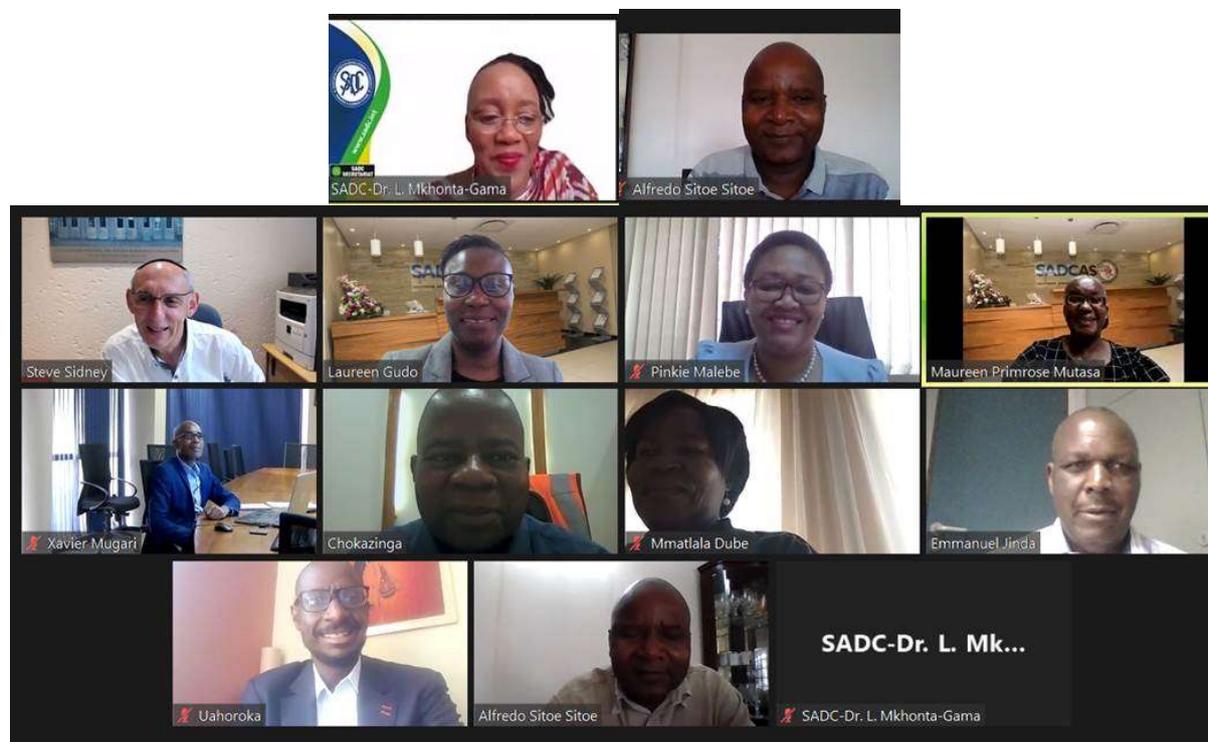


## SADCAS PUBLISHES 2022 TO 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) has published its 4<sup>th</sup> strategic plan. The strategic plan covers the period beginning 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027. The framework for the 4<sup>th</sup> SADCAS strategic plan was developed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Board strategic planning session which was held virtually from 30 September to 1 October 2021 and attended by all Board members and Management.



Board and Management during the 5<sup>th</sup> strategic planning session

With a positive outlook the plan contains nine (9) sections:

- **Section 1** - Contains an introduction to the strategic plan which gives an overview of the achievements of the 4 years of the 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic plan; and outlines the purpose of the document and the contents of the strategic plan.
- **Section 2** - Provides the SADCAS profile, mandate, mission, objectives, vision, core values – added an additional value of “excellence”, value proposition, tagline and governance and organization of SADCAS, services and regional and internal connections.
- **Section 3** - Reviews the progress (general and financial performance) made during the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 years of the 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic plan period of 2017 – 2022 and outlines challenges faced and lessons learnt.
- **Section 4** contains an analysis of SADCAS strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- **Section 5** outlines the SADCAS 9 key strategic objectives, key operational initiatives and the key assumptions.
- **Section 6** is the 5-year indicative budget and covers resource requirements
  - **Human** - A total of 10 additional staff will be recruited during the strategic plan period to support the anticipated growth in business thus bringing the total staff complement to 24.
  - **Capital** – Mainly furniture and IT equipment for new staff as well as replacements for existing staff.
  - **Funding** – An operational budget deficit for the 5 year period amounting to BWP 22,5 million (US\$1.96 million) is anticipated and of which SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS will be expected to contribute towards SADCAS sustainability over the five years. Break even on operational costs is expected to be achieved in the final year of the strategic period after which government will be expected to contribute towards specific budget line items such as regional, continental and international participation and development of new accreditation schemes etc.
- **Section 7** gives an indication of the risks associated with activities and the mitigation measures.
- **Section 8** covers strategy implementation.
- **Section 9** outlines the strategy monitoring and evaluation process.

This 4<sup>th</sup> SADCAS strategic plan which was approved at the 72<sup>nd</sup> SADCAS Board meeting held on 18 November 2021, draws on the lessons learnt and successes so far to endorse further efforts that are needed to take SADCAS to the next phase of service excellence and growth. It reflects the company's continuous improvement philosophy designed to ensure that SADCAS continually operates as a sustainable, dynamic and customer focused organization. The plan supports the SADC industrialization thrust and sustainable development in the region, facilitates trade and regional integration and enhances human capital development and competence.

SADCAS is 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 with the primary purpose of ensuring that conformity assessment service providers operating in those SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to an oversight by an authoritative body. SADCAS services the accreditation needs of 14 SADC MS namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe. SADCAS is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the Botswana Companies Act CAP: 42:01. SADCAS is a subsidiary Institution of SADC and its Offices are situated at Gaborone, Botswana. SADCAS offers accreditation services and training on accreditation related activities. SADCAS core business is accreditation services whilst training services are designed to build capacity on conformity assessment service providers thus create a clientele base for SADCAS. SADCAS currently offers the following accreditation schemes: Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS); Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS); Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS); Veterinary Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (VLAS); Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS); Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS); Management Systems Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS - MS); Product Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS – Prod); and Personnel Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS -Pers).

SADCAS is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year of operation and accreditations continue to grow in terms of field and scope of accreditation, sectorial coverage and also in terms of geographical diversity having accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States and 2 non-SADC Countries. By 30 October 2021, SADCAS had issued 218 accreditation certificates to 176 accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States. At the same time, SADCAS had cumulatively conducted 217 training courses in 13 SADC Member States as part of its efforts to develop capacity of conformity assessment bodies for accreditation. A total of 76 accreditation applications from 11 SADC Member States were at various stages of processing. Over the years, operational income has been increasing whilst generally dependency on government funding has been reducing from 100% as at 2009 to 33% as at 31 March 2021.

Six (6) out of the eight (8) accreditation schemes offered by SADCAS are internationally recognized. This means that the certificates issued by SADCAS accredited calibration/testing/veterinary/medical laboratories, and certification and inspection bodies are recognized in 103 countries 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 103 foreign markets – A truly global reach.

Over the years, SADCAS the first multi economy accreditation body in the world has proved to be a viable, cost effective and sustainable model which optimizes limited financial and human resources. A number of other regions in the world such as the Gulf region, Economic Community of West African States (UEMOA), Caribbean Islands etc. have benchmarked on the "home grown" SADCAS model, a concept developed by a group of experts from the SADC region. By assuring technical competence, SADCAS is playing an important role in facilitating regional integration and in the protection of health, safety and the environment thus contribute towards the achievement of the SADC ultimate goal of achieving economic growth, alleviating poverty and enhancing the standard and quality of the life of its people