

SADCAS Launch



All smiles!!! Botswana Minister of Trade and Industry Honourable Daniel Neo Moroka congratulates SADCAS' Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen P Mutasa after the unveiling of the plaque, whilst SADCAS' Board of Directors Chairman Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy) watches

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was launched on 23 April 2009 at the Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone, Botswana. The occasion was graced by over 200 dignitaries from the SADC member states, diplomats from various countries and the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão. The Botswana Minister of Trade and Industry Honourable Daniel Neo Moroka was the guest of honour.

SADCAS is a regional accreditation body established in terms of the SADC Memorandum of Understanding on standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology to provide accreditation services to SADC member states. The first multi-economy body in the world, SADCAS was incorporated in December 2005 as a non-profit limited company and was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2007 as a subsidiary organization of SADC.

SADCAS whose set up is being funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is to provide internationally recognized cost effective regional

accreditation services for SADC member states aimed at supporting regional and international trade, enhancing the protection of consumers and improving the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas. Accreditation is the process of providing recognition to an organization for its competency in performing a specific task. It involves the assessment of technical competence of testing/calibration laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.



His Excellency Mr Tor Christian Hildan – Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in South Africa delivering a speech during SADCAS launch

In his speech the guest of honour noted the key role that accreditation plays in socio-economic development and welcomed the establishment of SADCAS. He urged conformity assessment service providers to take up the services offered by SADCAS as a demonstration of competency and a means to build trust/confidence amongst trading partners. He further noted that all stakeholders including the general public stand to benefit from accreditation. The Minister also encouraged SADC member states to facilitate the acceptance of SADCAS in their own countries and to continually support the National Accreditation Focal Points which are the administrative links between SADCAS and member states.



Some of the invited guests at SADCAS launch



Shumba Ratshega Traditional Dance Group entertaining guests during SADCAS launch

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SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tomaz Salomão and SADCAS Board Chairman Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy) shake hands after the MoU signing ceremony during the SADCAS launch

In conjunction with the launch, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on general cooperation was signed between SADC, represented by the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tomaz Salomão and SADCAS represented by the Board Chairman Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy). The MoU formalizes the operational relationship between SADC and SADCAS.

In her closing remarks, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa the Chief Executive Officer of SADCAS emphasized SADCAS' vision of being a leading regionally accepted and internationally recognized regional accreditation body aimed at supporting and enhancing industry and government's efforts and to be at the cutting edge of accreditation service delivery. She also said that SADCAS' vision will only come to fruition with the continued support of donors and also of importance going forward, the take up of SADCAS' accreditation services by clients in member states.

SADCAS launch received wide coverage in the media and on local television and radio.

SADCAS CEO Visits more SADC Member States

As part of its marketing, promotion and communication strategy, SADCAS undertook more visits to SADC member states. During the period 1 March to 30 June 2009, visits were undertaken in seven SADC member states namely: Malawi; Namibia; Swaziland; Mauritius; Democratic Republic of Congo; Mozambique and Seychelles.

During the visits, various meetings were held with senior government officials, regulators and stakeholders in general in order to create awareness on the importance of accreditation and existence of SADCAS; inform stakeholders on the progress with the establishment and operationalization of SADCAS and the key role that National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) play in SADCAS; articulate SADCAS expectations from governments and stakeholders in member states that will be serviced by SADCAS; and hand-over of IT equipment for use by NAFPs in undertaking SADCAS activities.

In all the countries visited the meetings were well attended in particular the stakeholder meetings where attendance was at least 25, with 50 participants attending the stakeholder meeting in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On the visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the SADCAS CEO was accompanied by Mrs J F Ranorovelo – SADCAS Technical Manager whilst Mr Kaakunga the Chairman of SADCAS Board of Directors accompanied the CEO on the visit to Seychelles. In Swaziland, the stakeholder meeting was opened by Honourable Jabulile Mashwana – Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade.



Participants posing for a photo during a stakeholders' meeting in Malawi



Participants at the stakeholders' meeting in Namibia

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Mr Kwete Minga Bope—Permanent Secretary Ministry of Trade and Economy (Democratic Republic of Congo) receiving IT equipment from SADCAS' Chief Executive Officer



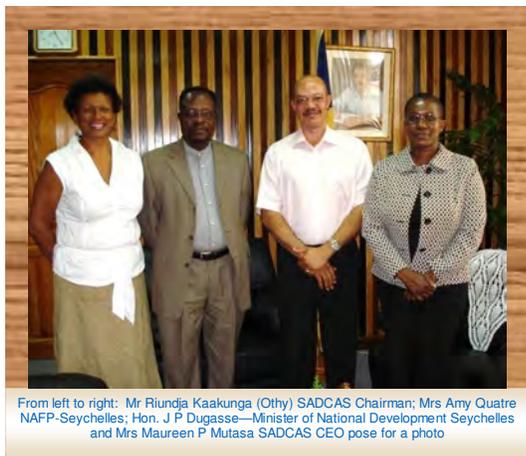
Participants at the stakeholders' meeting in Swaziland



Participants at the stakeholders' meeting in Mozambique



Mr Swaminathan Ragen—Permanent Secretary Ministry of Industry, Science and Research (Mauritius) receiving IT equipment from SADCAS CEO whilst Mr Chankaar Bheekhun—NAFP-Mauritius (left) and Mr Robin Gopee (right) witness the handover



From left to right: Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy) SADCAS Chairman; Mrs Amy Quatre NAFP-Seychelles; Hon. J P Dugasse—Minister of National Development Seychelles and Mrs Maureen P Mutasa SADCAS CEO pose for a photo

In Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius and Seychelles courtesy calls were made on the respective countries' Ministers responsible for industry/trade namely:

- Honourable H Mussa – Minister of Industry and Trade Malawi;
- Honourable S Mbosso – Minister of Industry – DRC;
- Honourable P Gokhool – Minister of Industry, Science & Research – Mauritius; and
- Honourable J Dugasse – Minister of National Development – Seychelles.

During the courtesy calls on the Ministers, the SADCAS CEO Mrs Mutasa highlighted the importance of accreditation and informed the Ministers about SADCAS and progress made in operationalizing SADCAS. The SADCAS CEO also articulated SADCAS expectations in particular the need to promote accreditation amongst policy makers, to promote acceptance of SADCAS in their respective countries and to strengthen support to their respective NAFPs.

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Judged by the objectives met, the levels of outreach and publicity received on the meetings held, the visits to Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Mauritius, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Seychelles were indeed a success. SADCAS once again thank all the respective NAFPs and SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) Committee members for their time and effort in organizing the meetings. SADCAS also thanks the respective countries' governments for hosting the meetings. Visits to Zambia and Angola are scheduled to take place in July 2009.



SADCAS Holds its 4th Annual General Meeting

SADCAS held its fourth Annual General meeting on 21 April 2009 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting was attended by 40 General Assembly members from 12 SADC member states, invited guests and observers from other countries outside the SADC region.

The General Assembly approved the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008 and appointed the auditors and company secretary for the 2009/10 financial year amongst other issues discussed. The General Assembly also elected new members onto the SADCAS Board of Directors.

The SADCAS General Assembly comprises of ordinary members of the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA), National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) and representatives from other SADC SQAM structures. The General Assembly governs SADCAS. Drawn out of the General Assembly is the Board of Directors which keeps the activities of SADCAS under review and fulfills any function that the SADCAS General Assembly may delegate to it.



Introducing New SADCAS Board/Committee Members

At the last SADCAS Annual General Meeting held on 21 April 2009 in Gaborone, Botswana Mr Ali Hassan Mavere Tukai was re-elected to the SADCAS Board of Directors having served on the Board since its establishment. Mrs Christine Eve Gadzikwa Director General, Standards Association of Zimbabwe and SADC Committee member for Zimbabwe and Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama Director, Metrology Congolese Control Office and NAFP- DRC were elected to the Board to replace Messrs Mike Peet and Mataa Mukelabai both of whom retired from the Board having served the Board since its establishment.

Ms Verily Molatedi, a Chartered Accountant has also been co-opted to the Board and the Finance and Audit Committee and brings along with her financial expertise and experience. Mr Steve Sidney who is well known in accreditation circles has also been co-opted to the Finance and Audit Committee and brings with him wealth of experience in financial as well as in accreditation issues being himself a Lead Assessor with SANAS.



Mrs Christine Eve Gadzikwa
Director General
Standards Association of Zimbabwe
(SAZ) [Zimbabwe]



Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama
Director of Metrology & Technical
Control
Congolese Control Office (OCC)
Democratic Republic of Congo]



Ms Verily Kearoma Molatedi
General Manager (Finance)
Botswana Meat Commission
[Botswana—Co-opted]



Mr Steven Bruce Sidney
Consultant
[South Africa—Co-opted]

NAFP-Tanzania Receives Award



From left to right: - Mrs Masego Marobela—SADCAS Board of Directors Vice Chairman, Ms Stella Emmanuel Mrosso—NAFP-Tanzania (Recipient of the inaugural NAFP Award) and Mr Riundja Kaakunga—Chairman SADCAS Board of Directors, during the Award ceremony

Mrs Stella Mrosso the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) for Tanzania was the recipient of the inaugural NAFP Award. The award was presented to Ms Mrosso by the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors, Mr Riundja Kaakunga (Othy) at a ceremony held on 21 April 2009 in Gaborone Botswana in conjunction with the SADCAS Annual General Meeting.

The award is presented annually to officers who have served the NAFP office effectively and was introduced in 2008. Decisions on the award are made by the SADCAS Board of Directors based on defined selection criteria. NAFP Tanzania was established in 2003. Since its establishment, NAFP-Tanzania has regularly submitted quarterly reports on its activities and has made a lot of progress in terms of creating awareness on accreditation, counseling visits to conformity assessment bodies, coordination of National Proficiency Testing Schemes, identification of experts for training as assessors, undertaking various training courses on accreditation standards etc. Up to date several laboratories in Tanzania have been accredited and a number of applications are on hand.

In receiving the Award Ms Mrosso thanked her supervisors for their support and encouraged other NAFPs to aspire to receiving the next award.



SADCAS Celebrates World Accreditation Day

World Accreditation Day is celebrated on 9 June each year. It is a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation.

The inaugural international day was celebrated in 2008. The theme of this year's World Accreditation Day was "Competency", a core principle of what accreditation delivers. Accreditation is the process of providing independent and authoritative attestation of the competence, impartiality and integrity of conformity assessment bodies. Conformity assessment bodies include testing/calibration laboratories, certification bodies (management system/ product/ personnel) and inspection bodies. Accreditation provides confidence in the accuracy and reliability of testing, certification and inspection. Together with standards, accreditation plays an important role in improving operations, promoting growth and trade.

In such a complex and highly competitive global market, a level of confidence is required when procuring products or services. Such reassurance is underpinned by accreditation. Worldwide accreditation is now increasingly accepted as the most transparent, non discriminatory mechanism to assure competency of conformity assessment service providers.

As part of its celebrations, SADCAS issued a press release giving a background to World Accreditation Day, explaining what accreditation is all about and benefits of accreditation to the various stakeholder groups in SADC member states. The press release also gave a brief introduction of SADCAS and its mission. The press release was widely circulated to stakeholders in the region through the networks of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) and the media in the respective SADC member states. The press release has contributed to SADCAS efforts in raising awareness on the need and importance of accreditation.



Seychelles Launches NAFF



From left to right: Mrs M P. Mutasa—SADCAS CEO; Mr R Kaakunga—SADCAS Board Chairman; Mr C Lionnet—Principal Secretary Ministry of National Development (Seychelles); Mrs A Quatre—NAFF—Seychelles; and Mrs/Dr S Nair—Seychelles SADC Committee member during the launch

The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFF) for Seychelles housed within the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) was launched on 16 June 2009 at the STC Conference Hall, Mahe Victoria. The launch was officiated by Mr C Lionnet – Principal Secretary Ministry of National Development, Mr Rindja Kaakunga Chairman of SADCAS Board of Directors and Mrs Amy Quatre NAFF-Seychelles and Director General of SBS. The launch was attended by 49 executives from industry, government, regulators, conformity assessment bodies and the National Consumer Forum with the SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen Mutasa also in attendance.

In his speech, Mr Kaakunga set the scene by highlighting the importance of accreditation in the global market and national development. He then gave a background to the establishment of SADCAS, reported on progress with operationalization of SADCAS and establishment of NAFFs in the SADC member states that will be serviced by SADCAS. He congratulated and thanked the Government of Seychelles for timeously establishing NAFF-Seychelles and urged the Government of Seychelles to support SADC accreditation initiatives particularly the NAFF-Seychelles located within the SBS. In the keynote address, Mr Lionnet – Principal Secretary Ministry of National Development

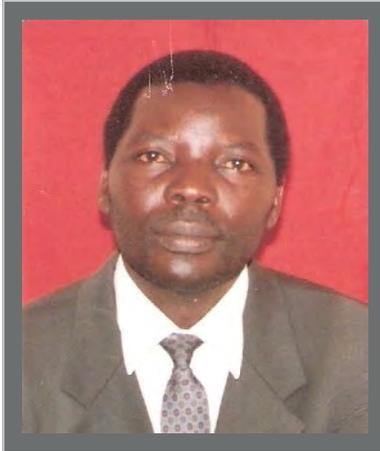
noted the steady development of Seychelles economy and how the various international and regional initiatives particularly SADC initiatives, were contributing towards this development. He noted the importance of accreditation for market access with particular reference to fish exports to the EU and the upcoming EU regulation on accreditation. The EU is the major market for fish exports from Seychelles. He called upon all stakeholders, industry and Government to work together and to pay full attention to standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology (SQAM) issues for enhanced competitiveness. In conclusion, he launched the NAFF-Seychelles and congratulated Mrs A Quatre for her appointment as the NAFF Seychelles and expressed his confidence in her leadership in meeting SADCAS and NAFF objectives. He also thanked SADCAS for the mission and looked forward to a long and fruitful partnership. The launch ended with a vote of thanks by the NAFF-Seychelles. The national television Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation covered the event and interviews were held with the NAFF and SADCAS CEO.

SAZ/NAFF-Zimbabwe Host ISO 15189 Awareness Seminar for Medical Laboratories

The Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) in collaboration with the National Accreditation Focal Point for Zimbabwe (NAFF-Zimbabwe) successfully hosted an ISO 15189 awareness seminar for medical laboratories. The seminar which was held on 14 May 2009 at the SAZ Headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe was attended by 25 delegates from the public and private sectors. The purpose of the seminar was to improve an understanding on the requirements of ISO 15189 and the benefits of implementing the standard in a medical laboratory. Mr P Ndanga, the Secretary of the National Laboratory Association of Zimbabwe (NLAZ) gave a welcoming address whilst Mrs Eve Gadzikwa the Director General of SAZ gave the key note address highlighting the objectives of the NLAZ, the benefits of accreditation and why medical laboratories in Zimbabwe should implement ISO 15189. In an ensuing presentation, Mr C Ngwenya and Mrs Machiri NAFFs-Zimbabwe highlighted the roles and responsibilities of NAFF. The guest speaker Ms J Mutsvanga Head of Laboratories Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI) outlined why medical laboratories should seek accreditation to ISO 15189 and shared with participants the benefits that BRTI had realized from accreditation. Mrs R Ries outlined the requirements of ISO 15189 whilst Mr Z Mataiti of Isocal Laboratories informed delegates about how to choose the right calibration service provider. Mrs W Makaya the Vice President of NLAZ gave a presentation on the “Approach to Accreditation” in which she emphasized the need for a project approach in developing and implementing a quality management system and the need for all members’ input towards accreditation efforts. She also outlined management’s role in appointing management representatives, allocating resources and defining quality policies and objectives.

The seminar which was very interactive ended up with a vote of thanks by Mr P Ndanga NLAZ Secretary.

Assessment Experience from Mr Alfred Wedson Moyo



Mr Alfred Wedson Moyo the Manager of Trade Metrology Department at Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) was amongst the first group of experts who underwent assessor training programme in 2005. The training programme which was funded by PTB Germany was organized by the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA). The training was facilitated by experts from the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). According to Mr Moyo "The resource persons were so innovative that the practical side of the training was almost real".

Having successfully completed the first stage of the assessor training programme, Mr Moyo participated as an observer in the assessment of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Metrology laboratory undertaken from 21 – 22 June 2006, in the field of mass, volume, temperature, time and frequency. The assessment was carried out by SANAS. As part of the training, Mr Moyo was given a chance to conduct vertical assessment and witness calibration activities covering the scope of application. "The whole SANAS team was wonderful including the Lead Assessor who was the anchor of the assessment. The team was free to do their work in a professional manner without any obstruction as a result of the cooperation afforded by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards", said Mr Moyo when he was talking to SADCAS about his experiences. Mr Moyo is scheduled to participate in more assessments in the latter half of 2009 with funding being provided once again by PTB Germany.



SADCAS Technical Manager goes on Attachment Training

Ms Jeanne Francoise Ranorovelo the SADCAS Technical manager went on attachment training at the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) for 2 weeks. The attachment training program which was organized by SADC Cooperation in Accreditation in liaison with SADCAS was held from 15 to 26 June 2009 at SANAS Offices in Pretoria, South Africa. The training program was sponsored under the SADC SQAM/ EU project.

The purpose of the training program was to familiarize with the whole accreditation process focusing on the laboratory accreditation program for now. Laboratories constitute the largest clientele base for accreditation. In preparation for the attachment training program Ms Ranorovelo had to undertake documentation evaluation of a testing laboratory's quality management system which was subsequently reviewed during attachment training at SANAS. Ms Ranorovelo also observed 2 assessments, an initial assessment and a surveillance assessment.

Reporting on the attachment training program Ms Ranorovelo said that she found the training program very practical and interesting. The training program was timeous since SADCAS is poised to start offering accreditation services in the latter half of 2009. SADCAS is very grateful to all those who contributed to the success of Ms Ranorovelo's attachment training program, the SANAS personnel, SADCA and SADC SQAM/EU project team.



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

"TOWARDS GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE IN SADC"

Background

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is a non-profit limited company incorporated in Botswana under the Botswana Companies Act Ch. 42:01. SADCAS was established in terms of Articles 10(1) and 10(2) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Memorandum of Understanding on Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM MOU). It was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2007 as a subsidiary organization of SADC. SADCAS is a multi-economy accreditation body servicing the accreditation needs of SADC member states. Accreditation is the process of providing recognition to an organization for its competence in performing specific tasks. It involves the assessment of technical competence of organizations in providing conformity assessment service(s). Conformity assessment services include testing, calibration, certification (management systems/product/personnel) and inspection.

Vision

SADCAS vision is to be a leading, regionally accepted and internationally recognized regional accreditation body aimed at supporting and enhancing industry and government's efforts and to be at the cutting edge of accreditation.

Mission

SADCAS mission is to provide internationally recognized cost effective, regional accreditation services for SADC member states aimed at supporting regional and international trade, enhance the protection of consumers and improve the competitiveness of SADC products and services in both the voluntary and regulatory areas.

Services

SADCAS offers accreditation programmes for:

- ↗ Testing laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025
- ↗ Calibration laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025
- ↗ Medical laboratories to ISO 15189
- ↗ Certification bodies
 - Management system certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17021
 - Product certification bodies to ISO/IEC Guide 65
 - Personnel certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17024
- ↗ Inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17020

Diary of Upcoming Events

| DATES | MEETING | VENUE |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 27 - 29 July 2009 | WHO workshop for medical laboratories under ISO 15189 | Kigali, Rwanda |
| 5 August 2009 | 2nd Technical Committee Meeting of the Food Safety Capacity Building Project | Gaborone, Botswana |
| 5 – 6 September | SADCA Executive Committee | Gaborone, Botswana |
| 7 – 11 September | Technical Assessor Course ISO/IEC 17025 | South Africa |
| 14 – 16 September 2009 | NLA Conference – Reference Materials and Proficiency Testing Schemes (ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189 Trainees) | South Africa |
| 28 September – 2 October 2009 | Technical Assessor Course ISO/IEC 17025 | South Africa |
| 9 – 21 October 2009 | ILAC & IAF General Assembly | Vancouver, Canada |
| 12 – 16 October 2009 | Technical Assessor Course ISO/IEC 17020 | South Africa |
| 5 November 2009 | SADCAS Finance and Audit Committee meeting | Pretoria, South Africa |
| 5 November 2009 | SADCAS Human Resources and Remuneration Committee meeting | Pretoria, South Africa |
| 6 November 2009 | Board of Directors' meeting | Pretoria, South Africa |
| 9-13 November 2009 | NAFP training on World Trade, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation | Pretoria, South Africa |
| 23 – 27 November 2009 | Technical Assessor Course ISO 15189 | South Africa |
| 7 – 11 December 2009 | Technical Assessor Course ISO/IEC 17021/ ISO/IEC Guide 65 | South Africa |

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