearers for a two-year term from 2023-25:
 - Chair: Tanzania represented by Ms Stella Mrosso (TBS); and
 - Vice-Chair: Botswana represented by Mr Shadrack Tebogo Kajane (BOBS).
- SADC MET noted the challenges with regards to hosting Virtual and Hybrid meetings which includes low participation by members attending virtually and poor connectivity which impacts the effectiveness of the meetings. SADC MET recommends that going forward the next SADC TBT meetings be held physically.

- SADCMEI noted with appreciation the keynote presentation on Digital Transformation in the Quality Infrastructure: Introducing the OIML Digitalisation Task Group and thanked the keynote speaker Dr Sascha Eichstaedt for the informative presentation.
- SADCMEI noted the presentation from OIML and thanked Mr Ian Dunmill for briefing the meeting on the progress of the OIML technical work and other matters of interest within the OIML.
- SADCMEI noted the report from the representative of PTB, Ms Jana Bante and thanked the PTB for their continued support of the activities of SADCMEI.
- SADCMEI welcomed Mr Humphrey Nkoben from Zambia as the new Chairperson of SADCMEI.

As an Accreditation Body SADCAS will continue attending and actively participating to stay in sync with developments at relevant Regional and International of Quality Infrastructure Organisations.



SADCAS CEO ATTENDS INTERVIEW ON BOTSWANA TELEVISION (BTV)



SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa unpacked Accreditation on Botswana Television

On the 16th June 2023, SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa attended an interview on the national broadcaster, Botswana Television (BTV) on the popular current affairs programme, Botswana Connects. The programme was hosted by veteran journalist, Ms. One Rabantheneng.

The comprehensive interview unpacked the importance of accreditation in Botswana and globally. Ms. Gadzikwa emphasised on how the Southern African Development Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was a sustainable accreditation body at the cutting edge of providing credible accreditation service delivery. She shared that SADCAS was a multi-economy accreditation body that is registered in Botswana in terms of Botswana laws and headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana.

Ms. Gadzikwa highlighted that presently SADCAS has issued 310 accreditation certificates to 255 accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States and 2 non-SADC countries: Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. Of the 255 facilities accredited by SADCAS 29 of these in Botswana (14 Testing, 11 Medical Calibration, 1 Inspection and 1 Vet). Additionally, she lauded the Botswana Government on the recently launched National Quality Policy which will be instrumental in supporting global trade by removing the technical barriers to trade (TBTs).

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY
ACCREDITATION:
SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL TRADE



SADCAS
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ACCREDITED



**SEYCHELLES
BUREAU OF
STANDARDS**

NAFPS CELEBRATES WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2023

“ Seychelles celebrated the World Accreditation Day for 2023 by doing a half-day presentation on Friday 9th June 2023 at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards. The NAFPs for Seychelles along with the NAFP supervisor successfully facilitated the half-day workshop. The workshop was graced by different conformity assessment service providers such as representatives from calibration laboratory, testing laboratories from the Seychelles Ministry of Health and the Seychelles Bureau of Standards, certification body at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards, representatives from different fishing industries and regulators in Seychelles as well as the Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry (MIEI) shared the benefits of Accreditation during his opening remarks. ”

There were three major presentations on that day which unpacked to the audience about Accreditation as well as the role of SADCAS in the Seychelles. The first presentation covered the importance of Accreditation in general and an overview of SADCAS. The other two presentations were from testing laboratories: SBS, Mr. Guillaume Woodcock from the Environmental laboratory who talked about strengthening of fish export industry and ensuring good water quality and Mr. Cliff Barra from the Chemical Analysis Laboratory who spoke on Accreditation of coconut oil as the laboratory is currently in the process to accredit tests carried out on coconut oil. The event garnered media attention with representation from the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC).

The exciting programme ended with visits to the different laboratories at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards including two SADCAS accredited laboratories, Environmental laboratory, accredited for lead, mercury, cadmium in Rawfish sample and pH, sulphate, nitrate, nitrite, conductivity, fluoride and chloride in water sample and the Food chemistry laboratory, accredited for histamine test in fish. The workshop was a great opportunity to provide knowledge to regulators, conformity assessment service providers and the public on the importance of Accreditation.

DISCOURS DE LA CHEF DE LA DIRECTION DU SADCAS, MME EVE CHRISTINE GADZIKWA

C'est avec grand plaisir que je me joins au reste du monde pour célébrer la Journée mondiale de l'accréditation 2023. Le thème de cette année est « Accréditation: Soutenir l'Avenir du Commerce Mondial ».

Le Service d'accréditation de la Communauté de développement de l'Afrique Australe (SADCAS) est un organisme d'accréditation multi-économique établi en vertu de l'article 15 B de l'Annexe sur les obstacles techniques au commerce (OTC) du Protocole de la SADC sur le commerce dans le but principal de garantir que les prestataires de services d'évaluation de la conformité opérant dans les États membres de la SADC qui ne disposent pas d'organismes nationaux d'accréditation soient soumis à la supervision d'un organisme faisant autorité. En règle générale, dans le monde développé, chaque pays a son propre organisme d'accréditation, mais dans la région de la SADC, compte tenu du coût de la création et du maintien d'un tel organisme et compte tenu des ressources financières et humaines limitées, la région a décidé de créer un organisme d'accréditation qui répondrait aux besoins d'accréditation d'un certain nombre de pays.

Au fil des ans, la SADC, en tant que premier organisme d'accréditation multi-économie au monde, s'est révélée être un modèle viable, rentable et durable qui optimise les ressources financières et humaines limitées. Un certain nombre d'autres régions du monde, telles que la région du Golfe, Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (UEMOA), se sont basées sur le modèle SADCAS « local », un concept développé par un groupe d'experts de la région de la SADC.

Le thème de cette année « Accréditation : Soutenir l'Avenir du Commerce Mondial » souligne comment l'accréditation et l'évaluation de la conformité s'adaptent aux progrès technologiques, aux changements dans les comportements des consommateurs et l'environnement réglementaire, aux nouveaux mécanismes de confiance et à l'évolution des modèles commerciaux.

Le thème de cette année met également l'accent sur la façon dont l'accréditation soutient les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) des Nations Unies 1,2,3,5,8,9,10,14 et 17.

- L'ODD 1 est de : « Mettre fin à la pauvreté sous toutes ses formes et partout dans le monde »
- L'ODD 2 est : « Éliminer la faim, assurer la sécurité alimentaire, améliorer la nutrition, et promouvoir l'agriculture durable »
- L'ODD 3 est de : « Permettre à tous de vivre en bonne santé et promouvoir le bien-être de tous à tout âge »
- L'ODD 5 est : « Parvenir à l'égalité des sexes et autonomiser toutes les femmes et les filles »
- L'ODD 8 est de : « Promouvoir une croissance économique soutenue, partagée et durable, le plein-emploi productif et un travail décent pour tous »
- L'ODD 9 est de : « Bâtir une infrastructures résiliente, promouvoir une industrialisation durable qui profite à tous et encourager l'innovation »
- L'ODD 10 consiste à : « Réduire les inégalités dans les pays et d'un pays à l'autre »
- L'ODD 14 est de : « Conserver et exploiter de manière durable les océans, les mers et les ressources marines aux fins du développement durable »
- L'ODD 17 est de : « Renforcer les moyens de mettre en œuvre le Partenariat mondial pour le développement durable et le revitaliser »

Les ODD sont la pierre angulaire du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 des Nations Unies, un plan d'action global et ambitieux dont l'objectif global est de ne laisser personne de côté. Les ODD sont une feuille de route pour construire un avenir meilleur et plus durable. Ces ODD répondent à des défis mondiaux, notamment la pauvreté, les inégalités, le changement climatique, la dégradation de l'environnement et la justice.

Il y a 17 ODD avec 169 cibles associées qui cherchent à guider tous les efforts de développement mondiaux, régionaux et nationaux. L'accréditation et, avec ses autres institutions de qualité, y compris la métrologie, la normalisation, l'évaluation de la conformité et la surveillance du marché, est une pierre angulaire essentielle pour soutenir les ODD et les trois priorités thématiques interdépendantes: créer une prospérité partagée, faire progresser la compétitivité économique et protéger l'environnement.

Le monde est en constante évolution et l'accréditation reste la pierre angulaire du soutien au commerce mondial. L'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE) et le Département du Commerce des États-Unis estiment que les normes et l'évaluation de la conformité ont une incidence sur 80 % du commerce mondial.

L'accréditation joue un rôle central dans le soutien du commerce mondial en supprimant les obstacles techniques au commerce (OTC). Des infrastructures de qualité permettent aux entreprises d'accéder à un marché international plus large et d'améliorer la qualité et la sécurité des importations en provenance de ces économies.

L'accréditation apporte des solutions aux problèmes qui affectent le commerce mondial, par exemple:

- Les chaînes d'approvisionnement deviennent de plus en plus complexes et il existe des preuves de divergences réglementaires et d'exigences de conformité croissantes.
- Des facteurs géopolitiques tels que les conflits armés et les événements extraordinaires tels que la pandémie mondiale ont eu une incidence sur l'approvisionnement en matières premières et perturbé les méthodes établies d'assurance qualité.
- Préoccupations croissantes liées à la cybersécurité, à l'intelligence artificielle, à la protection des données, à la fraude et à l'authenticité des produits
- La sensibilisation des consommateurs à la durabilité, à la provenance, à la santé et à l'éthique est à la hausse, obligeant les marques à améliorer leur compréhension et leur surveillance de leur réseau d'approvisionnement.

Le thème de la Journée mondiale de l'accréditation 2023, qui vise à soutenir l'avenir du commerce mondial, montre comment les infrastructures nationales et mondiales de qualité réagissent aux progrès technologiques, aux changements dans les comportements des consommateurs, à l'environnement réglementaire, aux nouveaux mécanismes de confiance et à l'évolution des modèles commerciaux.

Eve Christine Gadzikwa

Chef de la Direction du SADCAS

THE 2023 WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY COMMEMORATIONS IN BOTSWANA

Botswana joined the rest of the world in celebrating the 2023 World Accreditation Day (WAD) commemoration under the theme "Accreditation: Supporting the future of global trade". The theme focuses on how accreditation is delivering sustainability in economic development to support the future of global trade. WAD is a global event that is celebrated annually on the 9th June with a designated theme, with a view to raise awareness on the benefits and importance of accreditation. The highlights of the 2023 WAD celebrations in Botswana included a radio speech by the Minister of Trade and Industry on the 9th of June 2023, Honourable Mmusi Kgafela, a press conference and panel discussion held on the 13th June 2023.

PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES FOR WAD 2023 CELEBRATIONS

The following WAD 2023 publicity activities were carried out:

1. WAD preparatory meetings with stakeholders such as Public Relations Unit on the 22 May 2023, 26 May 2023, 30 May 2023, 12 June 2023
2. **Media Invitations** - were sent to Private and Government Media Houses on the 9th June 2023.
3. **Poster of the Guest Speaker, Date, Time and Venue for WAD** was uploaded on MTI Facebook page on the 9th June 2023.
4. **Minister's Speech** was aired on Radio Botswana I (RB 1) on Friday 9th June 2023.
5. The poster inviting the public to tune in and listen to Minister's Speech was uploaded on MTI Facebook page on the 8th June 2023.
6. **The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) Public Relations Unit (PRU) Coverage**-Article with photos was uploaded on the MTI Botswana Facebook page on the 13th June 2023.

RADIO SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, HONOURABLE MMUSI KGAFELA

The radio speech by the Minister of Trade and Industry was aired on Radio Botswana I (RB 1) station on Thursday 9th June 2023 in the morning at 0530 hours in English and Setswana. A poster inviting the public to tune in and listen to Minister's Speech was uploaded on the Ministry Facebook page on the 8th June 2023.

PRESS CONFERENCE AND PANEL DISCUSSION

A Press Conference and Panel discussion was held at Fairground Holdings in Gaborone on the 13 June 2023, as part of the 2023 WAD commemoration celebrations. The event was attended by 30 participants from media houses such that they relay the message through their mediums. It was also live streamed on the Ministry of Trade and Industry Botswana Facebook page to reach consumers, policy makers, industry and advocacy groups as well as other stakeholders. The broadcast reached 331 views, 24 likes, 8 comments and 2 shares. The event was also attended by the Deputy Permanent Secretary Industry- Ministry of Trade and Industry Ms. Lesedi Kgotlele and Acting Director of Industry Development, Ms. Ruth Baoki who delivered the Keynote address and welcome remarks, respectfully. The Panel was drawn from a variety of stakeholders from the Accreditation Body (AB) and Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) as follows;

Moderator: Mr Tebogo Kajane- Botswana Bureau of Standards

Panelists: Ms. Olga Lepotlako-Botswana Meat Commission

Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa-SADCAS

Mr. Botsile Kebapetse-Botswana Bureau of Standards

Ms. Dineo Motsisi- Ministry of Health



Moderator and Panelists during discussions

PANEL DISCUSSION

The panel discussion centred on the role of accredited conformity assessment (testing, certification, inspection, calibration) in supporting the future of global trade in line with this year's theme.

Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa - Accreditation

Initiating the discussion, Gadzikwa gave an introduction on accreditation and SADCAS services. She explained the accreditation process from application, until granting of accreditation by SADCAS as well as the quality infrastructure at regional, continental and international levels. She stated that SADCAS is a member of SADCA, as well as AFRAC and has been granted full recognition status by international accreditation bodies such as the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) for ISO/IEC 17025 ISO and 15189 for testing, calibration laboratories and medical laboratories respectively, as well as the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for certification. Furthermore, SADCAS continues to be part of the international Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and Multilateral Agreement (MA) for ILAC and IAF, and this ensures that its accreditation services are recognized worldwide.

Concluding her points, she emphasized that SADCAS supports all economies in the SADC region (except South Africa and Mauritius) in different sectors and ensures that they are internationally recognised. Accreditation Bodies have a common understanding and have to conform to

Standard ISO/IEC 17011 among others. She explained that they are evaluated against this standard in order to obtain international recognition as much as conformity assessment bodies follow relevant key accreditation standards that they are accredited to.

Mr. Botsile Kebapetse - Certification and Inspection

Mr. Kebapetse presented that the nation would like to achieve economic development as envisaged in Vision 2036 Botswana through prosperity for all, development of exports and the need for Botswana to develop its SMEs. He stated that Botswana is a small economy, as such we have to look at the global world for market. He explained that the role of BOBS is to facilitate the attainment of 2036 Vision through the production of goods and services. He clarified that BOBS is there to ensure the the country produce the right products in terms of quality for local consumption and export. He further clarified that BOBS deal with standardization, metrology, technical regulation and conformity assessment. He stated that test methods have to be accredited to attain international recognition in order to support the future of global trade through exportation of locally produced goods and services.

Ms. Olga Lepotlako - Food Testing

Lepotlako presented on food testing. She explained that local and international customers all have the right to food safety.

She stated that Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) has achieved accreditation at their laboratories, and thus their test results are accepted everywhere in the world. She explained that accreditation has been beneficial to their organisation as: it improves delivery times for the trading partners, consumers and procuring entities use internationally recognised testing results. She emphasised that it also minimises issues of waste, ensuring that your products can be trusted. Furthermore, she encouraged SMMEs who wish to explore accreditation to start with a small scope and keep on increasing the scopes gradually such that can benefit from accreditation while managing the cost of accreditation. Finally Ms. Lepotlako shared that BMC has opened extended its laboratories services to the public following the accreditation of its laboratories. It also assist other food organisations with training and consultancy.

Ms. Dineo Motsisi - Medical Testing

Ms. Motsisi delivered thather office, the Department of Quality Office, is responsible for accreditation of clinical laboratories under the Ministry of Health and Wellness throughout the country in order to provide quality health care. The Department also coordinate training of laboratory personnel and ensure participation in external quality assessment (EQAs) and proficiency testing schemes. It ensures that methods, equipment and people are competent and capable as well as ensures that the equipment used has been calibrated and certified. She reiterated that they will continue to maintain accreditation for the laboratories that have been accredited and support the ones which are in the process of applying. In conclusion she encouraged SMMEs to be cognizant of accreditation and get into the conformity assessment space.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS FOM THE FLOOR

Issues emanating from the discussions from the World Accreditation Day Commemoration Press Conference and Panel Discussion

The following key issues were raised;

1. A representative from Botswana Guardian wanted to know if there are any measures in place to encourage entrepreneurs to accredit such that they can sell their products in the international market.
2. There was also a question on the level of collaboration between Ministry of Health and Botswana Bureau of Standards recognition of traditional medicine. As well as proactive campaigns to test traditional medicines for medicinal value for packaging and export
3. The Panel was asked if it is an ideal situation for every country to have their own accreditation body or have a regional body and if SADCAS is not overwhelmed.
4. The SMEs were encouraged to report any Non-Tariff Barriers they encounter

traditional medicine provided to the public has been tested. However, it was clarified that BOBS is also in the process of developing a standard regarding traditional medicine with the help of private sector and other relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, standards Bodies are recognising the potential of alternative/ traditional medicines at continental level as research is being undertaken to develop and harmonize African Traditional Medicine standards at that level.

3. SADCAS was formed in terms of article 15b of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) annex of the SADC protocol on Trade, in recognition that SADC economies are still developing and some do not even have a lot of conformity bodies to form their own accreditation bodies. It is a viable accreditation body for SADC countries (that do not have their own/national Abs) to enjoy economies of scale. It was also stated that SADCAS is not overwhelmed, as it has the capacity and still developing as it has 15 years in operation. SADCAS is based in Gaborone and they are available to serve conformity assessment bodies in terms of training and accreditation services.

RESPONSES FROM THE PANEL

1. Botswana is a developing economy and international trade has to be supported by the quality infrastructure and its policies. The establishment of the National Quality Policy, National Quality Office ensures that all quality infrastructure are involved.
2. Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) is working with the medical fraternity by providing testing services, including those involved in traditional medicines. It was explained that it would be very helpful if

CONCLUSION

Accreditation is beneficial in delivering sustainability in economic development to support the future of global trade. Various panellists echoed this sentiment. Consumers should demand quality and Government must consider inclusion of accreditation in the government tendering process. In concluding the discussion, the Moderator thanked all the panellists and media for the useful dialogue. He further thanked everyone involved in organizing the event.

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



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])

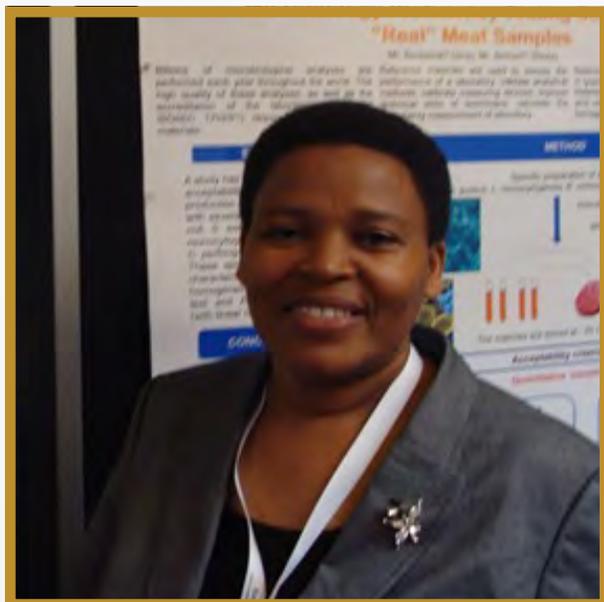
SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications received to ensure that the experts have the requisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:
Mrs Pinkie Malebe SADCAS - Technical Manager
Email:
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UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR- MLAS

Mrs. Kezia Mbwambo is a Tanzanian and has worked with Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) for thirty-four years holding different positions and retired in September 2020. During the thirty-four years, she acquired demonstrable technical competencies in standardization, Metrology, Accreditation, Conformity Assessments and Quality management systems. She also acquired leadership experience.

Mrs. Mbwambo holds Master Degree in Analytical Chemistry. Further, she has attended many professional programs on Standardization, Metrology, Accreditation, Conformity Assessments, Quality Management, WTO Agreements, Environmental and Leadership.



Mrs. Kezia Mbwambo

In addition to her vast and traceable work experience, Ms. Mbwambo attended several trainings including assessment in ISO/IEC 17025. She is a Quality Management Systems Lead Auditor and Trainer, supported several organizations system certification, founder of the Proficiency Testing Schemes in the SADC (SADCMET PT Scheme) and EAC (EAC PT Scheme) regions to support laboratory accreditation.

She was trained and registered as a Technical Assessor to the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) in 2010 under Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS). Mrs. Mbwambo enjoys assessments and has conducted several assessments in different Laboratories in the Southern African Development Community and East Africa Community Regions. As a result, several laboratories have acquired and maintained Accreditation.

Currently, Mrs. Mbwambo is contracted by Trade Mark Africa (TMA) as a Technical Assistant for Quality Infrastructure, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Tanzania Project.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR ISO/IEC 17020:2012: CLAYTON KAPEMBEZA

Mr. Clayton Kapembeza is a Zimbabwean Livestock Expert with extensive knowledge in animal nutrition and livestock production. He has gained vast experience in standardization and conformity assessment as a Technical Assessor. He has conducted both remote and on site assessments since April 2020 on Regulatory Monitoring and Inspection of Agricultural Products (ISO/IEC 17020:2012).



Mr. Clayton Kapembeza

Remote assessments and onsite assessments entails information gathering and travelling which makes the assessments exciting as you get to meet different experts and share experiences to improve the agriculture space. When I joined the assessment team during the COVID-19 era, we resorted to remote assessments. Although it was the only viable option during that period there were challenges encountered in validating submitted documents.

In order to conduct efficient and effective assessments, there was need for extensive planning and adoption of information

and communication technologies in order to achieve intended objectives. On-site assessments post COVID-19 era made it possible to conduct face to face interactions and visual assessments on procedures and operations conducted at various organizations. Technical assessments are vital in ensuring conformity to set operational standards especially within livestock manufacturing industries where end-products are consumed by humans. Hence there is need to ensure requisite best practice procedures are followed without defaulting in ensuring food safety.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR - IBAS

Mwila Kabunda is registered as a SADCAS Technical Expert under the Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS). She holds a Masters degree in Public Health from the University of Lusaka (Unilus), Zambia, Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology from Curtin University and Diploma in Health Sciences from Curtin College, Western Australia. With over 8 years of experience in the food and beverage manufacturing, aviation, and catering industries, Mwila's work focuses on implementing, training, and auditing management systems. At her previous work, she had implemented an integrated management system in Food Safety Management System (ISO 22000) and Quality Management System (ISO 9001). Over the past years, she had also worked with the restaurant and catering industry implementing and auditing food safety management systems. She currently works as a Food and Beverage Auditor at the Zambia Bureau of Standards.

Reflecting on her journey as a technical expert, Mwila describes it as a thrilling experience. On her second assignment as a technical expert, she had the nerve-wracking yet rewarding opportunity to be observed by AFRAC Peer Evaluators and received invaluable feedback.

Assessments, similar to audits, are highly interactive and require adequate preparation and versatility, considering the

fact that some accredited facilities might have undergone changes that were not communicated prior to the assessors being on-site. To navigate such scenarios, it is essential to be versatile, maintain open communication with the Team Leader and the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator, and re-strategise on the approach. Being a technical expert necessitates possessing comprehensive knowledge and skills in assessing an assigned scope.



Mwila Kabunda

Assessments provide an excellent opportunity for learning, as they reveal the gaps in the system and assist Inspection Bodies in aligning with applicable standard requirements, requirements of the Accreditation Body and procedures of the Inspection Bodies, thus improving the system. Simultaneously, assessments highlight the positive and effective practices implemented by the facility.

My experience as technical expert has been both enriching and enlightening, I have contributed to the continual improvement of the management system of inspection bodies through my input during assessments, but I have also gained a wealth of knowledge and learning in the process.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR - CBAS

The field of conformity assessment plays a vital role in enhancing customer experience and protecting customer safety with respect to manufactured products. By providing internationally recognised accreditation to certification bodies in Southern Africa, SADCAS looks out for the interests of customers, end users and the environment, while supporting regional trade.

Among products for which SADCAS has currently issued accreditation, food, beverages, tobacco, chemicals, fibres, cement, concrete, and others are included. This task of product conformity assessments relies significantly on the use of competent assessors who evaluate and witness production activities at producers' premises. SADCAS has recently augmented its team of product assessors by appointing Morena Pitso as an assessor.

Morena Pitso possesses a Diploma in Civil Engineering, Welding Technology, Bachelors Technology in Quality Management, including certificates in ISO 17021, 9001, 14001, 45001 and SAMTRAC. Morena boasts more than 15 years' experience in the field of management systems implementation and auditing. He acquired experience as construction and consulting engineering technician, health and safety inspector, SHEQ Manager, management systems and products Lead Auditor, including management systems implementation consultant. Morena has also been appointed as Technical Assessor by SANAS.

"I am very excited to join the SADCAS family and look forward to placing my skills at their disposal and take learnings from my competent colleagues. I count it a great privilege for the opportunity to serve the SADC community through SADCAS!" - Morena Pitso



Mr. Morena Pitso

MMAMOTSE GAOTILWE PROMOTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Mmamotse Phalana Gaotilwe

Mmamotse Phalana Gaotilwe, a graduate of Derby University, joined the SADCAS team in February 2022 as an Intern Administrative Assistant. She holds a BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance and a Diploma in Marketing Management. Prior to joining SADCAS, Mmamotse worked at Ministry of Health & Wellness Botswana, Assure Wealth and has been engaged by Mascom Wireless as well as Coca-Cola Beverages Botswana.

As of May 2023, Mmamotse has been promoted to Administrative Assistant here at SADCAS, where she is responsible for general office administration, and assisting in all accounting duties to support deliverables of the Finance & Admin Unit.

BONIFACE BADUBI JOINS SADCAS AS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER(CPRO)

Boniface Badubi joined SADCAS in June 2023 as a Communications and Public Relations Officer (CPRO). Boniface is seasoned Communications and Public Relations Expert with dynamic experience working with international development organisations globally such as British High Commission and brings a wealth of experience in Communications, Public Relations, Digital Media and International Development. He has worked as Senior Marketing Officer at Botho University and previously worked under Ministry of Health.

His main responsibilities at SADCAS include rendering effective communications and marketing support services, as well as coordinating stakeholder engagement programmes. Boniface holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication majoring in Public Relations and Journalism from Curtin University, Australia and a Master of Business Administration (MBA).



Boniface Badubi

SADCAS STAFF ATTENDS FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

“**Mr Vikash Ramessur, Assessor for Testing, Veterinary and Proficiency Testing Accreditation Schemes attended the training course on Finance for Non- Finance Managers. The training was undertaken from 20 to 21st March 2023. The training was led by Mr Dumisani, a trainer of Desmas Trainers & Consultants.**”

The objective of the training was to understand the basics of finance and record keeping within an organisation. The training was to promote awareness of the different formats of record keeping and their respective objectives within an organisation. The following types of records were discussed:

Balance sheet : Statement that details the different assets and liabilities of an organisation at a particular point of time.

Cash Flow statement: Statement that shows how cash enters and leaves a business during a financial period.

Double entry booking: As the name suggest each entry has debit and a corresponding credit. These help to avoid errors when reconciling the accounts.

Proper Bookkeeping in organisations allows stakeholders to follow whether the organisation is making profit or loss.

Being a technical employee at SADCAS, this course has helped me to understand the financial techniques, and aid in effective communication with the finance department.

FINANCE POUR DES GESTIONNAIRES NON FINANCIERS

“**Mons Vikash Ramessur, évaluateur pour les systèmes d'accréditation des tests, des tests vétérinaires et des tests d'aptitude a suivi le cours de formation sur les finances pour les gestionnaires non financiers. La formation s'est déroulée du 20 au 21 Mars 2023. La formation a été animée par M. Dumisani, formateur de Desmas Trainers & Consultants.**”

L'objectif de la formation était de comprendre les bases de la finance et sa tenue de dossiers au sein d'une organisation. La formation visait à promouvoir la prise de conscience pour apprécier les différents formats de tenue de registres et leurs objectifs respectifs avec une organisation.

Les types de documents suivants ont été discutés :

Bilan: état qui détaille les différents actifs et passifs d'une organisation à un moment donné.

État des flux de trésorerie: état qui montre comment les liquidités entrent et sortent d'une entreprise au cours de la période financière.

Réservation à double entrée: comme son nom l'indique, les entrées sont effectuées sur deux côtés, débit et crédit. Ceux-ci aident à éviter les erreurs lors de l'équilibrage et aident finalement à éviter la fraude.

Une comptabilité appropriée dans les organisations permet aux parties prenantes de savoir si l'organisation se dirige vers un profit ou une perte.

En tant qu'employé technique chez SADCAS, ce cours m'a aidé à comprendre le langage financier où je peux également communiquer efficacement avec le service financier.

Je suis reconnaissant à SADCAS de fournir des connaissances financières aux gestionnaires non financiers.

SADCAS CONDUCTS TRAINING ON ISO 15189:2022 REQUIREMENTS & INTERNAL AUDITING FOR ZIMBABWE MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Participants pose for a photo with trainer and SADCAS Quality Manager, Xavier Mugari

The ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Audit Course was conducted from 26 – 30 June 2023 at Fairmile Hotel in Gweru, Zimbabwe. The training was organized by the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) in collaboration with the Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI) and facilitated by the SADCAS Trainer, Mr Xavier Mugari. The training course was attended by 18 participants from MOHCC and laboratory mentors from BRTI. The objective of the course was to provide an understanding of ISO 15189:2022 requirements and practical skills to develop and implement a laboratory quality management system as well as practical skills to conduct internal audits. The course was also organized to provide detailed comparison between the new standard (2022 version) and the previous version i.e., ISO 15189:2012.

The training started with registration of all the participants followed by the welcome remarks given by the Trainer, who highlighted the importance of the training noting that SADCAS had already published the ISO 15189:2022 Transition Policy. The Trainer highlighted that the 3-year transition period set by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) was ending in December 2025, hence the need for laboratories to step up momentum in documenting and implementing ISO 15189:2022 requirements. He also noted that at the end of the transition period, accreditation to ISO 15189:2012 will not be recognized under the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and all organisations accredited to ISO 15189:2012 must have been assessed and accredited to the latest version of the standard.

The Trainer started the course by presenting an overview of ISO 15189:2022 highlighting the key changes. He elaborated on the concept of risk-based thinking and stated that the concept of risk, and the requirement of the medical laboratory to be able to articulate this, will be one of the

key requirements that accredited organisations will need to consider when demonstrating compliance with the updated ISO 15189. He noted that 'Preventive action' has now been effectively replaced by a new clause 'Actions to address risks and opportunities for improvement' which requires the medical laboratory to identify risks and opportunities focused at minimising or eliminating risks and to enhance opportunities in a prioritized manner.

The Trainer explained the structural changes noting that the standard has undergone re-alignment of the clause structuring to bring it broadly in line with the latest version of ISO/IEC 17025: 2017. The importance of impartiality in undertaking laboratory activities was highlighted, together with the need for ensuring that the laboratory is structured and managed to safeguard impartiality. The roles and responsibilities of the laboratory director with regards to impartiality and application risk management to all aspects of laboratory operations was described.

On day 2, the Trainer continued on the clauses related to resource requirements highlighting the requirement for laboratories to specify competence requirements for each function influencing the results of laboratory activities. The various aspects of equipment management, metrological traceability, reagent management and service agreements were explained. Important aspects of defining, reviewing and approving laboratory's requirements for all externally provided products and services good laboratory practice was discussed in detail. This was followed by outlining process requirements.

On day 3, after completing the clauses relating to process requirements, the Trainer introduced the participants to management system requirements with an overview of the nine (9) main subclauses. Important aspects of control of management system documents, actions to address risk and opportunities, nonconformity and corrective action, evaluation and management review were described. Developing internal audit programmes and schedules taking into consideration identified risk was particularly discussed. Application of risk management in medical laboratory was also covered on day 3. On day 4 the trainer elaborated on the audit process, benefits of auditing, attributes of auditor, and on nonconformity documentation. A general discussion on the main themes presented throughout the course was held during which participants were given the opportunity to seek additional explanations on pertinent aspects of ISO 15189. Audit practical was conducted where participants were invited to carry out an audit exercise (in groups) applying the principles explained during the course. The participants completed the internal audit checklists and documented all findings during the practical audit session.

The training course was interspaced with exercises and group work. The group work was very lively 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 a written examination all in an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the training. A practical session was organized in which participants was given an opportunity to carry out an internal auditing based on selected clauses from the checklist and to document identified nonconformities. During the closing session held on the last day of the course after the examination, Mr Michael Makaya, who was representing Ministry of Health and Child Care- Department of Laboratory Services gave closing remarks and thanked the participants for their active participation particularly through their interaction and fruitful discussions on pertinent topics. He also thanked the trainer and expressed satisfaction with how the training was conducted.

SADCAS CONDUCTS TRAINING ON ISO/IEC 17025:2017 AWARENESS FOR BOMRA

SADCAS recently conducted training on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 One Day Awareness for the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA). The course was held at the BOMRA offices in Gaborone on 22 May 2023. The facility is certified to ISO 9001.

Ms Ropafadzai Hove, the Chief Regulatory Officer gave the opening and welcome remarks on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer Dr Seima Dijeng. Ms Hove appreciated the BOMRA management participants that were present at the training. The participants included the Acting CEO, Directors of different departments, Chief Regulatory Officer, Laboratory Manager, Procurement Manager, HR Manager, and other management officials. The Quality manager gave a brief background about the setup of the QMS in BOMRA. She indicated that BOMRA is working on several management systems and have resolved to integrate their management

systems with the organisation being certified to ISO 9001 already.

Most of the participants wanted to understand the ISO 17025 standard and how it pertains to their work and how they can help the laboratory. Other participants wanted to know the role of SADCAS, and to understand accreditation process

The aim of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 One Day Awareness training is to impart knowledge on management and laboratory support staff on the standard, how it is structured, also addresses issues of Impartiality & Confidentiality, the resources that are required for full implementation of the standard as well as the management requirements.

In closing the BOMRA management made a commitment to support the laboratory in its quest to streamline its processes and seek accreditation from SADCAS.

SADCAS CONDUCTS TRAINING ON ISO/IEC 17025:2017 REQUIREMENTS & INTERNAL AUDITING FOR MORUPULE COAL MINE

SADCAS conducted a training course on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing for Morupule Coal Mine from 3-7 July 2023 at the Majestic Five Hotel in Palapye, Botswana.

Morupule Coal Mine (MCM) is located on the outskirts of Palapye, Botswana, along the Serowe-Palapye road. MCM started production in 1973 as an Anglo-American Corporation subsidiary with the main objective of supplying coal to the then Bamangwato Concessions Limited mine (now BCL) and BPC power plant situated in Selebi Phikwe. MCM ownership was transferred to Debswana Diamond Company in 2000 when Anglo disinvested its operations in Botswana. In 2016, the De Beers interest in MCM (held under Debswana) was acquired by the Mineral Development Company of Botswana (MDCB). The mine laboratory is accredited by SADCAS for Coal testing.

The welcome remarks were given by the SADCAS trainer Mrs Wedzerai Makaya, a seasoned trainer with many years of implementation of quality management systems and a vast knowledge of accreditation having worked as a Quality

Manager for an accredited veterinary lab in recent years. A total of 13 participants were in attendance including the Process Engineer, Laboratory Technicians and Sample Handlers. Expectations from the participants included understanding of the ISO17025:2017 requirements, understanding of internal auditing and audit principles, have basic knowledge and understanding key elements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard.

There was a lot of discussion and interaction throughout the whole week which was interspaced with exercises. The group was very eager to acquire knowledge and valuable experience was gained by the participants as confirmed by the feedback from the participants. An exam was written on the last day to evaluate the level of understanding of the participants.

During the closing session held on the last day of the course after the examination, the trainer expressed her wish that the participants will be committed to put in practice whatever was learnt. She also thanked the SADCAS Training Administrator for arrangements.

NEW ACCREDITATIONS SUSPENSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

	Organization and Location	Date Accredited	Scheme	Accreditation Number	New Accreditations	Renewal of Accreditation	New Scope Extensions	Scope Reduction	Withdrawal of Accreditation
1	Katavi Regional Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	2023/04/17	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 134	Mycobacteriology Parasitology Serology				
2	Quali-Med Laboratories, Botswana	2023/04/24	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	PROD-CERT 001	Clinical Chemistry Haematology Serology				
3	Arthur Davidson Children's Hospital, Zambia	2023/04/25	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 062			Microbiology Parasitology		
4	SGS Madagascar (OGC)	05.05.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-5 0079	Chemical Testing (Fuel)				
5	Alfred H Knight – Democratic Republic of Congo	18.05.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-5 0080	Chemical Testing (Minerals)				
6	Manyara Regional Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	2023-05-06	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 137	Haematology Serology Clinical Chemistry				

7	Athlone Hospital Laboratory, Botswana	2023-05-12	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 138	Blood Bank Microbiology Mycobacteriology Serology				
8	Ndola Teaching Hospital, Zambia	2023/05/14	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 055			Mycobacteriology Parasitology Molecular Biology		
9	National Health Laboratory Quality Assurance & Training Centre, Tanzania	2023/05/17	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 001			Molecular Biology Microbiology		
10	SA Minerals Lab	28.04.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-5 0078	Chemical Testing (Coal)				
11	Botswana Geoscience	21.06.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-5 0081	Chemical Testing (Geology)				
12	Chipata Central Hospital Laboratory, Zambia	2023/07/31	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 139	Molecular Biology Parasitology Mycobacteriology Serology				
13	Zambia Airforce Hospital	2023/07/31	Medical	MED 140	Clinical Chemistry Haematology Molecular Biology Serology				
14	Kitwe Teaching Hospital, Zambia	2023/07/31	(ISO 15189:2012)	MED 141	Blood Bank Haematology Mycobacteriology Microbiology Parasitology				
15	Mkuranga District Hospital, Tanzania	2023/07/31	Medical	MED 142	Parasitology Mycobacteriology Serology				
16	Africa Laboratory Services	20.07.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-5 0082	Chemical Testing (Minerals)				
SCOPE REDUCTIONS/ WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION									
1	Arthur Davidson CH	2023/04/25	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 062					Clinical Chemistry
2	NIP- Rundu Private Laboratory	2023/07/01	Medical (ISO 15189:2012)	MED 053					Clinical Chemistry Haematology
RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION									
1	SGS Inspections, Zambia	02.04.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-5 0007		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			
2	Standards Association of Zimbabwe (Harare & Bulawayo)	2023.03.16	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	TEST-1 0014 TEST-5 0064		Chemical Testing (Water, Fuel)			
3	Antech Laboratories, Zimbabwe	2023.03.21	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	TEST-7 0001		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			
4	Nesch Mintec, Tanzania	2023.03.15	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	TEST-3 0002		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			

RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION

5	National Fish Quality Laboratory, Tanzania	2023.03.31	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	TEST-5 0005 TEST-1 0002		Chemical Testing (Fisheries, Water)			
				TEST-1 0015		Microbiology (Fisheries, Water)			
6	Central Veterinary Research Institute, Zambia	25.05.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	VET 002		Veterinary			Chemical Testing
7	Central Veterinary Laboratory, Namibia	28.06.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	VET 001		Veterinary			Food Microbiology
8	Australian Laboratory Group, Zambia Limited	23.06.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-0027		Chemical Testing (Minerals)			
9	Water Utilities Corporation, Botswana	14.07.2023	Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)	TEST-5 0009 TEST-1 0004		Chemical & Microbiology (Water)			

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 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.



**BUSINESS
BENEFITS**
Evidence. Impact. Value.



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.



SADCAS 
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ACCREDITATION SERVICE

