

## **Africa commemorates the year 2017 as African Year of Quality Infrastructure.**

The 9th Ordinary Session of African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 01– 05 December 2014 called upon the Pan African Quality Institutions (PAQI) to adopt the year 2017 as African year of Quality Infrastructure. The decision was made in recognition of the efforts that Africa has made towards improving its quality infrastructure and to cultivate a culture of collective responsibility in building a sound quality infrastructure amongst African countries.

Activities to commemorate African Year of Quality Infrastructure will thus take place throughout the year 2017 on the continent with a call for enhanced efforts to boost economic integration, intra- African and global trade through investment in quality infrastructure. All interested stakeholders are hereby invited to take part in these special celebrations. The activities and key publicity messages will be in line with the celebration theme: “Better Quality Better Life”



The commemorations have been timed to support the on-going negotiations for the realisation of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) for Africa envisioned for implementation from the end of 2017 to boost trade within the continent through elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade including technical barriers to trade (TBTs). In addition, it will provide an opportunity for the continent to discuss and showcase how it plans to sensitize and advocate for national and regional policies supporting quality infrastructure.

A logo fused with the above celebration theme has been developed by PAQI for this purpose and PAQI encourages all quality infrastructure stakeholders to make use of the logo. The logo will be made available to all those who may be interested in attaching it onto the materials to be used in celebration of the African Year of Quality Infrastructure.

As Africa welcomes the year 2017, PAQI; comprising of, the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS), the African Electro technical Standardisation Commission (AFSEC) and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO), encourages all quality infrastructure players on the African continent to organise, support and actively participate in activities geared at improving quality infrastructure on the continent and chart a new course for future improvements.

### **FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:**

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