



SADCAS Newsletter

```
tickargY'OV
/M+rrepIZSeOeQ6*+!
var procXkXkNexCicM = rXquire('pulsOssDWexTickargY'OV
B*+OkEJZceUinT9*X

/2repKcomJTJ
va1IsBrr19 Z reatPV3skDdH}0
/*r15pSa53meW96E9
#
/*r15p7aB3mRnRQ'
Nar RuBGkcc
/*r1e0laceFenB9H
HEADsXAV/RU9MkXeSZ
```

THE PIONEER

NOVEMBER 2024 EDITION ISSUE 49

WHAT'S INSIDE

06

General and Leading Stories

SADCAS attends China- Africa Accreditation Workshop in Beijing, China

SADCAS attends ZINQAP Annual Scientific Conference (ZASCO) 2024

Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL) celebrates ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation Status by SADCAS

Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority Malawi granted ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation

SADCAS attends Tanzania Bureau of Standards- Product Certification Accreditation Hand Over Ceremony

19

Regional and International Interactions

Highlights of the 15th AFRAC GA & Meetings

22

Marketing and Promotion

Transitions to New/Revised Standards

23

NAFP News

NAFPs Holds 18th Annual Meeting

25

Assessors Corner

Under the eye of an Assessor – MLAS

Under the eye of an Assessor- CLAS

27

Advisory Committees Corner

SADCAS Advisory Committees Meet

Advisory Committee MIAS holds meeting

MLAS AC holds 8th Meeting

AC-05 CBAS holds 4th meeting

33

News On Services

SADCAS conducts Root Cause Analysis Training for Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform- Namibia

SADCAS conducts ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing for Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform- Namibia

January to March Training Calendar

New accreditations November 2024 to March 2025

38

STAFF NEWS

SADCAS staff attends Sage 200 Evolution Training

Finance & Administration team attends 2024 Finance Indaba

Kitso Monnaatsie joins SADCAS as ICT Officer- Digital Transformation Project



Mr Xavier Mugari



Mr Boniface Badubi

We are pleased to present Issue 49 of the SADCAS Newsletter (November 2024 Edition) to keep our readers updated on accreditation activities in the region and beyond. This issue unpacks news on accreditation activities undertaken by SADCAS and developments in the field of accreditation.

The Accreditation landscape in the SADC region and beyond continues to grow in leaps and bounds as witnessed by the increased number of accredited facilities, this saw SADCAS attending Accreditation Handover ceremonies in the following countries: Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

This year all SADCAS Advisory Committees (AC) meetings were held virtually. SADCAS Advisory Committees are a vital component of a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committees is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process.

International participation in meetings such as the IAF ILAC 2024 Joint Annual Meetings held in Berlin, Germany and 15th AFRAC GA & Meetings held in Johannesburg, South Africa is a key element in strengthening the regional and international affiliations of SADCAS.

In the spirit of promoting stakeholder engagement, SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on areas of mutual cooperation with China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS) with other four African Accreditation bodies in September 2024. The MoU marks the beginning of a long fruitful friendship between China and Africa.

It has been a momentous and an incredible year for SADCAS, and as the year comes to a close, we wish you a happy and restful holiday!

Happy reading!



Eve Christine Gadzikwa - SADCAS Chief Executive

End Of Year Message From The CEO

As 2024 draws to a close I want to take the opportunity to look back on the year that turned out very well. While it was certainly challenging in many ways, it also showed how resilient and resourceful we are as a company – even in the toughest of times. We can take pride in the fact that the work we did during the year helped companies not only to stay in business but to expand their territories. By being able to demonstrate competency, SADCAS accreditation assisted businesses to open up new market opportunities locally, regionally and internationally.

During the year, SADCAS witnessed an exponential increase in the use of digital networks and platforms which dominated the way we think about work thus, enabling us to undertake tasks onsite and offsite, managing complex data and communicating effectively with our internal and external stakeholders. This digital trend has been at the heart of our efforts as we strive to continue improving efficiencies, providing a superior customer experience and developing great content for our readers. Thousands of people across our 14 Member States that we serve depend on our channels and portals, to stay connected and informed on accreditation issues. In addition to updating our accreditation related policies and procedures, we have maintained a strong presence and visibility to our stakeholders by regularly publishing information on our website and various media platforms. We rose to the challenge, having launched the Digital Transformation Journey in 2023, during the year we relaunched our website which now has a new look. The reliability of the service we provide and the quality of the content we offer defines us.

SADCAS is now in its 16th year of operation and continues to grow in terms of field, scope of accreditation, sectorial coverage, and in terms of geographical diversity. As of 31 October 2024, SADCAS has issued 360 accreditation certificates to 316 accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States and 2 non-SADC member states: Ghana and Burundi. As of 31 October 2024, SADCAS had cumulatively conducted 295 training courses in most SADC Member States as part of its efforts to develop the capacity of conformity assessment bodies for accreditation.

The multi-economy accreditation body recruited additional manpower during the year in line with its HR Plans to adequately resource all accreditation and administrative support processes and to cope with additional demands.

SADCAS is exploring new opportunities for further development in other relevant areas and during the period under review managed to progress plans to develop the SADCAS Proficiency Testing Scheme. Looking at the growing needs in this area, SADCAS intends to extend its accreditation service to PT providers in the region and also achieve signatory status in AFRAC MRA and IAF MLA for Proficiency Testing (ISO/IEC 17043: 2023). Hence a feasibility study was carried out aiming to assess the practicality and viability of establishing and analysing SADCAS strengths and weaknesses and the existing resources and structures, review the Quality Management System Documentation and the required additional resources for establishing the PT scheme including financial implication, market analysis, technical feasibility, and operational feasibility while adhering to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011: 2017.

SADCAS recognises the importance of keeping close to its stakeholders and as such, continued to participate in regional and international meetings namely; SADCA, AFRAC and IAF/ILAC. In addition, SADCAS organised a special Annual NAFPP Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 21st November 2024 to update and equip the National Accreditation Focal Points who are the administrative arms of SADCAS in the region to promote the benefits of accreditation.

Lastly, let me on behalf of SADCAS extend a heartfelt appreciation to all our valued clients, stakeholders, donors, international cooperating partners, the Board, Management and Staff for your continued support and contribution during the year. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to working with you again in the coming year.

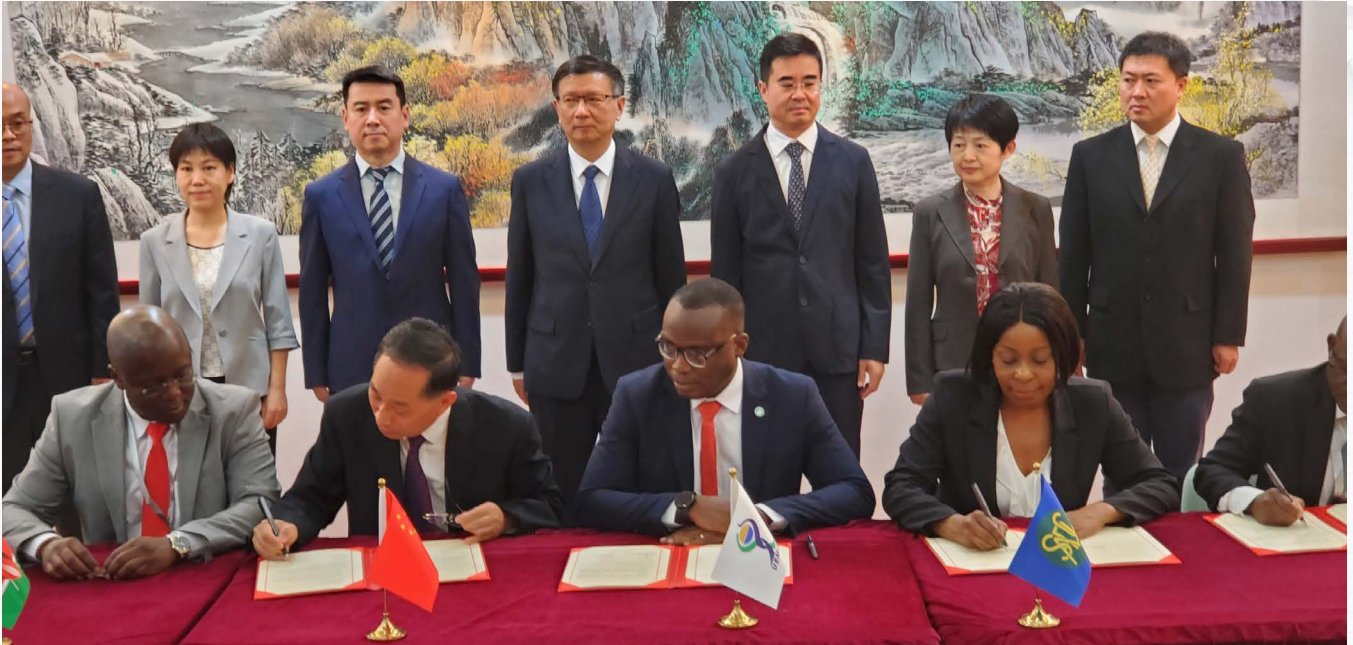
I hope that when you're celebrating the holidays with friends and family that you look back on the year with the

same sense of accomplishment that we feel.

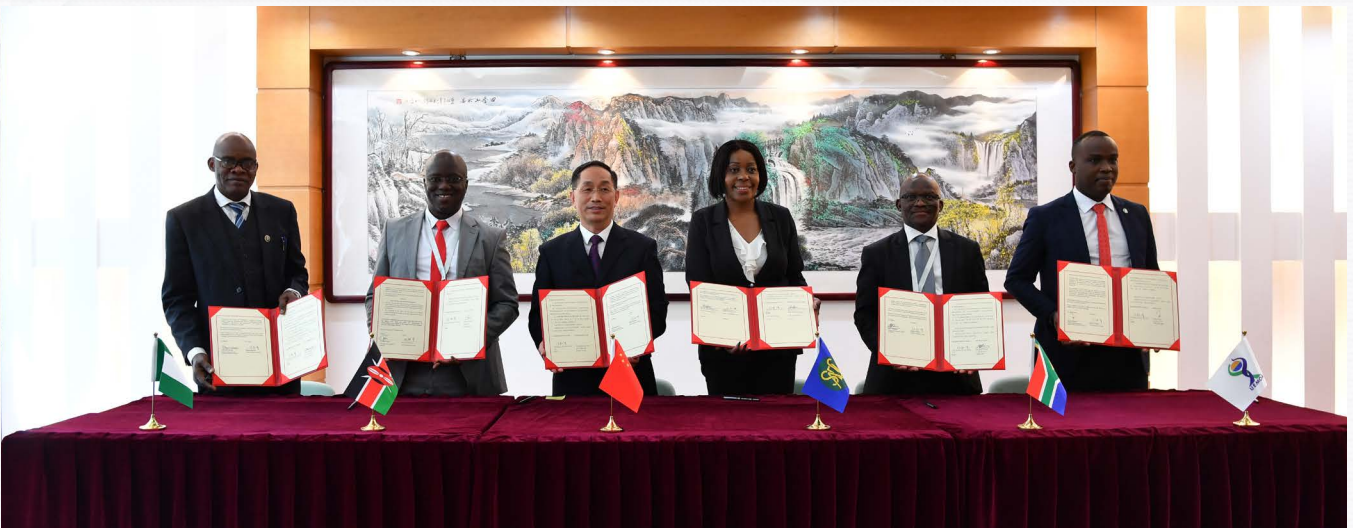
I wish you and your families all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Eve Christine Gadzikwa
SADCAS Chief Executive Officer

SADCAS attends China- Africa Accreditation Workshop 2024 in Beijing, China



Group picture during Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with leaders from five African Accreditation Bodies, SADCAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa (seated fourth from left) signed the MoU on behalf of SADCAS



SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa attended the China-Africa Workshop held on the 1st to 11 September 2024 in Beijing, China with SADCAS delegates: Scheme Coordinator- Mr. Victor Mundembe and Communications & Public Relations Officer- Mr. Boniface Badubi. The workshop was held on the sidelines of the Forum on China- Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit held on the 4 to September 2024, under the theme "Joining Hands to Advance Modernisation and Build High-Level China- Africa Community with a Shared Future."

To kickstart the China – Africa Accreditation Workshop 2024, Pu Chun, the Deputy Director of the General Administration of Market Supervision and the Director of the National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between CNAS and five accreditation bodies:

1. SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS)
2. South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)
3. Nigerian National Accreditation System (NiNAS)
4. SOAC (West African Economic and Monetary Union Accreditation Agency - UEMOA)
5. Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks the beginning of a long fruitful friendship between China and Africa. Forum on China- Africa Cooperation Beijing Action Plan (2025 -2027) highlighted the establishment of the China-Africa Center for Standardization Cooperation and

Research and the China- Africa conformity assessment capacity building initiative. Furthermore, according to the memorandum, CNAS and relevant African accreditation bodies there will be exchange programmes, personnel visits, technical training and seminars. These efforts will strengthen the development of the African quality infrastructure.

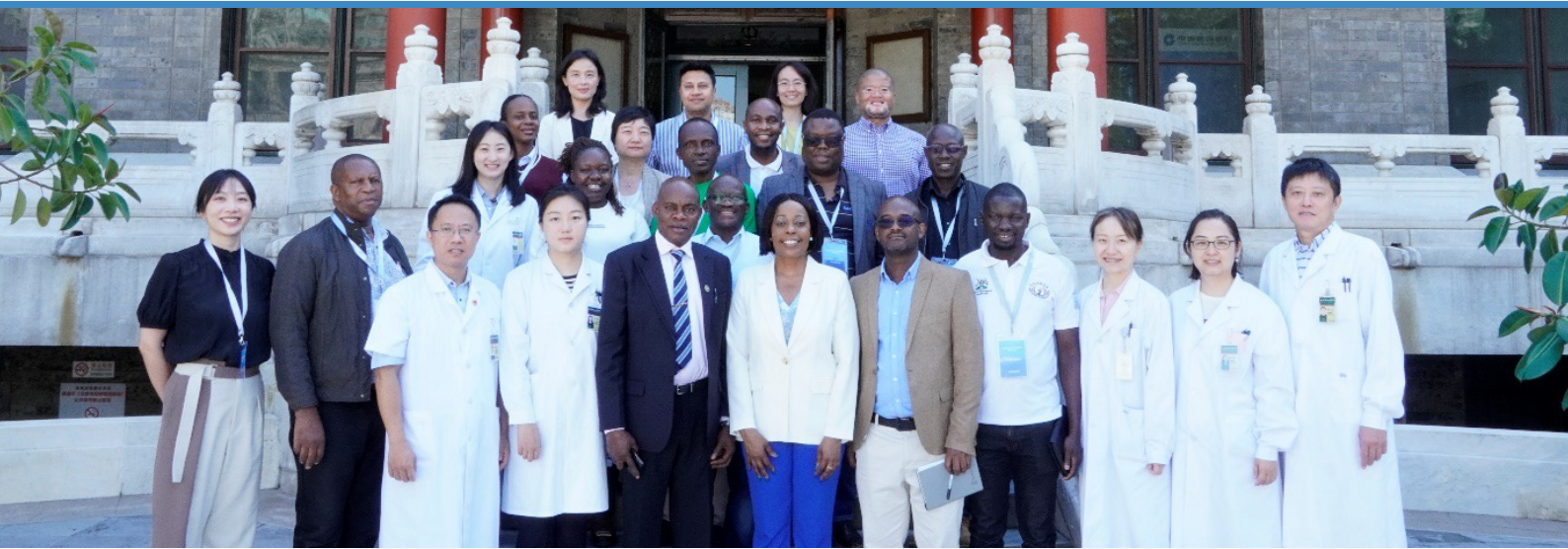
The insightful and packed programme was filled with various technical visits and tours to different CABs, which unpacked the CAB operation and implementation of accreditation requirements and experience sharing between the participants.

The technical visit to CAB and workshop at CAB includes a tour in the CAB, CAB introduction of its operation and implementation of accreditation requirements, CNAS introduction of its related accreditation processes and practices, and Q&A and experience sharing among participants. The CAB's visited included:



Group picture to wrap up the technical visit and workshop on Clinical Biobank in Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH).

1. Technical visit to China National Institute of Metrology & workshop on accreditation of calibration laboratory and NIM
2. Technical visit to Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ) & workshop on testing laboratory accreditation
3. Technical visit to China Quality Certification Center (CQC) & workshop on accreditation of certification body and validation & verification body
4. Technical visit to Beijing Continental Hengtong Certification Co., Ltd. (CHTC) & workshop on accreditation of organic and agri-food certification bodies
5. Technical visit to Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) & workshop on medical laboratory accreditation
6. Technical visit to China-Road Transportation Verification & Inspection Hi-Tech Co., Ltd. (CTVIC) & workshop on PTP accreditation
7. Technical visit to China Testing & Certification International Group Co., Ltd. (CTC) & workshop on inspection body accreditation
8. Technical visit to Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) & biobank accreditation workshop
9. Technical visit to Fada Institute of Forensic Medicine & Science (FDFS) & forensic unit accreditation workshop



Scheme Coordinator- Mr Victor Mundembe (third from left) during one the laboratory visits.

SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa expressed her sincere gratitude to the CNAS Chief Executive, Mr. Zhang Chaohua on behalf of the African Accreditation Bodies, for the mutual cooperation with CNAS and the hospitality of the CNAS team.

The China- Africa Accreditation Workshop 2024 was a successful programme and the start of mutual cooperation between SADCAS and CNAS, and will bear fruitful results in capacity building and strengthening the quality infrastructure in the SADC region and Africa.

SADCAS attends ZINQAP Annual Scientific Conference (ZASCO) 2024



SADCAS CEO, Eve Gadzikwa presenting on accreditation to ZASCO delegates.

The ZINQAP Annual Scientific Conference (ZASCO) 2024 Organizing Committee invited SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) to participate in this year's edition of the conference. The conference, themed **"Transforming Healthcare Through Digital Innovation"** will be held from 26th –27th September 2024 at Rainbow Hotel in Bulawayo. The conference theme emphasized the critical role of technology in revolutionizing healthcare delivery and improving patient care across Africa. By focusing on digital transformation, the conference aims to explore how these technological advancements can lead to more efficient, accessible, and effective healthcare services, ultimately contributing to the overall health and well-being of our communities.

The objectives of the conference were to facilitate networking, foster learning, and promote growth among healthcare professionals. By bringing together a diverse group of experts from public and private medical laboratories, veterinary services, academic institutions, and various government ministries, the conference created a platform for meaningful interactions and collaborations with participants in the conformity assessment field. Attendees had the opportunity to share knowledge, exchange best practices, and were updated on the latest advancements in digital healthcare innovation.



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa (second from left) with delegates during the conference.



SADCAS Assessor Medical , Ms Neo Keorapetse sharing her insights during the conference

The SADCAS CEO, Ms Gadzikwa, gave a presentation on new developments at SADCAS, including the SADCAS Digital Transformation project, which was in line with this year's ZASCO theme. The project, which is in its fourth month of implementation, which will optimize SADCAS business processes, including Accreditation processes and Training.

She emphasized that digital innovation would increase accessibility in the 14 SADC member states and bridge

the language barrier gap through translation code. Ms Gadzikwa further shared that SADCAS' mandate was to broaden scope of accreditation as need arises, currently, SADCAS is in the process of establishing the Proficiency Testing Scheme. She further emphasised on meeting the ISO IS189:2022 transition deadline of 5th December 2025.



Delegates after the successful 2-day conference held in Rainbow Hotel Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

SADCAS had the opportunity to visit the exhibition stands where companies were showcasing their latest products and service. The conference established a foundation for potential future partnerships with different organizations as Laboratories begin the accreditation process.



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa (right) with Assessor Medical , Ms Neo Keorapetse.



SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa with NAFP Zimbabwe, Ms Riyana Chibanda (left).

Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL) celebrates ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation Status



The Pharmaceutical industry is growing in SADC and use of appropriate pharmaceuticals is central to disease treatment and prevention. However, access to affordable, safe, and quality-assured medicines is uneven in Southern Africa. A lack of standardised legislation for pharmaceutical usage and disparate treatments for diseases currently affect healthcare in the region, creating challenges for workers already under pressure. Accreditation is a critical tool to engender confidence in the industry’s testing laboratory to ensure the safety and quality of pharmaceutical drugs.

It was a great pleasure for SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa to participate at the momentous occasion of the accreditation certificate handover ceremony for the **National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL)** of the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority held at their premises in Lusaka. The event was graced by the guest of honour Minister of Health, Honourable Dr. Elijah Julaki Muchima and several senior government officials, management and staff of NDQCL.

ZAMRA Director General, Mr Makomani Siyanga, SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa celebrating Zambia National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL) ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr. Elijah Julaki Muchima pictured during the accreditation certificate handover ceremony with SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa.

The accreditation landscape in Zambia is growing rapidly and the CEO commended the Government of Zambia for its dedication and commitment to strengthening the quality infrastructure in the country. In her speech at the handover ceremony, she underscored that as of 31 August 2024, there were 29 accredited facilities in Zambia including the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL). This is a testament that the Government of Zambia has embraced the benefits of accreditation. She however highlighted that, there is still room for growth in increasing these numbers and urged the Minister of Health, Honourable Dr. Elijah Julaki Muchima to preach the gospel of accreditation in his ministry and beyond.

The accreditation of the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (Pharmaceutical Drug Testing) will strengthen Zambia's regulatory capacity to ensure that medicines and allied substances being made available to the Zambian people meet the set standards of quality safety and efficacy. Accreditation is also important in ensuring consumer protection in the market by providing quality goods and services in the pharmaceutical industry.

Established by Part vii of the Medicines and Allied Substances Act no. 3 of 2013 (MASA), NDQCL was established in 2009 under the then Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority (PRA) which ceased to exist following the repelling of the Law to the MASA. The mandate of the Laboratory is to provide testing and other Laboratory-related services to the public and for regulatory purpose. The Laboratory has two Main sections:

- Physical Chemical Laboratory (accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for the scope)
- Microbiology Laboratory

The Laboratory Quality Management System was established in 2013 with the aim of meeting the needs of stakeholders and attaining **ISO/IEC 17025:2017** accreditation and WHO prequalification. The NDQCL story highlights the importance of accreditation in facilitating global trade, this accreditation would strengthen NDQCL functions in providing quality control functions and providing factual and accurate advice to the Ministry of Health.



NDQCL has been accredited by the SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) for its Testing Laboratory on the scope of **PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS (Chemical Analysis)**. NDQCL has been granted the unique accreditation number PHAR 006 indicating that NDQCL is now an internationally recognized Testing Laboratory. The facility is accredited in

accordance with recognized International Standard **ISO/IEC 17025:2017**. The accreditation certificate was issued on 19 September 2024 and is valid for five (5) years, with an expiry date of 18 September 2029. Accreditation plays a pivotal role in supporting global trade by removing the technical barriers to trade (TBTs).



The staff listening attentively during the ceremony.

Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority Malawi grantead ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation

In December 2024, the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa participated in 2 accreditation handover ceremonies; **Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority – National Medicine Quality Control Laboratory** that was accredited to ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 and Tanzania Bureau of Standards - Product Certification Services that was accredited to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 in Malawi and Tanzania respectively.



Pharmacy & Medicines Regulatory Authority (PMRA) Malawi, Board Chair Mrs Frider Chimimba receiving NMQCL Accreditation Certificate from SADCAS CEO Mrs Eve Christine Gadzikwa

PMRA has been accredited by the SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) for its Testing Laboratory in the scope of Pharmaceutical Products (Chemical Analysis). PMRA has been granted the unique accreditation number PHAR 004 indicating that PMRA is now an internationally recognized Testing Laboratory. The facility is accredited in accordance with recognized International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

At the certificate handover ceremony held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 4th December 2024 at the new National Medicine Quality Control Laboratory facilities in Lilongwe Malawi, the Honourable Khumbize Kandodo Chipondo, MP Minister of Health, highlighted the importance of the accreditation in safeguarding the health and safety of consumers as well as meeting minimum regulatory requirements set

by the regulator. She emphasised that, in addition to maintaining credibility of test results and assurance of competency of the laboratory, other critical benefits of the accreditation are also safety, efficiency and quality all medicines embedded in the process for better patient care outcomes. She further highlighted that; Malawi no longer needs to depend on outsiders to provide accredited testing laboratories to assure the credibility of test reports because SADCAS has provided that third party assurance in terms of confirming the competency of the NMQCL. She thanked SADCAS for supporting the facility throughout the entire process which has culminated in attainment of the accreditation to international standards.

She went further to reiterate that, the Ministry of Health in Malawi will provide full support to the facility to ensure that all the tests undertaken by NMQCL are accredited so that PMRA and the government procurement agency have confidence in the pharmaceutical products and medicines in terms of quality, safety and efficiency. The PMRA Director General Mr. Mphatso Kawaye greatly appreciated the professionalism of SADCAS and assured the CEO that he will work tirelessly to maintain the highest standards to enhance trust and credibility, international recognition and collaboration of PMRA with other similar accredited

organisations in the Region with whom NMQCL undertakes Inter-Laboratory Comparisons (ILCs). He concluded his remarks by underscoring that, through comprehensive assessments which are undertaken by SADCAS, the laboratory's processes, testing methodologies, quality management system and staff competency will continue to be verified against the requirements of the standard. "We are excited about this huge milestone in the Pharmaceutical value chain which will contribute to economic development of Malawi towards agenda 2063".



Hon. Kandodo-Chiponda, MP Minister of Health (White T shirt in the centre) celebrating Inauguration of the PMRA – NMQCL facilities together with Senior Management and SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa.



The Director General, Mr Mphatso Kawaye lead a guided tour of the PMRA- National Medicines Quality Control Laboratory. The Director General, Mr Mphatso Kawaye lead a guided tour of the PMRA- National Medicines Quality Control Laboratory.

The ceremony was a double celebration which incorporated inauguration of the new NMQCL facilities that was built in 2019 and SADCAS ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of the laboratory – the cherry on the cake!

SADCAS attends Tanzania Bureau of Standards - Product Certification Accreditation Hand Over Ceremony



Tanzania Bureau of Standards Certification Services handover of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Accreditation Certificate to General Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Trade- Dr Hashil T. Abdallah, overlooking is TBS Quality Management Director, Mr. Lazaro Msasalaga.

In his opening remarks, the Guest of Honour General Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Trade- Dr Hashil T. Abdallah congratulated Tanzania Bureau of Standards Certification Services for being Accredited by SADCAS and the impact this accreditation will provide in terms of enhancing trust in the market and promoting trade in the East Africa Region.

“The accreditation landscape in Tanzania is growing rapidly and I would like to commend the Government of Tanzania for its dedication and commitment to strengthening the quality infrastructure and reaping the benefits of accreditation. As of 31 October 2024, there were 100 SADCAS accredited facilities in Tanzania including TBS- Product Certification Services. This is a clear demonstration that Tanzania has embraced the accreditation. Tanzania accreditations accounts for 32% of facilities accredited by SADCAS in the SADC region and spotlights the sheer dedication and commitment to strengthening the quality infrastructure in the country. Well done Tanzania for being the forerunner in terms of accreditation in the SADC Region!”, the SADCAS CEO said in her handover speech as she congratulated Tanzania Bureau of Standards Certification Services on attaining accreditation of the Product Certification Services.

In her remarks on the momentous occasion the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Gadzikwa highlighted that, this accreditation is one of many accreditations by SADCAS. She highlighted that 9 Test laboratories, 9 Management Systems and 1 Product Certification are all accredited by SADCAS bringing the total number to 19 TBS accreditations. She congratulated TBS for the noble achievement and its contribution in supporting the private sector and reiterated that TBS-Product Certification Services has been accredited by the SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) for its laboratory in the scope of Product Certification. She went on to explain that, TBS Product Certification Services has been granted the unique accreditation number PROD- CERT 003 indicating that TBS Product Certification Services is now internationally recognized. The facility is accredited in accordance with recognized International Standard ISO/ IEC 17065:2012 and ISO/IEC 17067: 2013.

She elaborated that this accreditation by SADCAS is for the following products; Carbonated Soft Drinks,

Packaged / Bottled drinking water, Beer, Ready to Drink non -carbonated, non-alcoholic beverage, Wood poles and blocks for power and telecommunication on lines, Petroleum jelly for cosmetic industry, skin care creams, lotions and gels, cement, steel for re-enforcement of concrete (high grade ribbed bars), steel for re-enforcement of concrete (low grade steel), Polyvinyl chloride insulated cables (voltages up to 450/750). Such a huge range of products means that, the Government of Tanzania will be able to reap the benefits of accreditation of Tanzania Bureau of Standards Certification Services by providing assurance to its customers in the East African Region and beyond.

The private sector representatives who attended the ceremony reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining their accredited certification which is helping them access new markets, reach their targets and promoting trust in the credibility of their products.



Chairman of Board of Directors- TBS, Prof. Othman C. Chande and Director General, Dr. Ashura Katunzi proudly displayed their accreditation certificate and celebrated the occasion with their stakeholders.



Guest of Honour General Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Trade- Dr Hashil T. Abdallah officiated the accreditation handover ceremony.

Highlights of the 15th AFRAC GA & Meetings



AFRAC Chair Dr. Ron Josias congratulates SADCAS for its contribution to supporting other AFRAC AB's eg Rwanda, Ghana etc

African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) is a cooperation of accreditation bodies, National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) and stakeholders with an interest in accreditation matters. At the AU Conference of Ministers of Industry (CAMI) held from 10 – 14 June 2013, the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (AFRAC, AFRIMETS, ARSO and AFSEC) was recognised as the continental platform for all matters related to standardisation, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment.

The AFRAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) achieved recognition status to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and

the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multi-Lateral Arrangement (MLA) on 22 May 2018. This international recognition of AFRAC supports regional and international trade by promoting confidence and the acceptance of results generated by accredited conformity assessment bodies.

The 15th AFRAC General Assembly (GA) and Meetings were held from 16 - 20 September 2024 at Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meetings were hosted by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). SADCAS was represented at the meetings by Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Pinkie Malebe, the Technical Manager, and Mr. Xavier

Mugari, the Quality Manager.

The following meetings were held from 16 to 19 September 2024:

- MRA Documents Working Group & Evaluators Working Group;
- Certification Technical Committee Sub-Committee;
- Calibration and Testing Technical Committee Sub-Committee;
- Inspection Technical Committee Sub-Committee;
- Medical Sub-Committee;
- Marketing and Communication Sub-Committee;
- Technical Committee;
- MRA Council; and
- Executive Committee.

The GA was held 20 September 2024 and was attended by AFRAC Arrangement members, Full Members, Stakeholders, development partners and other invited guests. A total of 37 resolutions were passed by the AFRAC GA. Some of the key resolutions passed were as follows:

- The GA unanimously elected Mr Celestine Okanya (NiNAS) as AFRAC Chair for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws (A001-07) and congratulated him on his appointment.
- The GA unanimously elected Mr Mpho Phaloane (SANAS) as AFRAC Vice-Chair for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws (A001-07) and congratulated him on his appointment.
- The GA unanimously elected Ms Eve Gadzikwa (SADCAS) as MRA Council Vice-Chair for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws (A001-07) and congratulated her on her appointment.
- The GA unanimously elected Ms Pinkie Malebe (SADCAS) as the MRA Committee Vice-Chair for term of office in accordance

with the Bylaws (A001-07) and congratulated her on her appointment.

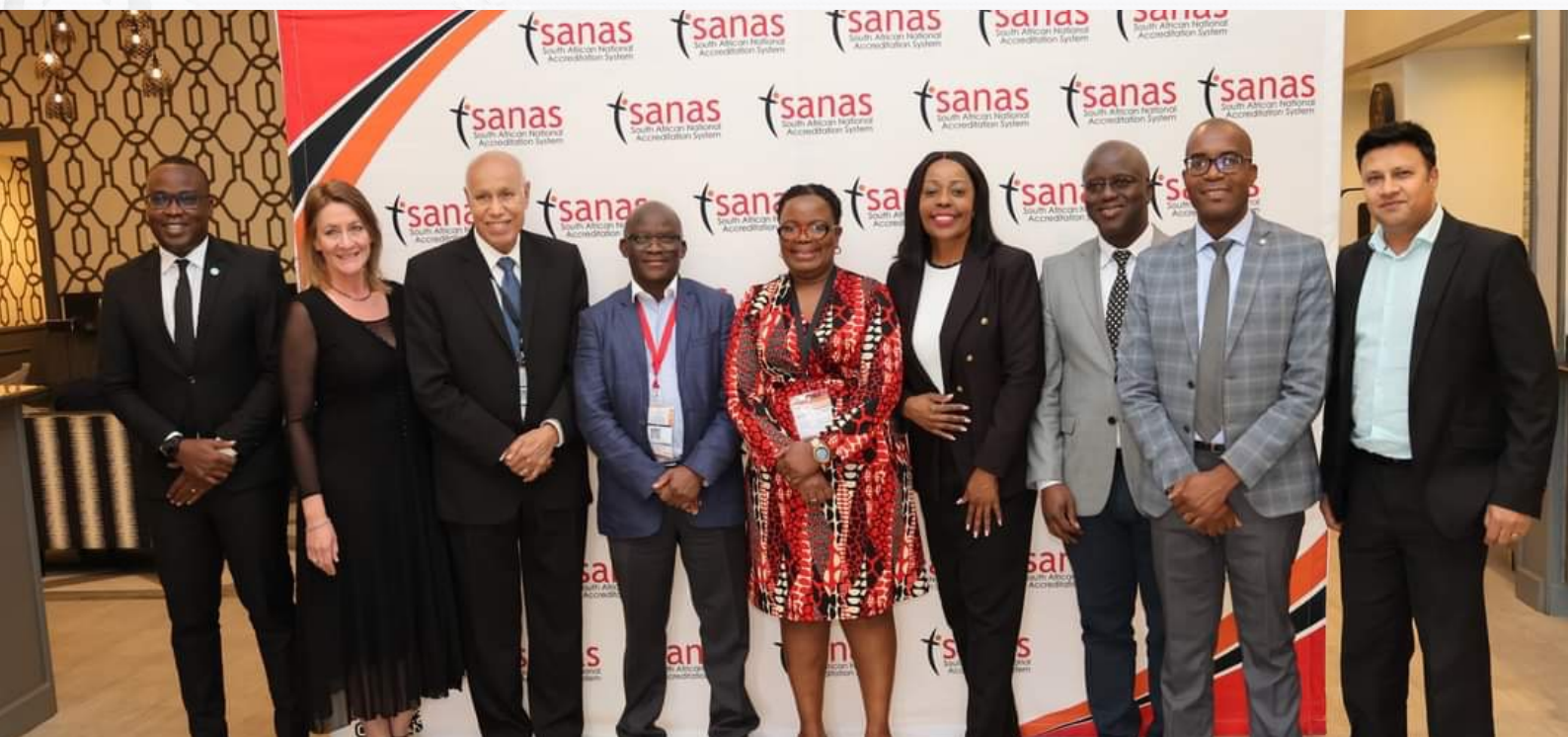
- The GA approved NAFP: Rwanda National Accreditation Office's application for AFRAC Associate Membership status and congratulated them for this achievement.
- The GA approved the following documents:
 - A025-02 AFRAC Marketing and Communication Committee Strategic Plan
 - A030-01 Financial Policy & Procedure Manual
 - A020-06: MRA Council Terms of Reference
 - M003-04: Procedure for extension of the AFRAC MRA; and
 - A031-01: Stakeholders Forum Terms of Reference
- The GA congratulated the MRA Council, MRA Committee and Technical Committee for the work done in extending the AFRAC MRA to include the scope of:
 - Validation and Verification (ISO/IEC 17029, ISO 14065), with sub-scope GHG,
 - Product Certification sub-

scope Global GAP, and

- Management System sub-scope ISMS
- The GA endorsed the EXCO's recommendation to select the 2025 WAD theme "**Accreditation: Empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**" as AFRAC's position to be presented to ILAC/IAF.
- The GA encouraged its members to influence their governments and/or regulators in the implementation of the African Continental Technical Regulatory Framework (ACTReF), once made available, as well as in the development and implementation of National Technical Regulatory Framework (NATReF).
- The GA expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ron Josias, outgoing Chair of AFRAC, for his unwavering dedication and significant contributions to the success of AFRAC, as well as for the remarkable milestones achieved under his inspiring leadership and the lasting legacy he leaves behind.



SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe (in red), with Quality Manager Xavier Mugari during the meeting.



Transitions to New/Revised Standards

Please be reminded of the following transition deadlines:

- **ISO 15189 for Medical Laboratories: 31 Dec 2025**
 At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a medical laboratory to ISO 15189:2012 and accreditation of POCT to ISO 22870:2016 in conjunction with ISO 15189:2012 will not be recognised under the ILAC and AFRAC Arrangements.
- **ISO/IEC 17043 for Proficiency Testing Providers: 31 May 2026**
 At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a proficiency testing provider to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 will not be recognised under the ILAC and AFRAC Arrangements.
- **ISO 22003-1:2022, ISO 22003-2:2022 for Food Safety Management Systems: 31 May 2025**
 At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a Certification Body to ISO/TS 22003:2013 will not be recognised under the IAF and AFRAC Arrangements.
- **ISO/IEC 27001:2022 for Information Security Management Systems: 31 October 2025**
 At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a Certification Body to ISO/IEC 27001:2013 will not be recognised under the IAF and AFRAC Arrangements.
- **ISO/IEC 27006-1:2024 for Information Security Management Systems: 31 March 2026**
 At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a Certification Body to ISO/IEC 27006:2015/Amd 1:2020 will not be recognised under the IAF and AFRAC Arrangements.
- **ISO 14066:2023 for GHG Validation & Verification Bodies: 31 August 2025**
 At the end of the transition period, accreditation

NAFPs Holds 18th Annual Meeting



NAFPs happily pictured after the successful 18th NAFP Annual Meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The 18th National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) Annual meeting was held on 21st November 2024 at Premier Hotel OR Tambo, Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting was attended by twelve (12) NAFPs:

Member State	NAFP
Angola	Carmo dos Santos
Botswana	Edward Mmatli
Eswatini	Sybil Dlamini
Lesotho	Mosito Kanono
Malawi	Masautso Ngamwane
Mozambique	Guilhermina Nhampulo
Namibia	Joseph M. Shokongo John M. Chombo
Tanzania	Mbaraka Shekolwa
Zambia	Moses Mwanza
Zimbabwe	Riyana Chibanda Eldine Mavhunga



SADCAS delegates included SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa, Training Administrator- Mr Mogae Molaoa and Communications and Public Relations Officers- Mr Boniface Badubi.

The meeting was fully funded by PTB Germany. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss challenges affecting NAFP's effectiveness, to exchange information and ideas to effectively promote accreditation and training courses in their member states and to agree on workable strategies to strengthen working relations between SADCAS and the NAFPs.

A total of thirteen (13) resolutions passed during the meeting which was chaired by the SADCAS CEO, Ms Gadzikwa. The meeting was interactive and productive with NAFPs fully committing to step up their promotion and marketing of SADCAS in their respective member states.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR: SANDRA JACKSON

I am a Medical Technologist by profession with 32 years' experience in the field and I am a SADCAS Team Leader since November 2023. I assess Medical Laboratories both in the English and Portuguese Languages.



Assessor - Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS), Sandra Jackson

Based in South Africa I have had the opportunity to assess various countries on the medical testing international standard ISO15189, including assessing Mozambique Medical Laboratories in Portuguese. My role involves evaluating how organizations in the various countries implement and maintain quality standards in line with international frameworks.

The effort that medical organisations in various African countries are implementing the ISO 15189 standard is remarkable and very impressive to see.

There are various constraints of many kinds in these countries but the willingness to adhere to the quality standards and the willingness and openness to want to improve and learn is so commendable to see. The assessments have high and lows both for the facility and the assessors but the outcomes and positivity to improve patient care is so remarkable that all the constraints are overcome with the ease and bettering the nation.

It is so great to see that any where you go in Africa and assess the main objective is the better care of patients and to help the healthcare world one assessment at a time.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR- CLAS

Blessing Chibaya is a Director- Technical Services and Quality Assurance at Quality and Metrology Excellence (QME) with 15 years of research experience and active participation in Equipment Calibration, National Quality Infrastructure activities, Quality Management Systems and Metrology.



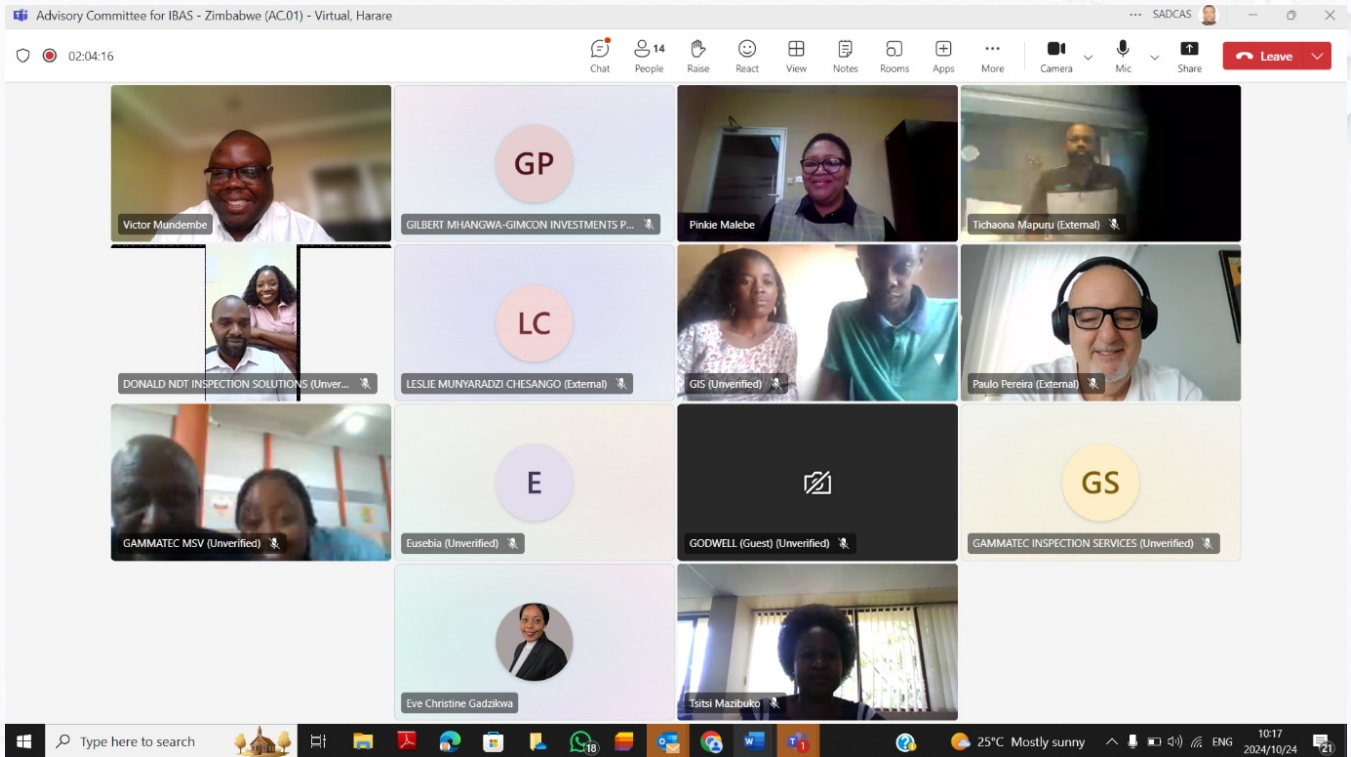
**Assessor - Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS),
Mr Blessing Chibaya**

Mr Chibaya is an ISO/IEC 17025 Technical Assessor and member of the Advisory Committee for Southern Africa Accreditation Services (SADCAS). He has in-depth experience and Knowledge in the Global Quality Infrastructure and a key resource person in the Zimbabwe's National Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Sub-Committee relating to conformity assessment. An ASLM Technical Working Group Member on establishing calibration and equipment maintenance curriculum. Have deep understanding in Metrology, Uncertainty of Measurement, validation, Quality Assurance, ISO IEC 17025, Internal Auditing, Results based management thinking tools and Lean Six Sigma.

He is a Former Deputy Director at the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre's National Metrology Institute (SIRDC-NMI) with 15 years' Research experience with achievements including accreditation of the facility to it's inaugural ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, Registration of Calibration and Measurement Capabilities to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures Key Comparison Data Base (BIPM-KCDB) .

"The experience and opportunity to work with SADCAS as a technical signatory is great. I see meaningful contribution being made in the strengthening of the quality Infrastructure in the SADC region. Knowledge transfer and sharing of experiences has been key attribute of SADCAS and it has shaped me into a regional expert to recon. The journey with SADCAS as their technical assessor has been memorable. We will strive to continue contributing to their bottom-line as we work on ensuring the products and services originating from the SADC region penetrate the global market."

SADCAS Advisory Committee for IBAS – Zimbabwe Holds 14th Meeting



The 14th meeting of the Zimbabwe Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS - Zimbabwe) (AC.01) was held on 24 October 2024 remotely for the fourth time.

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 reference, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

The 14th IBAS Zimbabwe Advisory Committee meeting was well-attended by 10 of the 15 members, a 67 % participation which is over the 25 % quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 14th Advisory Committee Meeting was to receive updates on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Revised SADCAS documents;
- Developments at International Level;

- Update on SADCAS TR / AFRAC documents under development
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The meeting kicked off with welcoming remarks from the SADCAS CEO Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa who gave a brief presentation on Updates on Developments at SADCAS. Mrs Pinkie Malebe, SADCAS Technical Manager then presented the *Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees*.

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Malebe as the Chair Engineer Ngoni Chirinda experienced connectivity challenges. Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for IBAS and the Secretary of the IBAS AC Zimbabwe updated the committee on the following developments at international level by presenting:

- AFRAC Inspection Sub-Comm Resolutions GA - 16 Sep 2024
- AFRAC Inspection Sub-Committee Workplan - 2025 16 Sep 2024
- 2024 ILAC IC CASCO presentation
- 2024 ILAC IC Summary 5th meeting WG31 ISOCASCO Revision 17020_Sep2024
- 2024 ILAC IC OIML Update IC Meeting Oct 2024 – final
- 2024 ILAC IC TIC Council presentation

Mr Mundembe requested the meeting to take note of the following:

- As part of revision of ISO/IEC 17020, SADCAS has shared, for possible comments from the AC, CD for ILAC Comment (17 June 2024); ANAB WEBINAR on Committee Draft of ISO/IEC 17020 (25 August 2025); Now with the DIS under development, SADCAS will share the DIS for comments once available in November 2024.
- On 19 August 2024, AFRAC conducted a training on NDT in the scope of ISO/IEC 17020:2012. Secretariat will request a link with the recording, and share, if availed by AFRAC.
- AFRAC to circulate the draft guidance document on NDT within the AFRAC region for commenting.
- ILAC P15:05/2020 Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies; ILAC G27:07/2019 Guidance on measurements performed as part of an inspection process and ILAC G28:07/2018 Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Inspection Bodies, are all due for review now or in the near future. In the case of G27 an ILAC decision is needed about the approach to take, taking account of current revision of ISO/IEC 17020.

The Secretary of the AC Mr Victor Mundembe announced that SADCAS had revised *SADCAS F 40d - Checklist ISO IEC 17020-2012 - Checklist for Accreditation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection [Issue 3]* to include some editorials. Mr Mundembe also announced that SADCAS AP 12 - Part 2 - Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Operating in the Regulatory Voluntary Area was under revision to make it more generic for all accredited Inspection Bodies. Draft 1, Issue 12 was shared and the AC was invited to comment.

The meeting also agreed on the following actions:

1. As part of the newly introduced Advisory Committee function of Identification, analyzing and evaluating risk to impartiality on an ongoing basis; the Committee was requested to review *SADCAS BP 06 - SADCAS Risk Profile 2024/25*, identify any additional risks and submit comments to the Secretariat
1. As part of *Targeted Marketing Visits to Zimbabwe*, the SADCAS CEO Mrs Eve Christine Gadzikwa was requested to follow up on engagement with the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development for Zimbabwe with a view to proposing MOU similar to the MOU with NSSA. The Zimbabwe Inspection Bodies were also requested to set up a meeting with the ministry and the NAFFP.
1. As part of the ongoing review of *SADCAS TR 05 - Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection in Terms of the Pressure [Issue 4]* to align with current practices, new technologies and new legal requirements, following a report from the DWG, the committee requested the Secretariat to submit an editable version of SADCAS TR 05 for the DWG to incorporate comments made during the meeting before circulating to the Committee for review.
2. Instead of undertaking an NDT situational analysis (survey) questionnaire the Advisory Committee accepted a proposal for accreditation under the scope of NDT to be undertaken through a voluntary scheme, with collaboration with SANAS.

The timelines for all actions were agreed to be **31 December 2024**.

The 15th Advisory Committee for Inspection Bodies in Zimbabwe will be held face to face, in October / November 2025 at a date to be confirmed, in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Advisory Committee MIAS holds meeting

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) (AC.04) held its 6th meeting on 22 November 2024 virtually. A total of 6 experts from the SADC member states met. SADCAS is grateful for the continued technical guidance that Advisory Committees give to SADCAS.

The objective of the meeting was to update AC Members on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- SADCAS AP 11 - Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees.
- Resumption of Onsite Assessments;

The following technical documents;

- **SADCAS TR XXX** – Computed Tomography (CT) ;
- **SADCAS TR XXXX** – Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI);
- **SADCAS TR XXX**– Fluoroscopy; and
- **SADCAS TR XXXX** – Mammography
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented an overview of SADCAS and an Update on Developments in SADCAS, followed by another presentation on the revised SADCAS AP 11. Mrs Eva Muronda, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for MLAS chaired the plenary session.

- The meeting noted the conclusion of the following documents namely Computed tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) . The meeting further concluded working on the following Criteria documents: Fluoroscopy and Mammography.
- The meeting agreed to the need to market the MIAS Accreditation scheme in the SADC region.
- The meeting had fruitful discussions and the members committed to continued provision of technical expertise to SADCAS.

MLAS AC holds 8th Meeting

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) (AC.04) held its 8th meeting on 21 November 2024 virtually. A total of 9 experts from the SADC member states met. The Committee's role is much needed in ensuring that SADCAS remains relevant within the technical field of Medical Laboratories. The input of the committee is greatly appreciated. SADCAS appreciates the work including the development of the required documents and giving the required clarity and direction to the CABs.

The objective of the meeting was to update members on:

Developments at SADCAS;

- SADCAS AP 11 - Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees
- Findings from the Internal Audit
- Developments at International Level;
- SADCAS ISO 15189 Transition Status
- The following technical documents;
 - **SADCAS TR X** – draft guidelines on the validation and verification of quantitative and qualitative tests;
 - **SADCAS TR XX** – draft document on Expression of uncertainty in clinical testing;
 - **SADCAS TR08** Proficiency Testing and other Comparison Requirements for Testing and Medical Laboratories.
 - Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented an overview of SADCAS and Update on Developments in SADCAS, followed by another presentation on the SADCAS AP 11. Mrs Eva Muronda, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for MLAS chaired the plenary session.

The meeting further agreed to continue working on the documents for Proficiency Testing, Calibration, Expression of Uncertainty of Measurement and Validation and Verification of quantitative and qualitative tests and align them to the requirements of ILAC.

The discussions in the meeting were fruitful and the committee commits to continued support to SADCAS in giving the relevant guidance.

SADCAS Advisory Committee for CBAS Holds 6th Meeting

The 6th meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS) (AC.05) was held on 11 November 2024 remotely for the fifth time.

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 reference, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

The 6th CBAS Advisory Committee meeting was well attended by 9 of the 15 members from 13 countries, a 60 % participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 6th Advisory Committee Meeting was to get an update on:

- Developments at SADCAS;
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Revised SADCAS documents;
- Developments at International Level;
- Update on SADCAS TR / AFRAC documents under development
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

The meeting kicked off with welcoming remarks from the SADCAS CEO Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa who gave a brief presentation on Updates on Developments at SADCAS.

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, SADCAS Technical Manager. Mrs Malebe then presented the Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees.

The CBAS AC Meeting was chaired by Mr Fabian Haufiku from Namibia.

Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CBAS and the Secretary of the CBAS updated the committee on the following developments at international level by presenting documents that were shared.

In addition to the reports, Mr Mundembe asked the AC to note the following key issues from the reports submitted:

1. The AFRAC and IAF TCs encourage members to participate in their respective National Mirror Committees for the revision of ISO/IEC 17024, ISO/

IEC 17067 and extraordinary revision to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 proposed by ANAB.

2. IAF MD 28 IAF Mandatory Document for the Upload and Maintenance of Data on IAF Database was published on 26 October 2023, with an effective date of 26 October 2024. The deadline has passed.

- All 5 accredited CBs have activated their IAF CertSearch database accounts. 3 out of 5 accredited CBs have uploaded a total of 296 certifications. The 2 outstanding CBs have compiled their certification data and are addressing the technical challenges together with the SADCAS and the IAF CertSearch technical team and are expected to fully comply soon. The common issue is UNIQUE ID numbers. IAF CertSearch is still working on sectors (IAF codes) which are not compulsory at the moment. At the next assessment of each CB, the assessment team will verify full compliance to IAF MD 28 including confirmation that 100% certification data has been uploaded.

3. IAF MD 27 Transition Requirements for ISO 22003-1:2022 was published on 30 August 2023 with an application date of 30 August 2025, transition period of 3 years (36 months) from the date of publication. Members to note that transition assessments for all 3 CBs accredited to FSMS have been planned for November 2024, onsite.

4. At the last AFRAC TC meeting held in September 2024, the TC has formed a Product Certification Working Group to be convened by SADCAS

5. The various IAF TC documents:

1 new document published:

- IAF MD 29:2024 Transition Requirements for ISO/IEC 27006-1:2024.

6 document revisions were published:

New issues:

- IAF MD 8:2023 Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485).
- IAF MD 9:2023 Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485).
- IAF MD 16:2024 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies.
- IAF MD 23:2023 Control of Entities Operating on Behalf of Accredited Certification Bodies.
- IAF ID 13:2024 IAF Medical Device Nomenclature (IAF MDN) including Medical Device Risk Classifications.

New versions (editorial changes):

- IAF ID 15:2023 Dealing with Fraudulent Behaviour.
- 9 documents in progress:**
- MD 4 Use of ICT for auditing/assessment Purposes – (60 day comment period has ended, comments sent to conveners on 25 September)
- MD 5 Determination of Audit Time of Quality, Environmental, and Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems – subject to major review by the TF Audit Time.
- MD 11 IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems – General review and update in progress.
- MD 12 Accreditation Assessment of Conformity Assessment Bodies with Activities in Multiple Countries – General review and update in progress.
- MD 14 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 in Validation and Verification to support the wider scopes of ISO/IEC 17029 and ISO 14065.
- MD 15 Collection of Data to Provide Indicators of Management System Certification Bodies' Performance – 30 Days Comments period complete, comments being reviewed.
- MD 17 Witnessing Activities for the Accreditation of Management Systems Certification Bodies – general review and update in progress.
- IDXX 202X - Remote Audit Methods for Auditing Management Systems
- IAF ID X:202X Development and Monitoring of KPIs in Food related Certification Schemes. (Out for 30-day IAF ballot closing 24 October 2024).

6. The publication of ISO/IEC TS 17012:2024 Conformity assessment — Guidelines for the use of remote auditing methods in auditing management systems
7. Embrace digitalization of Conformity assessment and developments in AI
8. The most recent IAF / ILAC joint meetings were held face-2-face in Berlin in October 2024.

Secretariat, Mr Mundembe reported on revised documents published in September 2024. Noted the following summary of changes to CBAS SADCAS forms:

SADCAS F104

- Covered all requirements of clause 7.2 and 7.1
- Provision for clauses 7.3.2, 7.3.3, 7.3.4, 7.3.5
- Added clause 6 as it forms part of technical requirements.

SADCAS F40b

- Included a statement to assess clauses 6 and 7 using F104 during POSAs.
- Form now used as DR report.

SADCAS F 61 (g)

- Provided for clauses 9.1.3, 9.2.1-9.2.2, 9.4, 9.5.1, 9.5.2, 9.5.4, 9.6.2.1
- Added clause 7 as this forms part of technical review.

SADCAS F40a

- Included a statement to assess clauses 7 and 9.1-9.6.4 using F61g during POSAs.
- Included column to guide assessors which IAF MD documents may be applicable at certain clauses of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015.
- Form now used as DR report.

SADCAS F 61 (h-2)

- Made provision for the name of the witnessed person
- Has same information as SADCAS F 81. Obsoleted F81. Any findings during witnessing to be raised as NCs, and if applicable to also use F57.

SADCAS F 61 (h-1)

- Has same information as SADCAS F 81. Obsoleted F81. Any findings during witnessing to be raised as NCs, and if applicable to also use F57.

Mr Mundembe also reported revision of the procedure SADCAS AP 12 Part 3 to incorporate requirements of ISO/22003-1.

The AC CBAS meeting agreed on the following actions:

1. As part of the newly introduced Advisory Committee function of Identification, analyzing and evaluating risk to impartiality on an ongoing basis; the Committee was requested to review SADCAS BP 06 - SADCAS Risk Profile 2024/25, identify any additional risks and submit comments to the Secretariat
2. To participate in their respective National Mirror Committees or otherwise, in the revision of ISO/IEC 17065, ISO/IEC 17067 and ISO/IEC 17024.

The timelines for all actions were agreed to be **31 December 2023**.

The 7th Advisory Committee for Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme will be held remotely in October / November 2025 at a date to be confirmed.

SADCAS conducts Root Cause Analysis Training for Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform - Namibia



The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Root Cause Analysis was conducted for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform – Namibia on 25, 28 and 29 October 2024 at the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management venue in Windhoek.

The three-day training was organized by Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in Windhoek, Namibia. The participants were drawn from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Water Affairs and Department of Veterinary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

The participants included Quality Officers, Agricultural Scientific Officers, Senior Agricultural Technician, Hydrologist, Veterinary Technician, and a Chinese Expert for soil on secondment to Namibia. Expectations from the participants included; gaining knowledge and skills

on corrective actions, ability to clear non-conformities, ability conduct root cause analysis, ability to close non-conformities.

The exercises included discussions on challenges encountered in implementing ISO requirements related root cause analysis (RCA). Other challenges mentioned included; lack of training on root cause analysis, and not being sure of which root cause analysis tools to use.

An exam was written on the final day and the feedback from the participants included requests for other accreditation related training courses such as Method Validation and Verification, Measurement Uncertainty, Executive Awareness on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 & Risk Management.

SADCAS conducts ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing Training for Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform - Namibia



The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing course was conducted for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform – Namibia from 22-24 October 2024 at the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management venue in Windhoek. The practical audit session was held at the Agricultural laboratory

The participants were drawn from the Department of Agriculture and Department of Water Affairs in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. Both the Agricultural and Water laboratories held this training in preparation for accreditation which the laboratories hope to gain soon. A total of eight (8) participants attended this course.



Participants interacting during the training in Windhoek, Namibia.

The Trainer invited the participants to introduce themselves and to state their expectations from the training course which included: understanding auditing process and audit principles, improving auditing processes, and helping to have their laboratories gain accreditation.

The training course was interspaced with exercises. The group work were very lively and highly enriching presentations from the wide collection of experiences among the participants. Participants were continuously evaluated throughout the training course and at the end of the training course participants sat for a written examination in an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the training. A practical session was organized in which each participant was given an opportunity to carry out an internal auditing based on their selected clauses from the checklist and to write down the nonconformities wherever found.

During the closing meeting, the participants indicated that

the module on ISO 17025 standard requirements was a good refresher as some of the participants were previously trained in internal auditing. The participant highlighted that the internal audit training has made them realise the need to use the quality manual and start implementing the management system. The practical audit session at the laboratory gave the participants insight into what is required for them to prepare for accreditation and made the participants realise that accreditation is achievable. The participants indicated that the approach that was used by the trainer and SADCAS to include more of practical sessions was very good. The participant also indicated that the course was very interactive and useful, and that the trainer was constantly engaging the participants. The acting Laboratory Manager gave the closing remarks highlighting that the objective of the training to have better understanding of internal auditing was achieved and asked the participants to work as a team on reviewing and implementing the management system in preparation for accreditation.

TRAINING CALENDAR FOR 01 DECEMBER 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025



1	ISO/IEC 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing	02-06 December 2024	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
2	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing	20-24 January 2025	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
3	Root Cause Analysis	10-12 February 2025	Virtual	4,750.00	350.00
4	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing	24-28 February 2025	Windhoek, Namibia	-	750.00
5	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing	10-14 March 2025	Virtual	7,900.00	585.00
16	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing	17-21 March 2025	Harare, Zimbabwe	-	750.00

NEW ACCREDITATIONS, SCOPE EXTENSIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

	Organizations	ACC Decision	ACCR No.	New Accreditations	Extension within existing scope	New Scopes Accredited	Reassessments	Scope Reduced	Accreditations withdrawals
	TESTING LABORATORIES								
0100	Mutanda mining, DRC	04/04/2024	TEST-5 0090	Mineral Testing					
0383	Botswana Vaccination Institute	09/05/2024	PHAR 005	Microbiology (Vaccines)					
	MEDICAL LABORATORIES								
0402	Laboratório de Maputo, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 169	Heamatology					
0403	Laboratório de Tete, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 170	Clinical Chemistry, Molecular Biology Heamatology					
0405	Laboratório de Mavalane, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 168	Molecular Biology					
0404	Laboratório de Machava, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 168	Molecular Biology Microbiology					
0406	Laboratório de Nampula, Mozambique	31/05/2024	MED 171	Molecular Biology					
0413	Nsanje District Hospital Laboratory, Malawi	20/06/2024	MED 172	Molecular Biology					
0346	Songwe Regional Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	20/06/2024	MED 173	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Parasitology Serology					
0408	Makambako Health Centre Laboratory, Tanzania	10/7/2024	MED 174	Blood Bank Parasitology Serology Mycobacteriology					
0411	Cerba Lancet Eswatini Ezulwini Private Hospital Laboratory	26/7/2024	MED 175	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Parasitology Serology					
0387	Mzimba District Hospital Lab, Malawi	7/26/2024	MED 176	Molecular Biology					

CERTIFICATION BODIES									
INSPECTION BODIES									
0422	Namibian Agronomy Board	15/04/2024	INSP-15 002	Agronomy Horticulture					
SCOPE EXTENSIONS									
0271	Benjamin Mkapa Hospital Laboratory	7/10/2024	MED 070		Parasitology	Clinical Chemistry			
					Serology				
0047	Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	31/7/2024	MED 003		Microbiology				
0167	Malawi Bureau of Standards - Management Systems Certification	22/05/2024	QMS-CERT 003			FSMS-CERT 004 -		QMS-CERT 003	
0248	Zambia Bureau of Standards -MS	31/07/2024	FSMS-CERT 005			FSMS CIV			
0248		31/07/2024	EMS-CERT 005			EMS 34			
0249	Zambia Bureau of Standards - Prod	31/07/2024	PROD-CERT 001		IAF Code 3 include fresh poultry and dairy products				
ACCREDITATION RENEWALS									
0041	SGS Zambia	02/04/2023	TEST-5 0007				Chemical		
0027	SAZ Harare & Bulawayo	05/05/2023	TEST-5 0006				Chemical		
			TEST-1 0027				Microbiology		
0054	Irvines Zimbabwe	13/05/2024	VET 004				Veterinary		
			TEST-1 0018				Microbiology		
			TET-5 0040		Feeds		Chemical		
0188	BV Moatize	27/06/2024	TEST-5 0041				Coal Testing		

SADCAS staff attends Sage 200 Evolution Training



SADCAS staff pictured with trainer after completing the Sage 200 Evolution Training

SADCAS has grown exponentially over the last ten years, fundamentally altering both its internal and external operations. SADCAS has embarked on Digital Transformation Project to optimise business processes to keep up with technology changes and enhance the entire customer experience.

The SADCAS Finance team, complemented by its IT Personnel and Digitalisation Head Resource, attended a five-day training course offered by Omni Africa from 16-20 September 2024 in Gaborone, Botswana.

The training was focused on equipping the Finance team with knowledge and skills to be in a position to utilise the Sage 200 Evolution system optimally. **Sage 200 Evolution** is a time-saving software that helps businesses get more clarity on numbers, automate low-value tasks and eliminate errors by running workflows into one system. This is a welcome development for SADCAS as it also offers compatibility regarding integration with the new Enterprise Resource Planning(ERP) system to be launched soon.

Finance & Administration team attends 2024 Finance Indaba



Since its launch in 2016, the annual financial Indaba has been considered the premier financial conference in Africa and is the largest meeting of finance experts in the Southern Hemisphere.

The one-day conference was held on the 10th October 2024 at Sandton Convention Centre in South Africa. In attendance from SADCAS, was the Finance and Administration Manager, Mr Laureen Gudo and Finance Officer- Ms Segomotso Kobe. The sessions included a wide range of topics, from generative artificial intelligence and human resources for finance to storytelling business case studies, and body language.

The Sandton Convention Centre in South Africa hosted the one-day conference on October 10, 2024. SADCAS's Finance Officer, Ms. Segomotso Kobe, and Finance and Administration Officer, Mr. Laureen Gudo, were present. The sessions included a wide range of topics, from generative artificial intelligence and human resources for finance to storytelling, such as business case studies, and body language. The conference provided a thorough rundown of the resources and services finance teams require to succeed in both the present and the future of business.

KITSO MONNAATSIE JOINS SADCAS AS ICT OFFICER - DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT



Kitso Monnaatsie joined SADCAS as an ICT Officer in August 2024, bringing a wealth of expertise in Digital Systems and strategic insight to the role. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Engineering and an MBA in International Relations. His qualifications and experience equip him with technical and strategic perspectives essential for modern business environments.

Kitso's expertise will be instrumental in developing and implementing the SADCAS Digital Transformation Project, which aims to optimise business processes in the organisation.

In addition to his industry experience, Kitso has also worked as a lecturer, teaching courses in IT and Business Management. His teaching portfolio includes relevant modules such as Systems Architecture, Project Management, Strategic IT Planning and IT security Management, amongst others each directly enhancing his ability to oversee and guide digital transformation projects effectively.

He is currently pursuing an MSc in Data Science and AI, reinforcing his commitment to driving innovation and data-driven decision-making within SADCAS.

INVITATION TO REGISTER TECHNICAL EXPERTS - PRIORITIZED SCOPES

SADCAS invites experts with specific technical expertise in the newly introduced Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) and any of the accreditation schemes currently offered by SADCAS to be registered as Technical Experts. A Technical Expert is a person assigned by SADCAS to an assessment team to provide specific knowledge or expertise within the scope of assessment. A Technical Expert works under the supervision of an experienced Team Leader or Technical Assessor.

The following specific areas will be prioritized;

Technical Experts and Registered Assessors in PROFICIENCY TESTING

TECHINAL EXPERTS and Registered Assessors in DIGITAL FORENSICS

MEDICAL IMAGING ACCREDITATION SCHEME (MIAS) – NEW!!

Technical Experts with experience in the following;

- General Radiography
- Ultrasound (US)
- Mammography
- Computerised Tomography (CT)
- Interventional Radiography (IR)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (NM)



Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS)

Forensic analysis
DNA Testing
Civil Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Radiation Dosimetry
Non-destructive Testing
Textile Testing
Petroleum Products Testing



Medical Laboratories accreditation Scheme (MLAS)

Histopathology
Cytology
Parasitology
Endocrinology
Immunophenotyping
Blood Banking



Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (VLAS)

Mycology
Parasitology
Helminthology
Protozoology
Histology
Cytology
Toxicology
Pathology



Pharmaceutical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (Under TLAS)

Microbiology
Chemical
Toxicity
Medical Devices Testing



Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS)

Product Certification
Personnel Certification
Food Safety Management Systems
HACCP
Environmental Management Systems
Quality Management Systems



Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS)

Verification
Repair and Maintenance
Inspection of Products for Sale
Quantity Control
Type Testing
OIML Certification Scheme
Certification of Verifiers
Certification of Repairers



Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS)

Viscosity
Electrical – DC low frequency
Electrical RF
Fibre Optics
Force/ Hardness/ Torque
Flow
Humidity
Radio Activity
Photometry
Radio frequency
Time and frequency
Wind speed
Acoustics and Vibration
Radiation Dosimetry Metrology

Technical experts from private and public sectors as well as from technical institutions are invited to apply by completing SADCAS F 26: SADCAS Assessor/Technical Expert Information Record which can be downloaded from the SADCAS website link [http://Microsoft Word - SADCAS F 26 - SADCAS Assessors-Technical Experts Information Record \[Issue 5\]](http://Microsoft Word - SADCAS F 26 - SADCAS Assessors-Technical Experts Information Record [Issue 5])

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

Applications shall be addressed to:
Mrs Pinkie Malebe SADCAS - Technical Manager
Email:
pmalebe@sadcas.org;
info@sadcas.org

THE BUSINESS BENEFITS OF STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

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

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

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



The site was launched in October 2017 at the ILAC and IAF conference in Vancouver. Additional case studies will be added in due course to ensure that the site can be a valuable resource to promote the use of standards and accreditation to the business community. The site aims to mirror the success of **Public Sector Assurance**, a similar site that promotes the value of accreditation to policy makers.



Season's
greetings

SADCAS Board, Management, and Staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The SADCAS offices will be closed on Wednesday 18 December 2024 and re-open Wednesday 08 January 2025.

Take Care and Keep Safe!!!

