

MS JEANNE RANORVELO'S RETIRES FROM SADCAS



Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo

Ms Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo retired from SADCAS having served 12 and a half years as the first SADCAS Technical Manager. Speaking during a farewell ceremony held virtually via Zoom on 21 October 2020, Mrs Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO reminisced over the period that Ms Ranorovelo was with SADCAS.

Ms Ranorovelo was selected to take position in SADCAS and was the first one to arrive in Gaborone, Botswana in April 2008 tasked with the set up and operationalization of the organization. Jeanne was amongst the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP) who were trained on accreditation matters by the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) who apart from undergoing theoretical training on accreditation matters, was also attached at COFRAC (French Accreditation Committee) for 2 weeks and later, after she had joined SADCAS, was attached at SANAS (South African National Accreditation System) and also at NA (Norwegian Accreditation).

In her work as the SADCAS Technical Manager, Ms Ranorovelo was responsible for providing overall management of SADCAS accreditation processes, management of assessors and representing SADCAS in regional and international accreditation fora on technical issues. Mrs Mutasa said that Jeanne was very versatile, a jack of all trade, a listener hence a good learner and very consultative, just what we needed to set up and operationalize SADCAS. "Indeed, I have many a times left Jeanne to act on my behalf as CEO of SADCAS and did not have any sleepless nights as she proved to be very organized, diligent, focused on goal achievement. Jeanne is a very hard working and dedicated person whom the organization is going to miss. Together we achieved much" Mrs Mutasa said.

By October 2008 SADCAS Office had been set up and we started to offer accreditation services by October 2009 through a twinning partnership arrangement with SANAS having developed the SADCAS Quality Management System (Policies, procedures and forms). Regarding international recognition we strategically decided to chew the elephant a piece at a time as we realised that if we tried to chew the whole elephant at once we would choke!! So International recognition was initially achieved in 2015 for the testing and calibration schemes and then extended to medical and inspection in 2017 and management systems in 2019. Being the only French speaking person in the organization, SADCAS launched accreditation services in French through a twinning partnership with TUNAC (Tunisian Accreditation Council). Soon after the set up and operationalization of the NAFPs system for the development of national action plans, monitoring implementation thereof and later introduced the NAFP motivation system, and in an effort to ensure impartiality of the system, Jeanne stepped in to undertake the evaluations. Before engaging the then Deloitte and Touché to attend to our finances, initially Jeanne prepared the income and expenditure reports. As SADCAS grew in staff complement, Ms Ranorovelo was appointed the interim Quality Manager a task which was right from the beginning jointly undertaken with the SADCAS CEO.

"As you leave the toddler to continue to grow, take immense pride that you are part of the organization's founding pillar, a solid foundation indeed" Mrs Mutasa said. On behalf of the SADCAS Board, Management and staff and on her own behalf, Mrs Mutasa thanked Jeanne for the excellent contribution to the formation and growth of SADCAS and wished her the very best in her future endeavours looking forward to continued collaborations.

This was followed by a gift handover ceremony after which Jeanne gave a very emotional thank you speech and advice to SADCAS staff. Mrs Lauren Gudo then gave some concluding words to mark the end of the ceremony.