

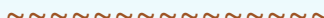
SADCAS Membership in ILAC Upgraded

SADCAS membership in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has been upgraded to "Associate" category and joins 19 other accreditation bodies that are in this category of membership.

SADCAS a multi economy accreditation body servicing the accreditation needs of 13 SADC Member States was launched in April 2009 and started offering accreditation services in October 2009. Up to date SADCAS has accredited four facilities comprising of three calibration laboratories and one testing laboratory in Botswana, Seychelles and Tanzania and has 30 accreditation applications at various stages of processing. SADCAS has been an affiliate member of ILAC since 21 November 2008.

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation is an international cooperation of laboratory and inspection bodies formed more than 30 years ago to help remove technical barriers to trade. There are 5 membership categories in ILAC namely: "Full members" of which there are currently 72, 20 Associates, 19 Affiliates, 26 stakeholders and 5 regional cooperation bodies.

SADCAS welcomes this membership upgrade as it works towards signatory status in ILAC thus attain full member status.



For more information on ILAC membership visit: <http://www.ilac.org/membersbycategory.html>

Inside This Issue

SADCAS Advisory Committee Meets	2	Additional Promotional Materials Published	10
Third Annual Report Published	3	SADCAS Visits Botswana National Dosimetry Laboratory	11
Highlights on the AFRAC Second General Assembly	4	Visit to Bamalete Lutheran Hospital	12
SADCA Executive Committee Meets	5	NAFP Appointments	13
Zambia National Laboratory Association holds Inaugural Meeting	6	National Accreditation Focal Points Meet	14
SADCAS Holds First Course in Namibia	7	Henson Dlamini Retires	15
ISO 15189 Training Gains Momentum	7	Financial Administrator Attends Tax Update Seminar	16
OCC Staff Trained on ISO/IEC 17021	9	Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents	17
BOBS Compulsory Standards Unit Staff Training on ISO/IEC 17020	9	Diary of Upcoming Events	19

SADCAS' Advisory Committee Meets

The SADCAS Advisory Committee for Inspection in Zimbabwe held its first meeting on 27 October 2011 at the National Social Security Authority House in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Advisory Committee which was established following the July 2011 meeting with stakeholders comprises of representatives of inspection bodies, regulator, manufacturers, industry, the Confederation of Zimbabwean Industries and SADCAS. The meeting which was attended by 19 experts was co-chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS CEO and Mr Mpho Phaloane Senior Manager, SANAS.

The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee for Inspection in Zimbabwe, discuss the national criteria for the prioritized scopes of accreditation and agree on the accreditation process for inspection bodies in Zimbabwe. On procedural matters regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Committee it was noted that the Advisory Committee shall strive to reach consensus amongst all interests. If no consensus is achieved then two thirds majority vote of Advisory Committee members present at a meeting is required for a recommendation to be passed. Any recommendations from the Committee are submitted to the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer who will review them to ensure compliance with the relevant international requirements following which a decision can then be made. Mr Phaloane emphasized the need for active participation from all members and the need focus on accreditation issues and to look at Zimbabwe's reality. He cautioned against discussing matters of self interest during the meeting.

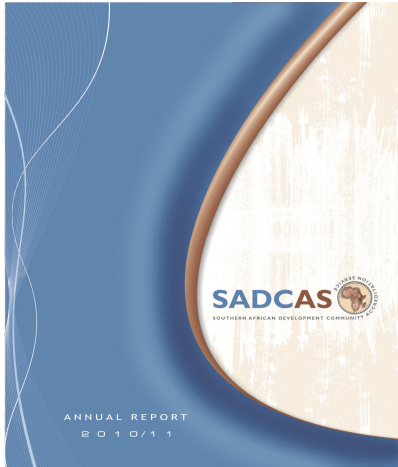
The meeting reaffirmed the prioritization of boilers and pressure vessels as the accreditation scopes for inspection bodies in Zimbabwe. Other scopes will be considered in future once the program for these 2 scopes has been rolled out. Members also agreed to separate manufacturing inspection from in-service inspection hence the need to develop 2 sets of criteria. A working group of 7 members was established to look at the national criteria and to report back to the Advisory Committee by 27 November 2011. For the inspection accreditation program in the regulatory domain members agreed to have a pre-assessment stage. The timeline between pre- assessment and initial assessment was set at 6 months during which the entity will have implemented the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 and regulatory requirements. It was further recommended that an Indicative Letter be issued to serve as the basis for the provisional approval of inspection bodies by the regulator. The meeting also discussed other issues related to the accreditation process.

Advisory Committees are a fundamental and vital component of any accreditation system. The Advisory Committee provides guidance on technical policy and important support in technical matters to the assessment process within a specific area of accreditation. The National Social Security Authority of Zimbabwe, a regulator under which the Factories and Works Inspectorate falls, now requires that all inspection bodies operating in Zimbabwe be accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020 prior to registration as an inspection authority. ISO/IEC 17020 is the international standard which inspection bodies have to comply with for accreditation purposes. As a result inspection bodies constitute 33% of the accreditation applications being handled by SADCAS and 53% of accreditation applications from Zimbabwe.

This first meeting of the first SADCAS Advisory Committee was very successful in that the meeting objectives as set out in the agenda were accomplished. Thanks to the very active and focused participation of the members and thanks to NSSA for hosting the meeting. The model adopted is expected to improve the competence of inspection bodies and SADCAS is keen to replicate the model within the region as it has already been tried and tested in South Africa and indeed contributing to enhanced competence of inspection bodies and improved occupational safety.



Third Annual Report Published



The third SADCAS annual report for the year ended 31 March 2011 has been published. This annual report gives an insight into the activities and achievements that SADCAS made during the financial year. As noted in the SADC Executive Secretary's Foreword from Dr Tomaz Salomão. By end of the reporting period 31 March 2011, SADCAS had accredited its first three facilities in Botswana, Seychelles and Tanzania and successfully conducted 13 training courses on accreditation related activities in five SADC countries. To view the annual report please visit the SADCAS website on www.sadcas.org/annual_report.php.



SADCAS Value Proposition

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



SADCAS management and staff would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



Highlights on the AFRAC Second General Assembly

The African Cooperation in Accreditation (AFRAC) held its 2nd General Assembly meeting on 7 October 2011 at the Intercontinental Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort in Balaclava, Mauritius. Before the General Assembly meeting a workshop was held from 5 to 6 October 2011. The 2nd AFRAC General Assembly meeting and workshop were officially opened by the Mauritian Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection Honourable Sayed- Hossen at a ceremony attended by over 30 dignitaries from African countries, regional trading blocs, diplomats, representatives of Physikalisch- Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Germany, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), European Accreditation Cooperation (EA), Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), African Cooperation in Metrology (AFRIMETS) and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO). The African Union Commission and NEPAD were also represented at the meeting.

Mr Robin Gopee the Director of the Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS), the host of the meeting, welcomed delegates and outlined MAURITAS achievements since its establishment. Mauritas has so far issued 17 accreditation certificates and recently launched its certification body accreditation program jointly with the Norwegian Accreditation (NA). Mauritas is now working on its inspection bodies' accreditation program in partnership with the French Accreditation Body, COFRAC. Mrs Tarence Loumabeka, Senior Policy Officer, Trade at the African Union Commission highlighted the importance of the African integration programme towards a common market and recognized the important role that standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology play in Africa's integration efforts. She noted the efforts currently underway in the establishment of a pan African Quality Infrastructure and updated delegates on the consideration of the policy document on the integration of the pan African Quality Infrastructure into the policy making bodies of the African Union. In his remarks Mr Hassan Shaarawi the Chairman of AFRAC thanked the Mauritian Government for hosting the 2nd AFRAC general Assembly meeting and gave a brief background on the establishment of AFRAC and the developments so far.

In his speech, Honourable Sayed-Hossen, highlighted the need for a sound national quality infrastructure as means of attracting investment and improving competitiveness and enhance market access. He shared with delegates the Mauritian national quality infrastructure and the key role that accreditation plays in building confidence and trust between trading partners and coined accreditation as the "De facto prerequisite for trade". He noted that only 3 accreditation bodies in Africa are so far signatory to the international accreditation mutual recognition arrangements and challenged the rest of the African accreditation bodies including MAURITAS to achieve signatory status for international recognition. He noted that the regrouping of AFRAC was long overdue and urged AFRAC to facilitate mutual recognition of conformity assessment results with other regions and internationally so as to facilitate trade.

After the opening ceremony the AFRAC workshop started. The workshop was attended by 24 participants during which the various representatives of the Regional Economic Groupings presented reports on developments in accreditation in their respective regions. Reports were also presented by representatives from the EA, IAAC whilst the report from the Asia Pacific Laboratory Cooperation (APLAC) was noted. The other pillars of the Pan African Quality infrastructure AFRIMETS and ARSO also presented reports to the AFRAC workshop. In four groups and over half a day the participants reviewed the various documents including the revised AFRAC By laws, the AFRAC Quality manual and procedures as well as terms



Delegates to the 2nd AFRAC General Assembly held in Mauritius

Continued from p 4

of reference of AFRAC committees which had been circulated for consideration prior to the workshop. On day 2 of the workshop the groups presented their output which were considered by the whole group and it was agreed to submit the reviewed documents for consideration by the general assembly. A number of changes were made to the AFRAC By laws including separating the "Full member" category from the Mutual recognition Arrangement (MRA) Signatory as done in the EA and the IAAC. It was also agreed to separate MRA signatory issues from the By Laws. The definition of Associate Member category was revisited.

The workshop was followed by the 2nd AFRAC General Assembly Meeting during which a total of 28 resolutions were adopted. In his report to the General Assembly the AFRAC Chair reviewed the progress made since the last annual general meeting held in Cairo, Egypt and in particular the training of peer evaluators who will undertake peer evaluations on behalf of AFRAC and noted the pressure for AFRAC to get the MRA in place. On training of peer evaluators Accreditation bodies in Africa were requested to provide opportunities for AFRAC candidate peer evaluators to be exposed to the peer evaluation process in order to fast track their qualification and registration. AFRAC also resolved to request other regional accreditation cooperations to avail opportunities for exposure of AFRAC peer evaluators. The Chairman also informed members about the outcome of the stakeholder meeting on the pan African Quality Infrastructure and advised members of AFRAC admission as a regional cooperation body member in ILAC. AFRAC resolved to pursue its membership in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). A demonstration of the AFRAC website was made during the General Assembly meeting. Various other reports including reports from APLAC, IAAC, ILAC, and SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) were presented to the General Assembly by the various representatives of the organizations. The general assembly requested the working group dealing with the AFRAC trademark to further investigate the registration of the trademark taking into account the need, envisaged use as well as the cost of registration. The changes made to the By Laws, quality manual, procedures and terms of reference of committees were noted and the Secretariat was requested to circulate the amended draft to members for approval within 60 days. Based on the redefined membership categories the AFRAC Treasurer was requested to propose a fee formula for AFRAC membership. This will be considered at the next general assembly meeting.

Mr Robin Gopee (MAURITAS) was elected as Vice Chairman of AFRAC and was nominated to represent AFRAC on the ILAC Executive Committee and the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee. Mr Moez Boughalmi (TUNAC) was elected MRA Chair whilst Mr Sammy Milo (KENAS) was elected Technical Committee Chair.



SADCA Executive Committee Meets

The SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) Executive Committee held its 7th meeting from 17 to 18 October 2011 in Pretoria South Africa. The focus of the meeting was to develop the SADCA business plan for the period 2012 to 2017 and to finalize the review of the SADCA Bylaws. Based on the input from the strategic session, a draft business plan will be prepared for review by the Executive Committee in February 2012. The business plan will be presented to SADCA members at a workshop to be held in conjunction with the Annual SADC SQAM meetings in March 2012 then submitted for approval at the 2012 SADCA general assembly meeting. The revised Bylaws will also be presented for approval at the same meeting.

The meeting which was attended by five Executive Committee members including the new SADC SQAM Senior Program Officer, Dr Elsie Meintjies was also an opportunity to be updated on the progress with the revision of the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade. The Executive Committee at this meeting having finalized the revision of the Bylaws and set its strategy for SADCAS going forward, reaffirmed its proposed input into the revision of the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade.

The SADCA Executive Committee is responsible for the effective pursuit of SADCA objectives and for the day to day management of SADCA. The SADCA Executive Committee was established in 2009 having in the past operated as the SADCA Project Management Committee. The SADCA Executive Committee members were appointed in 2009 for a term of 2 years. In line with the terms of office, the SADCA Chair Mrs Masego Marobela reappointed Mrs Maureen Mutasa, Mr Ri-ndja Kaakunga for another term of 2 years. Mr Davlin Chokazinga and Dr Meintjies were appointed onto the Executive

Continued to p 6

Continued from p 5

Committee for 2-year terms. Mr Robin Gopee was elected Vice Chairman of SADCA at the last SADCA General Assembly meeting held in March 2011 and automatically serves as a member of the Executive Committee.

The next meeting of the SADCA Executive Committee will be held on 3 February 2012 to finalize the 2012/17 business plan and to prepare for the next SADCA General Assembly meeting to be held from 19 to 23 March 2012 in Lilongwe, Malawi in conjunction with the SADC SQAM Meetings.

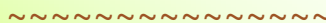


Zambia National Laboratory Association Holds Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Zambia National Laboratory Association (ZNLA) was held on 19 August 2011 at the Blue Nile Inn in Lusaka. The meeting which was sponsored by UNIDO as part of the National Quality Infrastructure project was attended by 26 participants from both private and public laboratories, government and the private sector. The meeting was very ably chaired by Dr Alice Mweetwa who first gave an overview of the progress made since an earlier meeting held in 2010 to discuss the establishment of the ZNLA. Some time was then spent reviewing the draft constitution including the proposed structure and objectives of the Association which had been prepared by a steering committee established in 2010. The Constitution has since been approved and efforts are now focused on having the Association registered. An interim Committee comprising 10 members chaired by Dr Alice Mweetwa with Mr Joseph Mwanza as the vice chairman was set up in order to effect the registration of the Association.

The SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen Mutasa attended the meeting at the invitation of UNIDO Chief Technical Adviser Dr Mukayi Musarurwa and made presentations on the overview of accreditation and worldwide trends in accreditation, an overview of SADCAS, and outlined the SADCAS accreditation process and related costs.

The ZNLA is the sixth laboratory association to be established in the region with the NLA South Africa being the oldest followed by the NLA Zimbabwe. Other countries within the SADC region namely Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique have also established laboratory associations whilst in Botswana, the BOBS ISO/IEC 17025 Forum is now finalizing its constitution and is expected to be launched as the National Testing Laboratory system in the near future. The laboratory associations which provide a platform for all laboratories to share experiences and information aimed at improving the credibility of laboratory services and raising the profile of the laboratory profession, play a key role in the social economic development of our countries, a role which is commonly shared with SADCAS and other accreditation bodies operating in SADC.



SADCAS Core Values

Impartiality	We are organized and operate so as to safeguard objectivity and impartiality of our services.
Transparency	We are dedicated to provide complete transparency in our work by communicating effectively with our clients.
Non-discrimination	We treat our clients fairly and in an equitable manner.
Integrity	We act with honesty and integrity.
Innovation	We generate new ideas and utilize creative approaches to problems for continuous improvement.
Diversity	We respect the diversity of our clients and ensure balance of interest in representation.

SADCAS Holds First Course in Namibia

SADCAS held an ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and internal auditing course from 22-26 August 2011 at the Alte Brücke Holiday and Resort and Conference Centre in Swakopmund, Namibia. This was the first course of its kind to be held by SADCAS in Namibia. A total of 12 participants attended the course. The participants were from five organizations namely: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Services; Namibia Laboratory Service; Central Veterinary Laboratory; and the Namibian Standards Institution. Participants were comprised of managers, technicians and heads of laboratory sections, a majority of whom were learning about ISO/IEC 17025 for the first time. The course was opened by the Trainer who gave brief background on SADCAS, updated participants on developments in SADCAS and outlined the services offered by SADCAS.



The objective of the 5 days' ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and internal auditing course was to promote an understanding of the standard requirements and to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to inspection bodies' staff so as to monitor compliance with the standard. The practical exercises and group work which were given after each clause of the standard enabled participants to assess their understanding of the areas covered. The group work allowed for fruitful discussions on the interpretation of the standard.

ISO/IEC 17025 which specifies the requirements of testing laboratories is the appropriate international standard for laboratories which are concerned with demonstrating competence underpinned by a quality system. Throughout the world many countries now rely on accreditation as a means of independently evaluating laboratory competency.

ISO 15189 Training Gains Momentum

Between August and November 2011 SADCAS successfully held 3 training courses on ISO 15189 for medical laboratories. From 24 to 30 September SADCAS held an ISO 15189 requirements and internal auditing course for 20 participants drawn from government hospitals' laboratories in Tanzania. The course was held at the VETA Training Centre in Morogoro, Tanzania and was sponsored by the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). The CLSI is a global non-profit standards organization whose mission is to develop best practices in clinical and laboratory testing and to promote their use throughout the world, using a consensus driven process that balances the viewpoints of industry, government and the health care professions. Currently the CLSI is assisting a number of medical laboratories in Tanzania in working towards accreditation in accordance with ISO 15189. SADCAS was engaged by the CLSI to conduct training on ISO 15189.

Continued from p 7

Another ISO 15189 course was held in Zimbabwe from 31 October to 4 November at The Rainbow Towers, Harare. The course was attended by 13 participants from 3 organizations namely: National Blood Service Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Programme (ZINQAP) and Lancet Clinical Laboratory. This was the 3rd ISO 15189 training course to be held in Zimbabwe.



Participants attending the ISO 15189 course in Morogoro, Tanzania

From 19 to 23 September 2011 SADCAS conducted a technical assessor course at the CDC Premises in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The course was attended by 18 participants. The course was opened by an official from the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Representatives of US Centre for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Tanzania National Health Laboratory also made some opening remarks at the opening ceremony. The course was organized by the Africa Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). The ASLM is a pan African professional body working with countries to advocate for the critical role and needs of laboratory medicine. The ASLM's mission is to advance professional laboratory medicine practice, science and networks in Africa needed to support preventive medicine, quality care of patients and disease control through partnerships with governments and relevant organizations. The ASLM is working with countries on laboratory network development and strengthening efforts and certification of laboratory medicine training, and with the WHO AFRO and other partners to develop and implement laboratory policies. The ASLM serves as the implementing Evaluation Group for the WHO AFRO Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIP-TA). It is on the basis of the latter capacity that ASLM partnered with SADCAS to run the medical laboratory technical assessor training course.

Over the years and with challenges such as HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria etc there has been global rapid growth in the various branches of health care services. As part of this growth, laboratory diagnosis has gained tremendous importance in today's practices. The competence and efficient operation of a medical laboratory and the timeous delivery of medical laboratory services to the physician is critical in any health care delivery system. A number of countries in Africa have recognized the importance of medical laboratory services as an integral part of the health delivery system and have in their policies embraced accreditation as a strategy for competence of medical laboratories. This is what has spurred interest in accreditation issues.

SADCAS offers training programmes to create awareness on ISO 15189, promote a thorough understanding of the standard requirements and impart internal auditing knowledge and skills so as to monitor compliance with ISO 15189. SADCAS also offers other training courses on ISO 15189 as per request.



OCC Staff Trained on ISO/IEC 17021

Twenty-five participants from the Office Congolais de Contrôle participated in a 5 days' training course on ISO/IEC 17021. The course which was organized by SADCAS and conducted in French by the SADCAS Trainer was held at the Restaurant la Fleur de Sel in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The 5 days' course covered an overview of accreditation, ISO/IEC 17021 requirements, implementation and internal auditing. The course was based on the latest version of the standard which was published in 2011. The course comprised of 5 exercises aimed at providing the participants an opportunity to put into practice some of the tutorial sessions.

The Office Congolais de Contrôle (OCC) was established by Ordinance No. 74-013 of 10 January 1974 as a technical and commercial public institution with corporate status and operating under the Ministry of Trade to provide quality assurance services including the certification services. The OCC intends to ensure that their certification services comply with ISO/IEC 17021 the international standard for management systems certification bodies. The OCC further intends to have its management systems certification scheme accredited. Accreditation which is the process of providing recognition for competence in undertaking, in this case management system certification services, is now increasingly accepted as the most transparent, non discriminatory mechanism to assure competence of conformity assessment bodies.



BOBS Compulsory Standards Unit Staff Trained on ISO/IEC 17020

Twenty two participants from the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) Compulsory Standards Unit participated in a 5 days' training course on ISO/IEC 17020. The course which was organized by SADCAS was held at the BOBS Offices in Gaborone, Botswana from 3 to 7 October 2012. The course was opened by Mr Alfred Kgotlaetsile Manager Compulsory Standards Unit. The SADCAS Technical Manager Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo also gave opening remarks, and introduced the Trainer.



Participants attending the ISO/IEC 17020 training

The objective of the 5 days' ISO/IEC 17020 requirements, implementation and internal auditing course was to promote an understanding of the standard requirements and the guidance document ILAF/ILAC A4: 2004 and to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to inspection bodies' staff so as to monitor compliance with the standard. The practical exercises and group work which were interspaced throughout the course generated a lot of interest and participation from the group and were a source of invaluable practical knowledge on the development, implementation and improvement of an inspection body's management system.

The BOBS Compulsory Standards Unit was established to promote and facilitate the implementation of compulsory standards in order to safeguard the health and safety of consumers, animals and the environment. In fulfillment of this mandate, the Compulsory Standards Unit carries out

inspections and trains inspectors amongst other activities. The scope of the BOBS Compulsory Standards Unit inspection services is broad covering consumer products ranging from electrical to food products.



Additional Promotional Materials Published

SADCAS has published four new pamphlets in addition to the array of promotional materials already available. The pamphlets are intended to provide a microcosm to stakeholders on the SADCAS' accreditation programmes and accreditation process.

The four pamphlets cover 4 out of the 7 SADCAS accreditation programs on offer namely:

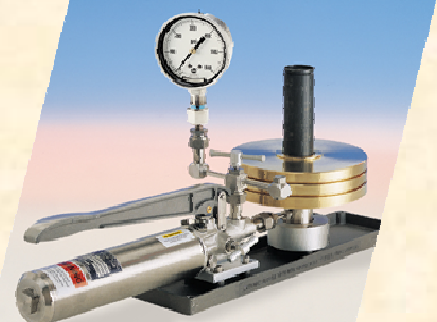
- ✓ Testing Laboratory Accreditation Programme;
- ✓ Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Programme;
- ✓ Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme; and
- ✓ Medical Laboratory Accreditation Programme.

The pamphlets briefly provide a background on the respective accreditation program, the need for accreditation, the fields or scopes of accreditation on offer, the accreditation criteria, the accreditation process, assessors, the accreditation certificate and the appeals process.

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



Testing Laboratory Accreditation Programme (TLAP)



Calibration Laboratory Accreditation



Inspection Bodies Accreditation Programme (IBAP)



Medical Laboratory Accreditation Programme (MLAP)

SADCAS Visits Botswana National Dosimetry Laboratory

The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen Mutasa accompanied by Messrs G Seitshiro and E Mmatli, officers from the National Accreditation Focal Point – Botswana met with officials of the Department of Radiation Protection on 11 November 2011 in Gaborone, Botswana.

Targeted marketing visits are part of SADCAS strategy to reach out to CABs that are operating within the region in order to promote the benefits and importance of accreditation, market SADCAS services and to promote the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement (TPA) put in place to kick start SADCAS accreditation services whilst ensuring the credibility of the accreditation services and skills transfer to SADCAS.

SADCAS was welcomed by Mr K Gabobofane, the Manager of the National Dosimetry Laboratory under the Department of Radiation Protection and were joined by 2 other Laboratory staff for the meeting. Mr Gabobofane gave an overview of the Department. The Department of Radiation Protection was established in 2008. Its mandate is to administer the safe use of atomic energy and nuclear technology. Under this mandate, the Department is responsible for carrying out licensing and statutory inspections of all facilities that use nuclear sources and radiation generating equipment such as x ray machines. The Department is responsible for enforcing:

- ✓ Medical exposure control which prevents possible cases of overdose to patients during cancer treatment;
- ✓ Occupational exposure control for protecting employees working with nuclear sources and against adverse effects of radiation that can lead to cancer, sterility and other associated illnesses;
- ✓ Public and environmental exposure control for protecting the public, flora and fauna from short as well as long term effects of ionizing radiation; and
- ✓ Emergency preparedness and response for mitigating the effects of radiological emergencies that can result in injuries to people contamination of the environment and damage to property.

Monitoring of radiation amongst personnel who work with nuclear sources is undertaken by the Laboratory. The Laboratory also monitors radiation activity in the environment for which they are 13 sites and these are monitored monthly. The Laboratory handles about 650 dosimetry badges per month for personnel who work with nuclear sources. The laboratory has 3 staff comprising a Manager and 2 technicians. Monitoring of the dosimetry badges is done on a Thermo Luminescence Dosimetry (TLD) reader machine. The laboratory started on its journey towards accreditation 2 years ago and has already undergone an internal audit.

Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO gave an overview of SADCAS highlighting the background into the establishment of SADCAS, its service offering and progress with set up and operationalization of SADCAS including the latest update on the number of accredited facilities and applications being handled by SADCAS through the Twinning partnership Arrangement with SANAS. Mrs Mutasa also highlighted the importance and benefits of accreditation especially the protection of health, safety and the environment aspects of which are covered by the Department in its role as a regulator. She noted the worldwide increasing acceptance of accreditation in the regulatory area and expressed her expectations for a similar trend within the region because of the benefits that accreditation offers in helping governments meet their obligation of safeguarding the health, safety and the environment.

After the meeting the SADCAS team toured of the laboratory.



Radiation Badges



TLD Machine

Visit to Bamalete Lutheran Hospital

On 2 September 2011, Ms Jeanne Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager, Mr Goitseone Seitshiro and Mr Edward Mmatli, the two National Accreditation Focal Points for Botswana paid a courtesy call at Bamalete Lutheran Hospital at Ramotswa, 35 km from Gaborone. The meeting was attended by Dr Sabine Otsmann Chief Medical Officer, Ms Charity Kanhukamwe, the Quality Manager and all heads of the various sections of the laboratory.

During the meeting Ms Ranorovelo gave an overview of SADCAS whilst Ms Kanhukamwe explained the Hospital history and laboratory activities. Bamalete Lutheran Hospital initially started as a clinic and was upgraded into a hospital around 1970. The hospital has four main departments: serology, haematology, microbiology and chemistry. It works with other seven clinics around Ramotswa and also serves patients coming from Gaborone and the rest of the country.

The meeting was followed by a tour in the laboratory. The laboratory handles about 65000 samples per year. Most of the laboratories' tests are accredited by SANAS based on ISO/IEC 17025. The Chief Medical Officer expressed their intention to changeover to SADCAS accreditation at the end of their accreditation assessment cycle. The visit to Bamalete Lutheran Hospital is part of SADCAS marketing strategy aimed at marketing SADCAS service offering, promoting the SADCAS/SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement and encouraging SANAS accredited facilities outside South Africa but within the SADC region to changeover their accreditation to SADCAS.

Prior to the visit to Bamalete Lutheran Hospital, courtesy calls were also made in August 2012 at Water Utilities Corporation and Department of Water Affairs in Gaborone, Botswana.

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### Vision

SADCAS vision is to be a credible accreditation body at the cutting edge of accreditation service delivery.

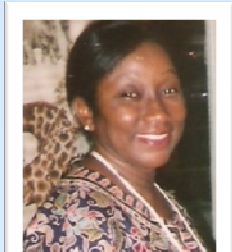
### Mission

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

### SADCAS Objectives are to:

- ✓ Accreditation services to SADC member states that do not have a national accreditation body for their laboratories, certification and inspection bodies;
- ✓ Accreditation services to member states whose national accreditation body only services a limited scope of accreditation;
- ✓ International recognition of conformity assessment results produced by organizations accredited by it;
- ✓ Accreditation service that promotes, develops and maintains good regulatory practices;
- ✓ An opportunity for SADC member states to participate in multilateral arrangements for recognition of conformity assessment results;
- ✓ A database of organizations accredited by it.
- ✓ Accreditation expertise, qualifying, registering and using experts from amongst SADC member states; and
- ✓ A national accreditation focal point (NAFP) for those SADC member states using its service.

## NAFP Appointments



Mrs Mariam Kante



On 26 July 2011, the Seychelles Minister for Investment; Natural Resources & Industry approved the nomination of Mrs Mariam Kante as the Second National Accreditation Focal Point for Seychelles. Mrs Mariam Kante a Principle Chemist in the Biochemical Testing Services Division at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and has 32 years' working experience. Mrs Kante will support Mrs Amy Quatre to progress accreditation activities in Seychelles.



On 26 August 2011, the Permanent Secretary of the Zambia Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry appointed 2 National Accreditation Focal Points for Zambia to replace Mr Nteema Njebe Muzandu. Mr Aaron Mutale, Senior Economist at the Ministry was appointed as the first NAFP officer whilst Ms Mwenya Chisheta, an Economist in the same Ministry was appointed second officer. Their appointment will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. With these appointments, the NAFP Zambia is now located in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry. Mr Mutale holds a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and has over 16 years' working experience. Ms Chisheta holds a Bachelors degree in Economics and has 3 years' working experience.



On 28 September 2011, the Principle Secretary of the Swaziland Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade appointed Ms Phindile Priscilla Dlamini as an interim National Accreditation Focal Point for Swaziland. The First NAFP Mr Henson Dlamini retired on 17 October 2011 whilst the Second NAFP Ms Sybil Sthembiso Dlamini is on study leave until April 2012. Mrs Phindile Dlamini's appointment will ensure continuity in Swaziland's participation in accreditation activities.



## One-Day Awareness Courses

SADCAS offers one-day awareness training courses on ISO/IEC 17025 for calibration/testing laboratories, ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies and ISO 15189 for medical laboratories. These courses are in addition to the five days' requirements, implementation and internal auditing courses which have been on offer since October 2009.

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

For more information contact:

SADCAS  
 Tel: +267 313 2909  
 Email: [info@sadcas.org](mailto:info@sadcas.org)  
 Website: [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)

## National Accreditation Focal Points Meet

The National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) met at St George Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa from 28 to 29 November 2011. This was the fifth NAFP meeting to be held having held the first meeting in February 2006, the second meeting in November 2008, the third meeting in July 2009 and the fourth meeting in November 2010.

The fifth NAFP annual meeting was attended by 8 NAFPs from 5 SADC countries namely Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and SADCAS management and staff. NAFP attendance costs for the meeting were, for the first time, met by their respective Governments. A number of NAFPs could not attend the meeting due to budgetary constraints whilst NAFPs DRC could not attend the meeting due to the presidential elections held at the same time as the NAFP annual meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Maureen Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO who in her opening remarks, highlighted the purpose of the meeting and outlined the meeting program.

During the two days' meeting Mrs Mutasa gave an update on SADCAS activities, presented the 2012/17 Strategic Plan which was approved by the Board at its August 2011 meeting, reported on the results of survey



Participants at the 5th NAFP Annual Meeting



From left to right: Ms Stella Mrosso—NAFP-Tanzania and Mrs Elfriede Mungunda alternate NAFP-Namibia

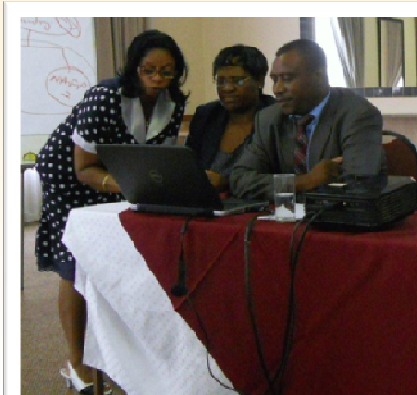
of conformity assessment bodies undertaken by SADCAS between March and June 2011 through the network of NAFPs and presented the draft NAFP handbook. Ms Ranorovelo, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented the NAFP Job description and NAFP roles and responsibilities summarizing the achievements and shortcomings so far. Mr Jemedze from Head Hunters Consulting Services explained the Performance Management System and presented the Balanced Score Card applicable to NAFPs whilst Ms Linda Dirorimwe, the SADCAS Accreditation Administrator talked about SADCAS training administration and the expected role of NAFPs in that process. She also presented the 2012/13 SADCAS marketing Plan. As part of the experience sharing the NAFPs presented their objectives, achievements and challenges faced in their respective countries.

*Continued to p 15*



Continued from p 14

The NAFP handbook which is a consolidation of information for reference by NAFPs work was approved at the meeting and will now be published and made available to NAFPs. The handbook also contains frequently asked questions about accreditation thus will serve as a useful resource for NAFPs to consult as they respond to queries from stakeholders. The 2012/13 SADCAS marketing plan a consolidation of NAFPs input following the July 2010 Marketing Communications and Presentation Skills workshop was discussed extensively and will now be finalized and made available to NAFPs who in turn are expected to implement it in their respective countries. Due to the poor response rate, the survey of conformity assessment bodies will be undertaken in those countries who did not participate in the survey namely Angola, Madagascar and Zambia. The rest of the countries who had a poor response will also undertake the survey again. The survey will be undertaken once again through the network of NAFPs between January and March 2012. The survey questionnaire will, this time round, also be made available on the SADCAS website. During the experience sharing session, common challenges were noted and discussed in order to find solutions to address them.



Left to right: Ms JF Ranorovelo SADCAS Technical Manager with Mrs Mildred Machiri and Mr Christopher Ngwenya—NAFPs Zimbabwe



Left to right: Mrs Mariam Kante and Mrs Amy Quatre NAFPs-Seychelles

The fifth NAFP annual meeting was a good opportunity to reflect on the achievements in the year, the challenges faced and to agree on the future activities. The next NAFP annual meeting will be held in November 2012.

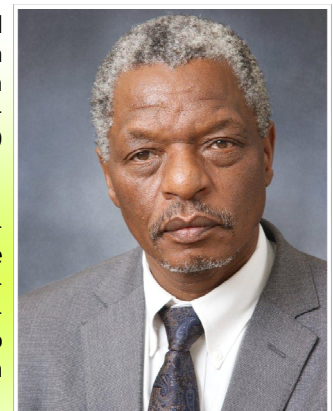


## Henson Dlamini Retires

Mr Henson Dlamini the National Accreditation Focal Point for Swaziland has retired from the civil service in the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland. Mr Dlamini a Mechanical Engineer by qualification started his working career in 1979 as a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at the Swaziland College of Technology then joined the Ministry of Enterprises and Employment as a Quality Assurance System Administrator in 1989 up until his retirement.

Mr Dlamini was appointed National Accreditation Focal Point for Swaziland in September 2003 and was amongst the very first NAFPs to be appointed to the position. He then served in that capacity until his retirement. Looking back in his years of involvement with the SADC SQAM family Mr Dlamini said "I have been privileged to rub shoulders with a lot of professionals, past and present, in the region who mentored me to develop a National regulatory and quality infrastructure for Swaziland to whom I am deeply indebted".

SADCAS congratulates Mr Dlamini on his retirement, thanks him for his dedication in pushing SADCAS accreditation agenda and wishes him the very best for the future.

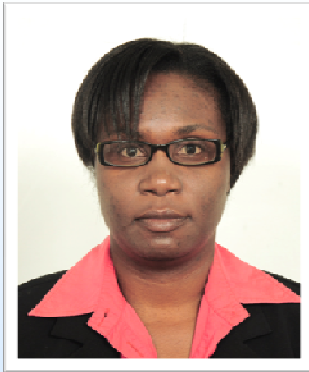


Mr Henson Dlamini



## Financial Administrator Attends Tax Update Seminar

As part of continuous professional development the SADCAS Financial Administrator, Mrs Laureen Gudo, attended a one day Tax Update Seminar.



The Seminar which was organized by the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) and held at the Gaborone International Conference Centre (GICC) on 21 September 2011 was well attended by more than 250 accounting professionals from various private and public organizations.

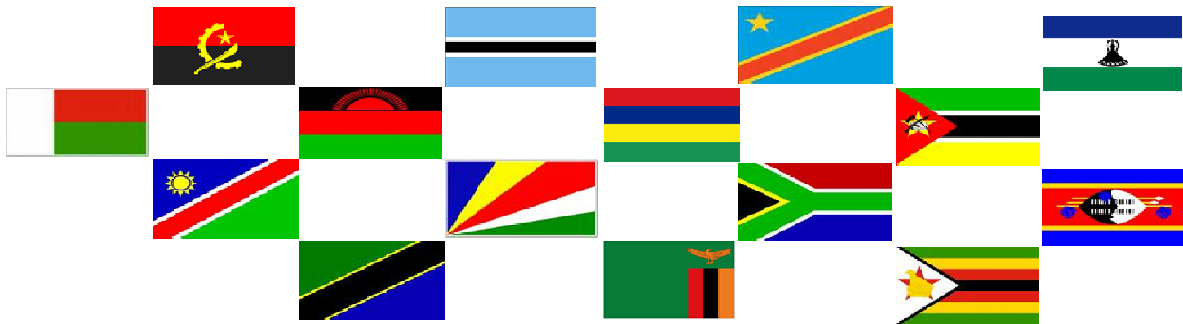
The objective of the seminar was to update members of the institute and other stakeholders on the recent changes in the Botswana Tax legislation. The main areas of focus of the seminar were:

- ✓ Changes in personal, corporate, VAT and capital gains Tax;
- ✓ Changes in Tax administration procedures and the penalty regime; and
- ✓ Tax planning strategies.

The seminar which was highly informative and facilitated by experts from the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS), Accounting practitioners in public practice and tax consultants provided a good platform for debate thus helping accounting professionals in their work.



**A Multi-economy Accreditation Body!!**



## Status of Key Accreditation Standards and IAF/ILAC Documents

| STANDARD                                                                                                                                                                 | STATUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ISO/IEC 17020:1998</b> General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.                                                           | Vote on the Draft International Standard closed and final publication expected in 2012                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>ISO/IEC 17021:2011</b> Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems                                        | Standard published on 1 February 2011<br>Transition period until 1 February 2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>ISO/IEC 17021-1</b> Conformity assessment – Competence requirements for certification auditing of environmental management systems                                    | At a draft stage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>ISO/IEC WD TS 17022:</b> Conformity Assessment – Minimum requirements and additional recommendations for content of a third –party audit report on management systems | Voting period closed and publication expected in 2012                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>ISO/IEC FDIS 17024</b> Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of persons                                           | Voting period on Final Draft International Standard closed and publication expected in 2012                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>ISO/IEC 17025: 2005</b> General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories                                                               | International standard confirmed after periodical review                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>ISO/IEC DIS 17065</b> Conformity assessment – Requirements for certification certifying products, processes and services                                              | Voting period closed on the draft International standard closed in October 2011                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>ISO/IEC WD 17067</b> Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification                                                                                    | Committee Draft approved and CD study/ballot initiated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>ISO 15189: 2007</b> Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence                                                                         | International standard to be revised                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>ISO 13528:2005</b> Statistical methods for proficiency testing by inter laboratory comparisons                                                                        | International standard to be revised                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>ISO 14067</b> Carbon Foot Printing                                                                                                                                    | Voting stage on the document closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>ISO 19011:2011</b> Guidelines for quality and/or environmental management systems auditing                                                                            | Revised international standard published<br>Document available as of 2011-11-11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>ILAC P 5:11/2011</b> ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (Arrangement)                                                                                                | This document was published in November 2011.<br>It describes the elements of a MRA (hereinafter referred as the Arrangement) for Testing and Calibration laboratories and Inspection bodies' accreditation.<br><br>This document was reviewed by ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) and ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC) in 2011 to include the accreditation of inspection bodies in preparation for the extension of the ILAC MRA to cover Inspection. |



Continued from p 16

| STANDARD                                                                                                         | STATUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>IAF ML 1:2011</b> Procedure for Exchange of Documentation among IAF MLA Accreditation Bodies (Issue 2)</p> | <p>Document issued and applicable since 27 April 2011.</p> <p>This document describes procedures for the exchange of documentation among accreditation bodies that are members of the IAF MLA, where such documentation issued by the originating accreditation body is requested for consideration as part of assessment activities relating to the granting, maintaining, extending, reducing, suspending and withdrawing of accreditation by the receiving accreditation body.</p> <p>This document does not make it mandatory for IAF member accreditation bodies to exchange documents.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>IAF ML 2:2011</b> General Principles on Use of the IAF MLA Mark (Issue 2)</p>                              | <p>Document issued and applicable since 29 April 2011.</p> <p>This document specifies general principles for the use of the IAF MLA Mark in conjunction with the MLA signatory's own accreditation mark together with licensing requirements.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>IAF ML 4:2011</b> Policies and Procedures (Issue 5)</p>                                                    | <p>Document issued on 15 July 2011 and application date from 15 July 2012.</p> <p>This document "IAF Policies and Procedures for a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement on the Level of Single Accreditation Bodies and on the Level of Regional Groups" defines the policies and procedures that IAF will use to establish, maintain and extend a MLA among both accreditation body members and regional accreditation groups which operate a regional MLA.</p> <p>ILAC/IAF Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements (Arrangements) publications A1, A2 and A3 outline the operation of the IAF MLA programs and include the requirements to be met by a regional accreditation group/ single accreditation body to be a member of the IAF MLA.</p> <p>IAF ML 4:2011 provides additional requirements to IAF/ILAC A1, A2 and A3.</p> |

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

Cont

## Diary of Upcoming Events

| DATES                          | MEETINGS                                                          | VENUE                                        |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 9 November 2011                | WADA LC meeting                                                   | Montreal, Canada                             |
| 24 November 2011               | SADCAS FRAC meeting                                               | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 24 November 2011               | SADCAS HRRC meeting                                               | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 25 November 2011               | SADCAS Board meeting                                              | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 21-25 November 2011            | ARSO General Assembly Meeting                                     | Windhoek, Namibia                            |
| 21-22 November 2011            | SADCSTAN Management Committee                                     | Gaborone, Botswana                           |
| 22-23 November 2011            | 32 <sup>nd</sup> EEE-PT WG meeting                                | Denmark                                      |
| 28-29 November 2011            | SADCAS/NAFPs annual meeting                                       | Johannesburg, South Africa                   |
| 28 November – 01 December 2011 | SADCAS/NORAD project review                                       | Pretoria, South Africa<br>Gaborone, Botswana |
| 8-9 December 2011              | JCTLM – Executive meeting                                         | Paris, France                                |
| 12-13 December 2011            | SADCTRLC Workshop on SADC GHS Policy Paper                        | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 26 -27 January 2012            | SADC Annual Quality Award Adjudication meeting                    | Gaborone, Botswana                           |
| January 2012 (TBC)             | SADCSTAN Operational Officers Workshop on Harmonization Procedure | TBA                                          |
| February 2012 (TBC)            | SQAMEG meeting                                                    | Gaborone, Botswana                           |
| 3 February 2012                | SADCA Executive Committee                                         | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 8 February 2012                | SADCAS/SANAS TPA meeting                                          | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 13 February 2012               | SADCAS – FRAC meeting                                             | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 24 February 2012               | SADCAS – Board meeting                                            | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 16 March 2012                  | PTB – SADCAS/SANAS meeting                                        | Pretoria, South Africa                       |
| 18 March 2012                  | SADCA Executive Committee meeting                                 | Lilongwe, Malawi                             |
| 19-23 March 2012               | SADC SQAM meetings                                                | Lilongwe, Malawi                             |
| 20 March 2012                  | SADCAS Special Board meeting                                      | Lilongwe, Malawi                             |
| 20 March 2012                  | SADCAS 7 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting                   | Lilongwe, Malawi                             |
| 22 March 2012                  | SADCA General Assembly Meeting                                    | Lilongwe, Malawi                             |
| 26 March 2012                  | CASCO (TIG meeting)                                               | Geneva, Switzerland                          |
| 27 March 2012                  | CASCO (STAR)                                                      | Geneva, Switzerland                          |
| 28 March 2012                  | CASCO (CPC)                                                       | Geneva, Switzerland                          |

Continued to p 20

Continued from p 24

## Diary of Upcoming Events

| DATES            | MEETINGS                                          | VENUE                  |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 29 March 2012    | CASCO (JWG)                                       | Geneva, Switzerland    |
| 19 April 2012    | SADCAS FRAC meeting                               | Pretoria, South Africa |
| 19 April 2012    | SADCAS HRRC meeting                               | Pretoria, South Africa |
| 20 April 2012    | SADCAS Board meeting                              | Pretoria, South Africa |
| 23-27 April 2012 | CAFMET: Fourth International Metrology Conference | Marrakech, Morocco     |

### PUBLISHED BY:

#### SADCAS

Plot 50676, First Floor Block B,  
BIFM/Fairgrounds Office Park Private Bag 00320,  
Gaborone, Botswana  
Tel: +267 3132909/ 3132910  
Cell No: +267 71 250042  
Fax: +267 3132922  
Email: [info@sadcas.org](mailto:info@sadcas.org)  
Website: [www.sadcas.org](http://www.sadcas.org)

#### Editors:

Maureen P Mutasa  
Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo

#### Layout & Design

Linda Dirorimwe

