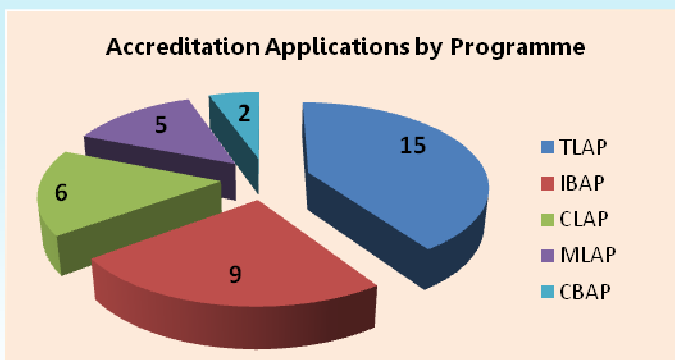


SADCAS Accredits More Facilities

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is proud to announce the accreditation of 2 facilities namely Zimbabwe Platinum Mines (Private) Limited (Zimplats) in the scope of chemical analysis in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 and the Scientific & Industrial Research and Development Centre - National Metrology Institute (SIRDC-NMI) in the scopes of dimensional and temperature metrology in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025. Zimplats accreditation covers tests for mineral elements in ores, concentrates and conmatte. SIRDC-NMI accreditation is effective from 15 March 2012 whilst Zimplats' accreditation is effective from 16 March 2012. Through this accreditation, Zimplats has been granted the unique accreditation number TEST-5 0002 indicating that it is now a SADCAS accredited testing laboratory whilst SIRDC-NMI has been granted the unique identification number CAL-2 003 and CAL-14 002 for dimensional and temperature metrology respectively.

This brings the total number of SADCAS accredited facilities to 6 of which 2 fall under the testing laboratories accreditation programme with the rest falling under the calibration laboratories accreditation programme. At the same time, SADCAS had 37 accreditation applications at various stages of processing, 15 of which fall under the testing laboratories accreditation programme (TLAP), 9 under the inspection bodies accreditation programme (IBAP), 6 under the calibration laboratories accreditation programme (CLAP), 5 under the medical laboratories accreditation programme (MLAP) and 2 under the certification bodies accreditation programme (CBAP).



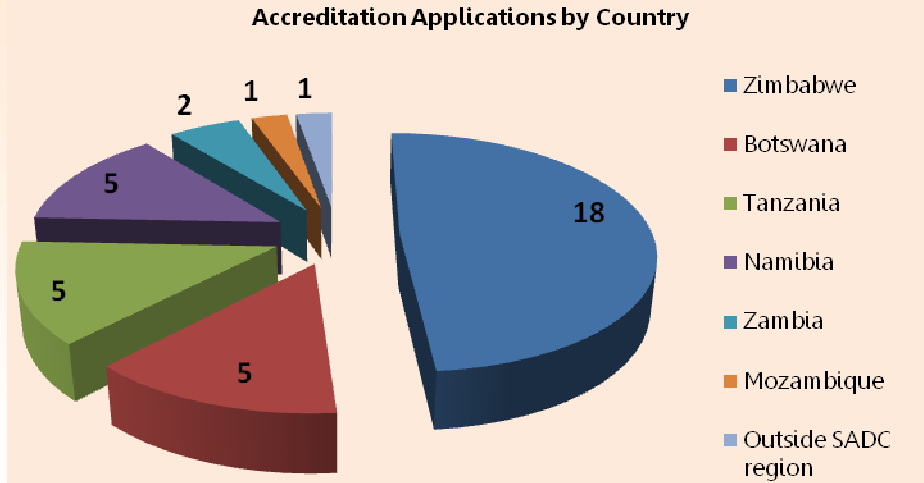
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In terms of countries, 18 of the applications being processed are from Zimbabwe, 5 from Botswana, 5 from Tanzania, 5 from Namibia, 2 from Zambia, one from Mozambique and one from outside the SADC region.



SADCAS Signs MoU with ASLM



The SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Society of Laboratory Medicines (ASLM). The objective of the MOU is to advance professional laboratory medicine practice through accreditation.

Over the years and with challenges such as HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, etc there has been global rapid growth in the various branches of health care services. As part of this growth, laboratory diagnosis has gained tremendous importance in today's practices. The main purpose of a medical laboratory is to provide diagnosis and management system for the physician to use in the care of patients. Therefore the competence and efficient operation of a medical laboratory and timeous delivery of medical laboratory services to the physician is critical in any health care delivery system. Accreditation is the strategy for a medical laboratory to achieve this. The International Standard ISO 15189 specifies the requirements for quality and competence particular to medical laboratories.

The ASLM is a Pan African professional body working with countries to advocate for the critical role and needs of laboratory medicine. The ASLM's mission is to advance professional laboratory medicine practice, science, systems and networks in Africa needed to support preventive medicine, quality care of patients and disease control through partnership with Governments and relevant organizations such as the WHO AFRO and other partners to develop and implement laboratory policies. The ASLM serves as the implementing Evaluation Group for the WHO AFRO Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process towards Accreditation. The stepwise approach which was launched in 2009 is aimed at assisting laboratories to work towards accreditation in accordance with ISO 15189.

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On the other hand SADCAS, a multi economy accreditation body established to meet the accreditation needs of SADC Member States especially those without own national accreditation bodies offers accreditation programmes including the medical laboratories accreditation program in accordance with ISO 15189. SADCAS also offers training in accreditation related activities including training for medical laboratories.

Realizing the common goal of advancing professional laboratory medicine practice through accreditation, the SADCAS and ASLM agreed to cooperate by sharing technical information on areas of mutual interest, advocate for the critical needs of laboratory medicine and the need for policy makers to embrace accreditation as a strategy for the competency medical laboratories, train auditors who conduct internal audits of medical laboratories. The MOU between SADCAS and the ASLM was signed in March 2012 following months of negotiations. SADCAS has already conducted a training course in collaboration with the ASLM and will be conducting further training courses in the future. Meanwhile sharing of information between the 2 organizations is ongoing.



7th Annual General Meeting Held on 20 March 2012

The 7th SADCAS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 20 March 2012 at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi. The AGM which was attended by more than 35 general assembly members and observers attended to the normal AGM business including approval of audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011, ratified the budget for the year 2012/13, appointed external financial auditors for the year ending 31 March 2012 and the Company Secretary for the year beginning 1 April 2012 up to 31 March 2013. Elections were also held for 2 Board positions. The 2012 National Accreditation Focal Point Award was also presented in conjunction with the 7th AGM during which NAFF Botswana was the recipient.



SADCAS 7th AGM in session

Mrs Christine Eve Gadzikwa and Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama who had each served three years as non Executive Directors were re-elected for a second term having put themselves up for election.

The General Assembly in the governing body of SADCAS out of which the SADCAS Board of Directors is drawn. The Board of Directors oversees the running of SADCAS and fulfils any function that the General Assembly may delegate to it. Following the elections held at the 7th SADCAS AGM, the SADCAS Board of Directors now comprises of 8 non executive and one Executive member namely:

- Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy) – Chairman (Non Executive)
- Mrs Masego Marobela – Vice Chairman (Non Executive)
- Mr Stuart Heldrey Carstens – Member (Non Executive)
- Mr Cyprian Tlhako Mokhorro - Member (Non Executive)
- Mrs Christine Eve Gadzikwa - Member (Non Executive)
- Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama - Member (Non Executive)
- Ms Verily Molatedi - Member (Non Executive)
- Mr Steven Bruce Sidney - Member (Non Executive)
- Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa Member (Executive)



Mr Tukai Retires from the SADCAS Board of Directors

Mr Ali Hassan Mavere Tukai retired from the SADCAS Board of Directors having served 2 consecutive three year terms as a non executive Board member. Mr Tukai a physicist by training, retired from active service some years ago after a long career in the SQAM area as the Chief Executive Officer of Weights and Measures in Tanzania. Mr Tukai represented Tanzania on the International Bureau of Legal Metrology for 20 years and was the third Chairman of SADC cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADC MEL).

Mr Tukai was first elected to the SADCAS Board of Directors in 2006 and reelected in 2009 to serve for the second three year term during which he also served on the Human Resources and Remuneration Committee of the SADCAS Board. In his farewell speech during the 25th SADCAS Board meeting held on 20 March 2012 and also in his report to the 7th SADCAS Annual General Meeting held on the same day, Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors thanked Mr Tukai for his untiring commitment and valuable contributions during a critical stage when SADCAS was set up and operationalized. In his remarks at the Board meeting, Mr Tukai noted the achievements so far and encouraged the Board to remain focused and to continue to work together as team in the quest to make SADCAS a sustainable accreditation body.



Mr AHM Tukai (right) after receiving a token of appreciation from Mr RA Kaakunga (Othy) SADCAS Board Chairman

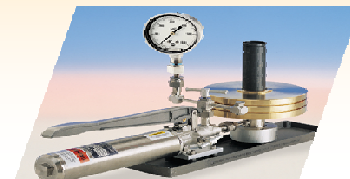


New Promotional Materials!!

The pamphlets can be obtained from the SADCAS Head Office, National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) in the respective SADC countries that are serviced by SADCAS or they can be downloaded from the SADCAS website by following the link <http://www.sadcas.org/promotionalMaterial.php>.



Testing Laboratory Accreditation Programme (TLAP)



Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Programme (CLAP)



Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme (IBAP)



Medical Laboratory Accreditation Programme (MLAP)

SADCAS CEO Attends E-SALAMA workshop

The East and Southern Africa Laboratory Managers Association (E-SALAMA) held its 10th Workshop at Elephant Hills Hotel in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The workshop which was hosted by the University of Zimbabwe was attended by 54 delegates from 9 African countries namely Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Kenya, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe. The theme of the workshop was Accreditation for Sustainable International Trade.

The workshop programme consisted of 17 plenary lectures and 5 short lectures. Highlights of the workshop included 2 presentations by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS Chief Executive Officer on SADCAS and Proficiency Testing Schemes in the SADC Region, a presentation by Dr Kgarebe, Senior International Cooperation Officer at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, a presentation on online computation of analytical data by Dr Joseph Mwaniki University of Nairobi and a presentation on purchasing, maintenance and repair of analytical equipment by Mr Chaouki from Tunisia. The workshop was a great success judged from the feedback from participants and provided a good platform to market SADCAS services.



Participants Attending the Workshop

E-SALAMA was established in 2002 with the aim of training laboratory managers towards achieving accreditation for their laboratories and to provide a platform for exchange of ideas in the areas of laboratory accreditation, proficiency testing, validation of laboratory measurements and related fields. E-SALAMA workshops are held annually and rotate from one country to another. Prior to 2007 workshops were held in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In 2007 Zimbabwe hosted the workshop and once again in 2011. The next E SALAMA workshop will be held in Lesotho.



SADCAS Value Proposition

- ✓ **Delivering confidence**
- ✓ **Assuring competency**
- ✓ **Guaranteeing quality**

Visits to Conformity Assessment Bodies in Namibia

As part of the SADCAS promotional and marketing strategy, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer was on mission in Namibia from 27 February to 1 March 2012 during which a half day awareness seminar was held in Walvis Bay, Namibia and targeted marketing visits were made to nine conformity assessment bodies and related organizations in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Windhoek. The purpose of the mission was to create awareness on the benefits and importance of accreditation and to market SADCAS services. The visit was also an opportunity to meet with clients/potential clients and to discuss the accreditation process and to get at first hand the challenges that clients/potential clients are facing in their journey towards accreditation. Additionally the visit was also an opportunity to promote the 5 days ISO/IEC 17025 training course which was subsequently held in Swakopmund from 26 to 30 March 2012 and was attended by 18 delegates mainly from the above conformity assessment bodies.

The half day accreditation seminar which was organized and sponsored by the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Namibia was held on 27 February 2012 at the Atlantic Hotel in Walvis Bay, Namibia. The seminar was attended by 15 stakeholders mainly from conformity assessment bodies (calibration and testing laboratories) in and around Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. The objective of the seminar was to create awareness on the importance and benefits of accreditation and to market SADCAS services. The SADCAS CEO made a series of presentations on accreditation, SADCAS and how SADCAS fits into the global accreditation infrastructure. She also gave an outline of the SADCAS accreditation process and the related costs. The NAFP gave a brief presentation on the role and responsibilities of the NAFP. The presentation on the SADCAS accreditation process drew a lot of interest from participants who wanted to have a good appreciation of what the process involves and in particular the timelines of the accreditation process. It was noted during the seminar that efforts are underway to establish a laboratory association in Namibia which will serve as a platform for experience sharing on accreditation and networking. The Namibian Standards Institute (NSI) is spearheading the establishment of the Laboratory Association. In the meantime laboratories were encouraged to collaborate and find common solutions to the challenges faced in accreditation matters.



Seminar in progress



From left to right—SADCAS CEO Mrs M P Mutasa, Ms Paloma Ellitson and Ms Cecilia Hinda during tour of NSI Food Testing Laboratory

After the seminar, visits were made to 9 conformity assessment bodies and related organizations namely: the NSI Food Testing Laboratory and Metrotech Laboratory in Walvis Bay on 27 February 2012, TEA Lab, the Uranium Institute, Bureau Veritas and the National Marine Research and Information Centre in Swakopmund on 28 February 2012; NSI Metrology Department and meeting with Mr Ndishishi, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in Windhoek on 29 February 2012; and Geostrada Engineering Materials Laboratory and the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Windhoek on 1 March 2012. During the visits, the SADCAS CEO who was accompanied by the National Accreditation Focal Point for Namibia, Ms Edla Maharero and Mr Manfred Kahipura met with the laboratories' management and key laboratory staff followed by tours of the laboratories.

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The mission to Namibia was very successful judged from the feedback from the seminar. The visits to clients/potential clients were also very worthwhile as SADCAS managed to forge a better understanding of clients' needs and get feedback on SADCAS services. Meetings with potential clients were an excellent opportunity to market SADCAS services. As a result of the visits a number of interests on the training as well as accreditation services were expressed. The meetings also provided an opportunity to introduce the newly appointed NAFP for Namibia Mr Manfred Kahipura and served as a good platform for his induction. SADCAS is grateful to the Namibian Ministry of Trade and Industry for providing transport for use during the mission which involved driving from Walvis Bay to Windhoek. SADCAS also commends the Ministry for sponsoring the one day accreditation awareness seminar held on 27 February 2012 in Walvis Bay.



Tour of Metrotech Laboratory



Tour of Bureau Veritas Laboratory



SADCAS CEO chatting with Mr Johan van Heerden



Tour of Botswana Bureau of Standards Laboratories

The SADCAS Technical Manager Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo accompanied by the National Accreditation Focal Point for Botswana Mr Edward Mmatli toured the Botswana Bureau of Standards' testing laboratories in Gaborone, Botswana. The tour which was undertaken on 2 February 2012 was part of the targeted marketing visits to conformity assessment bodies. The delegation was received by Mr Pilot Masunga the Laboratory Manager.

The BOBS testing laboratories comprise of 7 sections namely: Chemistry, Microbiology, Textiles, Civil engineering, and Mechanical engineering, Plastic and Electrical. The laboratories undertake analysis on various products ranging from food to feeds, shoes, carpets, building materials furniture, metals, plastics and electrical products. The laboratories are equipped with state of the art equipment most of which was commissioned in 2009. The laboratories were equipped through funding from the Government of Botswana. A total of 24 staff work in the laboratories. Currently all tests are undertaken by the Gaborone laboratories but plans are underway to build laboratories in Francistown. The Botswana Bureau of Standards realizes the importance of accreditation in order to ensure the credibility of its test results and is working towards accreditation. The BOBS Industrial Metrology Unit is already accredited by SADCAS.

The tour of the laboratories provided an opportunity to discuss accreditation issues and to see at first hand the BOBS testing capabilities.



SADCAS Technical Manager and NAFP-Botswana Visit CABs in Botswana

From 2 to 7 March 2012, Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager and the NAFPs – for Botswana Mr Goitseone Seitshiro and Mr Edward Mmatli paid courtesy visits to nine conformity assessment bodies in Botswana namely: Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) in Sebele, Medi-Path Laboratory in Palapye, Morupule Colliery Mine in Palapye, Morupule Power Station in Palapye, Primary Hospital in Palapye (PPH), BCL Mine in Selibe Phikwe, African Copper Mining in Dukwi, Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) in Francistown and Nyangabwe Referral Hospital (NRH) in Francistown.

The SADCAS delegation was received by the respective CABs' Management Representatives. Generally all the CABs Management Representatives are aware of the importance and benefits of the accreditation with 2 CABs being already accredited, 2 working towards accreditation and 5 of them have not yet set up a laboratory system.

The BNVL is a SANAS accredited laboratory whose re-assessment is planned for August 2012. The laboratory is currently considering to changeover from SANAS to SADCAS accreditation through the Twinning Partnership Arrangement between SADCAS and SANAS.

Medi-path Laboratory is a private laboratory sponsored by SIDA and has been two years of existence. Medi-Path looks after clinical analysis and medical examinations. The laboratory realizes the need for accreditation and is working towards accreditation. The two other medical laboratories which fall under the Ministry of Health are also working towards accreditation through the Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process towards Accreditation (SLIPTA).

Morupule Power Station is the main client of Morupule Colliery Mine who supplies coal to the Power Station of generation of electricity. As such the 2 partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) directing their laboratories to go for accreditation with the same accreditation body. The laboratories are therefore working towards accreditation. BCL Mine is working towards accreditation and aims to be accredited within two years. Some of their personnel have participated in the generic training courses on ISO/IEC 17025 offered by SADCAS and intend to send



From left to right—Ms Jeanne F Ranorovelo and Mr G Seitshiro (behind) with Medi-path Laboratory staff



BCL Mine Laboratory staff pose for a photo during the visit

more personnel in future. The African Copper Mining produces copper concentrates which are all exported to many countries via South Africa. The company performs its own tests. Although the laboratory management understands ISO/IEC 17025 requirements they have not yet fully documented their system. The Laboratory management heard about SADCAS for the first time during the courtesy visit and expressed an interest to participate in the training courses organized by SADCAS.

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The SADCAS delegation also visited the Botswana Meat Commission in Francistown who now realizes the need for accreditation as pressure is mounting from their clients that all tests on meat exported to the EU be undertaken by accredited laboratories. The BMC now has plans to have its laboratory in Lobatse accredited and to have test centralized at that laboratory.

The meetings with management representatives were a good opportunity to market SADCAS services as promotional material on SADCAS was distributed and detailed explanations provided on SADCAS and accreditation in general.



NAFP-Botswana Hosts Accreditation Awareness Seminar

The National Accreditation Focal Point for Botswana hosted a half day accreditation workshop on 12 March 2012 at Oasis Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana. The seminar which was sponsored by the Ministry of Industry and Trade where the NAFP is housed was attended by more than 35 stakeholders mainly from conformity assessment bodies and various delegates from government departments notably the Ministries of Mines and Industry and Trade. The seminar whose objective was to create awareness on the importance and benefits of accreditation and to market SADCAS services was opened by Mr Tapela, the Chief Industrial Officer on behalf of the Director Industrial Affairs who in his opening remarks commended SADCAS on the progress made in operationalizing SADCAS and encouraged conformity assessment bodies to utilize SADCAS services for their own benefit and the country's benefit. Mr Tapela noted that since SADCAS is based in Botswana it provided a ready access to accreditation services to conformity assessment bodies in Botswana. This was then followed by a series of presentations by the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen Mutasa on accreditation, worldwide trends in accreditation, an overview of SADCAS and an outline of the SADCAS accreditation process and the related costs. Mr Goitseone Seitshiro the first NAFP officer for Botswana gave a presentation on the role and responsibilities of the NAFP, the achievements so far and activities underway.



Mr Tapela —Chief Industrial Officer, Department of Industrial Affairs Ministry of Trade & Industry

The presentations drew a lot of interest from participants who wanted to get a full appreciation of what the accreditation process involves and in particular the timelines for accreditation. A number of participants who attended the seminar have already applied for accreditation. Discussions were also held on the need to legislate accreditation in Botswana in order to safeguard the health and safety of the public. The seminar was highly interactive and judged by the feedback from participants was well organized and a great success. Plans are now underway to take the awareness seminar to other cities in Botswana.



Participants attending the seminar



Mr G Seitshiro—NAFP Botswana making a presentation during the seminar

SADCA Holds Workshop



The SADC Cooperation in Accreditation held a workshop on 20 March 2012 in conjunction with the Annual SADC SQAM meetings in Lilongwe, Malawi. The workshop was part of SADCA consultative process with stakeholders on the SADCA five year Business Plan for the period 2012 to 2017 revisions to the SADCA By Laws. The workshop which was facilitated by the SADCA Chairman Mrs Masego Marobela was attended by more than 30 stakeholders mainly SADCA members and National Accreditation Focal Points.

Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga a member of the SADCA Executive Committee presented an overview of the By Laws highlighting the areas where significant changes had been effected to reflect SADCA main objective of establishing Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) in the region and working towards the achievement of international of its own competence to manage a Mutual Recognition Arrangement within SADC. Changes were made to the membership categories with the revised By Laws now having 4 categories of membership namely the Arrangement member category, Ordinary members, Associate members and Stakeholder members. According to the By Laws Arrangement membership shall be open to a member accreditation body who has successfully met the SADCA requirements to be a signatory to the SADCA MRA. Ordinary members shall be open to the government recognized accreditation bodies of SADC Member States and National Accreditation Focal Points nominated by a Member State's government where national accreditation bodies do not exist. Associate membership shall be open to accreditation bodies of non SADC states with objectives similar to those of SADCA subject to prior approval of the SADCA General Assembly. Stakeholder membership shall be open to industry associations, government representatives, conformity assessment body associations, other regional cooperations in accreditation, representatives from other SADC SQAM structures and any other SADC Committees with an interest in accreditation. Roles and responsibilities of SADCA committees were elaborated to include the MRA Council which will be responsible for making decision on applications to the SADCA MRA signatory and the MRA Committee which will be responsible for planning and managing the implementation and maintenance of SADCA MRAs. The article on sanctions was also expanded on.

Dr Elsabe Steyn presented the SADCA Business Plan which was developed following the approval of the Business Plan Framework at the 15th SADCA Annual Meeting held in 2011. The Business Plan sets the background to the establishment of SADCA, the strategic context of accreditation which impacts on the role of SADCA and its objectives as well as the business plan for the period 2012/13 to 2016/17 including the annual implementation targets and associated budget. The Business Plan focuses on the operationalization of SADCA and the establishment of a SADCA MRA.

Discussions at the workshop were highly interactive with members wanting to fully appreciate SADCA future role and understanding the proposed revisions to the By Laws. The revised By Laws and the Business Plan were approved at the 16th SADCA Annual Meeting subsequently held on 22 March 2012 in Lilongwe, Malawi marking the beginning of the operationalization of SADCA and the establishment of the SADCA MRA. At that same meeting Mr Ron Josias, Chief Executive Officer of the South African National Accreditation System was unanimously elected Chairman of the MRA Committee whilst Mr Davlin Damaziel Chokazinga was elected Chairman of the Technical Committee. The SADCA Executive Committee will now focus its efforts on operationalizing SADCA and establishment of the SADCA MRA.



**To be at the cutting edge of accreditation
service delivery**

Swift Micro Laboratory Amongst SADC Quality Awards Winners for 2012

Swift Micro Laboratory an accredited laboratory, was amongst the 4 winners of the SADC Annual Quality Awards. The Laboratory, a winner in Category 3: Service the year large Enterprises has 2 branches in Cape Town and Midrand in South Africa. The Awards were presented at a dinner held at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe Malawi by Honourable Daniel Luwimbi Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture.

Swift Micro laboratory is a commercial testing which provides comprehensive product safety service to the food and beverages, cosmetics, hospitality and related industries throughout the SADC region.

The 2012 SADC Annual Quality Awards are the second round of competition to be held following the inaugural implementation of the awards in 2011. The aim of the awards is to recognize and appreciate organizations and individuals who are contributing to quality advancement in all sectors of SADC by having measurements and quality systems, procedures and processes that are in line with local, regional and international practices and who use quality advancement to support national and regional economic development and growth. The competition has five categories, 4 of them offer awards for Large Enterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises whilst the 5th is for an individual award. The categories of the SADC Annual Quality Awards as outlined in the procedure which was approved in 2009 by the committee of Ministers of Trade and Industry are:

- Category 1: Company of the year,
- Category 2: Product of the year;
- Category 3: Service of the year;
- Category 4: Exporter of the year; and
- Category 5: Individual of the year.



Ms Anza Bester—National Business Development Manager at Swift Micro Laboratory receiving Award from Honourable Daniel Luwimbi—Minister of Tourism & Wildlife and Culture Malawi



Mrs Maureen P Mutasa presenting the Judges remarks

Speaking on behalf of the panel of judges at the Awards presentation ceremony, Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS said that the Award is steadily harnessing a partnership between the quality infrastructure institutions and public and private sector entities. “We must emphasize that the aim of the competition is to raise awareness on standards, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology at enterprise level and therefore the regional competition must be anchored on credible national level competitions” she said. She therefore urged SADC Member States to encourage companies to participate in the competitions. The other judges for the Awards were Mrs Gabriella da Siva from Mozambique, Mrs Masego Marobela from Botswana and Messrs Daimon Makyembe and Ali Hassan Tukai from Tanzania.



NAFP-Botswana Receives the 2012 Recognition Award

Messrs Goitseone Seitshiro and Edward Mmatli the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP) for Botswana received the 2012 NAFP Award at a ceremony held on 20 March 2012 in conjunction with the SADCAS Annual General meeting at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi. The Award is the fourth to be held having had the inaugural ceremony in 2009. The NAFP Award is SADCAS way of showing its recognition and appreciation for the hard work and commitment by NAFPs towards SADCAS goals thus motivate them.

National Accreditation Focal points are SADCAS tentacles of reaching out to clients as well as stakeholders including the general public in SADC Member States that are serviced by SADCAS. Originally 14 NAFPs were established but following developments in Mauritius where the national accreditation body, the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS) has now been operational for 4 years and is now in its own right an Associate member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mauritius no longer has the status of an NAFP. There are therefore 13 NAFPs. In executing SADCAS activities, NAFPs prepare national action plans in support of SADCAS implementation plans in order to achieve SADCAS objectives. The implementation of national action plans by NAFPs is monitored for progress by SADCAS.



From left to right—SADCAS Board Chairman, Mr Kaakunga, NAFPs Botswana—Mr Edward Mmatli and Mr Goitseone Seitshiro and SADCAS Board Vice Chairman, Mrs Masego Marobela during the certificate handover ceremony

The Award is open to all NAFPs who have been appointed by their respective Governments to serve in the NAFP office. The candidate shall have served as an NAFP for at least 2 years and must regularly submit quarterly reports on activities undertaken and must have effectively progressed the implementation of their respective country's action plan on accreditation and contributed towards SADCAS accreditation goals. The criteria are weighted in accordance to their importance with the latter two criteria being most highly weighted hence are key.

Speaking at the Awards ceremony, Mrs Maureen Mutasa the Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS noted that NAFP Botswana had made very good progress during the period of review undertaking activities such as awareness raising workshops, targeted marketing visits to conformity assessment bodies in various cities around Botswana. Meetings were also held with key Government stakeholders and a conference to commemorate 2011 World Accreditation Day was successfully held in Gaborone in partnership with the ISO/IEC 17025 Forum in the true spirit of smart partnership. The NAFP has established an extensive database of conformity assessment bodies and had the highest response rate for the survey of CABs undertaken by SADCAS in 2011, through the network of NAFPs. All these activities have contributed to increased awareness on the need and importance of accreditation and awareness on the existence of SADCAS and the services that SADCAS offers. As a direct result of NAFP- Botswana's activities uptake of SADCAS services in Botswana has increased. So far SADCAS has accredited one facility in Botswana and has 5 accreditation applications from Botswana at various stages of processing. SADCAS has also successfully conducted 5 training courses in Botswana most of which were conducted during 2011, the period of review for the Award.

In his acceptance speech Mr Seitshiro thanked the Government of Botswana for the support provided to NAFP work and SADCAS for the leadership and support provided as they undertake their work .

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SADCAS CEO Mrs M P Mutasa presenting the Award speech



Mr G Seitshiro (right) presenting the Award acceptance speech with Mr E Mmatli on his left side

The NAFP- Zimbabwe who was the Award recipient for 2011 was the first runner up for the 2012 Award with NAFP – Seychelles being the second runner up to the 2012 Award.



NAFP Appointment



Mr Manfred Kahipura



On 16 February 2012 the Permanent Secretary of the Namibia Ministry of Trade and Industry appointed Mr Manfred Kahipura as the full time National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Namibia. Mr Kahipura a Standards Officer within the Ministry holds a Bachelor of Technology degree in Economics. With this appointment Ms Edla Maharero will now be the alternate NAFP.



SADCAS Publishes NAFP Handbook

SADCAS has published a handbook for National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs). The handbook which is a consolidation of information for reference by NAFPs in their day to day work contains frequently asked questions about accreditation and responses is designed to ensure consistency in handling enquiries by NAFPs.

The handbook which was published in November 2011 gives a background on SADCAS profile, NAFPs roles and responsibilities and outlines the SADCAS quality management system and the accreditation process. It also details the role and responsibilities of NAFPs in the marketing of SADCAS services of which accreditation is the core business as well as training services and handling of enquiries. It also contains a section on frequently asked questions and response to them. Effective handling of enquiries is key to SADCAS promotion and marketing efforts. Enquiries can be directed to the SADCAS office in Botswana or to the NAFP office in the respective countries serviced by SADCAS. Such enquiries can be received via telephone, fax, letter, email or can be raised at workshops, meetings and seminars. Where an NAFP is not able to handle the enquiry the matter shall be referred to SADCAS office in Botswana.

The handbook was developed following a request by NAFPs at the 2010 Annual NAFP meeting. The outline of the handbook was developed by SADCAS in consultation with an NAFP task force established at the 2010 annual meeting following which the handbook was prepared by the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer. A draft of the handbook was considered at the 2011 annual meeting held from 28 to 29 November 2011 and subsequently published.

Commenting on the handbook, Mrs Feza Matata, NAFP- DRC said, "the handbook is a valuable tool to guide NAFPs in their day-to-day work and will ensure consistency in the handling of enquiries by all NAFPs". It will also help to ensure continuity in the work of NAFPs.



More SADCAS Assessors to be Mentored

One of the critical success factors towards the achievement of SADCAS mission of providing credible and cost effective accreditation services is that more assessors are qualified and registered to undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS. As much as possible the SADCAS pool of assessors should cover the geographical diversity and be locally based so as to minimize travel and subsistence costs which currently constitute a significant amount of the accreditation costs. Currently SADCAS has a pool of 11 registered technical assessors and 6 Lead assessors. With the accreditation applications on hand and the anticipated applications, it is inevitable that SADCAS develops its pool of assessors.

SADCAS has secured funding from PTB Germany to mentor 47 assessors most of whom were trained in 2009/10. The mentoring will as much as possible be undertaken in the countries where the assessors are based. The mentoring programme which involves on-site assessments will be undertaken as much as possible in the countries where the assessors are based and will commence in April 2012. The project will run over a period of one year during which the trainees will be mentored, monitored, and qualified then considered for registration as SADCAS assessors.



Botswana Department of Water Affairs Staff Attend ISO/IEC 17025 Awareness Course

Botswana's department of Water Affairs staff attended a one day ISO/IEC 17025 awareness training course held on 24 January 2012 at Cresta Lodge in Gaborone, Botswana. The training course was attended by 8 personnel drawn from various sections of the Department of Water Affairs.

The Department of Water Affairs operates water testing laboratories which offer chemical and microbiological analytical services in support of the Department's role in maintaining well fields in Botswana. The laboratories also undertake water analyses on request from other clients. The Department realizes the need and importance of accreditation in assuring the quality and safety of water and is working towards accreditation.

The one-day training course which was conducted by one of the SADCAS trainers was aimed at management of the Company and designed to raise awareness on accreditation, the need and benefits of accreditation, the management and technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and to familiarize management with the accreditation process and related costs. The training course was opened by Mr Thato Serth Setloboko, Principal Hydrologist on behalf of the Director, Dr Obalekile Obakeng. This was followed by opening remarks from the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen Mutasa who outlined the objective of the course, presented the course outlined and introduced the Trainer after which the Trainer took over. Judged by the feedback from participants the course objective and the participants expectations were met. This was the 3rd one-day awareness course to be held by SADCAS. The one-day awareness courses were introduced in 2011 to the growing portfolio of training courses driven by needs of conformity assessment bodies.



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Calibration Laboratories

To view the scope of accreditation of a facility, click on the Accreditation Number of the body.
NOTE: This list is updated regularly.
 Where a facility accreditation has been suspended, the words "SUSPENDED" shall appear.

Accredited Laboratory	Location (Country, City/Town)	Accreditation Number
Botswana Bureau of Standards - Industrial Metrology Unit	Botswana, Gaborone	CAL-2 001
Botswana Bureau of Standards - Industrial Metrology Unit	Botswana, Gaborone	CAL-14 001
Seychelles Bureau of Standards - Metrology Laboratory	Seychelles, Mahe	CAL-8 001
Tanzania Bureau of Standards - Metrology Laboratory	Tanzania, Dar es Salaam	CAL-2 002
Scientific & Industrial Research and Development Centre - National Metrology Institute (SIRDC-NMI)	Zimbabwe, Harare	CAL-14 002
Scientific & Industrial Research and Development Centre - National Metrology Institute (SIRDC-NMI)	Zimbabwe, Harare	CAL-2 003

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SADCAS Holds ISO/IEC 17025 Courses at Mutanda Mining in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

SADCAS successfully conducted two ISO/IEC 17025 courses at Mutanda Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A five-day ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and internal auditing course was held from 13 to 17 February 2012 and was attended by 10 laboratory personnel. This was followed by a one-day awareness course on 28 February 2012 and attended by 10 participants from various departments of the Company.



ISO/IEC 17025 five-day course in session



Participants pose for a photo during the one-day awareness course

Mutanda Mining S.P.R.L is a newly developed high grade copper and cobalt producer with its operations located in Kolwezi in the mining province of Katanga. As part of its quality assurance program, Mutanda Mining operates its own laboratories. The Company realizes the need and importance of accreditation and is working towards accreditation.

The one-day training course which was conducted in English was aimed at management of the Company and designed to raise awareness on accreditation, the need and benefits of accreditation, the management and technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and to familiarize management with the accreditation process and related costs. The 5 days' ISO/IEC 17025 course whose objective was to impart knowledge on ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, implementation and internal auditing skills to the company's laboratory personnel thus strengthen the Company's testing laboratory so as to meet accreditation requirements in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 and to monitor compliance thereof was conducted in French. Both courses were conducted in February 2012.



Invitation to Register your Organization with SADCAS

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is in the process of creating a database of conformity assessment service providers (testing laboratories, certification bodies (management systems/ product/ personnel) and calibration laboratories operating in those countries that are serviced by SADCAS. The database will be used by SADCAS in order to keep you updated on developments in accreditation.

SADCAS invites your organization to **complete the registration from on p 17** and to return the duly completed form to SADCAS by Email: info@sadcas.org or Fax: +267 313 2922. You can also download the form from our website: <http://www.sadcas.org> under "Latest News".

REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Organization: _____

2. Contact Details: _____

2.1. Postal Address: _____

2.2. Physical Address: _____

2.3. Country: _____

2.4. Telephone: _____

2.5. Mobile: _____

2.6. Fax: _____

2.7. Email: _____

2.8. Name of Contact person: _____

2.9. Title: _____

2.10. Position: _____

2.11. Type of Operation *[Please tick (✓) as appropriate]*

Private	<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi Government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <i>[specify]:</i>	_____

2.12. Scope of CAB *[Please tick (✓) as appropriate]*

Calibration Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	Management System Certification Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Testing Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	Product Certification Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspection Body	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.13. Nature of business *[Please tick (✓) as appropriate]*

Regulatory	<input type="checkbox"/>	Voluntary	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2.14. Sector *[Please tick (✓) as appropriate]*

Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food & Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Other *[Please specify]* _____

Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC 17020:2012: Conformity assessment— Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.	Standard published Document available as of 2012-02-28
ISO/IEC 17021-2: Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems	Standard published on 1 February 2011 Transition period until 1 February 2013
ISO/IEC TS 17022: Conformity assessment – Requirements and recommendations for content of a third-party audit report on management systems	Standard published Document available as of 2012-02-27
ISO/IEC FDIS 17024: Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of persons	Final Draft International Standards (FDIS) ballot initiated for 2 months . Proof sent to Secretariat.
ISO/IEC DIS 17065: Conformity assessment – Requirements for certification certifying products, processes and services	Voting period on the Draft International Standard closed in October 2011. Full report circulated. DIS approved for registration as Final Draft International Standard (FDIS).
ISO/IEC WD 17067: Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification	Committee Draft approved and CD study/ballot initiated. The document is at the close of voting/comment period.
ISO 15189: 2007: Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence	International standard to be revised.
ISO 13528:2005: Statistical methods for proficiency testing by inter laboratory comparisons	International standard to be revised
ILAC P4:03/2012: ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement): Policy Statement	Document published The document provides details on the objectives, foundation, management, procedures and decisions associated with the ILAC/MRA.
ISO 19011:2011: Guidelines for quality and/or environmental management systems auditing	Revised international standard published Document available as of 2011-11-11
ILAC G25:01/2012: Accreditation of Proficiency Providers to ISO/IEC 17043:2012—A crosswalk to ILAC G13:2007	Document published The document provides an introduction to ISO/IEC 17043 standard and a crosswalk to ILAC G13:2007.

SADCAS Training Courses

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) provides training for conformity assessment bodies' management and staff. Conformity assessment bodies (CABs) include calibration/testing laboratories, medical laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

SADCAS Trainers

SADCAS draws its trainers from a pool of qualified and experienced experts from the SADC region who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters be it system implementation and/or assessments.

Training Programmes

SADCAS currently offers the following accreditation training courses:

Five-Days' Requirements and Internal Auditing Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for medical laboratories**
- ISO/IEC 17020 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for inspection bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17021 Requirements and Internal Auditing **for management systems certification bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Internal auditing **for calibration/testing laboratories**

The objective of the 5 days courses is to provide an insight into the respective system standard's requirements and implementation as well as to guide CAB's personnel on how to prepare and carry-out an internal audit so as to monitor compliance with the system standard. These courses are made relevant and practical as they include case studies and exercises that reflect the respective professional disciplines. In order to objectively assess participants, an examination is written at the end of each course. Participants are also evaluated throughout the course.

One-Day Awareness Training Courses on the Various Key Accreditation Standards

- ISO 15189 for **medical laboratories**
- ISO/IEC 17020 **for inspection bodies**
- ISO/IEC 17025 **for calibration/testing laboratories**

The objective of the one-day awareness training courses is to create awareness on the benefits and importance of accreditation and the requirements of the respective accreditation standards.

The SADCAS courses can be conducted in-house. In-house courses have the following benefits:

- ✓ You choose the venue of the course
- ✓ You choose the date of the course
- ✓ Cost effective as a number of staff can be trained at the same time
- ✓ Promotes team work as members have access to the same consistent information

Diary of Upcoming Events

DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
12 April 2012	FRAC/HRRC	Pretoria, South Africa
13 April 2012	Board of Directors	Pretoria, South Africa
16 April 2012	ILAC LA	Prague, Czech Republic
18-19 April 2012	ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (IIC)	Prague, Czech Republic
19 April 2012	FRAC/	Pretoria, South Africa
20 April 2012	ILAC PTCG	Prague, Czech Republic
23-27 April 2012	CAFMET—4 th International Metrology Conference	Marrakech, Morocco
27 April to 5 May 2012	Mid-term meetings	Frankfurt, Germany
29 April 2012	IAF MLA Committee	Frankfurt, Germany
30 April 2012	IAF TC	Frankfurt, Germany
1 May 2012	ILAC TC	Frankfurt, Germany
2 May 2012	ILAC ARC	Frankfurt, Germany
3 May 2012	ILAC Inspection Committee	Frankfurt, Germany
16 May 2012	9 th SADCA/SANAS TPA meeting	Pretoria, South Africa
16-17 May 2012	TMSA Tripartite Accreditation Experts meeting	TBA
21-22 May 2012	Eurachem Workshop on Validation/ Traceability/ Measurement Uncertainty	Berlin, Germany
23-24 May 2012	EA General Assembly	Madrid, Spain
31 May 2012	33 rd EEE-PT WG meeting	Berlin, Germany
5-6 June 2012	APLAC Board meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
7-8 June 2012	APLAC MRA Council	Bangkok, Thailand
25-29 June 2012	13 th International Symposium on Biological and Environmental Reference Materials (BERM 13)	Vienna, Austria

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