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GENERAL AND LEADING STORIES

SADCAS MAINTAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF ITS ACCREDITATION SCHEMES



SADCAS signatory status in the African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) has been maintained in the already internationally recognized accreditation schemes namely:

Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) to ISO/IEC 17025:2017;	Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) to ISO/IEC 17025:2017;	Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) to ISO 15189:2012; and	Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS) to ISO/IEC 17020:2012.
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The decision was reached at on 25 September 2019 during the AFRAC MRA Council meeting held in Abidjan, Cote. At the same time SADCAS extended its 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). The MRA Council also noted that SADCAS had successfully transitioned to ISO/IEC 17011:2017. The next re-evaluation will be a full evaluation, 4 years from the last day of the last evaluation, i.e. 1 June 2023.

By virtue of this recognition by AFRAC, SADCAS has maintained its international recognition by the International laboratories Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) following the achievement by AFRAC, of signatory status in the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on 22 May 2018.

SADCAS EXTENDS SIGNATORY STATUS TO IAF MLA

SADCAS extended its international recognition in the AFRAC MRA to the Main Scope Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1,) Sub-scope Quality Management Systems (ISO/IEC 17021-3), QMS (ISO 9001:2015). This Decision was reached by the AFRAC MRA Council on 25 September 2019 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Following the AFRAC MRA Council decision, an application was submitted for recognition under the International Accreditation Forum Multi Lateral Arrangement (IAF MLA) with a supporting letter from AFRAC. After consideration of the application, SADCAS was advised on 13 November 2019 that the SADCAS application for IAF MLA recognition was approved by the IAF Chair on the 9th of November 2019. The signed certificate was received on 13 November 2019 following which the IAF MLA status was updated on the SADCAS page in the Members & Signatories area of the IAF website, as well as in the IAF MLA MC_17 report, which is available under the 'IAF MLA' button on the toolbar at the top of the IAF home page. The formal IAF MLA certificate handover will be done during the 2020 General Assembly.

The IAF is the world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programmes of conformity assessment. Its primary function is to develop a single worldwide program of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon. Accreditation assures users of the competence and impartiality of the body accredited.



SADCAS ACCREDITS IN COTE D'IVOIRE

Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC – Côte d'Ivoire is the first Medical Laboratory to be accredited in French by SADCAS. It is the 38th Medical Laboratory and the 1st in Côte d'Ivoire to be accredited under the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme. The Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC – Côte d'Ivoire has been accredited in five (5) scopes: Molecular Biology, Serology, Haematology, Biochemistry and Immunology in accordance with ISO 15189:2012.

Through this accreditation, the Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC – Côte d'Ivoire based in Chu de Treichville, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire has been granted the unique accreditation number: MED 038; indicating that the Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC – Côte d'Ivoire is now a SADCAS accredited medical laboratory. The accreditation certificate which was issued on 18 September 2019 is valid for 5 years until 17 September 2024.

The initial assessment of Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC – Côte d'Ivoire was undertaken by a team of 3 assessors and 2 Technical Experts over 2 days from 20 to 21 June 2019. SADCAS congratulates Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC – Côte d'Ivoire on this significant achievement and welcomes Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC – Côte d'Ivoire to the family of SADCAS accredited facilities.

The Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC was accredited under a cooperation agreement between SADCAS and the West African Accreditation System (SOAC) which was signed in October 2018. Through the Agreement SOAC mandated SADCAS to process the accreditation application of Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC. The agreement was entered into taking into consideration the Côte d'Ivoire Law N°2013-866, Article 31, which requires that all national conformity assessment bodies are required to be accredited by SOAC or any structure mandated by the latter.

Accreditation of Medical Laboratories is a mark of quality and is objective proof that a medical laboratory is competent, safe, efficient, reliable and patient focused. SADCAS looks forward to accrediting more Medical Laboratories in French.

SADCAS ACCREDITS FIRST 3 LABORATORIES TO ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Following the publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 in November 2017, SADCAS started conducting assessments in accordance to the new standard from 01 December 2019. As at 31 October 2019, SADCAS had conducted 47 assessments to the new standard for both new applicant testing laboratories and those going through transition from the old standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. SADCAS has since accredited its first 3 facilities to the new standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

The trail blazer is none other than Bureau Veritas Mozambique, Vale Moatize Onsite Laboratory. This laboratory is the 3rd of the four (4) Bureau Veritas Mozambique Laboratories accredited by SADCAS and the first of all SADCAS accredited Laboratories to be accredited to the new ISO/IEC 17025. Bureau Veritas Mozambique, Vale Moatize Onsite Laboratory has been accredited in the scope; Chemical Analysis of Coal. The laboratory is situated at Vila Carbomica Casa 20 – Moatize, Tete, Mozambique. The laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation number TEST-5 0041 for the following Coal tests; Ash content, Volatile Matter, Calorific Value, Moisture in the Analysis Sample, Total Sulfur, Phosphorous, Total Moisture and General Sample Preparation.

Intertek Testing Services (Pty) Mozambique – Maputo Laboratory was the second to be accredited in the scope; Chemical Analysis of Petroleum Products. The accreditation covers the testing laboratory located at Rua dos Combustiveis Nr 11.115, Complexo Portario da Matola, Lingamo, Matola, Mozambique. The laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation number TEST-5 0042 for the following tests; Density, Flashpoint and Distillation using ASTM methods.

The third to be accredited to the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) Laboratory in Dodoma Tanzania. This is a government Laboratory which is part of the Geological Survey of Tanzania in the Ministry of Minerals. The Laboratory is mandated to undertake chemical, mineralogical, petrological analyses of mineral, soil, rock and water samples. It also provides services on environmental studies and mineral beneficiation tests. The GST has been accredited in the scope of Chemical Analysis for determination of Gold in geological samples and has been granted a unique accreditation number TEST-5 0043. The Laboratory plans to extend its scope of accreditation to cover more tests.

SADCAS congratulates the new laboratories on this significant achievement and welcomes them to its family of accredited laboratories.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIONS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 10TH AFRAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 10th AFRAC General Assembly was held at the Novotel Hotel, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on Friday 27 November 2019. The meeting was hosted by the West African Accreditation System (SOAC). SADCAS was represented at the meetings by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the Technical Manager and Mr Xavier Mugari Quality Manager.

A number of meetings, a strategic planning workshop and a training workshop were held before and during the week as follows:

- Executive Committee Strategic Planning Workshop held from 19 to 21 September 2019;
- MRA Documents Working Group, Evaluators Working Group, Calibration and Testing Technical Committee Working Groups meetings held on Monday 23 September 2019;
- Inspections Technical Committee Working Group; Technical Committee and MRA Committee meetings held on Tuesday 24 September 2019;
- Marketing and Communications Committee and MRA Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2019;
- Executive Committee meeting held all day on Thursday 26 September 2019;
- Training Workshop on ILAC/IAF A3 for Accreditation Bodies on 25 September 2019; and
- AFRAC General Assembly (GA) held on Friday 27 September 2019.

The 10th AFRAC General Assembly meeting was officially opened by Honourable Souleymane Diarrassouba the Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion for Cote d'Ivoire at a ceremony held on Monday 23 September 2019 and attended by over 60 delegates from African countries mainly from 9 accreditation bodies, regional trading blocs such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and ECOWAS Agency for Quality (ECOWAQ) that supports implementation of ECOWAS Quality Policy through West Africa Quality System Program (WAQSP), stakeholders from Russia and accreditation cooperation partners and stakeholders such as the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC), SADC Accreditation Cooperation (SADCA), ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (ECORAS) and ASCOLAB, the Laboratory Association for DRC.



Opening ceremony in Session

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AFRAC GA pose for a Photo with the Honourable Souleymane Diarrassouba after the opening ceremony

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion for Cote d'Ivoire, Hon. Souleymane Diarrassouba appreciated all partners who were involved in the setting up of accreditation infrastructure in Africa, thereby improving the competitiveness of products. The Chair of AFRAC, Mr. Ron Josias outlined the role of AFRAC in facilitating capacity building in accreditation across the continent with the goal of sustaining an internationally acceptable mutual recognition arrangement. He highlighted the role of AFRAC in promoting free trade in global economy and the link with African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which is meant to create a tariff-free continent that can grow local businesses, boost intra-African trade, support industrialization and create jobs. He outlined the importance of international recognition of AFRAC putting it on the same level with other global associations. He stated that AFRAC was one of the four pillars of the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) established by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to support intra-African trade, improve the competitiveness of African goods and services and to facilitate health and safety of the public and the environment. The other members of PAQI include the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), the African Electro technical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO). The AFRAC Chairperson concluded his presentation by outlining the AFRAC strategic plan and AFRAC's contribution in international fora.



AFRAC Chair Mr Ron Josias and AFRAC Vice Chair Mrs Maureen Mutasa both pictured with Hon. Souleymane Diarrassouba just after the opening ceremony

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During the opening ceremony, the President of SOAC specifically thanked Mrs M P Mutasa for her valuable advice during the setting up of SOAC and also mentioned the successful partnership between SOAC and TUNAC. He reiterated the importance of making accreditation affordable and stated that priority should be given to ISO 15189 as it is key for human life and protection of population. The Chair of the ECORAS, Mr Celestine Okanya thanked the Minister of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion for supporting accreditation activities. He presented the accreditation bodies under the (ECORAS) region, namely SOAC, Ghana National Accreditation System (GhaNAS) and Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NiNAS). He highlighted the challenges in accreditation and appealed to Governments to support accreditation for sustainability and commended Cote d'Ivoire for enacting a law that makes accreditation mandatory.

This was followed by a series of AFRAC Committees, Council and Working Group meetings and a training workshop on ILAC/IAF A3 for accreditation bodies personnel which was attended by Ms Ranorovelo Technical Manager and Mr Mugari Quality Manager all of which were held over 4 days. Prior to these meetings the AFRAC Executive Committee held a strategic workshop during which the results of the survey on the 2022 to 2026 AFRAC Strategic Plan was held. The output of the strategic workshop will be collated and draft circulated initially to the Executive Committee for comment then to the AFRAC members for comment. It is intended that the draft Strategic plan will be presented at the 11th AFRAC GA for approval. The 7 days of meetings and workshops culminated with the 10th General Assembly meeting held on Friday 27 September 2019.

A total of 28 resolutions were passed during the 10th AFRAC General Assembly. Some of the key resolutions passed were as follows:

- Congratulated KENAS, ENAO, SADCAS, SANAS and EGAC for successful transition to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 for which AFRAC adopted a 2 year transition period. By the time of the GA all AFRAC arrangement members except MAURITAS had transitioned. However, MAURITAS subsequently successfully transitioned within the timeline set well ahead of the 3 year transition deadline set and agreed at IAF and ILAC level of December 2020.
- Congratulated KENAS, ENAO and SADCAS for maintaining signatory status in the previously recognized accreditation schemes.
- Congratulating ENAO and SADCAS for extending signatory status to inspection for the former and management systems Main Scope ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17021-3 Sub-scope Quality Management Systems (ISO 9001) for the latter.
- Approved the following AFRAC Committees 2020 workplans as presented:
 - EXCO Workplan;
 - Technical Committee Workplan;
 - Marketing and Communication Committee Workplan; and
 - MRA Committee Workplan.
- Approved the 2020 budget as presented.
- Agreed that the 2020 AFRAC meetings registration fees remain unchanged at USD 100 for the mid-term meetings; and USD 300 for the General Assembly.
- Approved P011-03 AFRAC process and procedures for selection, qualification and monitoring of evaluators and P008-02 Nomination Criteria for Office Bearers.

Following the expiration of the terms of office of the AFRAC office bearers' elections were held with the following appointments being made:

- Unanimously re-elected Mr Mpho Phaloane (SANAS) as AFRAC Technical Committee Chair, for a new term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
- SANAS was re-elected as the Secretariat, for a new term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.

The GA expressed their gratitude to:

- Eng. Mahmoud Eltayeb for his excellent facilitation of the IAF/ILAC A3 workshop presented on 26/09/2019; and
- Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo for her hard work and commitment as Technical Committee Member and wished her well in her upcoming retirement.
- PTB-Germany for its continued financial support of AFRAC since AFRAC's inception and looks forward to continued support. In their presentation during the GA PTB Germany requested AFRAC members to timely submit requests for funding noting that PTB is increasingly requiring that any proposals for funding be on a shared costs basis to ensure sustainability. PTB Germany also encouraged AFRAC members to submit success stories for use in promoting accreditation so as to enhance AFRAC's visibility amongst stakeholders.



AFRAC HOLDS TRAINING WORKSHOP ON IAF ILAC A3

A workshop on IAF/ILAC A3 was held during the 10th AFRAC General Assembly hosted by Système Ouest Africain d'Accréditation (SOAC) from 19 – 27 September 2019 in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire. The main objective of the workshop which was very ably facilitated by Eng. Mahmoud Eltayeb was to train participants on preparation of self-evaluation reports in accordance with IAF/ILAC A3. The Facilitator presented a general overview of the following Joint IAF/ILAC A Series documents used in the evaluation of regions and unaffiliated bodies during the workshop:

- **IAF/ILAC- A1:01/2018** - This document provides ILAC and IAF with requirements or criteria and procedures for evaluating Regional Groups for the purpose of recognition.
- **IAF/ILAC- A2: 01/2018** - This document provides ILAC and IAF requirements and a procedure for evaluating single Accreditation Bodies for the purpose of qualifying them to sign the applicable Arrangements
- **IAF/ILAC - A6:01/2018** - The scope of this document is to describe the procedures to be followed in the development, approval and maintenance of IAF/ILAC A series documents.

The IAF/ILAC – A3: Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 was presented in greater detail. The Facilitator outlined the 3 main sections of the document: Part 1 which is the introduction and includes the purpose of the document in the peer evaluation process, Part 2 which is the Report Template and Part 3 which provides a description of the steps of the evaluation reporting and the classification of findings. The reporting template is used by ILAC and IAF and by Regional Groups (e.g. AFRAC) to assist the evaluation team in providing a consistent reporting mechanism for the AB under evaluation and the decision-making group. The purpose of IAF/ILAC- A3 was presented as follows:

- To allow Accreditation Bodies under evaluation to present information, facts and figures about its performance.
- To provide a framework for the evaluation team to present confirmation of this information within the evaluation report.
- To provide a complete description and full picture of the operations of the Accreditation Body.

The Facilitator noted that facts and results of the implementation of policies should be reported, supported by evidence gathered by the evaluation team. He also highlighted the common mistakes encountered during the review of self-evaluation reports and stated the importance of providing adequate detail pertaining to accreditation body's activities on each section of IAF ILAC A3. The participants were split into groups and were tasked to complete assigned sections of the IAF ILAC A3 form. This was followed by presentations from each group.

In conclusion, the Facilitator noted that the target audience of the report was the Decision-Making Group hence the text shall be a comprehensive narrative. If references are made to the AB's documents or procedures, a sufficient description should be provided.

The workshop served as an insight and a basis for preparing for peer evaluation. It gave the participants an opportunity to learn from experienced Peer Evaluators who attended the workshop and adopt best practices from the Facilitator. After the workshop, participants thanked the Facilitator for a practical presentation on how to prepare a self-evaluation report.



SADCAS CEO REPRESENTS AFRAC AND SADCA AT 7TH ARAC GA

The annual meetings of the Arab Cooperation in Accreditation (ARAC) were held at the Residence Hotel in Tunis, Tunisia from 8 to 12 September 2019. The 7th General Assembly was held on the last day of meetings on 12 September 2019. Mrs Mutasa the SADCAS CEO attended the meetings in her dual capacity as the Vice Chair of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and Chair of SADC Accreditation Cooperation (SADCA). Her attendance costs were met by PTB Germany under the PTB/SADC SQAM Support Project on Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Trade and Enhancement, Competitiveness and Consumer Protection in SADC.

The meetings started with an opening ceremony which was attended by over 72 delegates amongst whom were ARAC members, invited guests from AFRAC, SADCA, cooperating partner UNIDO, Chair of the Association of industry and Mining in Tunisia, representatives of regional standardization organizations etc.



The opening ceremony was graced by the Honourable Slim Feriani, The Tunisian Minister of Industry and SMEs. The General Assembly started off 45 minutes late with welcome remarks by Mr Yassine Wali the Director General of TUNAC who outlined the achievements of TUNAC and thanked UNIDO and SIDA for the support afforded towards the development of ARAC and expressed his hope that the meetings would come up with solutions to the regional challenges. This was followed by remarks by the Chair of ARAC who welcomed delegates and also expressed gratitude to UNIDO and SIDA for support to ARAC over the years. She then informed the General Assembly meeting about the current membership of ARAC which comprises of 17 Accreditation bodies from Arab countries, 4 of which have signed the ARAC Multilateral Arrangement (MLA) and the training workshops for accreditation bodies and peer evaluators held during the course of the week of meetings. She then articulated the importance of the ARAC MLA to the region. In her remarks the representative of UNIDO, Dr Dorsaf Zangar conveyed the wishes of UNIDO for a successful 7th ARAC General Assembly. She highlighted UNIDO's efforts in pushing UN strategic development goal SD#9 on Industry Innovation and Infrastructure with its partners throughout the world and informed the meeting about the critical discussions on the base of the ARAC Secretariat underway and also about the technical support that will be provided by UNIDO to 5 ARAC members as they work towards international recognition. She then thanked the Chair of ARAC and her team of executives for putting in a lot of work in the development of ARAC. A Representative of the Arab Union, Dr Abhunat hailed the recognition of the ARAC MRA as a key milestone to the Arab Union to boost exports and economic integrity and also thanked SIDA and UNIDO for the technical support afforded to ARAC. He articulated the importance of the MRA in improving Arab intra and inter regional trade and informed the meeting that the Free Trade Area between Arab countries will come into effect soon. This was reiterated by the representative of the Arabic Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) who thanked the Minister for all the resources used to make these meetings a success. The meetings were hosted by TUNAC, a member of ARAC.

In the key note address, Honourable Mr Feriani welcomed delegates and wished them good and comfortable stay in Tunisia. He thanked UNIDO for continued support to ARAC and the team at TUNAC for organizing the meeting. He informed delegates that Tunisia is behind the goal of enhancing inter and intra-regional trade which he said requires radical change in working towards quality and competitive products. He reaffirmed the importance of ARAC MLA and expressed his country's involvement in ARAC activities. "Industrial sector in Tunisia represents 17% of the economy. Tunisia is the 2nd exporter of car components and aeroplane parts to Europe and is the largest exporter of organic

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Olive Oil for which Tunisia holds the golden medal” he said. He noted that this high level of cooperation between Arab countries is designed to boost trade. “Together we will achieve prosperity” he said, reiterating his country’s commitment to participating in ARAC activities”.

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Mrs Mutasa receiving a Plaque of appreciation from the ARAC Chair with Honourable Slim Feriani looking on

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The opening ceremony ended with a presentation by the ARAC Chair of plaques of appreciation to Honourable Minister and other invited guests including Mrs Mutasa.

On the side-lines of the meetings, a number of meetings were held with ARAC members as well as aspiring members from Africa to try and convince them to be members of AFRAC.

The meetings which were hosted by TUNAC were well organized. A dinner was hosted by TUNAC at one of the top restaurants in Tunis located in the tourism hub of Tunis.

Attendance to the 7th ARAC General assembly was a good opportunity for networking and sharing experiences and strengthening relationships. The meetings provided an invaluable opportunity to enhance collaborations and strengthen the relationship amongst AFRAC, ARAC and SADCA and also the developing relationship between Africa and the Arab region.

Many thanks to PTB Germany for sponsoring the attendance of Mrs Mutasa to these meetings.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019 ILAC/IAF ANNUAL MEETINGS



The ILAC and IAF annual meetings were held in Frankfurt from 21 to 30 October 2019. SADCAS was represented at these meetings by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo, the Technical Manager and Mrs Pinkie Malebe Scheme Co-ordinator. This was the first time that SADCAS had 3 representatives participating at the ILAC/IAF meetings. The meetings were organized by Ms Chantel Beaupre, Professional Congress Organizer Say Something Communications Inc, an events management Company contracted by ILAC and IAF. Over 400 delegates attended the Frankfurt meetings.

During the week of the meetings, SADCAS representatives participated in a number of IAF and ILAC Working Group and Committee meetings and in the case of Mrs Mutasa, the IAF Executive Committee meetings representing AFRAC and SADCA.

2019-10-21	08:30 - 17:30 hours	IAF WG Management System Certification (ISO/IEC 17021)
	13:30 - 17:30 hours	IAF TF Competence of AB Assessors & Experts
2019-10-22	08:30 - 17:30 hours	IAF WG Food (ISO 22000)
	08:30 - 12:30 hours	IAF WG Product Certification (ISO/IEC 17065)
	13:30 - 17:30 hours	IAF TF Principles for determining duration of AB assessments
2019-10-23	08:30 - 12:00 hours	ILAC AIC WG 6 ISO 15189
	08:30 - 17:00 hours	IAF Technical Committee (TC) ILAC IC WG6 – Revision of ILAC P15
2019-10-24	08:30 - 12:30 hours	IAF Technical Committee (TC)
	08:30 - 18:00 hours	ILAC Accreditation Committee
2019-10-25	08:30 - 17:00 hours	IAF Multilateral Arrangement Committee (MLAC) ILAC Inspection Committee
	08:30 - 17:00 hours	IAF Executive Committee (Committee Members Only)
2019-10-26	08:30 - 12:30 hours	ILAC Arrangement Committee
	17:30 - 21:30 hours	Joint IAF ILAC Executive Committees (Committee Members Only)
2019-10-27	08:30 - 17:00 hours	Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)
2019-10-27	17:30 - 21:30 hours	IAF Executive Committee (Committee Members Only)
2019-10-28	08:30 - 12:00 hours	IAF General Assembly
2019-10-28	13:00 - 17:00 hours	ILAC General Assembly
2019-10-28	17:00 - 18:00 hours	ILAC Arrangement Council (Committee Members Only)
2019-10-28	17:30 - 21:30 hours	IAF Executive Committee (Committee Members Only)
2019-10-29	08:30 - 17:00 hours	Joint General Assembly and Signing Ceremony
2019-10-30	08:30 - 12:00 hours	IAF General Assembly
2019-10-30	13:00 - 17:00 hours	ILAC General Assembly

IAF Annual Meetings

- IAF CertSearch database launched.** The platform, currently aggregates data from 68 accreditation bodies that are signatory to the IAF MLA and 815 accredited certification bodies amounting to 700,000 management system certificates. The IAF CertSearch Database can be used to verify and validate an accredited management system certification issued by a Certification Body accredited by an IAF member Accreditation Body. IAF CertSearch provides a single location for all internationally recognized accredited management system certifications. IAF CertSearch is a tool for use in procurement. The IAF CertSearch has already gained significant support from government agencies, industry and from all levels of the accredited network worldwide following its launch. Whilst this is a voluntary database, the IAF CertSearch has received commitments from users.

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- **The IAF Conformity Assessment Body Advisory Committee (CABAC)** comprises representatives from CB associations from all over the world. The role of CABAC is to advise and support IAF objectives. Whilst the developed CBs are well organized into associations that are represented at CABAC the same is not true especially for Africa where the only CB association established is in South Africa. Then again, this Association does not participate in CABAC. CABAC is ready to engage other associations so as to ensure geographical coverage and representation at IAF. CABAC is ready to engage with associations from other countries where associations exist. CABAC in their report to the IAF GA encouraged accreditation bodies to develop service standards.
- The drafting of the **IAF Strategic Plan 2020 to 2025** is progressing well following the survey undertaken amongst IAF members and stakeholders and the strategic planning workshop held in Mexico in April during the mid-term meetings when IAF agreed on the mission, vision and values and also on 4 strategic directions and actions to realize the strategic directions. Mrs Mutasa is a member of the IAF Executive Committee tasked with the development of the questionnaire used in undertaking the survey of members which was the input to the strategic workshop of April 2019. As a way forward it was agreed during the Frankfurt meeting that the draft strategic plan would be circulated for 60-day comment followed by 30 - day ballot followed by development of the implementation plan during the Beijing 2020 mid-term meetings.
- **IAF MLA Processes** - SADCAS extended its scope in the AFRAC MRA to the Main scope ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17021-3 sub-scope Quality Management Systems (ISO 9001: 2015). The decision was reached at on 25 September 2019 during the MRA Council meeting held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Following this achievement SADCAS had assumed that admission as an IAF MLA was automatic but only to learn during the Frankfurt meeting that this was not the case. The Frankfurt meeting provided SADCAS with the opportunity to establish the processes to be followed when recognition has been provided at regional level. The process was adequately explained to SADCAS by the IAF MLA-Committee Chair Mr Norman Brunner.
- The IAF General Assembly, endorsed ISO/IEC 17029:2019 as an IAF normative document. **ISO/IEC 17029: Conformity assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies** which was published in October 2019, contains general principles and requirements for the competence, consistent operation and impartiality of bodies performing validation/verification as conformity assessment activities. The document is applicable to validation/verification bodies in any sector, providing confirmation that claims are either plausible with regards to the intended future use (validation) or truthfully stated (verification). Results of other conformity assessment activities (e.g. testing, inspection and certification) are not considered to be subject to validation/verification according to this document. Neither are situations where validation/verification activities are performed as steps within another conformity assessment process. ISO/IEC 17029 can be used as a basis for accreditation by accreditation bodies, peer assessment within peer assessment groups, or other forms of recognition of validation/verification bodies by international or regional organizations, governments, regulatory authorities, scheme owners, industry bodies, companies, clients or consumers.
- **Certification Only Issued Against Normative Documents That Contain Requirements** - The General Assembly resolved that accredited certification shall only be issued against documents/standards that contain requirements.
- Based on the results of a survey undertaken by the IAF TC which showed most CBs and their clients were not **using IAF MD 3:2008 Advanced Surveillance and Recertification Procedures**, the IAF GA resolved to immediately withdraw the document giving the few who may be using it a year within which to phase out the document.
- Transitions
 - **ISO 22301:2019: Business Continuity Management Systems – Requirements** – The IAF General Assembly agreed on a transition timeline of three years from the last day of the month of publication of the revised standard. All ISO 22301:2012 certifications shall expire or be withdrawn at the end of the transition period. Within this transition timeline:
 - ABs shall be ready to carry out transition assessments for ISO 22301:2019 within six months from the last day of the month of publication of the revised standard
 - CABs shall complete the transition with ABs for ISO 22301:2019 within 18 months from the last day of the month of publication of the revised standard.
 - CABs shall cease conducting initial and recertification audits to ISO 22301:2012 18 months from the last day of the month of publication of the revised standard.
 - **ISO 14064-3:2019** - The IAF General Assembly resolved that the transition arrangement for the revision of ISO 14064-3 shall be four years from 30 April 2019. Any Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification engagements commenced after 30 April 2023 shall be performed to ISO 14064-3:2019. Within this transition timeline:
 - ABs shall be ready to carry out ISO 14065 assessments using 14064-3: 2019 for conformity assessment schemes that reference ISO 14064-3 within 18 months from 30 April 2019.
 - Where local legislation/regulation requires accredited validation/verification referencing ISO 14064-3:2006 and has not been amended to reference ISO 14064-3:2019, the use of ISO 14064-3:2006 in accredited validation/verification may be extended.

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- **ISO 14065:202x** – The IAF General Assembly resolved that the transition arrangement for the revision of ISO 14065 shall be three years from the date of publication of ISO 14065:202x. Within this transition timeline:
 - ABs shall be ready to carry out transition assessment against the new version of ISO 14065 within 12 months from the date of publication.
 - All accreditations against the new version of ISO 14065 shall require accreditation to ISO/IEC 17029.
 - Where local legislation/regulation requires accredited validation/verification referencing ISO 14065:2013 and has not been amended to reference the new version of ISO 14065, the use of ISO 14065:2013 in accredited validation/verification may be extended.
- **IAF MLA Sub-Scope extended to**
 - **ISO 45001** under the Main Scope of Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1 to the Sub-Scope ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 as Level 4 Sub-Scope and ISO 45001 as Level 5 Sub-Scope.
 - **ISO/IEC 17029** under the IAF Level 2 Validation and Verification to ISO/IEC 17029 as new IAF MLA Level 3 standard in accordance to IAF PL3 Policies and Procedures for the Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA.
- **Establishment of a Single International Accreditation Organization** - 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 is being established to lead the process of establishing a single international organization for accreditation. A contractor will be engaged and the costs for the project will be shared equally by IAF and ILAC.



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From Left to Right:
 Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo,
 Mrs Maureen Mutasa, Ms
 Fern Chang Kwei and Mrs
 Amina Ahmed Mohamed
 at the IAF GA



Highlights from 2019 ILAC Meetings

- **Product certification/Competency of assessors** - The objective is to have the same interpretation of the standard and to which each Regional Accreditation Cooperation was requested to present what has been done to support the work of TF on AB assessors' competency. It was noted that 2 regional cooperations, APAC has developed Halal – IHAF MRA and organic guideline to ISO/IEC 17065 and ARAC has one AB MLA signatory. In the other cooperations, alignment/revision of existing document related to ISO/IEC 17065 are underway and training of assessors need to be conducted.
- **Joint IAF-OIML** - The mission of OIML is to put in place effective legal metrology infrastructures which can help in facilitating trade, mutual confidence, and in harmonizing the level of consumer protection. To this regard the MOU OIML/IAF/ILAC was updated in 2018 and the OIML Certification system was launched on 1st January 2018. Following the signing of the MOU experts to participate in accreditation and peer assessments were identified. A joint assessment procedure to ISO/IEC 17065 was presented which mentioned about qualifications of assessors but some ABs have specific requirements. To this regard, a change in the approach was noted for consideration of assessors.
 - Competence criteria to qualification based approach changed to competence based approach.
 - Competency profile – Chart to be in place: general competence (Certification), specific competence (TF worked with) example QMS/product/personnel, etc.
 - Methodology to develop competence criteria to be in place.
 - Experts Panel to put in place as there is a need to have the Product Certification Panel that was proposed to be set up within one year and for which a priority was set to have the competency profile for the main scope.
 - Once the experts panel is in place, it was proposed to arrange a workshop for ABs and peer evaluators for implementation.
- **Principles for determining duration of AB assessments** - A draft document IAF ID X - Principles for determining Duration of AB Assessments (CB offices) [Management System, Product, Personnel] was developed and had been circulated for comments. Comments received were reviewed during the meeting and incorporated in the document where necessary. It is expected that the document will be finalized soon as it helps in the understanding and harmonization of duration of assessments for CBs.
- **Revision of ILAC P 15 Application of ISO/IEC 17020 for the accreditation of inspection bodies** - ILAC P15 was revised by ILAC WG6 and had been circulated to members for comments. The amendments to ILAC P15 were mainly changes in Annexes 1 and 2, examples included, additional guidance, editing (rewording). Comments received were reviewed during the meeting and incorporated in the document where necessary following which the draft document will be updated and this task is expected to be finalized by December 2019.

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ISO/CASCO, ILAC chair and IC chair were invited to the WG meeting to discuss the issue regarding the clarification from CASCO and the application guidance A.1a in ILAC P15. According to the WG there is no contradiction between the requirements in ILAC P15 and the clarification from CASCO. The ISO team participating in the meeting requested a formal statement to this effect. To this regard, the ILAC IC Chair reminded the IC about the resolution passed in New Delhi on how to progress in case there was lack of agreement between guidance in ILAC or IAF documents and ISO CASCO interpretations. The Chair then asked for the IC's approval for the WG to produce the requested statement. It was decided during the ILAC IC meeting to give the WG the task to produce such a statement. If the outcome of the ISO/ILAC/IAF JSG meeting to be held in December 2019 is that no changes to the wording of ILAC P15 are requested, then the IC approved the work done by the WG and the Chair will be able to proceed to ballot. However, if the outcome of the meeting is anything else, the issue will be brought back to the IC for discussion during the next ILAC IC to be held in Beijing in 2020.

- **ISO/IEC 17025:2017: Measurement uncertainty and decision rules associated with sampling** - It was acknowledged that this is a new requirement in the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and when assessing sampling, ABs should consider the 2 following aspects;
 - o A laboratory responsible for sampling may perform the task itself as a stand-alone activity; or subcontract the task as a stand-alone activity; or perform the task as an integral part of the testing activity; and
 - o A laboratory not responsible for sampling will only test samples "as received".
- Discussions also considered the impacts of measurement uncertainty on the overall MU and clarifications expected accreditation requirements which will provide transparency in reporting, including the decision rules when statements of conformity are to be made. To this regard, a position paper will be prepared for comments by members which purpose is to address the issues of the implementation of the MU requirements in ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in relation to sampling and to ensure transparent and consistent application. In particular, situations when the contribution from sampling must be considered in evaluating MU and its impact on results reported and statements of conformity.
- **ILAC P 9 – Policy for participation in proficiency testing** - This document was circulated for 60 days comments and comments received were reviewed during the meeting. Based on the suggested responses, it was noted that this document provides confidence between ABs and assist in harmonizing big differences experienced between CABs, Therefore it was decided to keep ILAC P 9.
- **ILAC P10 - ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results** - This document was circulated for 60 days comments and comments received were reviewed during the meeting. It was noted that
 - o Update is needed due to development in metrological traceability and the accreditation of Reference Material Producers (RMP) including the ILAC MRA for RMP.
 - o The need for metrological traceability is not restricted to activities performed under ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ISO 15189:2012. Many laboratory activities may be performed both under accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17025 which calls for an ILAC policy in order to have harmonized requirements and confidence in measurements no matter the choice of standard to ensure comparability of accredited services.
 - o AB need to develop its own policy to ensure that the CRMs meet the relevant criteria for metrological traceability in ISO 17034.
- A draft revision of ILAC P10 will be prepared.
- **ILAC P14:01/2013 ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration** - This document was circulated for 60 days comments and comments received were reviewed during the meeting. It was noted that the document is useful and about 99% of CMCs follow the practice and around 300 CMCs have their data information in the BIPM. Explanation of definitions of terms used in CIPM MRA was also made. It was agreed to prepare draft revised ILAC P14. However, prior to this any suggestion from BIPM should be clarified and circulated to AIC members for approval.
- **ISO CASCO WG 49 – ISO 17000 Definitions, Vocabulary and Principles** - This document was revised and many definitions applicable in the conformity assessment activities have been reviewed. The final draft international standard (FDIS) ballot is expected by December 2019 and possible publication by March 2020. After the publication, definitions applicable in all relevant standards shall be aligned with ISO 17000.
- **ISO CASCO WG 23 - Common Elements** - The WG reviewed the list of common elements in the standard which includes impartiality, confidentiality, appeals, complaints, competence and management system. The final ballot is expected by December 2019 and possible publication in March 2020.
- **ISO CASCO WG 17034 – Reference Materials** - Position paper between ISO 20387; ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17034 were analyzed following which it was requested that the WG need to present output and investigate practicalities that need to be considered in accreditation (assessor competence, assessment activities, scopes of accreditation, etc.). The Position paper shall also discuss how test activities shall be addressed during assessment and in scopes of accreditation.
- **ILAC-G17:2000 Introducing the Concept of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing in Association with the Application of the Standard ISO/IEC 17025** - This document was revised. After circulation of the first draft and sending a questionnaire in April 2019 a second draft was developed and sent for 60 days comments inside the AIC in July. The results of the questionnaire were presented for which 4 respondents recommended withdrawal of ILAC G17 while 9 recommended continuation.
- **ILAC G8:03/2009 Guidelines on the Reporting of Compliance with Specification** - This document was revised. ILAC G8 was

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prepared for ballot after the meeting in April 2019 and the document was approved by most of the members with only 2 abstentions. It was noted that members in the ILAC LC had supported the development of this unique document. The document was published in September 2019.

- **ILAC G18:04/2010 Guideline for the formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories** - The revision of this document is coordinated with the WG 17034 and 17043 but WG 15189 was also requested to be involved. It was noted that the work has not progressed as expected and a proposal to split the work in two parts was presented to the AIC. A way forward was presented during the meeting following which the WG was tasked to continue the work revising G18 as a guide for scopes of accreditation with laboratories.
- **ILAC P4 – Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Policy and Management and ILAC P5 – ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations** - The ballot processes were completed following which both documents were published in May 2019 and were effective upon publication.
- **ILAC P8 – ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Supplementary Requirements for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies** - This document was published in March 2019 with a one-year implementation date.
- **ILAC R6 – Structure of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and Procedure for Expansion of the Scope of the ILAC Arrangement** was also reviewed in conjunction with ILAC P4 and ILAC P5. During the comment phase, a number of comments regarding sampling were submitted. It was decided that further discussion of the sampling comments was needed within the ARC, but this should not prevent ILAC R6 from moving to 30-day ballot for approval. The revised ILAC R6 was published in May 2019 and was also effective upon publication. The ARC agreed that sampling would be discussed in a future revision of R6.
- **ILAC P XX – ILAC Policy for cooperation between ILAC Arrangement Signatories when conducting assessments outside its own economy** - This document treat Policy on co-operations among Accreditation Bodies. The version 4 of the draft document will be circulated for 30 days comments by ILAC members by December 2019. It was noted that this document is currently with the ILAC EXCO and comments related to legal opinion were also submitted to ILAC EXCO.
- **WG on MRA Users** - Members were made aware that information from the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) committee meeting(s) and TBT meeting minutes could be found on its website. It was also reported that recent TBT meetings highlighted lack of acceptance of conformity assessment activities for dairy products, tequila and toy safety. Members were also made aware that the TBT have plans to develop guidance on conformity assessment activities.
- **Frequent Asks Questions** - Procedure for handling FAQ was presented and the issue concerning the voting rights was raised with the executive. As the decision taken was to bring the issue up as part of the work to review the committee structure of ILAC, the ILAC IC continue to review the questions received and responses were debated during the IC meeting and decision was taken when 2/3 majority of participants accept.



The SADCAS travel budget is still rather limited to support attendance to international (IAF/ILAC) meetings. Thanks to the support provided by IAF and ILAC JDSC which complemented the SADCAS budget thus enabling 3 SADCAS delegates to attend the 2019 IAF ILAC annual meetings.

The 2019 ILAC/IAF annual meetings were once again a good opportunity for networking, sharing experiences and keeping up to date with accreditation developments worldwide. The meetings provided an invaluable opportunity to enhance collaborations and strengthen the credibility of accreditations worldwide. Many thanks to the IAF for sponsoring SADCAS Chief Executive Officer's attendance to these very important meetings. The 2020 ILAC/IAF mid-term meetings will be held in Beijing, China in April 2020 whilst the 2020 Annual meetings will be held in Montreal, Canada in October 2020.



IAF ILAC Joint GA in session

SADCAS PARTICIPATES IN THE ILAC BIOBANKING WORKSHOP

SADCAS, represented by the Scheme Coordinator for Testing Laboratories and Proficiency testing Accreditation Schemes, Mrs Pinkie Malebe participated in the ILAC AIC Workshop for Accreditation of Biobanking Facilities held on 22 October 2019 at Intercontinental Hotel in Frankfurt, Germany.

Biobanking refers to the process by which samples of bodily fluid or tissue are collected for research use to improve our understanding of health and disease, while Biobanks are types of biorepository that store biological samples (usually human) for use in research and personalized medicine. Biobanks are involved in the Collection, conservation

and supply of biodiversity in the fields of Microorganisms, living and immortalized cell cultures, plant viruses and diagnostic kits.

The workshop was for Accreditation Bodies' personnel and other ILAC stakeholders interested in the development of accreditation in the field of Biobanking. The workshop provided an overview of ISO 20387: Biotechnology - Biobanking - General Requirements for Biobanking and the activities of ISO/TC 276: Biotechnology. Accreditation Bodies that are offering accreditation to Biobanking Services shared experiences on establishing accreditation schemes and accreditation to ISO 20387. Conformity Assessment Bodies shared experiences on the implementation of ISO 20387 standard.



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The Convener of the ILAC AIC Working Group for Reference Materials, Ms Lorraine Turner from UKAS gave an overview of the activities of the Working Group. This includes the work of the ISO/TC 276 whose terms of reference is to look at this topic to determine the eligibility and the approach to establishing accreditation. The working group established that ISO 20387:

- contains the key elements of an accreditation programme;
- can be considered as conformity assessment i.e. Reference Material Production;
- has technical competence, organisational integrity and material/data assurance needs to be attested to; and
- has strong links to existing accredited activities i.e. testing (ISO/IEC 17025), medical laboratory testing (ISO 15189), reference material production (ISO 17034).

Based on that, ILAC supports the use of ISO 20387 as the criteria for accreditation of Biobanks. ISO/TC 276 was set up to address unmet standardization needs and gaps related to Biotechnology and to coordinate work with other technical committees to avoid conflicts and/or duplication with existing international, national or regional statutory or regulatory requirements or guidelines. Key considerations for TC 276 are requirements for acquisition, collection, preparation, preservation, testing, storage, distribution, including competence of assessment team in evaluating the processes.

TC 276 has 5 Working Groups (WG) that develop work in Biotechnology areas being:

- WG 1 for Terminology;
- WG 2 for Biobank/Bioresources;
- WG 3 for Analytical methods;
- WG 4 for Bioprocessing; and
- WG 5 for Data Processing and Integration.

Institutions that are implementing ISO 20387 presented papers on improving the quality of Biobanking. Some shared on the experiences, benefits of accreditation and challenges that included shortage of samples, quality of samples and related data, fragmentation of research, redundancy, ethical and legal issues and sustainability of infrastructures.

The workshop ended with break-away sessions where groups discussed and reported on the following critical areas :

- Competence requirements for the assessment team – what is needed?
- Scopes of accreditation for biobanking – what information is needed
- Practical elements of the assessment – what activities need to be assessed

The Working Group and the ISO/TC 276 will report on the progress made at the ILAC/IAF mid-term meetings in Beijing on 30 March 2020. The workshop was very informative and gave insight on the developments in other areas of accreditation for SADCAS to consider in future plans.

A MULTI-ECONOMY ACCREDITATION BODY



IAF CERTSEARCH



What is the IAF CertSearch?

IAF CertSearch is an exclusive global database for accredited management system certifications which aggregates data from 68 accreditation bodies that are signatory to the IAF Multilateral Arrangement and 815 accredited certification bodies amounting to 700,000 management system certificates. The database which was launched in the run up to 2019 World Accreditation Day houses and provides an authoritative source for validating accredited certifications issued all over the world. The program was championed by the IAF's Database Management Committee (DMC) represented by Accreditation Bodies, Certification Bodies and Industry based on the following principles agreed by the IAF:

- Accurate data;
- Self-funding;
- Governance and operational structure;
- Only necessary information;
- Not selling data; and
- Data security.

The DMC then managed an independent third-party tender process. In October 2017 at the IAF General Assembly, there was a majority vote in favor of the development of a global database. A Limited Liability Company (LLC) was formed shortly after to oversee the operations and a formal agreement was formed with the selected contractor, Quality Trade, in May 2018 to develop and operate the database. The database project went through several successful stage approvals by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its members and has been officially branded IAF CertSearch. IAF CertSearch is accessed through the domain <https://www.iafcertsearch.org/>

What is the Value of IAF CertSearch?

Those seeking to verify an accredited management system certification issued by a Certification Body accredited by an IAF member Accreditation Body are currently limited with validation solutions. In some cases, it is impossible or impractical to check

the validity of a certificate as there is no central location. The lack of efficient verification options allows for misuse and dilutes the value of accredited certification.

- IAF CertSearch provides a single location for all accredited management system certifications issued by a Certification Body accredited by an IAF member Accreditation Body from all over the world, increasing validating efficiency and decreasing misuse.
- IAF CertSearch raises the profile of internationally recognized accredited certification, increases the visibility for those who are certified, and improves the value and integrity of internationally recognized accredited certification.
- IAF CertSearch is a tool where users can validate accredited certifications in cases where the validation user knows the "company/organization name" or "certification ID".
- The advances to the accredited network have been done whilst protecting and enhancing the needs of your organization and meets all required security and privacy requirements.
- IAF CertSearch It is a tool that supports procurement processes. The IAF CertSearch has already gained significant support from government agencies, industry and from all levels of the accredited network worldwide following its launch. Whilst this is a voluntary database, the IAF CERTSEARCH has received commitments from users.

SADCAS is now signatory to the IAF MLA for the main scope ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17021-3 Sub-scope QMS (ISO 9001). SADCAS intends to extend the signatory status to other sub-scopes in which it has built competence i.e. ISO/IEC 17021-2 sub-scope (ISO 14001) and ISO/IEC 17021-10 OHSMS (ISO 45001). SADCAS also intends to extend signatory status to other sub-scopes FSMS in which SADCAS still needs to build up competence.

DRC CELEBRATES WAD ON 23 AUGUST 2019

2019 World Accreditation Day (WAD) was celebrated in the Democratic Republic of Congo on 23 August 2019 instead of 9 June 2019 due to some administrative and technical reasons. The celebrations were organized by the National Accreditation Focal Point for DRC in collaboration with the Federation of Enterprises of Congo (FEC) under the theme “Accreditation adding value to supply chains”. The NAFFP – DRC is housed within the within the Congolese Control Office (OCC). The celebrations were graced by Mr Camille Engwanda Tuabu, the Provincial Director for OCC in Katanga Province of DRC who represented the Director General of OCC, Dr Celestin Risasi at the event. The purpose of celebrating WAD in DRC was to raise awareness on the importance of accreditation in removing of non-tariff barriers, whether under the terms of the SADC Trade Protocol or in relation to the commitments made by member state under the World Trade Organization (WTO); Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). In order to show the importance of standards in accreditation activities, the WAD celebrations this year coincided with the setting up by OCC of 3 ISO mirror committees namely: ISO/ TC 82 Mirror Committee (Mining); ISO / TC 262 Committee (Risk Management Committee); and the ISO / TC 304 (Health Management).



The celebrations were attended by 102 participants from the mining, health, producers and distributors of materials and inputs of medical and biomed lab academic, logistics, conformity assessment bodies, manufacturers local press etc.

The program started off with welcoming remarks by the President of the FEC, Mr Lambert Tshiswaka who in his opening remarks explained the importance of accreditation in trade facilitation and areas of application to stakeholders. This was followed by opening remarks by Mr Camille Engwanda Tuabu, the Provincial Director for OCC in Katanga Province who explained the purpose of the celebrations and outlined the role of the OCC as the national conformity assessment body for DRC and as the national Accreditation Focal Point for DRC. He reiterated the commitment of the Director General Mr Risasi T M and his deputy Mrs. Isabelle Kasongo Omba in the promotion of accreditation of testing laboratories; certification and inspection bodies and calibration service providers. In conclusion and with globalization of markets the OCC Provincial Director noted the need for nations to put in place a common system of standards for trade facilitation.

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Presenters during the WAD celebrations

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**Mrs Apauline Feza Matata
NAFP-DRC making her
presentation**

The second presenter Mrs. Apauline Matata Feza the NAFP-DRC presented on the theme of WAD Accreditation adding value to supply chains whilst the third presenter spoke about the supplier's criteria for carrier evaluation. This was followed by 2 other presenters Mr Muyumba Kahozi, OCC and Mr Kalume Ilunga, MEPHARTEC who spoke on the responsibility of the suppliers and distributors in the validity of the results. The final presentation was made by Ms Mwepu, GCM who expressed their Company's commitment and efforts towards accreditation.

The presentations were followed by questions and answers demonstrating the interest shown by the audience, who at the same time asked for future meetings on scientific issues related to accreditation, Standards and topics that reflect the OCC's missions. Being in a mining province, the OCC Standards Department seized this opportunity to launch 3 national mirror committees in the field of health and mines and risk management. Thus the 2nd day of the celebrations 24 August 2019 was devoted to standardization matters.



Delegates enjoying lunch during the celebrations

The 2019 WAD celebrations were an opportunity for the OCC to demonstrate its leadership in the field of accreditation and also to raise awareness on the importance of accreditation and the need for conformity assessment bodies in DRC to be accredited. Coinciding the celebrations with the establishment of national mirror committees brought to the fore the close relationship between standards and accreditation.

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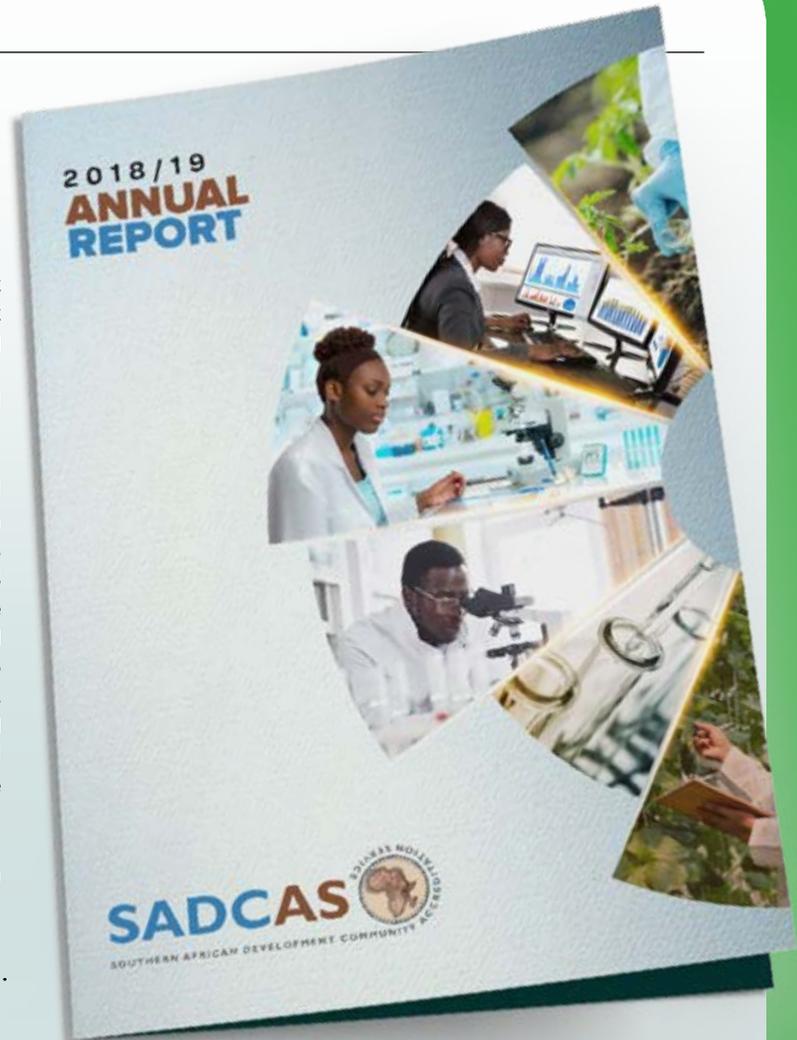
MARKETING AND PROMOTION

SADCAS PUBLISHES 11TH ANNUAL REPORT

The SADCAS Board of Directors approved the 11th annual report for publication on the 25th of November 2019. The Annual Report contains detailed information on SADCAS's financial and non-financial performance, progress and activities for the year ended 31 March 2019, the 2nd year of the third five-year strategic plan covering the period 2017 - 2022.

The Chairman in his statement noted the encouraging results achieved during the year when a 31% growth in new accreditations, 19% growth in accreditation certificates issued and 21% growth in training services were posted. Operational income increased by 40% over the 2017/18 financial year with accreditation income constituting 80% of the operational income whilst training contributed 20% of the operational income. SADCAS is now in its 11th year of operation and continues to make a lot of progress in fulfilling its mandate. "Our business continues to grow steadily, in terms of field and scope of accreditation, sectorial coverage and also in terms of geographical diversity having accredited facilities in Angola and Malawi during the 2nd and 3rd quarter of the 2018/19 financial year" he noted.

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



SADCAS VISITS BOTSWANA POWER CORPORATION – MORUPULE POWER STATION LABORATORY

The SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, SADCAS Training Administrator Ms Linda Dirorimwe and Mrs Pinkie Malebe the Scheme Coordinator for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) met with representatives of the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) – Morupule Power Station in Palapye, Botswana on 9 September 2019. The meeting was attended by the Plant Manager Mr Willias Goppani, Head of Chemical Services Mr Thatayaone Tladi and representatives from other departments namely Projects, Planning and Technical Services, Safety Health Environment and Quality (SHEQ), Maintenance and Instrumentation and Laboratory Heads of sections.

Morupule Power Station is a coal-fired power station run by BPC mandated to generate electricity to the nation. The electricity generated is used for national consumption, not for export. The Power station sources coal from the Morupule Colliery which is also in Palapye, Botswana next to the power plant. The plant is designed to generate 600MW electricity using 4 plants that generate 150 MW of electricity each.

The SADCAS delegation was welcomed by Mr Thatayaone Tladi and Mr Goppani, the Plant Manager. The SADCAS team was given a brief safety induction. Mr Tladi gave a background of the Morupule Power Station in particular the Laboratory Services which was the focus of the visit.

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The SADCAS delegation and Morupule Management and Laboratory Staff pose for a group photo in the Morupule Power Plant Board Room

Mr Tladi indicated that the Chemical Services Division provides testing services for Water, Coal, Limestone and Oil. The water used for power generation in the plant is tested for chemical and physical parameter specifications as defined by the manufacturers of the plant and against Botswana Standard for water quality BOS 32. Coal is tested for conformance to the chemical and physical parameters as per international standards such as ISO and ASTM standards. Limestone is used in the desulfurization process and tested against set quality specifications whilst the oils used in the plant are tested to measure the rate of deterioration of the plant and machinery. The Planning and Technical Services representative outlined the purpose and significance of testing of the listed materials and the parameters maintenance and performance of the plant.



Morupule Powerplant Laboratory

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In defining the purpose of the visit, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Mutasa indicated that targeted marketing visits such as the one to BPC Morupule Laboratory are part of SADCAS' marketing strategy to reach out to clients operating within the region and introduce to them SADCAS services. Mr Tladi stated that the laboratory has a staff complement of 23, currently conducting testing in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. The laboratory has been in operation since 2012 and is currently in the process of validating test methods and documenting a management system in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The facility has not yet undertaken Internal Audits and Management Reviews and plans are underway to have laboratory staff trained to ISO/IEC 17025. The laboratory representative cited lack of awareness on the importance of accreditation and lack of support from other departments.

Mrs Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO gave an overview of SADCAS and the achievements made so far in particular the achievement of signatory status in AFRAC and ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Testing and Calibration in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025, in Medical testing to ISO 15189 and Inspection Bodies to ISO/IEC 17020 which means that the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS are internationally recognized. She articulated the importance of accreditation in view of laboratory results which impact many areas of our daily lives and the need for accreditation of testing laboratories in order to enhance confidence and trust in the results. In their case as the results are used in the maintenance and monitoring of the power plant. This was cited by Morupule Laboratory as the main driving force behind the decision to have its Laboratories accredited.

The Scheme Coordinator for TLAS, Mrs Malebe gave an overview of the accreditation process. She outlined the scopes of testing that SADCAS offers accreditation to namely; Chemical, Microbiological, Biological, Construction and Civil Engineering, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Optics and Radiometry, Environmental and Non-Destructive testing. Mrs Malebe further gave details of the requirements for accreditation, accreditation timelines and the activities at each of the 5 stages of accreditation process.

Ms Dirorimwe from SADCAS Corporate department gave an overview of the SADCAS Training Services detailing the scope and durations for the various courses on offer. She informed the meeting of the 177 accreditation related training courses held throughout the SADC region for a total of over 3200 participants.

The Chief Executive Officer took some time to walk the potential client, BPC Morupule Laboratory, through the SADCAS fee structure. This was to demystify the belief that SADCAS fees are high. Mrs Mutasa started off by giving a background on the set up and operationalization of SADCAS and the funding received. She stated that SADCAS fees are based on a cost-recovery model meant to ensure that clients meet the cost of the services provided to them. Mrs Mutasa further outlined strategies employed by SADCAS to maintain competitive fees. Some of the strategies include; using locally based assessors, using multi-skilled assessors, offering group discounts and increase clientele base so that the clients may benefit from the economies of scale.

In conclusion Mrs Mutasa appealed to the facility management to commit to the Laboratory's endeavor to accredit its tests by availing resources and time to the project in order to realize return on investment. The facility management thanked SADCAS for the visit saying that it was very enlightening and acknowledged the importance of accreditation for their facility. The Plant Manager pledged support to the accreditation project and indicated they will be contacting SADCAS for services in due course.

After the meeting the SADCAS delegation was taken on a guided tour of the laboratories.



Mrs Pinkie Malebe and Ms Linda Dirormwe listen attentively to Morupule Power Station Laboratory Staff during the tour of the Laboratory

SADCAS HOLDS TARGETED MARKETING WORKSHOP IN LESOTHO

As part of its marketing strategy to reach out to clients operating within the SADC region and introduce SADCAS services to them, SADCAS and the office of the National Accreditation Focal Point, Lesotho organized an awareness workshop for Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in Lesotho. The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Create awareness on the importance of accreditation and to market SADCAS service offering; and
- Hear at first hand the challenges faced by the CABs in Lesotho in view of the low uptake of SADCAS services.

The workshop was held at Avani Maseru Hotel on 7 October 2019 with more than 25 representatives from various sectors within Lesotho such as the Police Forensics Department, Mining, Agriculture, Ministry of Health, University Laboratory and the private laboratories. The SADCAS delegation was led by the SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa, the Scheme Coordinator for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme Mrs Pinkie Malebe and Ms Linda Dirorimwe, the Training Administrator.



The Senior Government official and representative from the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing Mr Molebatsi Rabolinyane gave the opening and welcome remarks. In his opening remarks he emphasised to the participants that SADCAS services accreditation needs for 13 SADC Member States and Lesotho is one of them. He went on to highlight Lesotho's achievements in accreditation related activities namely; training of laboratory and inspection body personnel on the relevant standards; that Lesotho has a functional laboratory association The Lesotho Federation of Laboratories and that the association has successfully joined the SADC Regional Laboratory Association. He bemoaned the slow uptake of accreditation by CABs in Lesotho and expressed the Ministry's appreciation to SADCAS for holding the workshop.

Mrs Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO gave an overview of SADCAS and developments at SADCAS. She gave a background on the SADCAS establishment, its Mandate, Mission, Vision and why SADC opted for a multi-economy accreditation body model. Mrs Mutasa presented on SADCAS milestones and achievements regarding governance, number of accreditations for the various schemes and of most importance its regional and international membership to AFRAC, ILAC and IAF. Mrs Mutasa presented to the participants SADCAS strategic activities for 2019/2020. In closing her presentation, the SADCAS CEO cited that Lesotho is one of the 2 countries with the least uptake of SADCAS services. She indicated that to-date Lesotho has had only 2 training courses and one application for accreditation which is still in process. She urged representatives from the facilities to work closely and make use of the office of the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) to see how they work together to utilise SADCAS services.

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Mr Azael Motjoka Makara, the first NAFP Officer for Lesotho gave a presentation of the NAFP activities, the achievements and challenges. He indicated that his role at the Ministry is to ensure the availability of quality infrastructure that will ensure competitiveness of Lesotho's products and services, also to carry out marketing of SADCAS services in Lesotho. Mr Makara informed of a Ministry project through which laboratories in Lesotho received training to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by a consultant. The consultant has also been engaged to coach the laboratories towards getting accreditation. The laboratories have also been trained in Method Validation and have been busy documenting and implementing systems in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 and are expected to apply for accreditation.

Mr Makara cited some of the challenges experienced by his office and facilities in Lesotho amongst others; lack of awareness by CAB management on the importance of accreditation; cancellation of booked SADCAS training courses due to unavailability of funds; failure to pay laboratory association membership fees. He also indicated that CABs are taking long to develop their management systems despite trainings and assistance provided by the Laboratory association. On the way forward, Mr Makara encouraged the laboratories to take advantage of the assistance offered by the Lesotho Enterprise which has assisted one of the CABs in Lesotho.



Mr Makara making his presentation



Ms Dirorimwe making her presentation

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the Scheme Coordinator for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Programme made a presentation on the SADCAS accreditation process, highlighting SADCAS accreditation schemes, the accreditation standards for the various schemes and key stages of the accreditation process and the accreditation timelines. Ms Linda Dirorimwe from SADCAS Corporate Services Unit followed with a lively presentation of SADCAS Training Services detailing the courses on offer for different accreditation standards; public and inhouse training requirements and the scope and durations for the various courses on offer. She informed the workshop that over 177 accreditation related training courses were held throughout the SADC region for a total of over 3200 participants.

Mrs Mutasa gave the last presentation on accreditation costs, detailing and citing examples of how costing for accreditation is done. This was mainly to indicate that SADCAS fees are not as high as they are perceived to be and that the fees are comparable to fees from other accreditation bodies in the region and cheaper than those charged by accreditation bodies from other regions. Mrs Mutasa assured the members in attendance that SADCAS had put in place strategies for SADCAS fees to remain competitive.

The presentations were followed by a questions and discussions session where the participants wanted to know more about the criteria for selection of assessors, SADCAS twinning partnerships, accreditation costs and training. The questions and enquiries were ably answered by the SADCAS team to the satisfaction of all.

In closing and as a way forward, Mrs Mutasa challenged the NAFP and the Lesotho Federation of Laboratories to develop bilateral technical assistance proposals designed to promote a thorough understanding of the requirements and implementation of key accreditation standards by CABs in Lesotho. The successful workshop ended with a photo shoot for all the participants and all were invited to lunch. After the workshop the SADCAS Team proceeded to pay a courtesy call on the new Lesotho Minister of Trade, Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing.



SADCAS CEO PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON NEW MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, COOPERATIVES AND MARKETING, LESOTHO

It was the Honourable Minister's first day in Office at the Ministry following his appointment. The purpose of the courtesy call was to introduce and to update the Minister on developments in SADCAS and on government contributions towards SADCAS sustainability, and to call upon the Minister to continuously support the office of the NAFP which is housed in the Ministry. Mrs Mutasa informed the Minister that SADCAS had held a successful workshop for conformity assessment bodies (CABs) earlier in the day. She stated that SADCAS saw a need to conduct a targeted marketing visit to Lesotho as the country uptake of accreditation was slow. She mentioned that SADCAS had only run 2 training courses of accreditation matters in Lesotho over the years and up to date SADCAS had not yet accredited any facilities in Lesotho although one applicant was at an advanced stage of the accreditation process.

The Honourable acknowledged the importance of accreditation to the economic and social development of the Kingdom and promised that he will do some "house cleaning" and see how Lesotho can honor the payments as committed. He promised the SADCAS CEO that he will fully engage his team on how the Ministry can further assist. He further pledged his full support and commitment to uplifting participation of Lesotho in the areas of training and accreditation and to support the activities of the NAFP.

The brief but high impact meeting was closed with a photoshoot in the new Minister's office.



From Left to Right: Mrs P Malebe, Mrs Mutasa, Honourable Setšabi, Mrs Mojela, Mr Rabolinyane and Ms Dirorimwe pose for a photo after the courtesy call

NAFP News

MALAWI APPOINTS NEW NAFP



On 16th September 2019 Mr Masautso Ngamwane was nominated 1st Officer of the National Accreditation Focal Point for Malawi. The 1st NAFP - Malawi is housed within the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS), whilst the 2nd NAFP Mrs Margret Sauzande is based at Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Mr Ngamwane's appointment followed the departure of Mr Steve Kamuloni, who was the 1st NAFP – Malawi. This replacement was made in order to ensure that there is continuation of the activities of the office of NAFP in Malawi.

A holder of a BSC in Environmental Sciences and Technology- Food Technology and a certificate in Production Management, Mr Ngamwane is currently the Management Systems Certification Officer at the Malawi Bureau of Standards.

Speaking after the appointment an enthusiastic Masautso recognizes the importance of his position in Malawi which is to promote accreditation, market SADCAS service offering in Malawi, process enquiries on accreditation matters, ensure protection of the SADCAS trademark and to provide administration support to SADCAS training activities undertaken in Malawi. "In line with the foregoing, I shall identify and work with other bodies within Malawi which are already working with the prospective accreditation clients e.g. Laboratory Association of Malawi (LAM) in lobbying their members to acquire SADCAS training and accreditation" he said. Mr Ngamwane attended his 1st NAFP annual meeting held on 26 November 2019.

COMOROS APPOINTS NEW NAFP

Union of the Comoros was admitted as a member of SADC at the 37th SADC Summit of The Union of Comoros became a full member at the 38th Summit of Heads of State and Government on August 2018 in Windhoek Namibia. By virtue of the admission of the Comoros as a member of SADC of which SADCAS is a subsidiary institution and noting that Comoros does not have an accreditation body, SADCAS initiated the formalization of the appointment of an NAFP for Comoros.

On 18 October 2019, Comoros appointed Mr Boinali Mohamed as the NAFP – Comoros. A Food Technologist by qualification, Mr Mohamed is currently the Head of Standards and Quality in the Comoros under the Ministère de l'Economie, des Investissements, de l'Energie, chargé de l'Intégration Economique, du Tourisme et de l'Artisanat

Mr Boinali Mohamed

Speaking after the appointment Mr Boinali said "It is an honour for me to serve my country by being the SADCAS National Focal Point for Accreditation. It is also a privilege for me to be responsible for this important activity and I hope that I will live up to it".

The quality infrastructure in the Comoros is under development, and a draft national quality policy is being developed. Although accreditation infrastructure is not very well developed in Comoros, Mr Mohamed is convinced that in the near future it will become more difficult to trade without the assurance provided through accreditation. The Government of the Comoros is aware of the importance of protecting consumers. "This is why our objective in the first phase is to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation, to create and implement an accreditation structure at the national level to be able to initiate accreditation activities" he added.

Records at AFRAC, SADCA, IAF and ILAC now include Comoros as one of the countries serviced by SADCAS. This brings the total number of countries serviced by SADCAS to 14. SADCAS will be undertaking a targeted marketing visit to the Comoros in March 2020 during which a workshop to raise awareness on accreditation is being planned.



NAFPS HOLD 13TH MEETING

The 13th National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) Annual meeting was held at The Aviator Hotel OR Tambo in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa on 26 November 2019. The meeting was attended by 12 NAFPs, SADCAS staff. National Accreditation Focal Points from Angola (1); Botswana (2), Democratic Republic of Congo (1), Eswatini (1), Lesotho (2), Madagascar (1), Malawi (1), Namibia (1), and Zimbabwe (2) attended the meeting. The NAFP- Madagascar was represented at the meeting by Ms Sitraka Zarasoa Ratomahefa.

The main purpose of the meeting was to develop the Framework for the 2020/21 Marketing Plan, to train NAFPs on the revised SADCAS Quality Management Systems (QMS) and the Corporate Identity Manual (CIM) and appraise the NAFPs of the SADCAS accreditation fees.



The meeting was also an opportunity to update NAFPs on developments in SADCAS and to review Governments Contributions' inflows. Some time was spent in reviewing activities of the NAFPs thus far into the financial year. On NAFP activities and for the summary of quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019 concern was expressed on the decline in average percent realization compared to the same period in the previous financial year and the 1st quarter of this 2019/20 financial year. NAFPs were therefore requested to step up their momentum for goal realization.

The NAFPs developed the Framework for the 2020/21 marketing plan which shall be populated, finalized and circulated to NAFPs by 29 April 2020 for comment by 4 May 2020 following which the 2020/21 Marketing Plan shall be finalized by 10 May 2019 and submitted to the SADCAS Board of Directors for approval. Training on the revised QMS and CIM was facilitated by Mr Xavier Mugari, the SADCAS Quality Manager during which the NAFPs noted the presentations on revised SADCAS QMS documents and CIM. The NAFPs were requested to undertake the online test of SADCAS QMS, as soon as it is uploaded on the website, as part of the evaluation of the understanding of the SADCAS QMS. Through a presentation by Mrs Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO, NAFPs were apprised of the SADCAS accreditation fee structure which they appreciated very much and agreed to explain to CABs that the SADCAS fees are fairly priced to recover costs. The NAFPs further noted the measures put in place to maintain competitive fees.

Noting that NAFPs also represent their respective countries on SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) and further noting that some NAFPs had not yet completed applications forms for membership therein, Ms Fikile Skosana, the SADCA Secretariat took the opportunity to request all NAFPs to complete the Ordinary membership form which they all did during the meeting. All the NAFPs who did not attend the meeting including NAFPs Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia were requested to complete and submit the SADCA F 003-02: Application for ordinary membership status to the SADCA Secretariat by 31 January 2020.

A total of 19 resolutions were passed during the meeting which was chaired by Mrs Mutasa and during which a minute of silence was observed in remembrance of Ms Linda Dirorimwe the SADCAS Training Administrator who passed on in October 2019. The meeting which was very interactive was a great success with NAFPs committing to step up their promotion and marketing efforts so as to realize the objectives set in the SADCAS 2019/20 Marketing Plan. NAFP-Botswana's attendance to the 13th NAFP Annual Meeting was sponsored by SADCAS as an award for the 2019 Most Effective NAFP presented at the 14th SADCAS AGM in March 2019.

National Accreditation Focal Points who are appointed by their respective governments are mainly responsible for the promotion of accreditation and marketing of SADCAS services within their respective countries. They are SADCAS tentacles of reaching out to clients/potential clients as well as stakeholders including the general public in SADC Member States. NAFPs are at the frontline of accreditation communication and marketing SADCAS service offering.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES CORNER

SADCAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CERTIFICATION HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS) (AC.05) held its 1st meeting on 28 November 2019, at The Aviator OR Tambo Hotel in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa. The newly established Advisory Committee comprises of 15 experts from 14 SADC Member States. All the registered members of the Advisory Committee except one member each from Democratic Republic of Congo and Lesotho attended the meeting with the latter having failed to come due to a clash in meetings. The role of the regional Advisory Committee is to provide appropriate technical guidance within the field of certification. This is the 5th Advisory Committee set up by SADCAS.

Up to date SADCAS has accredited 3 certification bodies in the Main scope Management Systems ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-2 (Environmental Management Systems to ISO 14001), ISO/IEC 17021-3 (Quality Management Systems to ISO 9001) and ISO/IEC 17021-10 (Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems). A number of other certification bodies operating in the SADCAS Member States serviced by SADCAS are working towards accreditation. Although SADCAS has so far processed 2 applications under the Product Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme, none have been accredited. Noting the growing interest in accreditation of certification bodies, SADCAS set up the Advisory Committee for certification.

The main purpose of the 1st meeting was to provide an overview of SADCAS, update on developments in SADCAS and at the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), overview of the certification bodies accreditation scheme and to discuss the role of Advisory Committees. The meeting started off with introductions during which members were updated on developments in certification activities in the various countries with a number indicating that they were working towards accreditation and sharing the scopes of their certification activities and intended scope extensions. On developments at IAF the Committee was informed about the IAF Global database which houses and provides an authoritative source for validating accredited certifications issued all over the world. The Committee was also informed about the IAF Multi lateral Arrangement and the efforts underway to extend the scope of the IAF Multi Lateral Arrangement IAF MLA to cover Business Continuity Management Systems etc. The Advisory Committee members were also informed about the SADCAS accreditation process, reviewed the accreditation criteria and IAF Mandatory Documents and SADCAS requirements for accreditation under the Management Systems Certification Bodies and Product Certification Bodies Accreditation Schemes. In order to identify the areas requiring technical supporting documents, the Committee established a Working Group led by Mr Ranganai Mutonono to map out all the requirements documents and IAF documents to use as a basis for identifying those areas requiring supporting documents. This measure was taken so as to ensure that the Committee does not reinvent the wheel and also to avoid duplication of efforts in developing such documents.



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Mrs Lorna Shikongo - Kuvare was elected Chair of the Advisory Committee. A Documents Working Group of the Advisory Committee was also established.

The meeting which was chaired by Mrs Mutasa, SADCAS CEO was very interactive and members appreciated the presentations made during the meeting including the presentation on the SADCAS accreditation fee structure and strategies in place to maintain the competitiveness of SADCAS fees. All the presentations and discussions held during the meeting provided the Advisory Committee members with a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities and developments at SADCAS and IAF following which they were all committed to undertake specific agreed tasks through meeting and electronic means.



SADCAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR MEDICAL IMAGING ACCREDITATION SCHEME MEETS

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) (AC.07) held its 1st meeting on 28 November 2019, at The Aviator OR Tambo Hotel in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa. The newly established Advisory committee comprises of 9 experts from 7 SADC Member States. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide technical guidance within the field of medical imaging. This is the 7th Advisory Committee set up by SADCAS.

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SADCAS has been experiencing an increase on enquiries regarding the accreditation of the medical imaging service providers. The Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) will help imaging services ensure that their patients consistently receive high quality services delivered by competent personnel working in a safe environment. This led to the setting up of the Advisory Committee for MIAS. The main purpose of the 1st meeting was to provide an overview of SADCAS, update on developments in SADCAS and at the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) in the field of medical imaging, to give an overview of the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) which has similarities to the medical imaging scheme under development. The meeting also discussed the role of advisory committees. The Advisory Committee was also informed about the SADCAS accreditation process, reviewed ISO 15189: 2012 which is currently undergoing revision. The Advisory Committee also identified areas requiring technical supporting documents. A presentation was also made by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS CEO on the SADCAS accreditation fee structure and strategies in place to maintain competitiveness of accreditation fees.

Mr Bernard Nyirenda from Zimbabwe was elected Chair of the Advisory Committee to serve for a period of 2 years. A Documents Working Group comprised of all members of the Advisory Committee was established. Members agreed to start with the development of two technical guidance documents which will serve as guidance for imaging services performing radiography and ultrasound. More guidance documents will be developed as the meetings progress. The members also agreed to look into the regulations pertaining to medical imaging services in their respective countries.

The meeting was very fruitful and members were very grateful to SADCAS for convening such an important meeting. Members felt that the medical imaging services had been left behind in terms of accreditation and with such a committee, the quality of medical imaging services in the SADC region will be elevated to accreditation level. A lot of discussions ensued throughout the meeting as members shared their experiences in the medical



imaging services in the various countries in the SADC region. Members found the presentations enlightening and provided them with a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities following which they all committed to undertake specific agreed tasks through meetings and via electronic means.

SADCAS is confident that accreditation will become the baseline standard for medical imaging services across the SADC region and Africa as a whole.

SADCAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INSPECTION HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING

The regional Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS) (AC.06) held its 1st meeting on 28 November 2019, at the Aviator OR Tambo Hotel in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa. The newly established Advisory Committee comprises of 15 experts from 15 SADC Member States. However, 10 members attended the 1st meeting. The role of the regional Advisory Committee is to provide appropriate technical guidance within the field of inspection. This is the 6th Advisory Committee set up by SADCAS.

Taking into consideration the growth of application for accreditation from inspection bodies in terms of scopes and geographical spread, SADCAS set up the Advisory Committee for IBAS regional. The main purpose of the 1st meeting was to provide an overview of SADCAS, update on developments in SADCAS and at ILAC Inspection Committee, overview of the inspection bodies accreditation scheme and to discuss the role of advisory committees. The Advisory Committee members were also informed about the SADCAS accreditation process, reviewed the accreditation criteria and identified areas requiring technical supporting documents. A presentation was made by Mrs Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO on the SADCAS accreditation fee structure and strategies in place to maintain the competitiveness of SADCAS fees.

Mr Paulo Perera was elected Chair of the Advisory Committee to serve for a period of 2 years. A Documents Working Group comprised of all members of the Advisory Committee was also established. Members agreed to develop a technical document which can serve as a guidance for the accreditation of bodies performing non-destructive testing.

The meeting was very interactive and members appreciated the presentations made during the meeting including the presentation on the SADCAS accreditation fee structure and strategies in place to maintain the competitiveness of SADCAS fees which provided them with a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities following which they were all committed to undertake specific agreed tasks through meetings and communication by electronic means.

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Regional IBAS AC Pose for a Photo

SADCAS CALIBRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDS 4th MEETING



Calibration AC pose for Group Photo

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The 4th meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) (AC.02) was held on 29 November 2019, at The Aviator OR Tambo Hotel in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Advisory Committee is a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committee 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. SADCAS has clearly defined terms of references, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

Members were given status updates on developments at SADCAS, Transitioning to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and Metrological Traceability. A presentation was also made by Mrs Mutasa, SADCAS CEO on the SADCAS accreditation fee structure and strategies in place to maintain the competitiveness of accreditation fees.

The 4th CLAS Advisory Committee meeting was attended by 5 of the 15 members of the committee, a 33% participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting. The Committee reviewed technical documents that have been developed and published for use by Conformity Assessment Bodies and Assessors and discussed new technical guide documents which are to be drafted. The members were also reminded to provide their comments on regional and international technical documents which need to be reviewed by the Document Working Group.

SADCAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR MEDICAL LABORATORIES ACCREDITATION SCHEME MEETS

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) (AC.04) held its 3rd meeting on 27 November 2019 at The Aviator OR Tambo Hotel in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa. A total of 7 experts from the SADC Member States met.

The main purpose of the 3rd meeting was to provide an update on developments in SADCAS and at ILAC, and on Medical Accreditation Scheme, to finalize three (3) criteria documents and to discuss issues arising from assessments. Mrs Malebe presented on the developments at ILAC. It was noted that ISO 15189:2012 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence, was under review. She also presented on normative references in ISO 15189 which are at various stages of development including ISO 15190 Medical laboratories – Requirements for Safety (at FDIS stage), ISO 22367 Medical laboratories – Application of Risk Management to Medical Laboratories (also FDIS stage) and ISO/TS 20658 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Collection, Transport, Receipt, and Handling of Samples. The MLAS AC Chair Mrs Kelebeletse Mokobela encouraged members to continue to comment on International, Regional and National documents as members of the Document Working Group for MLAS AC. Members were encouraged to participate in their respective country's mirror committees in order to actively contribute to the ongoing revision of the ISO 15189:2012 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence.

The Advisory Committee discussed and finalized the **Criteria for the Assessment of Blood Transfusion**. The following technical supporting documents that the working groups worked on during the course of the year were discussed at length and it was noted that they required further input from the committee before finalization, namely **Guidelines on the Validation and Verification of Quantitative and Qualitative Test Methods and The Expression of Uncertainty in Clinical Testing**. The meeting agreed to finalize the two documents; Guidelines on the Validation and Verification of Quantitative and Qualitative Test Methods and The Expression of Uncertainty in Clinical testing. The meeting discussed the importance of safety and issues of safety in the Medical Laboratories. The meeting agreed to consider the development of a guidance document on safety taking into account ISO 15190:2012 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for Safety.

Mr Victor Mudembe the Scheme Coordinator for the Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) presented on the SADCAS Policy on Metrological Traceability. It had been noted that Metrological Traceability was an issue arising from assessments where the facilities were at times having challenges in complying to the requirements of the policy. It was a very interesting and informative discussion in which the committee agreed that assessors would require a half a day training on understanding the Policy on Metrological Traceability.

The meeting was fruitful and members agreed to continue communicating via emails in order to finalize the documents and also keep each other abreast with current practices.

SADCAS TESTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDS 4th MEETING

The 4th meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) AC.03 was held on 29 November 2019, at The Aviator OR Tambo Hotel in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Advisory Committee is a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committee 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. SADCAS has clearly defined terms of references, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

Members were given updates on developments at SADCAS, Transitioning to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and Metrological Traceability. A presentation was also made by Mrs Mutasa, SADCAS CEO on the SADCAS accreditation fee structure and strategies in place to maintain the competitiveness of SADCAS fees.

The 4th TLAS Advisory Committee meeting was attended by 9 of the 18 members of the committee, a 50% participation which was very good compared to the previous 2 meetings. The committee reviewed technical documents that have been developed and discussed a new technical guide document which is to be finalized and published for use by Conformity Assessment Bodies and Assessors. The meeting also considered a list of technical documents to be developed by the Document Working Group.



Testing AC pose for Group Photo

GOVERNANCE

SADCAS APPOINTS NEW BOARD MEMBER MS MMATLALA DUBE



The SADCAS is proud to announce the appointment of Ms Mmatlala Dube as a member of the SADCAS Board of Directors. Ms Dube was co-opted onto the SADCAS Board of Directors with effect from 8 July 2019. In line with Article 25 of the SADCAS Articles of Association, Ms Dube shall hold office until the next annual general meeting when she shall then be eligible for election for a term of 3 years.

Ms Dube is the Managing Director of Business Administrators a 100% owned citizen Company. Prior to this position Ms Dube held various positions among others including Internal Audit Manager of Botswana Building Society, Head of Compliance, Risk and Internal Audit at African Alliance, Senior Finance Manager at Botswana Telecommunications now called Botswana Communication Regulatory Authority, Senior Accountant and General Manager Finance of the Botswana Meat Commission.

A Fellow Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant (FCCA) UK and Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA) Ms Dube holds a Master of Business Administration majoring in Finance (MBA) and various certificates and diplomas in Accountancy and Business Studies, Business Studies in Life Insurance Assurance and Advanced tax (Botswana). Currently Ms Dube sits on the Botswana Qualification Authority Board. She has sat on various other Boards in the past.

As part of her induction Ms Dube visited the SADCAS Office on 23 August 2019 prior to attending her first Board and FRAC meetings on 29 August 2019.



NEWS ON SERVICES

STATUS OF KEY ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND ILAC/IAF DOCUMENTS

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC DIS 17000 Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles	Draft International Standard (DIS) registered Closing of voting
ISO/CD TS 17021-12 – Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 12: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of collaborative business management systems	Committee Draft study/ballot initiated
ISO/IEC 17029 Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities	International Standard under publication
ISO/IEC NP 17030 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for third-party marks of conformity	New project approved
ISO/IEC TR 17032 Conformity assessment - Guidelines and examples of a certification scheme for processes	International standard published Published in 2019-09
ISO/TS 17033 Conformity assessment – Ethical claims, Labels and supporting information – Requirements	International standard published Published in 2019-08
ISO/IEC 17040:2005 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies	Close of review
ISO/IEC 17050-1:2004 Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 1: General requirements	International standard under periodical review
ISO/IEC 17050-2:2004 Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 2: Supporting documentation	International standard under periodical review
ISO/IEC 17067:2013 Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of products certification and guidelines for product certification schemes	Close of review
ISO/CD 22003-1 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	Committee Draft approved for registration as Draft International Standard
ISO/CD 22003-2 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

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<p>ISO/CD 14065:2013 Greenhouse gases - Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition</p>	<p>Close of voting/Comment period</p>
<p>ISO/NP TR 14069 Greenhouse gases – Quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for organizations – Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1</p>	<p>New project approved</p>
<p>ISO/CD TS 14092 GHG Management & related activities: requirement & guidance of adaptation planning for organizations including local governments and communities</p>	<p>Committee Draft Study/Ballot initiated</p>
<p>ISO/CD 14097 Framework and principles for assessing and reporting investments and financing activities related to climate change</p>	<p>Committee Draft Study/Ballot initiated</p>
<p>ISO/CD 19694-1 Stationary source emissions – Determination of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in energy-intensive industries – Part 1: General aspects</p>	<p>Closing of voting/Comment period</p>
<p>ISO/DTS 23406 Nuclear sector - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of quality management systems for organizations supplying products and services important to nuclear safety (ITNS)</p>	<p>Committee Draft approved for registration as Draft International Standard</p>
<p>ISO/CD 50003 Energy management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of energy management systems</p>	<p>Closing of voting/Comment period</p>
<p>ILAC G8:09/2019 Guidelines on Decision Rules and Statements of Conformity</p>	<p>Issued in September 2019 This guidance document has been significantly revised to assist laboratories in the use of decision rules when issuing statements of conformity to a specification or standard as required by the 2017 edition of ISO/IEC 17025. In addition, this document also provides an overview for assessors, regulators and customers when considering decision rules and conformity with requirements.</p>
<p>IAF PL 9:2019 General Principles for the Use of the IAF CERTSEARCH Mark</p>	<p>Issue 1, Issued 14 November 2019, This document describes principles on the use of the IAF CERTSEARCH Mark by IAF MLA Signatory Accreditation Bodies under main scope ISO/IEC 17021-1, CBs accredited by IAF MLA Signatory ABs, and entities certified by CBs accredited by IAF MLA Signatory ABs.</p>
<p>IAF MD 5:2019 Determination of Audit Time of Quality, Environmental, and Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems</p>	<p>Issue 4, Version 2, Issued 11 November 2019, application from 07 May 2020. This document is mandatory for the consistent application of the relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for audits of quality, environmental, and occupational health and safety management systems. All clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1 continue to apply and this document does not supersede any of the requirements in that standard.</p>

DIARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
20-21 November 2019	EA General Assembly Meeting	Budapest, Hungary
25-29 November 2019	Refresher Courses and Assessment Techniques for SADCAS Trainee Assessors	Johannesburg, South Africa
25 November 2019	SADCAS HRRC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
25 November 2019	SADCAS FRAC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
25 November 2019	SADCAS Board of Directors	Johannesburg, South Africa
26 November 2019	13th National Accreditation Focal Point Annual Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
27 November 2019	3rd Advisory Committee for Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme	Johannesburg, South Africa
28 November 2019	1st Advisory Committee for Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme	Johannesburg, South Africa
28 November 2019	1st Advisory Committee for Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme	Johannesburg, South Africa
28 November 2019	1st Advisory Committee for Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme - Regional	Johannesburg, South Africa
29 November 2019	4th Advisory Committee for Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme	Johannesburg, South Africa
29 November 2019	4th Advisory Committee for Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme	Johannesburg, South Africa
2 December 2019	IEC-ILAC-IAF Steering Committee Meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
31 January 2020	SADCAS Budget Meeting	Gaborone, Botswana
28 February 2020	SADCAS Management Review	Gaborone, Botswana
21 February 2020	SADCAS HRRC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
21 February 2020	SADCAS FRAC Meeting	Johannesburg, South Africa
21 February 2020	SADCAS Board of Directors	Johannesburg, South Africa
26 February 2020	SADCAS/SANAS TPA M.33	Equestria, South Africa
16-20 March 2020	SADC TBT Structures Meetings	Tanzania
18 March 2020	SADCAS Board of Directors	Tanzania
18 March 2020	15th SADCAS General Assembly	Tanzania

NEW ACCREDITATIONS, SCOPE EXTENSIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND WITHDRAWAL

Organization & Location	Scheme	Dates	New Accreditations	Scopes Extension	Suspension	Withdrawal
Malawi Bureau of Standards	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2019-08-12		TEST-1 0019 Microbiology		
Botswana Bureau of Standards	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2019-08-30		TEST-10 0002 Textiles		
Tanzania Bureau of Standards	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2019-08-28	TEST-4 0002 Electrical Engineering			
Tanzania Bureau of Standards	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2019-08-30	TEST-6 0002 Mechanical Engineering			
BV Mozambique Moatize	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2019-08-29	TEST-5 0041 Chemical (Coal)			
Intertek Testing Services Maputo, Mozambique	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2019-10-16	TEST-5 0042 Chemistry (Petroleum products)			
Geological Survey Tanzania	Testing to ISO /IEC 17025	2019-10-16	TEST-5 0043 Chemical (Minerals)			
Fabrimetal Laboratory Angola	Testing to ISO /IEC 17025	2019-10-26	TEST-5 0044 Chemical (Carbon steel) TEST-6 0003 Mechanical Engineering			
Tanzania Food & Drugs Authority	Testing to ISO /IEC 17025	2019-10-17				TEST-5 0001 Chemical TEST-1 0005 Microbiology
Mutanda Mining SARL, Democratic Republic of Congo	Testing to ISO /IEC 17025	2019-10-17				TEST-5 0021 Chemical
Trojan Nickel Mine Laboratory, Zimbabwe	Testing to ISO /IEC 17025	2019-11-22	TEST-5 0045 Chemical (minerals)			
Gamma Allergy & Immunology Laboratory Zimbabwe	Medical to ISO 15189	2019-10-16	MED 039 Chemistry Serology			
Laboratoire RETROCI/CDC Côte d'Ivoire	Medical to ISO 15189	2019-09-19	MED 038 Biochemistry Serology Hematology Molecular Biology Immunology			
Malawi Bureau of Standards	Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1	2019-08-12	QMS-CERT 003 Quality Management Systems (ISO 9001)			
Eswatini Water Services Corporation	Verification to ISO/IEC 17025	2019-10-15	VER-001 Volume Measuring Instruments			

STAFF NEWS

SADCAS SCHEME COORDINATOR GOES ON ATTACHMENT AT UKAS

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for Testing Laboratories, Veterinary Laboratories and Proficiency Testing Accreditation Schemes went on a 3-day attachment training at the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) in London. The attachment was part of the SADCAS Continuous Development Programme for 2019/20 and a benchmarking exercise.

Mrs Malebe manages the Testing Laboratories and Veterinary Laboratories accreditation schemes. These constitute about 50% of all SADCAS accreditations and is still growing. In view of the expressed demand and anticipated growth with the SADCAS accreditation schemes, SADCAS saw a need to benchmark with UKAS which is one of the biggest and reputable accreditation bodies with over 3000 accreditations in 14 accreditation schemes with Certification having over 16 accredited sectors. The visit was also meant to appreciate governance and structural issues as well as how UKAS' vast array of accreditation schemes are managed.

SADCAS currently offers accreditation for testing, calibration and medical laboratories, and inspection and certification bodies. SADCAS plans to venture into new accreditation areas such as energy management systems and medical imaging. Mrs Malebe met with the Heads of Departments and discussed on the management of accreditation schemes, personnel management, management of assessors, how the schemes integrate and reporting of key deliverables to achieve organizational objectives. The interest was also in appreciating how UKAS implements requirements of the new standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and pick on the best practices.



Mrs Malebe with Mr Kevin Belson UKAS Technical Manager



Mrs Malebe with the Certification Technical Assessors during the Assessor Workshop

Mrs Malebe also had an opportunity to attend the UKAS Certification Technical Assessor Workshop in Warwickshire, Coventry on 31 October 2019. The workshop discussed assessor issues, customer feedback, training requirements and an update on changes in reporting assessment outcomes. The assessors were inducted on the new system 365 used for reporting assessment outcomes and to solicit for feedback from the assessors. It was observed that the Technical Assessor workshop is similar to the SADCAS Assessor Conclave in both content and approach.



Break-away session for the Certification Assessors – Food Sector

Speaking after the visit Mrs Malebe said that the attachment training was very informative and worthwhile. The objectives of the visit were met. The UKAS personnel were very accommodating and helpful and forthcoming with information. "A fulfilling experience for me!" she said. SADCAS is very grateful to UKAS for the attachment opportunity for Mrs Malebe.

EULOGY



Linda Dirorimwe

Linda Dirorimwe was born on 9 June 1964 in Rusape, Zimbabwe. She passed on at the age of 55 years on 27 October 2019. Her body was found in her apartment on Monday, 28 October 2019 when she had failed to turn up to work. A post mortem was conducted which indicated that Linda had died of cardio myopathy. Linda's body was repatriated to Zimbabwe and was laid to rest at her rural village in Gandanzara, Zimbabwe.

I have known Linda for over 30 years during which she was my Personal Assistant (PA) in my position at that time in 1990, as Director Standards at the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ). Linda rose to the position of Personal Assistant to the Director General of SAZ a position which she held from 2000 to 2008. During that time Linda was the inaugural winner of the Secretary of the year in Zimbabwe. In 2008, I was appointed Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS tasked to set up SADCAS a multi economy accreditation body servicing the accreditation needs of 13 SADC Member States at that time. The task ahead was enormous so when the job of Personal Assistant and Accreditation Administrator was advertised, Linda applied. Many applications were received from the SADC region and the interviews were held in South Africa. Linda was very impressive and had the qualities that were required for the task ahead.

Linda started at SADCAS in Gaborone, Botswana on 1 July 2008 joining Ms Ranorovelo and I. The three of us worked very hard and within 3 months SADCAS Office had been set up. SADCAS was subsequently launched in April 2009 and by October 2009 we had started to offer accreditation services. In her work Linda was an Administrator par excellence responsible for the Office administrations and ensuring that all administration activities needed to affect the assessment processes are undertaken timeously. Linda was responsible for organizing all functions in SADCAS such as the launch of SADCAS, 10 years celebrations, Board functions etc. Linda was promoted to the position of Training Administrator in 2018 a position she held until her death. Linda was hard working. She was principled and paid particular attention to detail. She was mouldable and was always jovial. She really was joy to work with! Linda excelled in all she did. Linda was more than my PA but over the years she had become family. Linda was a caring person putting others before her.

Linda brought the human touch to SADCAS. Linda loved soccer and her favourable team was Liverpool. On Sunday, 27 October Liverpool was playing Tottenham Hot Spurs and they won the match. I was away in Frankfurt attending the IAF and ILAC annual meetings. I rang Linda to congratulate her on her team's success but the phone was not answered. The last time I saw Linda was on 16 October 2019 when she came to my apartment together with Mr Mogae Molaoa to bid me farewell as I left Gaborone for Frankfurt through London on that day. She was in her very jovial mood and we hugged to say good bye not knowing that would be the last time I would see Linda. The last time Linda communicated with me was on Tuesday around 17:30 hours on 22 October 2019 when she said she was going home to rest but she indicated that she would go to work on 24 and 25 October 2019.

SADCAS is now in its 11th year of operation and has up to date accredited 121 facilities in 12 SADC Members States and 2 non-SADC Member States. SADCAS testing, calibration and medical laboratories, inspection and management systems (Quality Management Systems) certification bodies accreditation schemes are internationally recognized. As the African saying goes "When we stand tall it is because we stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before us". Linda was a founding member of SADCAS. With Linda the SADCAS Team was complete.

**Linda will be dearly missed
by all who knew her.**

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
- Gain market access across the world

Business Benefits www.business-benefits.org is a website jointly developed by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), ILAC, International Organization for Standards (ISO), Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), and International Certification Network (IQNet), that showcases these benefits through case studies, research papers, and supporting materials. The examples published on the site cite tangible financial data to evidence the cost savings achieved whether through resource efficiency or meeting regulation at lower cost, the value of accessing new



BUSINESS BENEFITS

Evidence. Impact. Value.



YOU ARE INVITED!

INVITATION

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 are experts from the public and private sectors as well as from technical institutions/associations who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors by an accreditation body.

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

Applications shall be addressed to:

Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo
SADCAS Technical Manager
Email: jfranorovelo@sadcas.org

SADCAS

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



SADCAS Offices will be closed from
18th December 2019 and re-opens
on **6th January 2020**

*SADCAS Management and Staff wish you
Merry Xmas and a Prosperous 2020*