

# SADCAS

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



# THE PIONEER

SADCAS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020 EDITION – ISSUE 37

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# Note from the Editors



Mrs Maureen  
Primrose Mutasa



Mr Xavier Mugari



Mr Victor Mundembe

***We are pleased to present Issue 37 of the SADCAS Newsletter (November 2020 Edition) to keep our readers updated on accreditation activities in the region and beyond. Inside you will find news on accreditation activities undertaken by SADCAS and developments in the field of accreditation.***

COVID-19 pandemic is still a threat to global health and global economy and has led to travel restrictions worldwide. In an effort to ensure business continuity, SADCAS has taken measures to mitigate the impact of COVID -19 restrictions. One of the measures taken was to invest in technology that enabled meetings to be undertaken virtually by various SADCAS committees, board as well as regional, continental, and international meetings.

This year all SADCAS Advisory Committees (AC) were held remotely for the first time due to the COVID-19 induced travel restrictions.

SADCAS Advisory Committees are a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committees is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process. So far, SADCAS has set up eight (8) Advisory Committees.

The first AC meeting to be held this year was the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Zimbabwe Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS - Zimbabwe) (AC.01) that was held on 16 September 2020. November saw the holding of the remainder of all the SADCAS advisory committee meetings:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS - Regional) (AC.06) was held on 23 November 2020;**
- **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) (AC.02) was held on 25 November 2020;**
- **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) (AC.03) was held on 25 November 2020;**
- **4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) (AC.04) was held on 25 November 2020;**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS) (AC.05) was held on 26 November 2020; and**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS - Regional) (AC.07) was held on 27 November 2020.**

***We have reached the end of another year and we wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy the reading!***

## AFREXIMBANK CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF SADCAS

SADCAS has secured funding from the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) to extend the scope of SADCAS international recognition in the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)/International Accreditation Forum (IAF) multilateral recognition arrangements in order to enhance the competitiveness of products thus assist SADC manufacturers to access international markets, support government in executing the health, safety and environment protection mandate and to ensure the success of development partners' investments in Africa.

Enhancing global acceptance of SADC products has been a key strategic objective of SADCAS. In implementing this key strategic objective and over the years in 2015, 2017 and 2019, SADCAS has achieved international recognition of seven out of the eight (8) accreditation schemes it offers namely: Testing; Calibration; Medical Testing; Verification; Inspection; Management Systems in the sub scopes Quality Management Systems (QMS), Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS), Environmental Management Systems (QMS). This means that the certificates issued by SADCAS accredited calibration/testing/veterinary/verification/medical laboratories, and certification and inspection bodies are recognized in worldwide thus removing the need for repetitive conformity assessment checks. Effectively this means that through internationally recognized accreditation SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS have better access to foreign markets worldwide – A truly global reach!

Third party product certification is a frequently specified requirement to operate in the global market place. The overall aim of certifying products, processes or services is to give confidence to all interested parties that a product, process or service fulfils specified requirements. The International standard ISO/IEC 17065 specifies requirements, the observance of which is intended to ensure that certification bodies operate certification schemes in a competent, consistent and impartial manner, thereby facilitating the recognition of such bodies and the acceptance of certified products, processes and services on a national and international basis thus furthering international trade.

Supporting the continued movement of products and services between countries is therefore of huge importance not only to the health and wellbeing of individuals but also to the economic health of entire nations in SADC, the continent and around the globe. Throughout the world many countries now rely on accreditation as a means of independently evaluating competence of certification bodies. With the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, accreditation is poised to play a key role in facilitating trade.



The SADCAS product certification bodies accreditation schemes (CBAS- Prod) was established in June 2010. The scheme is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies. SADCAS has a number of applications under process and expects to receive more applications in the future. SADCAS currently accredits product certification bodies operating in the various key developmental industrial sectors including the food products, beverages and tobacco, textiles, pharmaceuticals, leather and leather products, pulp and paper, fishing, agriculture etc.

Extension of the SADCAS scope of signatory status in the AFRAC/IAF multilateral recognition arrangements is dependent upon SADCAS building up the competence to accredit in the said scopes and then being successfully evaluated by peers from internationally recognized in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 and the relevant AFRAC/IAF documents. The intention is for SADCAS to undergo peer evaluation during the re-evaluation of SADCAS set to be conducted in June 2023.

The objectives of the Afreximbank funded project are therefore to:

- Build the capacity of SADCAS to accredit under the Main scope product Certification and sub-scope Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS);
- Develop promotional materials for the said schemes;
- Translate relevant quality management systems documents into French and Portuguese the other official business language in the SADC region;
- Undertake internal audits of the said schemes; and
- Undergo and achieve international recognition.

In an effort to achieving their mandate of promoting intra and extra African trade, Afreximbank currently has a number of initiatives to further regional trade and integration with a focus on developing Quality Infrastructure and harmonization of standards. The Bank is assisting in the set -up of African Quality Assurance Centers focusing on key development sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, textiles etc and in value addition value chains and also supporting the harmonization of standards in Africa by the African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO).

**Afreximbank is a Pan-African multilateral financial institution with the mandate of financing and promoting intra-and extra-African trade. Afreximbank was established in October 1993 and owned by African governments, the African Development Bank, and other African multilateral financial institutions as well as African and non-African public and private investors. The Bank was established under two constitutive documents, an Agreement signed by member states, which confers on the Bank the status of an international organization, and a Charter signed by all Shareholders, which governs its corporate structure and operations. Afreximbank deploys innovative structures to deliver financing solutions that are supporting the transformation of the structure of Africa's trade, accelerating industrialization and intra-regional trade, thereby sustaining economic expansion in Africa.**

Speaking after the signing of the Agreement Mrs Mutasa, SADCAS CEO remarked “We are enthused and delighted because this to us is a first where we have received assistance from within the continent thus reducing our over dependence on benevolent international donors”

## JEANNE RANOROVELO RETIRES FROM SADCAS



Jeanne Ranorovelo

Ms Jeanne Francoise Ranorovelo retired from SADCAS having served 12 and a half years as the first SADCAS Technical Manager. Speaking during a farewell ceremony held virtually via Zoom on 21 October 2020, Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO reminisced over the period that Ms Ranorovelo was with SADCAS.

Ms Ranorovelo was selected to take position in SADCAS and was the first one to arrive in Gaborone, Botswana in April 2008 tasked with the set up and operationalization of the organization.

Jeanne was amongst the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP) who were trained on accreditation matters by the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) who apart from undergoing theoretical training on accreditation matters, was also attached at COFRAC (French Accreditation Committee) for 2 weeks and later, after she had joined SADCAS, was attached at SANAS (South African National Accreditation System) and also at NA (Norwegian Accreditation).

In her work as the SADCAS Technical Manager, Ms Ranorovelo was responsible for providing overall management of SADCAS accreditation processes, management of assessors and representing SADCAS in regional and international accreditation fora on technical issues. Mrs Mutasa said that Jeanne was very versatile, a jack of all trades, a listener hence a good learner and very consultative, just what we needed to set up and operationalize SADCAS. "Indeed, I have many a times left Jeanne to act on my behalf as CEO of SADCAS and did not have any sleepless nights as she proved to be very organized, diligent, focused on goal achievement. Jeanne is a very hard working and dedicated person whom the organization is going to miss. Together we achieved much" Mrs Mutasa said.

By October 2008 SADCAS Office had been set up and we started to offer accreditation services by October 2009 through a twinning partnership arrangement with SANAS having developed the SADCAS Quality Management System (Policies, procedures and forms). Regarding international recognition we strategically decided to chew the elephant a piece at a time as we realised that if we tried to chew the whole elephant at once we would choke!! So International recognition was initially achieved in 2015 for the testing and calibration schemes and then extended to medical and inspection in 2017 and management systems certification in 2019. Being the only French speaking person in the organization, SADCAS launched accreditation services in French through a twinning partnership with TUNAC (Tunisian Accreditation Council). Soon after the set up and operationalization of the NAFPs system for the development of national action plans, monitoring implementation thereof and later introduced the NAFP motivation system, and in an effort to ensure impartiality of the system, Jeanne stepped in to undertake the evaluations. Before engaging the then Deloitte and Touché to attend to our finances, initially Jeanne prepared the income and expenditure reports. As SADCAS grew in staff complement, Ms Ranorovelo was appointed the interim Quality Manager a task which was right from the beginning jointly undertaken with the SADCAS CEO.

***"As you leave the toddler to continue to grow, take immense pride that you are part of the organization's founding pillar, a solid foundation indeed"***

"As you leave the toddler to continue to grow, take immense pride that you are part of the organization's founding pillar, a solid foundation indeed" Mrs Mutasa said. On behalf of the SADCAS Board, Management and staff and on her own behalf, Mrs Mutasa thanked Jeanne for the excellent contribution to the formation and growth of SADCAS and wished her the very best in her future endeavors looking forward to continued collaborations.

This was followed by a gift handover ceremony after which Jeanne gave a very emotional thank you speech and advice to SADCAS staff. Mrs Lauren Gudo, the SADCAS Finance and Administration Manager then gave some concluding words to mark the end of the ceremony.

# SADCAS LAUNCHES ONLINE TRAINING PLATFORM

**We are proud to announce the launch of the SADCAS online training platform. The first online training course was successfully held from 26 to 28 October 2020.**



Following the pronouncement by the World Health Organization(WHO) of COVID-19 as a global pandemic in March 2020 and subsequent lockdown restrictions worldwide, SADCAS suspended all physical training courses and started exploring online training to ensure continuity of training services.

SADCAS successfully embarked on a project to set up an online training portal on the SADCAS website [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org). Online training courses are conducted by registered SADCAS Trainers using Zoom and participants take the examinations and quizzes on the SADCAS website via a link that will be provided upon registration.

Accreditation related training courses on offer on the online platform are as follows and training is conducted in all 3 official languages of the SADC region namely: English; French; and Portuguese:

- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing;**
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing;**
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging Course;**
- ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing;**
- ISO 15189:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing;**
- ISO/IEC 17021:2015 Requirements & Internal Auditing; and**
- ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing.**

Online training has provided a great opportunity for SADCAS to continue to deliver training services designed to promote a thorough understanding of accreditation requirements thus contribute towards the capacity development of conformity assessment bodies. As we continue to strive for service delivery excellence, the feedback from the SADCAS clients and relevant stakeholders will help to improve this online training portal. As at 1 December 2020 SADCAS had successfully conducted 3 online training courses one each on ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189 and ISO/IEC 17020. SADCAS is set to conduct a series of ISO/IEC 17025 online training courses in the 14 SADC Members States under the auspices of the SADC EU EDF 11 programme.

SADCAS however still offers physical training when the opportunity avails itself, subject to the satisfactory adherence to all Covid-19 protocols by stakeholders in respective countries bearing in mind the different levels of lockdowns, travel restrictions, and social distancing guidelines.

More information regarding online training can be obtained from the SADCAS Training Administrator, **Mr Mogae Molaoa** who can be contacted on **Tel: +267 313 2909** and **Email: [mmolaoa@sadcas.org](mailto:mmolaoa@sadcas.org)**

## INDENI PETROLEUM REFINERY LABORATORY ACCREDITED



Indeni Petroleum Refinery



Indeni Petroleum Refinery Laboratory is located in the Zambia Copper-belt city of Ndola. The refinery exists **“to produce petroleum products that comply with international quality standards in the safest manner and at a lowest unit”** as defined in the organization’s mission statement. The refinery has an in-house Fuel Testing Laboratory, a chemical laboratory whose mandate is to conduct tests to certify petroleum fuels as required by the Zambian standards or specifications.

Indeni Refinery Fuel Testing Laboratory was accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 on 14 August 2020. The Laboratory has been assigned a unique accreditation number **TEST-5 0051**. The Laboratory has been accredited for chemical testing of fuel for the following parameters: Cloud point; Pour Point; Density; Distillation; Sulfur content; Research Octane Number; Flash Point; and Freezing Point in different petroleum products that include Diesel, Fuel oil, Petrol and Kerosene. The accreditation certificate which was issued on 14 August 2020 is valid for 5 years until 13 August 2025.

Besides the accredited scope, the Laboratory also conducts testing of Liquefied Petroleum Gases, Light and Heavy Naphtha, Jet A1, Light and Heavy Fuel Oils (Bunker fuels) and Petroleum or Crude Oil feedstock. These are tested in accordance with ASTM and IP methods.

**SADCAS wishes to congratulate Indeni Petroleum Refinery Company’s Fuel Testing Laboratory on this major achievement and welcomes the Laboratory to the family of internationally recognized accredited facilities.**

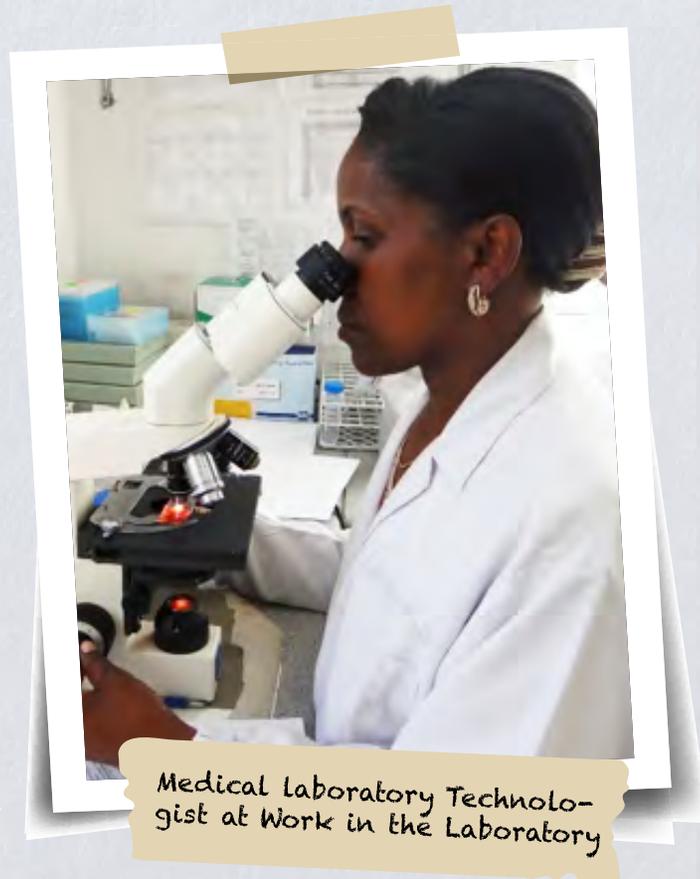
## SADCAS ACCREDITS NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - MBEYA

National Institute for Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Research Centre (NIMR – MMRC) based in Mbeya, Tanzania was accredited by SADCAS on 31 August 2020. The initial assessment was carried out by a Team Leader and Technical Assessor over 2 days from 9 to 10 March 2020. The certificate issued is valid for 5 years up to 30 August 2025. National Institute for Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Research Centre has been accredited in the scope **“Mycobacteriology”**. Through this accreditation, National Institute for Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Research Centre, Tanzania has been granted the unique **accreditation number: MED 054**; indicating that Medical Research – Mbeya Medical Centre is now a SADCAS accredited facility.

The NIMR-MMRC is a research laboratory established in 2005 and came into operation effectively in 2006. The Laboratory operates within Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital premises. The Laboratory which falls under the Department of Laboratory Sciences provides diagnostic and supports research services from both the Department of TB & Emerging Disease and HIV Research and Reproductive Health. The Laboratory has two main operating sections namely: The Microbiology Laboratory and the Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory.

The management and staff of NIMR-MMRC TB Laboratory are committed to performing their work in the most professional and ethical way, committed to good clinical laboratory practice (GCLP) as well as to requirements of ISO 15189:2012 as per their quality policy statement. Attainment of accreditation assures customers and the public that the results generated by the Laboratory can be trusted. With NIMR-MMRC TB Laboratory as a very important institution in the country, accreditation goes a long way for Tanzania as a whole.

**SADCAS congratulates NIMR – MMRC on this significant achievement and welcomes the NIMR – MMRC to the family of SADCAS internationally recognized accredited facilities.**



Medical Laboratory Technologist at Work in the Laboratory

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SADCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) is a Cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. SADCA is a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperation Structure established under the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade.

The 24<sup>th</sup> SADCA General Assembly (GA) was held virtually via Zoom on 11 September 2020. The virtual meeting was attended by representatives of SADCA Arrangement members from Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS), Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) and South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), Ordinary members representatives i.e. National Accreditation Focal Points and representatives of the various Stakeholder members. More than 38 delegates attended the 24<sup>th</sup> SADCA General Assembly.

SADCAS was represented at the meetings by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Pinkie Malebe Technical Manager Designate, Mr Xavier Mugari Quality Manager, Mr Victor Mundembe and Mrs Eva Muronda the latter 2 of whom are Scheme Coordinators.

The meeting was very ably chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCA Chair. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Consider SADCA Committee/Council reports and workplans;
- Approve the 2019 SADCA Annual Report;
- Approve SADCA Documents;
- Approve SADCA membership; and
- Elect SADCA Office- bearers.

A total of 27 resolutions were passed by the SADCA GA. Some of the key resolutions passed were as follows:

- Congratulated all the 3 arrangements members namely: MAURITAS; SADCAS; and SANAS for successfully transitioning to the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17011 well ahead of the transition deadline of 30 November 2020.
- Noted the efforts underway with the aim of submitting the application for the recognition of the SADCA Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) to IAF and ILAC by end of October 2020.
- The GA approved the 2019 Annual Report with amendments
- The GA approved the following documents:
  - SADCA Bylaws
  - SADCA EXCO Terms of Reference
  - SADCA MRA Committee Terms of Reference
  - SADCA Marketing and Communication Terms of Reference
- The GA endorsed the MRA Council's recommendation to extend the scope of the SADCA MRA to include Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 in the sub-scope of QMS (ISO 9001:2015), noting the approval of SADCA's 3 signatory members to this sub-scope.
- The GA approved the Ordinary membership applications of NAFFPs from the following economies: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, the GA approved the Stakeholder membership applications of the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) and the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI).
- On elections, the GA unanimously elected
  - **Mrs Yolanda Vinnicombe (SANAS)** as the **MRA Committee Chair** for a first term of office in accordance with the Bylaws and extended congratulations in this regard.
  - **Mrs Pinkie Malebe (SADCAS)** as **MRA Committee Vice-Chair**, for a second term of office in accordance with the Bylaws and extended congratulations in this regard.
  - **Mr Letoke Mahlase (SANAS)** as the **Technical Committee Chair** for a first term of office in accordance with the Bylaws and extended congratulations in this regard.
  - **Mr Victor Mundembe (SADCAS)** as **Technical Committee Vice-Chair** for a first term of office in accordance with the Bylaws and extended congratulations in this regard.
  - **Dr Ron Josias (based on his affiliation to SADCAS)** as the **MRA Council Chair** for a first term of office in accordance with the Bylaws and extended congratulations in this regard.
  - **Mr Xavier Mugari (SADCAS)** as **MRA Council Vice-Chair** for a first term of office in accordance with the Bylaws and extended congratulations in this regard.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 11<sup>TH</sup> AFRAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) is a cooperation of accreditation bodies (national and multi-economy), National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP), sub-regional accreditation cooperations and stakeholders whose objective is to provide internationally recognized and accepted accreditation support to industry and to contribute to the protection of health and safety of the public and the protection of the environment, thereby facilitating trade and contributing to the improvement of Africa's competitiveness within the global market.

The 11<sup>th</sup> AFRAC General Assembly (GA) was held virtually on 25 September 2020. The virtual meeting was attended by representatives from Arrangement, Ordinary, Associate and Stakeholder members, observers and cooperating partners. SADCAS was represented at the meetings by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Pinkie Malebe Technical Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari Quality Manager, Mr Victor Mundembe and Mrs Eva Muronda the latter 2 of whom are Scheme Coordinators. The meeting was very ably co-chaired by Dr Ron Josias, AFRAC Chair and Mrs Mutasa, the AFRAC Vice Chair.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Consider AFRAC Committee/Council reports and 2021 workplans;
- Approve 2019 financial statements and 2021 Budget;
- Consider reports from Regional and International Organisations;
- Share experiences on how accreditation bodies were coping under COVID-19 pandemic;
- Approve AFRAC documents; and
- Elect AFRAC Office-bearers.

A total of 36 resolutions were passed by the AFRAC GA. Some of the key resolutions passed were as follows:

- The GA agreed to the EXCO's recommendation that the Bylaws be amended to clarify the nomination and appointment process of the Treasurer, where the EXCO appoints the Treasurer, and the appointment is endorsement by the GA.
- The GA noted the approval of MAURITAS' successful transition to ISO/IEC 17011:2017 on 29/11/2019, and congratulated MAURITAS for the maintenance of its signatory status.
- The GA congratulated EGAC on the extension of their MRA for Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1), approved on 21 November 2019 to include:
  - Sub-scope ISO 50003 EnMS (ISO 50001); and
  - Sub-scope ISO/IEC 17021-10 OH&SMS (ISO 45001).
- The GA congratulated SANAS on the extension of their MRA for Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1), approved on 4 May 2020 to include:
  - Sub-scope ISO 50003 EnMS (ISO 50001); and
  - Sub-scope ISO/IEC 17021-10 OH&SMS (ISO 45001).
- The GA congratulated SADCAS on the extension of their MRA for Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1), approved on 4/05/2020 to include:
  - Sub-scope EMS (ISO 14001); and
  - Sub-scope ISO/IEC 17021-10 OH&SMS (ISO 45001).
- The GA congratulated MAURITAS on the extension of their MRA for Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1), approved on 17 July 2020 to include:
  - Sub-scope FSMS to ISO 22000:2018
- Following the approval by the MRA Council of 3 signatories under the Main Scope Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1), Sub-scope ISO/IEC 17021-10 OH&SMS (ISO 45001), the GA noted the extension of the AFRAC MRA in this sub-scope.
- Approved the following 2021 workplans as presented:
  - A009-09 EXCO 2021 Workplan
  - A013-09 MRA Committee 2021 Workplan
  - A011-09 Technical Committee 2021 Workplan

- A023-03 Marketing and Communication Committee Workplan
- Approved the following documents:
  - A012-05 MRA Committee Terms of Reference
  - A020-04 MRA Council Terms of Reference
  - A024-01 MCC Terms of Reference
  - AFRAC MCC 2020-2022 Strategic Plan
- Approved the 2021 budget as presented by the Treasurer
- Elections
  - Unanimously elected **Mr Steve Sidney (SRLA)** as **AFRAC Treasurer**, for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
  - Re-elected **Dr Lawrena Okoro (NiNAS)** as **Marketing and Communications Committee Chair**, for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
  - Elected **Mr Mohamed Hassan (EGAC)** as **Marketing and Communications Committee Vice- Chair**, for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
  - Elected **Mrs Felista Nyakoe (KENAS)** as **Technical Committee Vice-Chair**, for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
  - Unanimously elected **Mr Hanie El Desouki (EGAC)** as **AFRAC Vice-Chair**, for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.

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## AFRAC HOLDS TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON AFRAC GD 002-02 AND IAF ILAC A3: 2020

The AFRAC successfully held a virtual training workshop on **AFRAC GD 002: AFRAC Peer Evaluator Guide** and **ILAC A3:2020: IAF/ILAC Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements: Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017**, on the 31 August 2020. The training which was facilitated by Eng Mahmoud Eltayeb targeted AFRAC peer evaluators and trainee evaluators. Four of the SADCAS staff who are trainee AFRAC/SADCA evaluators namely Mrs Pinkie Malebe (Proficiency Testing), Messrs Xavier Mugari (Medical) and Victor Mundembe (Calibration) and Mrs Eva Muronda (Proficiency Testing) attended the workshop.

- The main focus of the workshop was presentation of the revised GD002 and IAF/ILAC A3(2020). The objectives of the training were as follows:
- To highlight the main changes in IAF/ILAC A3:03/2020 and AFRAC GD 002-02;
- To present examples for reporting using IAF/ILAC A3: 03/2020; and
- To discuss best practices in Peer Evaluation.

The IAF/ILAC A3 template is used to assist the evaluation teams in providing a consistent reporting mechanism for the accreditation body under evaluation. The AFRAC GD 002-02 peer evaluator guidance document is necessary for the harmonization of the work of AFRAC evaluators during the evaluation process.

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## AFRAC HOLDS TRAINING COURSE ON UNCERTAINTY OF MEASUREMENT

The SADCAS Technical Manager Mrs Pinkie Malebe and Scheme Coordinators Mrs Eva Muronda and Ms Varsah Gungoa participated in a training course on Uncertainty of Measurement which was conducted from 16 to 17 September 2020. The training course which was organized by AFRAC was attended by 72 participants mainly from AFRAC accreditation bodies and stakeholder membership categories. The Facilitators for the training were Mrs Felista Nyakoe from Kenya National Accreditation Service (KENAS) and Mr Neville Tayler from the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

The objectives of the training were to:

- Ensure that Assessors appreciate the principle of estimation of uncertainty of measurement and the stages of estimation of uncertainty; and
- Equip the assessors with the skills required to identify methods that require uncertainty estimation and to be able to evaluate the estimations undertaken for various measurements.

The training course was divided into 4 modules:

- Module 1: The Requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ILAC/AFRAC policies/Guides;
- Module 2: Uncertainty Analysis;
- Module 3: Estimating Uncertainty; and
- Module 4: Reporting Uncertainty.

The training course started off with a brief on ILAC P14:01/2013: ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration. Every measurement is subject to some uncertainty and a measurement result is incomplete without a statement of the uncertainty. When the uncertainty in a measurement is known, then only one can judge its fitness for purpose. The understanding of measurement uncertainty and the need for consistency when calculating and expressing uncertainty is the starting points for Uncertainty of Measurement.

Speaking after the training course Ms Varsah Gungoa said that she found the training course very useful and listed the following as the key learning outcomes gained from the training:

- How to develop uncertainty analysis;
- How to design the framework for uncertainty analysis;
- Where to find sources of uncertainty;
- How to get the value for each source of uncertainty;
- How to pick the right probability distribution for each component;
- How to use the GUM method for estimating uncertainty;
- How to convert uncertainty components to a standard uncertainty;
- How to combine uncertainty components using the GUM method;
- How to pick the right expansion factor (k-factor);
- How to calculate expanded uncertainty;
- How to evaluate and validate your results;
- Additional skills needed for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation;
- How to create own uncertainty budget and calculator; and
- How to report uncertainty in assessment reports.

With all these learning points gained from the training courses the ability of SADCAS assessors to evaluate uncertainty of measurement by laboratories for fitness of purpose during assessments will no doubt be enhanced.

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## SADCAS STAFF PARTICIPATE IN AFRAC TRAINING WORKSHOP - ASANA

SADCAS staff attended a half day training workshop on ASANA, a cloud-based multi-functional license application that can be used for sharing and storing of information, managing tasks in the workplace, organizing teams to work efficiently, and project management.

The workshop which was organized by AFRAC, was held on 18 September 2020 and was facilitated by Mr Mohamed Hassan from the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC). In attendance was SADCAS Finance & Administration Manager, Mrs Laureen Gudo, SADCAS Quality Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari, the SADCAS Training Administrator, Mr Mogae Molaoa as well as representatives from different accreditation body members of AFRAC.

By using ASANA, teams can create projects, assign work to teammates, specify deadlines, and communicate about tasks directly on this platform. It also includes reporting tools, file attachments, calendars, and more project management tools. ASANA is also useful for automating repetitive tasks, processes and syncing with databases or other tools such as Microsoft Teams and Gmail.

Some of the most impressive aspects of ASANA include easy monitoring of project progress just by selecting the “overview” option and being able to view the progress tracking chart which is a quick way to see if the deadlines are being met along the way. Communication among team members is displayed as an ongoing discussion with all members assigned to an individual task being able to see the entire conversation. There is no need to go back and forth trying to find a specific email that discussed a specific task. Another positive is the ability to list all the tasks and then decide which team member should be assigned to that task. A user can then choose to remove or add members to the task at any time as sometimes happens on projects. This will allow the project managers to adapt to a change in personnel without having to recreate a task.

## AFRAC CONDUCTS TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PROFICIENCY TESTING

The SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, Scheme Coordinator Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS), Mrs Eva Muronda and the Scheme Coordinator Calibration Laboratories accreditation Scheme (CLAS) Mr Victor Mundembe attended a training workshop on Proficiency Testing (PT) organized by AFRAC. The training workshop which was held virtually via Zoom from 14 to 15 September 2020 was attended by participants from accreditation body members of AFRAC. The training course was facilitated by Mr Neville, Taylor Accreditation Manager at the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).



Proficiency testing as explained by the trainer is an evaluation of participant performance against pre-established criteria by means of interlaboratory comparison. He further explained that an interlaboratory comparison is the organisation, performance and evaluation of measurements or tests on the same or similar items by two or more laboratories in accordance with predetermined conditions. The training included an overview of **ISO/IEC 17043:2010 – Conformity Assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing**. A clause by clause training was conducted for both the technical and management aspects of the standard. This enabled participants to fully grasp the requirements of the standard. The training also looked at the types of PT schemes, statistical methods and selection and use of PT. The Trainer also explained further on statistical methods: Z scores based on the Horwitz Function. He pointed out that the statistical methods used to analyse the results need to be appropriate for each situation and that preferred methods were clearly described in ISO 13528: Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison.

Independent proficiency tests are an important tool for laboratories to show evidence of their performance and to ensure that their analytical results are accurate. PT is pivotal in the accreditation of laboratories and hence the importance of the PT providers in the accreditation service. The training was informative and relevant especially to SADCAS as it looks for opportunities to accredit Proficiency testing providers in the SADC region.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020 34<sup>TH</sup> IAF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 34<sup>th</sup> IAF annual General Assembly (GA) was held virtually on Thursday 5 November 2020. The meeting was attended by over 274 delegates and was chaired by Mr Xiao Jianhua. SADCAS was represented at the IAF GA by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa and Mr Victor Mundembe. The 34<sup>th</sup> IAF General Assembly passed a total of 34 resolutions. The highlights of the GA are summarized under the main headings as follows:

## 2020 to 2025 IAF Strategic Plan

- October 2018 - The 2020–2025 IAF Strategic Plan Task Force comprising of the following members was established: Emanuele Riva (Convenor); Marcus Long; Maureen Primrose Mutasa; and Liliane Somma.
- The mandate of the Task Force was to develop a draft strategic plan for Members' consideration. In developing the draft strategic plan, a survey was undertaken amongst IAF members, stakeholders including users and international organizations such as WTO, ISO, etc. The survey was undertaken jointly with ILAC
- The survey results were considered by the IAF Executive Committee at a strategic planning session held on 5 April 2019 following which a report on the outcomes of the session was drawn up into the draft IAF 2020–25 strategic plan
- The draft 2020–2025 Strategic Plan was then distributed to all IAF Members for a 60-day comment period on 03 November 2019 with the intention to review the comments received prior to or at the 2020 Beijing Mid-Term Meetings.
- The comments were then considered at the IAF Executive Committee meeting held virtually via Zoom on 3 and 6 April 2020 following which another draft 2020–2025 IAF Strategic Plan was distributed to Executive Committee Members for final comment after which the final plan was sent for 30-day ballot to all IAF Members on 15 April 2020.
- The ballot closed on 16 May 2020 with a passing vote in approval of the 2020-2025 IAF Strategic Plan

## Establishment of a single International Organization for Accreditation

- In October 2018 the Joint IAF ILAC Executive Committee established a Joint Task Force on Governance to look into a single international accreditation organization
- At the 2019 annual meetings held in Frankfurt, Germany the Joint General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Joint Executive Committee to establish a single international organization for accreditation on the basis of the results of the "Survey in Support of the IAF 2020 – 2025 and ILAC 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plans". A Steering Committee was then established to lead the process of establishing a single international organization for accreditation.
- The Steering Committee developed the Terms of Reference for the Contractor to undertake the task which were subsequently approved by the Joint IAF ILAC Executive Committee.
- A tender was floated and at the time of the IAF GA, evaluation of the submissions and selection was underway.

## IAF Membership

- **MOU Membership**
  - 3 out of the 4 new IAF MOU Members admitted since the 2019 annual meetings are from Africa namely:
    - \* Ghana National Accreditation Service (GhaNAS);
    - \* Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS); and
    - \* West African Accreditation System (SOAC).
- **MLA Signatory Status**
  - Regional Accreditation Group IAF MLA Scope Extensions since the 2019 General Assembly:
    - \* **AFRAC** - Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO 50003, ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 50001, ISO 45001.
    - \* **EA** - Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 45001.
    - \* **APAC** - Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scopes: Level 5:
    - \* **FAMI** - QS Certification Scheme, IPC-PL-11-006, ISO 45001
    - \* **IAAC** - Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO 50003, ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 50001, ISO 45001.

- **New AB IAF MLA Signatories** since the 2019 General Assembly:
  - **SADCAS Southern Africa** (AFRAC) - Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 9001
- **IAF AB Members MLA scope extensions, since the 2019 General Assembly:**
  - **EGAC** Egypt, **SANAS** South Africa (AFRAC) among the extension to Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO 50003, Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems
  - **SADCAS Southern Africa**, **TUNAC** Tunisia, **EGAC** Egypt, **SANAS** South Africa (AFRAC); Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 45001
  - **MAURITAS** Mauritius, **SANAS** South Africa (AFRAC) - Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/TS 22003; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 22000
  - **SADCAS Southern Africa** (AFRAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-2, Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 14001
  - **TUNAC** Tunisia (EA) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 27006, Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO/IEC 27001

### Transitional Arrangement for ISO/IEC 27006:2015 AMD 1:2020

- ISO/IEC 27006:2015 AMD 1:2020, was published on the 27 March 2020. Transitional Arrangement associated with *ISO/IEC 27006:2015 AMD 1:2020 - Information technology - Security techniques - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems – Amendment 1, will be two years from the last day of the month of publication of the amended standard.*
- Within this transition timeline:
  - ABs shall be ready to carry out transition assessments for ISO/IEC 27006:2015 AMD 1:2020, within eight (8) months from the last day of the month of publication of the amended standard.
  - CBs shall have completed the transition to ISO/IEC 27006:2015 AMD1:2020, through office assessment, within 24 months from the last day of the month of publication of the amended standard.
  - The transition is not a routine transition from one version of a standard to another. The transition only relates to the specific

### IAF COVID-19 FAQ Task Force

- IAF established a COVID-19 FAQ Task Force to manage the COVID-19 emergency
- The Task force developed some answers to frequently asked questions on how to manage the COVID - 19 emergency as it relates to accreditation and conformity assessment.
- The FAQ were endorsed by the IAF General Assembly as published by the Task Force as a means of regulating the unanticipated situation of the pandemic.
- Thus, when an accreditation body or a conformity assessment body refers to an IAF COVID-19 FAQ, published by IAF, it is assumed to be operating not in contradiction or excluding any of the requirements included in the relevant international standards and/or other normative documents (see ISO/IEC 17011, § 4.6.2).
- Such assumption is on a temporary basis dependent on the evolution of the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Conformity Assessment Bodies and Accreditation Bodies can implement, partially or completely, the dispositions contained in IAF COVID-19 FAQs, but where the situation permits, priority should be given to the ordinary situation

### Election of Directors

- Mr. Peter Kronvall (SWEDAC) elected as Accreditation Body Information Exchange Group Co-Chair for a second and final three-year term.
- Mr. Marcus Long (IIOC) elected as (CABAC) Chair for a second and final three- year term.

## SADCAS ATTENDS ISO/TC 212

The SADCAS Scheme Coordinator Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS), Mrs Eva Muronda attended the 25<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of ISO/TC 212: Clinical Laboratory Testing and in vitro diagnostic Test systems, held virtually on 3 November 2020. The meeting was attended by 142 delegates from all over the world. The purpose of the meeting was to receive progress reports from the Technical Committee's Working Groups and to consider their recommendations. The meeting was also updated on the ISO Directives, Liaison activities and the status of the ISO Strategic and Business Plan.

The ISO/TC 212 has various Working Groups working in the following areas:

- WG 1 - Quality and competence in the Medical Laboratory
- WG 2 - Reference systems
- WG 3 - In vitro diagnostic products
- WG 4 - Microbiology and molecular diagnostics
- WG 5 - Laboratory bio-risk management
- STTF - Spanish Translation Task Force

Working Group 1 is currently revising **ISO 15189:2012 - Medical Laboratories - Requirements for quality and competence**. In January 2018, the standard underwent a systematic review and ILAC collected views on the clauses of the standard. The meeting accepted the WG1 recommendation to submit ISO 15189 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> committee draft (CD2) ballot in December 2020. This will enable stakeholders through the standards bodies in the various SADC Member States to make comments and contribute to the revision of the standard.

SADCAS encourages all stakeholders to be active and make a contribution to the revision of the standard through their national mirror committees.



## INVITATION TO REGISTER TECHNICAL EXPERTS

SADCAS invites experts having specific technical expertise in any of the accreditation schemes currently offered by SADCAS for Calibration/testing/medical laboratories; certification bodies (management systems/product) and inspection bodies in order to register 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/Technical Assessor.

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://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20\[Issue%205\].pdf](http://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20[Issue%205].pdf)

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

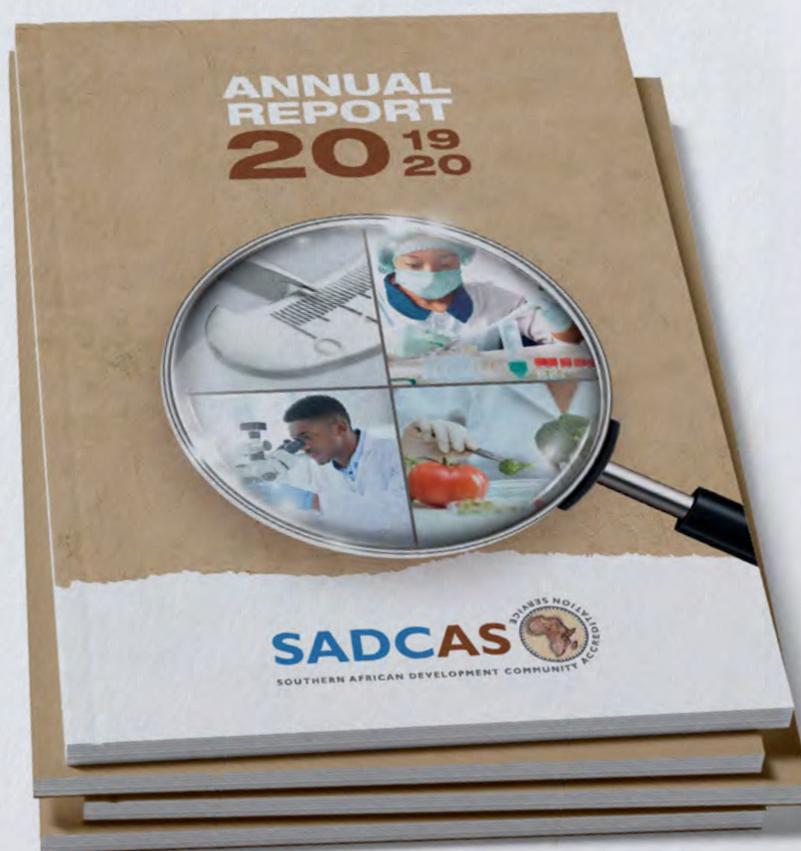
**Applications shall be addressed to:**  
**Mrs Pinkie Malebe**  
**SADCAS Technical Manager**  
**Email: [pmalebe@sadcas.org](mailto:pmalebe@sadcas.org)**

## SADCAS PUBLISHES 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, the SADCAS Board of Directors approved the 12<sup>th</sup> annual report for the year ended 31 March 2020. The Annual Report contains a comprehensive summary of SADCAS' activities and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the third five-year strategic plan covering the period 2017-2022.

Some of SADCAS' key achievements during the year were:

- Successfully transitioned to the 2017 version of the ISO/IEC 17011 and maintained international recognition of the Testing, Calibration and Medical laboratories, and inspection bodies accreditation schemes;
- Achieved international recognition to the Main Scope Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1), Sub-scope Quality Management Systems (ISO/IEC 17021-3), QMS (ISO 9001:2015) having been admitted as a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum's Multilateral Arrangement in November 2019;
- Made good progress in achieving the targets set out in the implementation of the 2019/20 activity plan notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic faced during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the 2019/20 financial year and the untimely death of Ms Linda Dirorimwe, a founding member of staff.



The annual report is available on the SADCAS website on <http://www.sadcas.org/annual-reports>

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## SADCAS CEO & TECHNICAL MANAGER MEET WITH BOMRA

As part of SADCAS' marketing strategy to reach out to clients/potential clients operating within the region, the SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen P Mutasa and the then Technical Manager Designate Mrs Pinkie Malebe conducted a targeted marketing visit to Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The meeting was well attended by the BOMRA management comprised of Dr Sinah Selelo, the Chief Technical Advisor, Directors for different Departments namely: Licensing and Inspection; Laboratory Services; Post Marketing Surveillance and Control of Clinical Trial; Product Evaluation and Registration; and the Quality Manager Ms Zukiswa Raditladi.

Dr Selelo who was representing the BOMRA CEO, Dr Stephen Ghanie welcomed the SADCAS delegation and allowed her team to introduce themselves. This was followed by the introduction of the SADCAS team by Mrs Mutasa, CEO who then outlined the purpose of the visit which was to introduce SADCAS and its services to BOMRA, to appreciate BOMRA's scope of services and to explore how SADCAS can service the accreditation needs of BOMRA.

The Chief Technical Advisor briefed the SADCAS delegation on the mandate of BOMRA, that the organization was established through the Medicines and Related Substance Act of 2013 to:

- Ensure that all medicines and related substances used in Botswana are in conformity with established criteria of quality, safety and efficacy.
- Uphold standards for the regulatory functions value chain and ensure adherence to best practice.
- Conduct tests and analysis of medicines and inspection of privately-owned laboratories to ensure good laboratory practice as the cornerstone of compliance; and
- Ensure the safety of cosmetics and medical devices, that is, ascertaining that cosmetics and medical devices companies follow regulations to keep cosmetics and personal care products as safe as possible.



SADCAS and BOMRA Management

She then elaborated on the organizational structure of outlining the roles of the different departments in support of the BOMRA's mandate. Some of the departments are accreditable i.e. the Licensing and Inspections Department to ISO/IEC 17020 and the Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The Laboratory is currently being set up and is not yet operational. An application for accreditation will be submitted to SADCAS as soon as the Laboratory is operational and ready for accreditation.

Mrs Mutasa, noted from Dr Selelo's presentation that BOMRA also conduct verification activities which could be accredited to the newly published **ISO/IEC 17029: Conformity assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies**. Mrs Mutasa proceeded to give a background on SADCAS, its establishment, its mandate and operational boundaries. She explained the multi-economy accreditation body model upon which SADCAS is based and its advantages. She touched on the importance of accreditation and SADCAS achievement thus far with emphasis on SADCAS international recognition and other services offered by SADCAS such as Training.

Mrs Malebe, SADCAS Technical Manager Designate presented on SADCAS Accreditation Schemes with emphasis on Pharmaceutical Services and Medical Devices which are applicable to BOMRA. Mrs Malebe outlined the accreditation process and strategies employed by SADCAS during the COVID-19 pandemic that include the use of remote assessment techniques to ensure continuity in service delivery. Mrs Malebe further explained the SADCAS fee structure and the training courses on offer.

In closing, Dr Selelo thanked the SADCAS delegation for the visit and the information provided, she indicated that the visit was worthwhile as they now have a good understanding of where to start with the accreditation process. She indicated that their plan is to start by accrediting the laboratory, then the other scopes will follow.

In conclusion, Mrs Mutasa thanked the BOMRA team for making time to meet and expressed the hope for a fruitful and professional working relationship between SADCAS and BOMRA.

## SADCAS MEETS WITH TANZANIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SADCAS met virtually with officials from the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) on 10 September 2020. The Tanzania officials comprised of the Head of Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health, Management and Development of Health (MDH), National Quality Officer and Laboratory Scientist. The SADCAS team comprised of the Technical Manager, Technical Manager Designate and the Scheme Coordinator of the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS). The purpose of the meeting was to update the MOHCDGEC of SADCAS Services and activities in the medical field and to clarify how an internationally recognised accreditation body operates according to International requirements of which SADCAS adheres to. The meeting was also a follow up of the status of accreditation applications from Medical Laboratories in Tanzania.



In her presentation Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo – SADCAS Technical Manager gave a background on the establishment of SADCAS, a subsidiary institution of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and a multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade. She pointed out that SADCAS objective is to provide accreditation services to calibration and testing laboratories, certification bodies (management systems /product/ personnel) and inspection bodies operating in those SADC Member States who do not have national accreditation bodies. The accreditation services are aimed at supporting regional and international trade, safeguarding the health and safety of the public, enhancing the protection of consumers and the environment, and improving the competitiveness of SADC products and services.

Mrs Malebe, the Technical Manager Designate presented on the SADCAS accreditation process and the outlined the SADCAS fee structure. She explained that SADCAS fees are based on a cost recovery model in-order to ensure clients meet the cost of the services provided to them with Governments of SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS meeting the operational budget deficit. Mrs Malebe informed the meeting of the strategies that SADCAS has in place to maintain competitiveness of SADCAS fees, which includes group discounts, the use of locally based assessors, using multiskilled assessors, risk-based approach to planning assessments and the use remote assessments.

Discussions followed the presentations on which the MOHCDGEC thanked SADCAS on the informative presentations and further sought clarity with regards to the accreditation fees and the credibility of the remote assessments. SADCAS however pointed out that ISO/IEC 17011:2017 – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies has a provision for conducting remote assessments and that the assessments are carried out as per the SADCAS ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and SADCAS AP 23 Procedure on Remote Assessments – Management and Execution of which the conduct upholds the integrity of the assessments.

The meeting ended with a commitment from the MOHCDGEC officials of submitting accreditation applications for which a group discount was applied to the accreditation fees of the laboratories.

## SEYCHELLES APPOINTS NEW NAFPS

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Seychelles Bureau of Standards appointed two new National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs), Dr Sreekala Nair, Deputy CEO, Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) as the 1<sup>st</sup> NAFP and Ms Corina Chang Ty-Sing, Microbiologist, Seychelles Bureau of Standards as the 2<sup>nd</sup> NAFP. The two appointed NAFPs Dr Nair and Ms Chang Ty-Sing replace Mrs. Mariam Kante who has retired from SBS employ.

Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) is the National Standards Body (NSB) of Seychelles whose mission is to provide national and international capabilities to Seychelles in the areas of Standardisation, Metrology and Conformity Assessment in order to enhance the country's socio economic development. The SBS falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry.

The 1<sup>st</sup> NAFP Officer Dr Nair has Doctorate in Chemistry and has worked in the laboratory field for sixteen years before becoming the Deputy CEO in 2016. She is also heading the Biochemical Testing Laboratories at the SBS and is a registered SADCAS Technical Assessor. She is also the Quality Manager for the Laboratories management system at SBS and has over the years contributed immensely to SBS achievements of accreditation.



Dr Sreekala Nair



Ms Chang Ty-Sing

The 2<sup>nd</sup> NAFP, Ms Chang Ty-Sing completed degree in Food Science with Nutrition from the Taylor University, Malaysia and is working as Microbiologist in the Microbiology Laboratory at SBS.

SADCAS welcomes Dr Nair and Ms Chang Ty-Sing to the network of NAFPs in the 14 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS who are responsible for the promotion of accreditation and marketing SADCAS services in their respective countries.

## NAFPS HOLD 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) who are appointed by their respective governments are mainly responsible for the promotion of accreditation and marketing of SADCAS services within their respective countries. NAFPs are a channel of information from and to SADCAS. In executing SADCAS activities, NAFPs prepare annual national action plans in support of SADCAS annual implementation plans in order to achieve SADCAS objectives. The framework upon which the NAFP national action plans are based is normally prepared during the annual meeting of the NAFPs. This year the annual meeting of NAFPs and SADCAS was held on 24 November 2020. This was the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of NAFPs to be held. Because of COVID-19 pandemic and the associated travel restrictions, the meeting was held virtually via zoom.

The meeting was attended by 15 NAFPs and 3 SADCAS staff. National Accreditation Focal Points from Angola (1); Botswana (2), Democratic Republic of Congo (1), Eswatini (2), Lesotho (2), Malawi (1), Mozambique (1), Namibia (1), Seychelles (2), and Zimbabwe (2) attended the meeting whilst NAFPs Comoros, Zambia, Madagascar and Tanzania did not attend the meeting. SADCAS was represented at the meeting by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, SADCAS CEO, Mr Xavier Mugari S, Quality Manager and Mr Mogae Molaoa, the Training Administrator. The meeting was chaired by the SADCAS CEO.

- **The purpose of this year's meeting was to:**
- **Inform the NAFPs about developments in SADCAS and how SADCAS was ensuring continuity in service delivery through remote assessments and on-line training;**
- **Review progress in Government contributions for the period 2017 to 2022;**
- **Review the quarterly reports on NAFP activities for the period 1 April up to 30 September 2020;**
- **Develop the Framework for the 2021/22 Marketing Plan;**
- **Discuss 2020/21 Training Needs; and**
- **Discuss progress with SADC EU EDF 11 Project on Capacity Building of Laboratories.**

The 2021/22 marketing plan framework which was developed will be finalized and circulated to NAFPs to comment by 12 December 2020 after which it will be populated and draft 2021/22 Marketing Plan circulated by to NAFPs to comment by 8 May 2021 following which it will be submitted to the Board for approval. Regarding capacity development of laboratories in accreditation a project under SADC EU EDF 11, NAFPs Angola, Comoros, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia were reminded to submit lists of laboratories that operate in the key developmental sectors for consideration of training under the project.

A total of 20 resolutions were passed during the virtual meeting which was chaired by Mrs Mutasa. The meeting was very interactive and NAFPs committed to explore virtual platforms amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in promoting accreditation and marketing SADCAS services so as to realize the objectives set in the SADCAS 2020/21 Marketing Plan.



### SADCAS Value Proposition

- Delivering confidence
- Assuring competency

# COMMUNIQUE TO ASSESSORS – REMINDER ON COMPLETION OF SADCAS F 121 IN REMOTE ASSESSMENTS

Issue 2 of **SADCAS F 121 -Compliance to SADCAS Policy on Metrological Traceability** was published on 02 July 2019. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SADCAS has been undertaking remote assessments in accordance to **SADCAS AP 23 - Remote Assessments - Management and Execution**. This procedure SADCAS AP 23 requires accredited or applicant Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to complete the first four (4) columns of SADCAS F 121 and submit to SADCAS in advance of all planned remote assessments for review by the assessment teams.

This communique serves to remind SADCAS Technical Assessors/Technical Experts (TAs/TEs) to always review and complete the SADCAS F 121 that would have been partially completed by the facility and to submit the form to the Team Leader for review. The review by TAs/TEs should take into consideration the requirements of **SADCAS TR 09 - Criteria for Performing Calibration and Intermediate Checks on Equipment used in Accredited Facilities that is based on ILAC P 10 - ILAC Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results**. For each listed measuring instrument, the TA/TE shall review submitted evidence such as calibration certificates, reports and published calibration and measurements capabilities (CMCs) and verify the CAB's compliance (C) or non-compliance (NC) to the options provided by the **SADCAS TR 09 policy. Each NC must be marked-up on the form and raised on the SADCAS F 61(b) - Conformity Assessment Body - Nonconformity, Corrective Action and Clearance Report**. Compliance to SADCAS TR 09 and thus to ILAC P10 is mandatory for the international recognition of the accreditation schemes for calibration, testing, medical testing and inspection.



## SADCAS Vision

SADCAS vision is to be a sustainable accreditation body at the cutting edge of credible accreditation service delivery.



## SADCAS Mission

SADCAS mission is to provide credible, cost effective, accreditation services for SADC Member States aimed at supporting trade, enhance the protection of consumers and the environment, and improve the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.



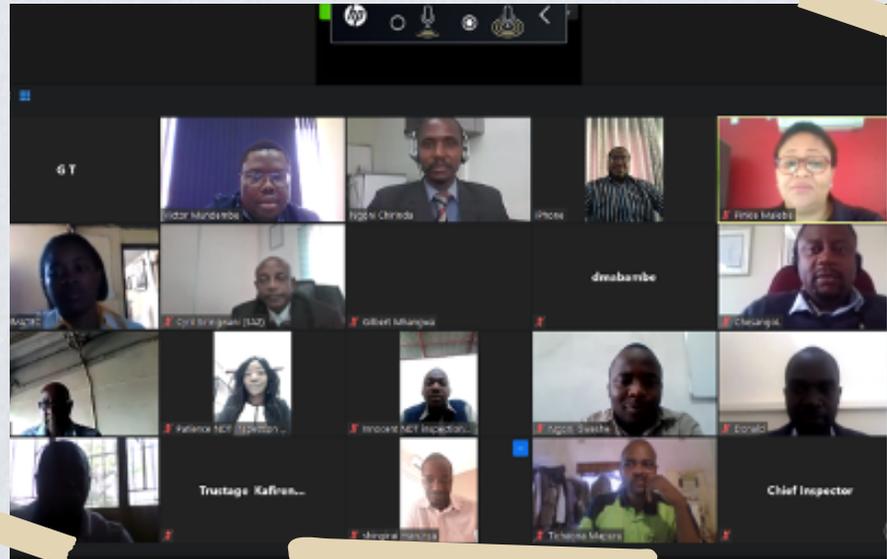
## SADCAS Mandate

SADCAS draws its mandate from Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Trade. The SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is recognized by the SADC Council of Ministers as a subsidiarity institution of SADC. The relationship between SADCAS and SADC is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on general cooperation. The objects, powers and rules for the operation of SADCAS are set out in the Constitution of SADCAS Ltd lodged with the Registrar of Companies, Botswana.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR IBAS – ZIMBABWE HOLDS 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Zimbabwe Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS - Zimbabwe) (AC.01) was held on 16 September 2020 virtually for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was chaired by Engineer Ngoni Chirinda from the Harare Institute of Technology.

The meeting was attended by 18 of the 42 members, a 43% participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting. Members of the Lifting Equipment Working Group were represented at the meeting. The SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for IBAS, Mr Victor Mundembe provided an update on developments at the ILAC Inspection Committee and at AFRAC Inspection Sub-committee.



AC.01 in Session

The convener of the Document Working Group (DWG) on Lifting Equipment, Mr Godwell T Zimondi, presented draft 3 of Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection of the Lifting Equipment and Lifting Gear in Zimbabwe. The meeting resolved that the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) of Zimbabwe will give its input to the document, following which SADCAS will review the document before publication.

The SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa presented the SADCAS position during a session that discussed concerns raised by the Zimbabwe Association of Independent Inspection Authorities (ZAIIA). The concerns covered a range of issues including challenges to secure foreign currency to meet accreditation costs, use of locally based assessors in order to manage the accreditation costs and use of SADCAS Indicative Letters and authorizations to perform inspections. The discussion clarified the SADCAS position, requirements and distinguished between the roles and responsibilities of SADCAS and the Regulator (Division of Occupational Safety and Health at the National Social Security Authority of Zimbabwe) as assigned by the MOU being implemented by the two parties. The National Social Security Authority of Zimbabwe was represented by Mr Penias Marunza, the Chief Inspector of Factories and Mr Tichaona Mapuru, Technical Expert who participates in SADCAS assessments.

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MIAS HOLDS 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

Medical Imaging is an essential part of diagnosis of many diseases and plays an important role in the improvement of public health amongst all population groups. The procedures used often involve the use of powerful and potentially damaging ionizing radiation. Poorly controlled medical imaging equipment, techniques and facilities can cause serious harm to both the operators of the equipment and the patient.

It is important to note that poor image quality is a major source of diagnostic error. The implementation of quality systems in the medical imaging service ensures that only correct imaging procedures are chosen and are performed by appropriately trained staff. The equipment used must be well maintained and calibrated irrespective of size and complexity of the medical imaging service.

SADCAS is in the process of extending its scope of accreditation services to medical imaging and the Advisory Committee for Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) AC.07 was established in 2019 and subsequently held its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in November 2019. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of AC.07 was held virtually via Zoom on 27 November 2020. A total of 9 experts from 9 SADC Member States attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr Bernard Nyirenda a radiologist at the Premier Medical Services Investments (PSMI) Zimbabwe.



Radiologist at Work

The main purpose of the meeting was to review and finalise criteria for the accreditation in the scope General

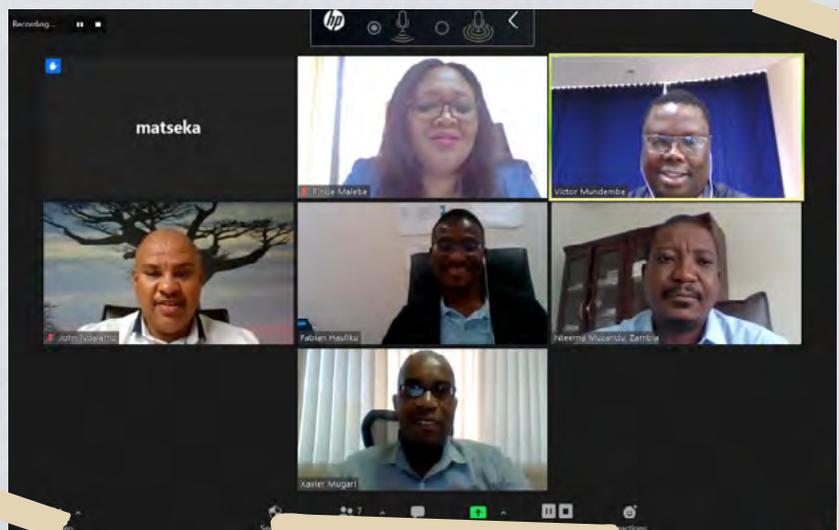
Radiography and Ultrasound and to identify areas requiring technical supporting documents. The meeting was also an opportunity to update members on developments at international level in the accreditation of medical imaging and to share with members how SADCAS was ensuring continuity in service delivery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic through remote assessments and online training. The meeting also discussed the regulations applicable to Medical Imaging in the various SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS.

The meeting was very fruitful and resolved to finalise the 2 documents by end of January 2021 and publication in the first quarter of 2021. The Criteria documents on General Radiography and Ultrasound give guidance to the Medical Imaging field on operations of its services as per international standards. The meeting was held following the training of the Advisory Committee members on the requirements of ISO 15189:2012 held from 26 to 28 October 2020.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE CBAS HOLDS 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS) (AC.05) was held on 26 November 2020 virtually via Zoom for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Lorna Shikongo- Kuvare.

The meeting was attended by 5 out of the 15 members from 5 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS, a 33% participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting. The SADCAS Quality Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari gave a presentation on how SADCAS was ensuring continuity in service delivery under COVID-19 pandemic and Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager shared experiences in



CBAS AC in session

Remote Assessments. The SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CBAS, Mr Victor Mundembe, provided an update on developments at the IAF Technical Committee and the IAF Working Group on Food.

The 2nd CBAS Advisory Committee meeting discussed the list of technical supporting documents for CBAS and referred the document back to the Document Working Group (DWG) for review taking into consideration discussions from the meeting.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE IBAS REGIONAL HOLDS 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS - Regional) (AC.06) was held on 23 November 2020 virtually via Zoom for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was well-attended by 9 of the 14 members from 8 countries, a 64% participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting. The SADCAS Quality Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari gave a presentation on how SADCAS was ensuring continuity in service delivery under COVID-19 pandemic and Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager shared experiences in Remote Assessments. The SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for IBAS, Mr Victor Mundembe, provided an update on developments at the ILAC Inspection Committee.



AC IBAS -Regional in session

The 2<sup>nd</sup> IBAS Advisory Committee meeting requested Mr Gilbert Mhangwa from Zimbabwe to co-convene with Paulo Pereira from South Africa the Document Working Group (DWG) on Non-Destructive Testing (NDT). The DWG was boosted by the addition of a new member Mr Athumani Kissumo from Tanzania. The committee requested the DWG to take into consideration requirements from ILAC and EA and draft an NDT criteria document for SADCAS IBAS – Regional for review by the Advisory Committee.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MLAS HOLDS 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

The SADCAS Advisory Committee for the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) (AC.04) held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on 25 November 2020 virtually. A total of 8 experts from the SADC Member States attended the meeting.

The main purpose of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was to share experiences on remote assessments, discuss how SADCAS was ensuring continuity in service delivery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, update members on developments at international level, review and finalise the draft guidelines on the validation and verification of quantitative and qualitative tests and on expression of uncertainty in clinical testing. The Advisory Committee also identified areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The SADCAS Quality Manager, Mr Mugari presented on how SADCAS was ensuring continuity in service delivery amidst the pandemic

followed by a presentation by the Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe who elaborated on how SADCAS is embracing technology to conduct remote assessments as per the provision of **ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies**. SADCAS is also now conducting online trainings.

The committee also identified alternative methods to proficiency testing (PT) to be further strengthened in Laboratories that have issues regarding formal PT. This was more pronounced in the pandemic when some PT samples could not be shipped due to the country lockdowns. In such a case the **SADCAS TR 08 Proficiency Testing and Other Comparison Programmes Requirements for Testing and Medical Laboratories** has provision to conduct alternative approaches. The identified area will give further guidance on the alternative approaches to PT in the event of unavailability of a formal PT and hence further strengthening the clause in the already available criteria document.

The meeting was very fruitful and the members committed to finalising the required documents within the appropriate times.

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE TLAS HOLDS 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee (TLAS AC.03) was held on 25 November 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions imposed in the SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS, the meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform.

The purpose of the AC.03 M5 was to discuss matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting that was held on 29 November 2019 at the Aviator Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting also sought to give members an update on developments at international level, in particular activities of the ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) committee whose virtual meeting was held on 24 October 2020. The AC.03 Secretariat Mrs Pinkie Malebe advised members on the status of the development and revision of documents applicable to testing and relevant to the accreditation schemes offered by SADCAS i.e. revision of ILAC P9 on Proficiency Testing, ILAC G 17 on measurement Uncertainty in testing, **ILAC G 18 - Guidelines for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories** and an update on the survey that was conducted on measurements arising from sampling.

Members were also updated on the status of transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for laboratories that were accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005. Whilst the transitioning process is relatively slow compared to other accreditation bodies members of AFRAC, SADCAS anticipates 100% transition by the end of the transition period which has now been extended to 01 June 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat further updated members on the status of the guidance documents that were developed by the Advisory Committee. The meeting reviewed draft documents that were developed by the Document Working Group of the AC.03. the guidance document on Measurement Uncertainty in Microbiology testing was reviewed by the members and proposed for adoption.

The meeting was attended by 6 members from Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Seychelles and Zimbabwe and was ably chaired by Mr Willy Muyila from Malawi. The meeting was a success with fruitful deliberations. A higher turnout had been expected since the meeting was being held virtually!

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE CLAS HOLDS 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) (AC.02) was held on 25 November 2020 virtually for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was chaired by Mr Victor Mundembe who doubled up as Secretary of the Advisory Committee.

## Advisory Committees Corner

At the plenary session Mr Xavier Mugari, the SADCAS Quality Manager, gave a presentation on how SADCAS was ensuring continuity in service delivery under COVID-19 whilst Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager shared experiences in Remote Assessments and gave an update on transitioning to ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

The breakout session of the 5<sup>th</sup> CLAS Advisory Committee meeting was well-attended by 10 of the 16 members from 9 countries, a 63 % participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting. The SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CLAS, Mr Victor Mundembe provided an update on developments at the ILAC Accreditation Committee.



CLAS AC in session

The Advisory Committee meeting discussed technical requirements documents under development in the areas of Temperature, Pressure and Legal Metrology. The meeting unanimously decided that Time and Frequency is a new area requiring a technical supporting document, due to the increase in demand in accredited calibration services from medical laboratories, 53 of which are accredited by SADCAS and 17 more have applications under process. The AC member from Tanzania, Mr Joseph James Mahilla and Mr Teboko Kajane from Botswana were identified as co-conveners of the Document Working Group on Time and Frequency.

# SADCAS

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ACCREDITATION SERVICE

SADCAS OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM  
**FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2020**  
AND WILL RE-OPEN ON  
**WEDNESDAY, 6 JANUARY 2021**

SADCAS MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WISH YOU A  
**MERRY XMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2021**

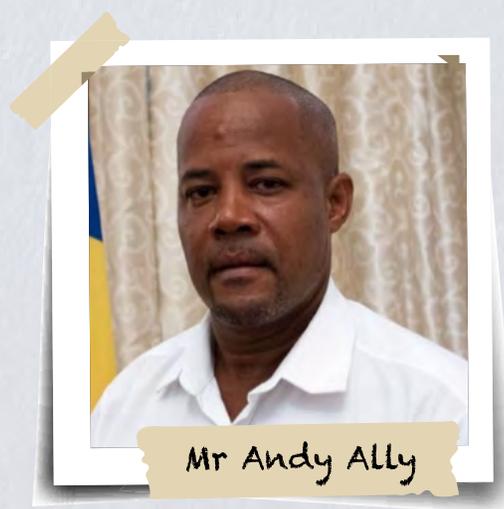
Take care and keep safe !!!

## SADCAS BOARD ADMITS 2 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The SADCAS Board of Directors at their duly constituted 66<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 3 September 2020 and in line with Section 9.4 of the SADCAS Constitution approved the admission of 2 Members following application for membership of the SADCAS General Assembly with effect from 3 September 2020.

Dr Ron Josias is the immediate past CEO of SANAS who retired from SANAS end of May 2020 having been its CEO for 11 years. Under his leadership at SANAS, SADCAS has enjoyed skills transfer through the SADCAS SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement which was signed in 3 December 2009. Dr Josias has over 22 years' experience in accreditation and holds leadership positions in AFRAC, SADCA and ILAC. Apart from holding leadership roles in AFRAC, Dr Josias was instrumental to the establishment of AFRAC and achievement of international recognition of the AFRAC MRA upon which the SADCAS recognition hinges.

Mr Andy Ally is the CEO of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) and the supervisor of the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) Seychelles. Mr Ally has a wealth of experience (30 years) working experience in National Quality Infrastructure and has been heading the SBS for 4 years during which he has been pushing to expand SBS accreditation and has supervised NAFP activities which have over the years received full support of the Government. He represents Seychelles in international and regional and continental standardization activities.



The 2 members were provided with the SADCAS Constitution, updated register of SADCAS General Assembly members, confirmed minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> SADCAS Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 13 March 2019 and unconfirmed minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> SADCAS AGM held in March 2020.

The General Assembly which comprises of subscribers to the memorandum and clauses of association, members of the Board, National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP) and individuals or organizations who apply for admission and are admitted as members under conditions determined by the Board is the governing body of SADCAS. The General Assembly currently comprises of 40 members and meets at least once a year in conjunction with the annual SADC TBT structures meetings.

**SADCAS welcomes Dr Ron Josias and Mr Andy Ally as members of the SADCAS General Assembly.**

## SADCAS BOARD HOLDS STRATEGIC SESSION

On Thursday 20 August 2020, the SADCAS Board of Directors held a virtual strategic planning session via Zoom. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> strategic planning session held by SADCAS. The guest of Honour was Dr Khutula Sibanda the Director Industrial Development and Trade (IDT) at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat.

The main purpose of the session which was attended by 8 Board members and SADCAS Management was to review the SADCAS financial model taking into account the challenges that SADCAS continues to have regarding contributions from SADC Member States to enable it to reach full sustainability.

The half-day session started off with opening remarks from the Board Chairman, Mr Steven Bruce Sidney followed by an overview of the SADCAS financial model by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) followed by a progress review of the key result area Strive for Sustainability in terms of operational revenue, Government Contributions, donor funding and dependency level by Mrs Lauren Gudo, the Finance and Administration Manager and the CEO. The SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe and Finance and Administration Manager then shared the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SADCAS operations after which the CEO presented the challenges faced and lessons learnt with the current financial model.

The guest Dr Khutula Sibanda, the SADC Director IDT gave an executive overview of the current situation in SADC and shared SADC's expectations of SADCAS. This was followed by a question and answer session with the SADC Director IDT.

The second session was devoted to brainstorming and exploring ways of enhancing the SADCAS financial model so as to ensure timeous payment of contributions towards SADCAS sustainability. The session confirmed the important role of SADCAS as a crucial SADC Trade instrument which role is maintained in the SADC Vision 2050 and the 2020-2030 Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Board confirmed that the current financial model is the most suitable for SADCAS.

Closing remarks were given by Ms Verily Molatedi, The Chair of the SADCAS Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.



SADCAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## SEYCHELLES BUREAU OF STANDARDS NATIONAL METROLOGY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION RENEWED

SADCAS is delighted to announce the re-accreditation of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards - National Metrology Laboratory (SBS-NML). Through this re-accreditation the SBS NML has been re-granted the unique accreditation number CAL-8 001 indicating that the SBS NML is accredited in the scope of "Mass Metrology". The certificate which was re-issued on 15 September 2020 is valid for 5 years until 14 September 2025. The re-assessment of the laboratory was undertaken to the new version of the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and successful transition from the 2005 version of the standard was granted to the 2017 version, making SBS-NML the 5th Metrology Laboratory under the SADCAS Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) to achieve this important milestone, ahead of the original transition deadline of 30 November 2020. Following the recommendation of the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (ILAC AMC) and as a result of ILAC Ballot which closed on 3 June 2020, the transition period was extended to 1 June 2021.

As the custodian of the National Measurement Standards for Mass in Seychelles, the SBS-NML has a central role in the National Measurement System through the dissemination of metrological traceability to all stakeholders in Seychelles through the calibration services it offers. The SBS-NML also offers direct metrological traceability to the Seychelles Bureau of Standards - Legal Metrology Unit (SBS-LMU) that in turn offers weights and measures verification and inspection services as per the requirements of the Weights & Measures Act and Regulations of Seychelles. The accreditation of SBS-NML guarantees the metrological traceability of the country's national measurement standards to the international system of units (SI) and facilitates trade through the international recognition of SADCAS, an ILAC MRA signatory in the scope of calibration to ISO/IEC 17025.

SADCAS looks forward to the extension of SBS-NML's accreditation to other metrology scopes such as volume, temperature, length and pressure and the accreditation of SBS-LMU through the SADCAS Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS).

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## SADCAS CONDUCTS ISO/IEC 17025:2017 TRAINING COURSE IN BOTSWANA

SADCAS conducted the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing Open Course at the Oasis Motel in Tlokweng, Botswana from 24 to 28 August 2020. This training that was initially scheduled for July 2020 had to be postponed twice as a result of COVID-19 pandemic which brought about inter-zonal lockdowns resulting in restrictions of local travel and the gathering of people to attend training courses or meetings. In his welcome and opening remarks Mr Edward Mmatli, NAFPP- Botswana highlighted the roles and responsibilities of SADCAS NAFPPs, which include marketing accreditation and training activities in each SADC member state. He indicated that NAFPPs are a link between SADCAS and its customers or potential customers. Mr Mmatli highlighted training offered by SADCAS in the key accreditation standards and other accreditation related courses. He pointed out that SADCAS is based in Gaborone and offers accreditation services to fourteen SADC Member States.



Participants for ISO/IEC 17025 and Internal Auditing Course at Oasis Motel in Gaborone, Botswana

The SADCAS Trainer, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, introduced herself and gave a brief background about herself and her experience as a Trainer and as an assessment Team Leader. She then asked the 22 participants to introduce themselves highlighting their name, department, designation, position, scope of work, level of management system and expectation for the training. The participants were from different organizations

namely Department of Waste Management & Pollution Control (5), Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (3), Botswana Power Corporation – Morupule A (4), Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (1), Botswana Power Corporation – Morupule B (6), as well as two (2) SADCAS staff and one (1) private participant. SADCAS staff Ms Varsah Gungoa and Mr Xavier Mugari participated in the training course as part of the 2020/21 Staff Continuous Professional Development Plan and multi skilling of assessors.

The training course was interspaced with exercises and care was taken to ensure fair distribution of participants by organization and by gender and social distancing was observed. The group work were 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.

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. Based on the feedback provided after the training participants were happy that their training expectations had been met. All the participants said the course was well planned and relevant and useful to their work.

## NEW ACCREDITATIONS AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2020

Organization	Location	Scheme	Dates	New Accreditations
Indeni Petroleum Refinery Company LTD – Fuel Testing Laboratory	Ndola, Zambia	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2020-08-14	TEST-5 0051 Chemical (Petroleum Products)
National Institute for Medical Research Centre,	Mbeya, Tanzania	Medical Testing to ISO 15189:2012	2020-08-31	MED 054 – Mycobacteriology

No Scope Extensions during the period

No Suspensions during the period

No withdrawals during the period

### SADCAS Company Values

SADCAS in its service provision upholds the following six core values:

<b>Impartiality</b>	We are organized and operate so as to safeguard objectivity and impartiality of our services.
<b>Transparency</b>	We are dedicated to provide complete transparency in our work by communicating effectively with our clients.
<b>Non-discrimination</b>	We treat our clients fairly and in an equitable manner.
<b>Integrity</b>	We act with honesty and integrity.
<b>Innovation</b>	We generate new ideas and utilize creative approaches to problems for continuous improvement.
<b>Diversity</b>	We respect the diversity of our clients and ensure balance of interest in representation.

## STAFF UNDERGO TRAINING ON MS WORD AND EXCEL

SADCAS is composed of three functional units. The technical unit is responsible for the overall management of the accreditation process and management of the pool of assessors. The corporate services unit provides support services to internal and external business interests and is responsible for ICT, marketing and public relations, business development and administration of training services. The finance and administration unit is responsible for financial management, human resources management and general administration of the company. As part of the SADCAS Performance Management System whose objective is to identify the contribution that each individual must make to ensure that the organisation achieves the desired results and identify training needs, it was noted that some personnel required training in Microsoft word and excel in-order to contribute effectively and efficiently to meeting set objectives. Training on Microsoft word and Excel was then included in the 2020/21 Staff Continuous Development Programme (CPD).



To this regard, a company Valmerk (Pty) Ltd was identified to train 4 SADCAS staff on Intermediate Excel and Word, namely: Mr Xavier Mugari, Quality Manager, Mrs Eva Muronda Scheme Coordinator MLAS, Mr Mogae Molaoa, Training Administrator, Mrs Tsitsi Mazibuko, Accreditation Administrator and Ms Segomotso Kobe Administrative Assistant with the latter attending only the Microsoft Word sessions. The in-house training was held from 28 to 29 July 2020.

The objective of the training was to introduce the basic and intermediate features of Microsoft Word & Excel which included basic operations and designing. The candidates had a practical exercise during the training which focused on ways to ensure accuracy and critical thinking to determine what data to analyse. The training was not only informative and empowering but enhanced the participants use of Microsoft Excel and Word tools efficiently in their respective areas of work.

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## PINKIE MALEBE TAKES OVER AS SADCAS TECHNICAL MANAGER

Following her appointment as the SADCAS Technical Manager Designate in April 2020, Mrs Pinkie Malebe has fully assumed the role of the SADCAS Technical Manager with effect from 01 October 2020 following the retirement of the Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo on 30 September 2020.

Mrs Malebe is charged with the responsibility of the overall management of SADCAS accreditation processes in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 standard, ILAC/IAF and AFRAC requirements, management of assessors as well as to represent SADCAS in regional and international accreditation fora on technical issues.

Mrs Malebe who joined SADCAS on 1 October 2015 as Scheme Coordinator Testing Laboratories, Veterinary Laboratories and Proficiency Testing Accreditation Schemes, has a wealth of experience in the areas of standardization, conformity assessment, proficiency testing and accreditation. A trainee evaluator, she is the Vice Chair of SADCA MRA Committee



Mrs Pinkie Malebe

## SADCAS APPOINTS NEW SCHEME COORDINATOR TESTING AND VETERINARY

SADCAS has appointed Ms Varsha Gungoa as the Scheme Coordinator for the Testing/Veterinary Laboratories Accreditation Schemes with effect from 1 November 2020. Ms Gungoa will be responsible for managing and coordinating all the accreditation activities for Testing Laboratories, that include Veterinary Laboratories and Proficiency Testing Accreditation Schemes.

Varsha joined SADCAS on 01 March 2020 as Assessor – French under the Testing/Veterinary Laboratories Accreditation Schemes. She was responsible for the planning and implementation of the SADCAS assessment plan for all testing laboratories including French and also to assist with French applications for other accreditation schemes offered by SADCAS such as Medical, Calibration, Inspection Bodies and Certification Body accreditation schemes.



Ms Varsah Gungoa

Ms Gungoa holds a Master's degree in Chemistry, a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Microbiology with a distinction, a Diploma in Chemical analysis and Instrumentation techniques and a certificate in Project Management.

Ms Gungoa is an experienced bilingual and multi-skilled Technical Assessor for both Microbiology and Chemistry which form the common scopes under TLAS and VLAS at SADCAS who has been conducting assessments on behalf of SADCAS in both English and French prior and after joining SADCAS. She has been assisting with translation of some SADCAS documents from English to French and has been assisting with the handling of enquiries in French.

Varsah is from Mauritius and is a mother of two.

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## THREE SADCAS STAFF APPOINTED AS SADCA OFFICE BEARERS

The 24<sup>th</sup> Southern African Development Community Accreditation Cooperation (SADCA) General Assembly (GA) was held virtually on 11 September 2020 having been rescheduled from 12 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GA was attended by more than 30 delegates. A total of 27 resolutions were passed during the 24th GA including the unanimous election of the following three (3) SADCAS staff as SADCA office bearers:

- **Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager** was unanimously elected as Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Committee Vice-chair for a second term of office. The objective of the MRA Committee is to plan and manage the implementation and maintenance of SADCA's MRAs;
- **Mr Xavier Mugari, the SADCAS Quality Manager** was unanimously elected as MRA Council Vice-Chair for a first term of office. The SADCA MRA Council makes decisions on the acceptance of applications to the SADCA MRA and admittance, suspensions and extensions to the MRA; and
- **Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator** for Calibration, Legal Metrology, Inspection & Certification Bodies Accreditation Schemes was unanimously elected as Technical Committee Vice-chair for a first term of office. The objective of the Technical Committee is to provide technical support for the accomplishment of SADCA activities.



Mr Xavier Mugari



Mrs Pinkie Malebe



Mr Victor Mundembe

SADCA is a Cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. SADCA is a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperation Structure established under the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade to coordinate accreditation activities in the region and facilitate the national, regional and international recognition and acceptance of SADC accreditation infrastructure and providing Member States with accreditation as a tool for facilitating trade and the protection of health and safety of the public and the environment in both the voluntary and regulatory areas. SADCA launched its MRA for Testing and Calibration laboratories accreditation schemes in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 on 14 March 2019. Following the endorsement of the SADCA MRA Council recommendation by the General Assembly on the 11th of September 2020, the scope of SADCA MRA was extended to include Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 in the sub-scope of QMS (ISO 9001:2015).

SADCA currently comprises of 20 members as follows: 3 Arrangement members; 12 Ordinary members; and 5 Stakeholder members. SADCA Membership covers 15 out of the 16 SADC Member states namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, , United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

## INVITATION TO REGISTER AS SADCAS ASSESSORS

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) invites qualified assessors to be registered as SADCAS assessors for its testing/calibration/ medical laboratories, and certification (management systems/product)/ inspection bodies' accreditation schemes. SADCAS' strategy is to grow its pool of assessors so as to cover the anticipated scopes of accreditation, and the geographical and language diversity in the SADC region of which 14 Member States are serviced by SADCAS.

Assessors from private and public sectors as well as from technical institutions/ associations who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors by an accreditation body 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://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20\[Issue%205\].pdf](http://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20[Issue%205].pdf)

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

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



# THE BUSINESS BENEFITS OF STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

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

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

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



**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.



# STATUS OF KEY ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND ILAC /IAF DOCUMENTS

STANDARD	STATUS
<b>ISO Documents</b>	International Standard to be revised
<b>ISO/IEC AWI Guide 60</b> – Conformity assessment – Code of good practice	
<b>ISO/IEC Guide 60:2004</b> - Conformity assessment – Code of good practice	International Standard to be revised
<b>ISO/IEC Guide 68:2002</b> – Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results	Close of review
<b>ISO 15189:2012</b> Medical Laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence	Committee Draft Stage
<b>ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015</b> - Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 1: Requirements	Close of review
<b>ISO/IEC TS 17023:2013</b> - Conformity assessment – Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits	Close of review
<b>ISO/CD 22003-1</b> Food Safety Management Systems - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems - Part 1: Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems	CD approved for registration as Draft International Standard
<b>ISO/AWI 22003-2</b> Food Safety Management Systems - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems - Part 2: Requirements for bodies providing audit of food safety management systems in conjunction with safe food product/process certification	New project approved
<b>ISO/IEC DTS 27006-2</b> - Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of privacy information management systems according to ISO/IEC 27701 in combination with ISO/IEC 27001 – Part 2: Title missing	CD approved for registration as Draft International Standard
<b>ISO/IEC 27006:2015/ AMD 1: 2020</b> - Information technology – Security techniques – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems	International standard published
<b>ISO 14065:2020</b> - Greenhouse gases - Environmental information – General Principles and Requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information	Published
<b>ISO/TR 14069:2013</b> Greenhouse gases – Quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for organizations – Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1	International Standard to be revised
<b>ISO/FDIS 14091</b> – Adaptation to climate change – Guideline on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessment	FDIS ballot initiated
<b>ISO/FDIS 14097</b> Framework and principles for assessing and reporting investments and financing activities related to climate change	FDIS registered for formal approval.
<b>ISO/DIS 19694-1</b> Stationary source emissions – Determination of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in energy-intensive industries – Part 1: General aspects	Draft International Standard Stage
<b>ISO FDIS 50003:2014</b> Energy management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of energy management systems	Final Draft International Standard Stage



STANDARD	STATUS
<p><b>IAF ID 1:2020 IAF</b> Informative <u>Document for QMS and EMS Scopes of Accreditation</u></p>	<p>Issue 3 was published following the 30-day ballot by all IAF Members which closed on 25 July 2020. The informative document is applicable to quality and environmental management systems certification. The purpose of the document is to help define the scopes of accreditation and to facilitate the consistent application of Clause 7.1.2 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and Clause 7.2.1 of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 by Accreditation Bodies.</p> <p>The document is adopted from the guidance previously provided in IAF GD2: 2005, Annex 1 for QMS Accreditation Scopes. All clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 will continue to apply and this document does not supersede any of the requirements in that standard</p>
<p><b>IAF ID 4:2020</b> <u>Market Surveillance Visits to Certified Organizations</u></p>	<p>Issue 2 was published following the 30-day ballot by all IAF Members which closed on 25 July 2020. The informative document is applicable to short market surveillance visits used by accreditation bodies or others in order to complement traditional oversight techniques. The purpose of the document is to provide suggestions about how short market surveillance visits might be used by accreditation bodies or others in order to complement traditional oversight techniques. In the context of accreditation, this is consistent with Clauses 3.24 and 7.9.5 of ISO/IEC 17011:2017.</p>
<p><b>ILAC Documents</b> <b>ILAC G3:08/2020</b> Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors Used by Accreditation Bodies</p>	<p>These guidelines have been prepared to assist accreditation bodies to set up training courses that are in line with international practice and which will enable them to generate the lead assessors and technical assessors that they need.</p>
<p>ILAC P14:09/2020 ILAC Policy for Measurement Uncertainty in Calibration</p>	<p>This document sets out the requirements and guidelines for the estimation and statement of uncertainty in calibration. This latest revision reflects the 2017 versions of ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025. The policy continues to be based on the Guide to Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) and retains the common understanding of the term CMC from the joint declaration issued by the BIPM and ILAC.</p> <p>The implementation date for this most recent version of ILAC P14 is March 2021.</p>
<p><b>IAF ID 1:2020</b> IAF Informative Document for QMS and EMS Scopes of Accreditation</p>	<p>(Issue 3, Issued 06 August 2020, application from 06 August 2020)</p> <p>This document is applicable for QMS and EMS management systems certification and is intended to facilitate the consistent application of Clause 7.1.2 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and Clause 7.2.1 of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 by Accreditation Bodies.</p>
<p><b>IAF ID 4:2020</b> <u>Market Surveillance Visits to Certified Organizations</u></p>	<p>(Issue 2, Issued 06 August 2020, application from 06 August 2020)</p> <p>This document is intended to provide suggestions about how short market surveillance visits might be used by accreditation bodies or others in order to complement traditional oversight techniques</p>
<p><b>SADCA Documents</b> <b>A001-07</b> - SADCA Bylaws</p>	<p>Issue no.7</p> <p>This document has been prepared by SADCA Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly.</p> <p>Issue and application date: 11 September 2020</p>
<p><b>A007-03</b> - SADCA EXCO Terms of Reference</p>	<p>Issue no.3</p> <p>This document has been prepared by SADCA Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly.</p> <p>Issue and application date: 11 September 2020</p>



### SADCAS Documents

#### SADCAS AD 01: SADCAS Contact Details for Communicating with Clients

Issue 7 published on 16 November 2020

The document advises SADCAS stakeholders on whom to contact regarding SADCAS services, accreditation and training on accreditation related matters was updated to take into account developments in staffing issues at SADCAS.

#### SADCAS TG 03: Area of Accreditation

Issue 10 published on 13 August 2020

The document was revised to include **Parasitology** scope (Helminthology & Protozoology) under the Veterinary Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (VLAS).

## DIARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
23 November 2020	Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual
25 November 2020	Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual
	Virtual	Virtual
25 November 2020	Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual
	Virtual	Virtual
25 November 2020	Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual
27 November 2020	Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual
4/8 December 2020	APAC Training on Remote Evaluations	Virtual
10 December 2020	IAF-ILAC- ISO Joint Strategic Group (JSG) Meeting	Virtual
11 December 2020	SADCAS Assessor Conclave	Virtual
15 December 2020	ILAC AIC Web Meeting	Virtual
17 to 18 December 2020	AFRAC Workshop on ILAC P 15 – Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies	Virtual
21 December 2020	AFRAC TC- Certification	Virtual
25 January 2021	25th ISO CASCO TIG Meeting	Virtual
29 January 2021	SADCAS Budget Meeting M12	Gaborone, Botswana
3 February 2021	SADCAS SANAS TPA Meeting	Virtual
17 February 2020	SADCAS FRAC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
18 February 2020	SADCAS HRRC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
18 February 2020	SADCAS Board of Directors	Johannesburg, South Africa
25 February 2020	SADCAS M90 Meeting	Gaborone, Botswana
26 February 2020	SADCAS Management Review	Gaborone, Botswana
March 2021	16th SADCAS AGM	TBA
28 – 30 April 2020	ISO TC212 WG1 Meeting	Sydney, Australia.

**SADCAS**

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



SADCAS OFFICES WILL  
BE CLOSED FROM  
**FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2020**  
AND WILL RE-OPEN ON  
**WEDNESDAY, 6 JANUARY 2021**

**SADCAS MANAGEMENT AND  
STAFF WISH YOU A MERRY XMAS  
AND A PROSPEROUS 2021**

Take care and keep safe !!!

