

# THE PIONEER

SADCAS NEWSLETTER **MARCH 2021 EDITION | ISSUE 38**

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# Note From The Editors



**Mrs. Maureen Mutasa**



**Mr Xavier Mugari**

**We are pleased to present Issue 38 of the SADCAS Newsletter (March 2021 Edition) to keep our readers updated on accreditation activities in the region and beyond. Inside you will find news on accreditation activities undertaken by SADCAS during the period 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021 and developments in the field of accreditation.**

During the period the region faced a second surge in COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, in order to ensure business continuity during this period, all meetings scheduled were held virtually.

- **The SADCAS 4th Assessor Conclave was held remotely for the first time on 11 December 2020. The Assessor Conclave was attended by a record 219 assessors, technical experts, SADCAS staff and facilitators.**
- **ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) held a meeting on 15 December 2020 to conclude on the agenda items for 2020.**
- **AFRAC training course on the revised ILAC P 15 - *Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies* was conducted remotely from 17 to 18 December 2020. The training course was attended by 100 participants amongst whom were 4 SADCAS Management and staff.**
- **IAF Food Working Group met on 24 March 2021 and attended by the 2 SADCAS staff.**
- **The 1st meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Legal Metrology Bodies Accreditation Scheme (LMAS) (AC.08) was held on 31 March 2021 remotely for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by 11 of the 14 members from 11 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS.**
- **SADCAS held a virtual workshop on ISO/CASCO Activities, ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and the OIML Certification System based on ISI/IEC 17024 on 31 March 2021. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Reinaldo Figueiredo, a renowned international expert in Standardization, Conformity Assessment and accreditation and the Chair of ISO CASCO and by Mr Paul Dixon, Assistant Director International Bureau of Legal Metrology (BIML) and the Executive Secretary of the OIML Certification Scheme (OIML-CS). All the 74 participants and presenters were drawn from 14 ISO member bodies, 5 ISO corresponding members from Africa and mostly from 13 out of the 14 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS.**

*Enjoy the reading and stay safe!*

# SADCAS ACCREDITS FIRST MEDICAL LABORATORY FOR COVID-19 DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

**SADCAS is proud to announce the accreditation of its very first medical laboratory for conducting Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) diagnostic testing. Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories Gaborone situated at Plot Number 12583, Nyerere Drive, Middlestar, Gaborone, Botswana has been accredited to ISO 15189:2012 for SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 testing using the PCR/Bioer Extraction and Amplification System.**

The accreditation is a scope extension in the “Molecular Biology” scope. Diagnofirm was first accredited by SADCAS on 25 June 2015 to ISO 15189: 2012 and granted the accreditation number MED 012 for the following scopes: Chemistry; Endocrinology; Haematology; Microbiology; Molecular Biology; and Serology. Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories Gaborone was re-assessed and renewal of accreditation was granted on 31 July 2020.

For COVID-19 Testing, Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories Gaborone underwent a scope extension assessment on 8 December 2020 by a team of two assessors including Technical Assessor competent in the scope molecular biology. The assessment which was conducted virtually involved a vertical assessment and witnessing the Medical Laboratory Scientist undertaking the test. No findings were raised during the assessment after which a decision to accredit in the test method “SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19” using the PCR Bioer Extraction and Amplification System was made by the SADCAS Accreditation Approvals Committee on 11 December 2020 based on the assessment team’s recommendation.

The certificate was handed over at a ceremony held on 21 January 2021 in Gaborone, Botswana where the guest of honour was Honourable Dr Edwin G Dikoloti, Minister of Health and Wellness.



**Honourable Dr Edwin G Dikoloti, Botswana  
Minister of Health and Wellness.**



**Mrs Maureen Mutasa SADCAS  
CEO giving her speech**

The COVID-19 pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), is now a major public health problem globally. Medical laboratories play a critical role in the healthcare delivery system by providing information for patient management, public health, disease control and surveillance. Reliable results of medical laboratories conducting tests to detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus are essential in the management of the pandemic. Accurate and early detection of SARS-CoV-2 in infected people are key in limiting transmission of COVID-19 and informing interventional measures.

Accreditation to ISO 15189:2012 is a vital tool for laboratories to improve quality performance, efficiency and reliability. The SADCAS Medical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) was established in June 2010 and is a multi – disciplinary accreditation scheme operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011. The fields of accreditation under the MLAS include: Clinical Chemistry; Biochemistry; Cytology; Haematology; Histopathology; Immunology; Microbiology; Pathology; Virology; Serology; Molecular Biology; Endocrinology; Blood Transfusion/Blood Bank; Immunophenotyping; and Andrology. The MLAS is internationally recognized having achieved signatory status in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) in 2017.



**Mrs Mutasa explaining the contents of the Certificate to Honourable Dr Dikoloti**



**Mr Ignatius Makozhombwe, the Quality Manager Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories receives the accreditation certificate from the Honourable Dr Dikoloti**



**Invited guests and Diagnofirm Management Dr Chand on extreme left and Mr Chand on extreme right pose for a photo after the ceremony**

In her speech at the certificate handover ceremony Mrs Mutasa called for the specification of accreditation of COVID-19 testing laboratories as one of the requirements for their designation as this will help ensure the competence and capability of the medical laboratories and reliability of the results thereby supporting those who are making decisions in relation to the development, implementation and monitoring impact of initiatives.

## SADCAS HOLDS 16<sup>th</sup> AGM VIRTUALLY

**The SADCAS 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtually for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on 17 March 2021 due to the ongoing travel restrictions still in place in the SADC region following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was one of the most successful and well attended AGMs. Some special guests were also in attendance from the African Union, cooperating partners Afreximbank, PTB Germany and UNIDO.**

The Chairman of the Board Mr Steve Sidney presented the Chair's report highlighting all the achievements and the challenges faced since the last AGM held in March 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic marking the beginning of an unprecedented worldwide economic downturn. He concluded his report to the General Assembly on a high note by expressing his pride in the dynamism and responsiveness demonstrated by the SADCAS Management, staff and assessors in such a challenging operating environment. He also assured the General Assembly that measures had been put in place to ensure a safe working environment for our staff and equally safe business environment for SADCAS customers. "SADCAS will closely follow the ongoing development of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to take any further action when needed. I have no doubt that SADCAS will continue to make good progress in service delivery and eagerly look forward to the future", he said.

Having passed a "Transitional Provision" for the continuation of the Board members up until the next 16th SADCAS AGM to allow for the registration of the Constitution which was subsequently concluded on 16 April 2020, elections of Board members to serve under the new Constitution were conducted at the 16th AGM. The AGM through Resolution 19 elected the following members to serve for the initial term of five (5) years as a member of the SADCAS Board of Directors in line with Clause 28 of the Constitution of SADCAS Ltd:

- Steven Bruce Sidney (Mr) - **Non-Executive Director**
- Emmanuel Jinda (Mr) - **Non- Executive Director**
- Alfredo Filipe Siteo (Mr) - **Non-Executive Director**
- Davlin Moyenda Damaziel Chokazinga (Mr) - **Non-Executive Director**
- Mmatlala Dube (Mrs) - **Non-Executive Director**
- Lineo Lomkhosi Mkhonta - Gama (Dr) - **Non- Executive Director Representing the SADC Secretariat**
- Maureen Primrose Mutasa (Mrs) - **Executive Director**

The Board will hold its next meeting on 20 May 2021 during which they will elect a Chair and reconstitute the Board Committees.

The General Assembly deliberated on other AGM business including:

- Adoption of the 12th SADCAS annual report including the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020;
- Ratification of the 2021/22 budget;
- Confirmation of Baker Tilly as the External Financial Auditors for the year ended 31 March 2021; and
- Appointment of UPT Secretarial Services as the Company Secretary for the year beginning 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022;

The AGM also expressed its gratitude to Ms Verily Molatedi who retired from the Board of Directors at the 16th AGM. Ms Molatedi was initially appointed to serve on the Board in 2009 and provided expertise on financial matters and chaired the Finance Risk and Audit Committee during a period when SADCAS scored many successes; such as registered for tax with BURS; registered unqualified external financial audit opinions; growth in SADCAS business; and achievement of international recognition. She also served as the Vice Chair of the Board.

# SADCAS ACCREDITS MEDICAL LABORATORIES IN MALAWI

SADCAS has scored a first by accrediting 6 Medical Laboratories in Malawi during the last quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

Organisation	Location	Accreditation Date	Scope/s
<b>1. Balaka DREAM Laboratory</b>	Malawi, Balaka	2021-02-04	<b>MED 057</b> Molecular Biology
<b>2. Blantyre DREAM Laboratory</b>	Malawi, Blantyre	2021-02-05	<b>MED 058</b> Molecular Biology
<b>3. Partners in Hope Laboratory</b>	Malawi, Lilongwe	2021-02-16	<b>MED 059</b> Molecular Biology
<b>4. National HIV Reference Laboratory</b>	Malawi, Lilongwe	2021-02-16	<b>MED 060</b> Molecular Biology
<b>5. Malawi Liverpool Welcome Trust Clinical Laboratory</b>	Malawi, Blantyre	2021-02-16	<b>MED 061</b> Clinical Chemistry Serology Microbiology Haematology Molecular Biology
<b>6. Mwaiwathu Private Hospital Laboratory</b>	Malawi, Blantyre	2021-03-29	<b>MED 067</b> Clinical Chemistry

Medical Laboratories play a frontline role in healthcare providing information for patient management, public health, disease control and surveillance. The accreditation of laboratories improves facilitation of accurate and rapid diagnostics, efficiency of treatment and reduction of errors in the laboratory process. SADCAS welcomes the Malawian Medical Laboratories to the family of accredited facilities.

## SADCAS ACCREDITS MEDICAL LABORATORIES IN ZAMBIA UNDER THE CLSI PROJECT

SADCAS has accredited the following Medical Laboratories in Zambia. The laboratories were mentored under the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and Zambia Ministry of Health Project:

Organisation	Location	Accreditation Date	Scope/s
1. Ndola Teaching Hospital Pathology	Ndola, Zambia	2021-02-04	<b>MED 055</b> Blood Bank Haematology Molecular Biology Serology
2. Arthur Davison Children’s Hospital Laboratory	Ndola, Zambia	2021-02-19	<b>MED 062</b> Haematology Serology Microbiology Clinical Chemistry
3. Chest Diseases Laboratory	Lusaka, Zambia	2021-03-09	<b>MED 063</b> Mycobacteriology

The CLSI is a globally recognized not-for-profit standards development organization with over 24,000 individuals with membership access, 1,200 volunteers, and 250+ products. The CLSI standards are recognized by laboratories, accreditors, and government agencies around the world as the best way to improve medical laboratory testing. The CLSI Global Health Partners are working in 4 continents namely: Africa; Central Asia; Eastern Europe; and North America in building capacity of medical laboratories for accreditation. The CLSI approach to projects has evolved over the years with focus being of developing local capacity building for the mentoring of laboratories. Thus, the role of CLSI is now to capacitate the local partner so that they undertake the mentoring. In Africa CLSI has mentored medical laboratories in the following countries: Kenya; Tanzania; Namibia and Zambia with the later 3 countries falling under the SADCAS operational boundary. In Zambia the project is working on getting 20 medical laboratories accredited of which 3 have already been accredited.

SADCAS accreditation ensures laboratories meet ISO 15189:2012, ILAC and SADCAS requirements including the operation of a quality management system. Medical Laboratory accreditation reinforces confidence in the quality of medical laboratories through a process that confirms their integrity, impartiality and competence.

SADCAS welcomes the Zambian Medical Laboratories to the family of accredited facilities.

SADCAS is grateful to the CLSI Global Health Partners for the financial and technical assistance provided in preparing medical laboratories for accreditation.

## SADCAS CEO PRESENTS AT IAF ILAC JDSC MEETING

**The SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa in her capacity as the Chair of the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) presented at the ILAC IAF Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC) meeting virtually held on 11 November 2020. The meeting which was very ably chaired by co-chaired by Sharonmae Shirley and Andrea Melo was attended by over 200 participants from all over the world.**

The meeting started off with the presentation of the 2019/20 report during which members were advised of the revisions to the Committee's TORs of Committee followed by a report on the survey undertaken amongst members to determine how IAF and ILAC can help Members from developing accreditation bodies and to establish the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and how JDSC can assist in mitigating these.

The next session was sharing of experiences on how the regions and accreditation bodies were coping and ensuring continuity in service delivery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Presentations were made by Mr Andreas Steinhorst who gave a presentation on behalf of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA), Mr Ferney Chaparoon behalf of the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Ms Lana Marshdeh on behalf of the Arab Accreditation Cooperation and last but not least Mrs Maureen P Mutasa on behalf of SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA). In all the presentation it was noted that regions as well as Accreditation Bodies had adapted fast and taken advantage of the opportunities presented through virtual meetings, remote technique in undertaking assessments and evaluations and online training with decisions being made during virtual meeting as well as electronically. In all cases communication with stakeholders was key. Challenges faced varied from region to region and included challenges such as internet connectivity, witnessing activities social isolation and anxiety. Lessons learnt included the importance and need to invest in technology. There was a lot of interest in the presentation which resulted in highly interactive discussion session with participants wanting to know more about the videoconferencing tools used, application of remote assessment technique at initial assessment stage and scope extension, techniques for witnessing activities remotely etc. Generally, it was noted that a lot of experience had been gained in using remote technique in assessments and peer evaluations, challenges are still faced particularly at witnessing of activities. All however agreed that whilst remote activities will continue even after the pandemic, they cannot completely replace face to face activities.

In the next session, the meeting reviewed and discussed the 2021/22 workplan which includes the following tasks: Virtual technical workshop; Quarterly experience sharing /mentoring workshops; Assessor training and Sensitization sessions. The meeting also received the UNIDO report on the various UNIDO activities and publications.

## SADCAS CEO AND TECHNICAL MANAGER PARTICIPATE AT SRLA/NAFP MEETING

The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen P Mutasa and Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe participated at the joint meeting of the SADC Region Laboratory Association (SRLA) and National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) held on 11 March 2021 following the 14th SRLA meeting. The joint meeting which was organized by the SRLA was attended by SRLA members, NAFPs from the 14 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS and invited guests from UNIDO. The meeting was opened by Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama the Chairman of the SRLA. It was the 3rd joint SRLA and NAFP meeting to be held.

### **The objective of this joint meeting was to**

- Be updated on progress with the project on developing CAB capacity in the region; and
- Discuss further collaborations between National Laboratory Associations and NAFPs in promoting accreditation.



Following on from the opening remarks the SADCAS CEO presented on the financial model followed by a presentation by the SADCAS Technical Manager on the SADCAS Accreditation Fee structure. In her remarks before the presentation, the SADCAS CEO noted that within the SADC region there is still a need to communicate the importance and benefits of accreditation and, any such activities including the marketing accreditation services are key. In addition, a lot of work still needs to be done to develop capacity of conformity assessment bodies especially those from the key developmental sectors as identified in the SADC Industrialization Policy, so as to prepare them for accreditation. She then thanked Mr Steve Sidney, for allowing SADCAS the opportunity to participate and present at this meeting of a captive audience. In their respective presentations the SADCAS representatives explained the SADCAS financial model and the basis of the SADCAS accreditation fee structure. Specifically, to conformity assessment service providers, the presentation was also designed to make service providers realize that accreditation is an investment from which returns should be realized.

This was followed by a progress report from Mr Juan Pablo Davila UNIDO on the ongoing project on building capacity of laboratories from the SADC region so as to prepare them for accreditation. In view of time limitations, the discussions to strengthen collaborations between National Laboratory Associations and NAFPS were deferred to a later date.

## SADCAS PARTICIPATES IN AFRAC TRAINING ON REVISED ILAC P15

The SADCAS Chief Executive Officer Mrs Maureen Mutasa, Technical Manager Mrs Pinkie Malebe and Scheme Coordinators Mr Victor Mundembe and Ms Varsah Gungoa participated in a training course on the revised *ILAC P 15 - Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies* which was conducted remotely from 17 to 18 December 2020. The training course which was organized by AFRAC was attended by 100 participants, the maximum allowed by the Zoom platform used. The participants were drawn mainly from AFRAC accreditation bodies and their inspection stakeholders. The course was so popular that more than 100 participations had registered and AFRAC had to arrange for a second group to be trained in February 2021. The facilitator for the training was Engineer Mahmoud Eltayeb, the AFRAC MRA Committee Chair.

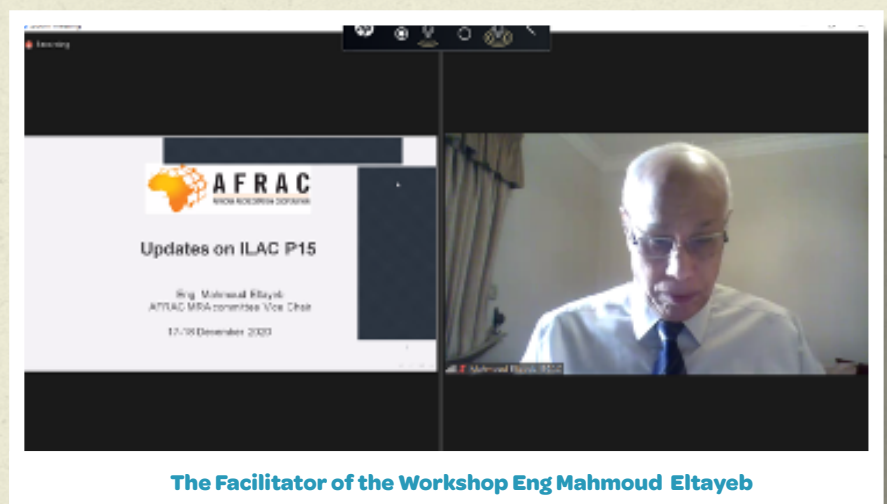
### The objectives of the training were to:

- Provide updated information on the ILAC policy and main changes in the new version of ILAC P15.
- Provide a common understanding between AFRAC Evaluators, assessors and inspection body representatives in the use of ILAC P15 for the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and to ensure consistent implementation.
- Learn the essentials on the main sections of the latest version of ILAC P15:05/2020.
- Exchange experiences and knowledge through group discussions and useful lessons

### The course covered the following topics:

- History and background of ILAC P15.
- Overview on ILAC P15: 05/2020 for the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012.
- The main changes in ILAC P15: 05/2020.
- Detailed sections of ILAC P15: 05/2020 for the application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012.

The course was interspaced with quizzes at end of each main sections and case studies. Ample time was allocated for group discussions.



**The main learning points of the workshop were:**

- The new version of ILAC P15 provides more restricted requirements related to treatment of risks to impartiality for Type A inspection body.
- The accreditation bodies and inspection bodies need to consider the new approaches in the new version of ILAC P15 and the alternative selection of Type A and Type C inspection bodies.
- Type C is not a second class of inspection bodies.
- Guidance is introduced on the use of new technologies (e. g drones, Artificial Intelligence, ....) in inspection which are not addressed in ISO/IEC 17020:2012. Increasing the use of such technology in inspection is welcomed.
- The possibility to choose a different independence type (A, B, C) for different inspection activity in the same inspection body.

With all these learning points gained from the training course the ability of SADCAS staff, assessors and technical experts, peer evaluators and inspection body personnel who attended the training had their understanding of the revised ILAC P15 enhanced.

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## STEVE SIDNEY ELECTED CHAIR OF ILAC FAC



**Mr Steven Bruce Sidney**

The SADCAS Board, management and staff would like to extend our hearty wishes for Mr Steve Bruce Sidney's successful election to the position of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation's Finance and Audit Committee (ILAC FAC) Chair for the period 2021 - 2023. ILAC is the world's principal international forum for the development of laboratory and inspection body accreditation practices and procedures, and the promotion of laboratory and inspection body accreditation as a trade facilitation tool.

We are very proud to be associated with Mr Sidney who is the Chairman of the SADCAS Board of Directors having been co-opted onto the SADCAS Board of Directors in May 2010, elected in 2011 and served on the SADCAS Finance Risk and Audit Committee.

We take this appointment as a sign of trust and respect that Mr Sidney is held internationally and wish him all the very best for the two (2) year tenure and work ahead.

SADCAS is a multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade with the primary purpose of ensuring that conformity assessment service providers operating in those SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to an oversight by an authoritative body. SADCAS is a full member of ILAC having been admitted as a signatory to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement in 2015.

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## RON JOSIAS ELECTED ILAC TREASURER



**Dr Ron Josias**

The SADCAS Board, management and staff would like to extend our hearty wishes for Dr Ron Josias' successful election to the position of Treasurer of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation for the period 2021 - 2023. ILAC is the world's principal international forum for the development of laboratory and inspection body accreditation practices and procedures, and the promotion of laboratory and inspection body accreditation as a trade facilitation tool.

We are very proud to be associated with Dr Ron Josias who is a member of the General Assembly, the governing body of SADCAS having been admitted thereon in September 2020.

Dr Ron Josias is the immediate past CEO of SANAS who retired from SANAS end of May 2020 having been its CEO for 11 years. Dr Josias has over 22 years' experience in accreditation and holds leadership positions in AFRAC and SADCA besides ILAC with affiliation from SADCAS. Apart from holding leadership roles in AFRAC, Dr Josias was instrumental to the establishment of AFRAC and achievement of international recognition of the AFRAC MRA upon which the SADCAS recognition hinges.

We take this appointment as a sign of trust and respect that Dr Josias is held not only internationally but also continentally and regionally and wish him all the very best for the two (2) year tenure and work ahead.

SADCAS is a multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade with the primary purpose of ensuring that conformity assessment service providers operating in those SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to an oversight by an authoritative body. SADCAS is a full member of ILAC having been admitted as a signatory to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement in 2015.

# INVITATION TO REGISTER TECHNICAL EXPERTS

SADCAS invites experts having specific technical expertise in any of the accreditation schemes currently offered by SADCAS for Calibration/testing/medical laboratories; certification bodies (management systems/product) and inspection bodies in order 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/Technical Assessor.

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://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20\[Issue%205\].pdf](http://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20[Issue%205].pdf)

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

**Applications shall be addressed to:**  
**Mrs Pinkie Malebe**  
**SADCAS Technical Manager**  
**Email: [pmalebe@sadcas.org](mailto:pmalebe@sadcas.org)**



## SADCAS HOLDS WORKSHOP FOR NAMIBIA CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES

**In an effort to address and clarify operational issues raised during the 54th SADC Trade negotiating Forum (TNF) meeting held on 27 October 2020, SADCAS decided to hold a virtual workshop with Conformity Assessment Bodies (accredited, under process and potential clients) and other stakeholders based in Namibia. The workshop which was successfully held on the 23 February 2021 was attended by over 30 participants.**

The workshop was started off with opening remarks by Mr Xavier Mugari, the Quality Manager who welcomed participants to the workshop and also articulated the reason why the workshop was being held and gave an outline of the workshop programme. This was followed by a presentation made by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO on the SADCAS financial model during which she informed participants that the set up and operationalization of SADCAS was funded by the Norwegian Government through a grant amounting to NOK 14,55 million equivalent to US\$2,66 million at that time. SADCAS generates income from accreditation and training services whilst the SADCAS' operational budget deficit is funded by Governments of SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS. Contributions from governments are calculated based on a formula which takes into account the clientele base in each of the countries serviced by SADCAS and based on the premise that over the years SADCAS would reduce dependency and reach breakeven during the 4th strategic period. As at 31 March 2020 dependency level on Government funding was at 29%.

In an ensuing presentation on the SADCAS fee structure Mrs Mutasa outlined the components of accreditation fees and informed participants on the fee increases effected over the last 10 years and the approved fee increase of 6% to be effected in the 2021/22 financial year beginning 1 April 2021, all of which have mainly been inflationary increases. She also informed of surcharges of 10% on facilities within SADC Member States that are not contributing to SADCAS and 15% on facilities from outside the SADC region which were introduced recently. She then shared with participants the strategies put in place to maintain the competitiveness of fees including the use of locally based assessors noting however that SADCAS is a developing accreditation body and is still building up on the pool of assessors and further noting that the training and qualification of assessors is a process which takes at least 18 months.

The SADCAS Finance and Administration Manager, Mrs Laureen Gudo presented on the SADCAS Accreditation Terms and Conditions and walked participants through the Accreditation Agreement which outlines the obligations of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) and SADCAS. Conformity assessment bodies have to sign the Agreement before the accreditation process begins. The Scheme Coordinators presented on how accreditation costs are determined over the various schemes on offer. This was followed by a presentation on how fees are determined for satellite and group applications during which the SADCAS Technical Manager, Mrs Pinkie Malebe 1st defined what is considered as satellite and group applications.

### **The workshop presentations concluded that:**

- Accreditation is an investment and should not be seen as a cost as it provides a number of benefits;
- CABs must realize a return on the investment; and
- Business benefits of standards and accreditation are well documented and show cased and the results indicate that CABs are realizing increased business returns from accreditation.

The closing remarks were given by Mrs Chie Wasserfall, the CEO of Namibian Standard Institution (NSI) representing all the stakeholders from Namibia with the vote of thanks being given by Mrs Mutasa.

The workshop was very interactive. A number of actions arose from the workshop and SADCAS has since developed an action plan to ensure that all issues and concerns raised by CABs during the workshop are thoroughly considered and addressed within set timelines.

## SADCAS DIRECTORY OF ACCREDITED FACILITIES LINKED TO PPADB

**SADCAS directory of accredited facilities has been linked to the Botswana Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB). Providing a link to the directory of SADCAS accredited conformity assessment bodies to the PPADB is an effective and efficient way to verify SADCAS accreditation for procurement purposes as Procurement Entities will now be able to search for accredited service providers by clicking on the SADCAS link provided without leaving the PPADB website.**

SADCAS is signatory to the ILAC MRA for testing, calibration, medical testing, inspection and certification and is therefore listed on the ILAC directory of Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatories and IAF directory of Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) signatories. A link is provided on the SADCAS website to the directory of MRA/MLA directory of signatories.

PPADB is a parastatal organisation, operating under the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) Botswana. The primary mandate of PPADB is to adjudicate and award tenders for Central Government and any other institutions specified under the Act for the delivery of works, services and supplies related services. This is coupled with the registration and grading of contractors who wish to do business with government.

Procurement processes require extensive consultations with stakeholders and Procurement Entities and it is now a global trend to recognize accreditation and conformity assessment services in Procurement. Governments and economies across the world are increasingly turning to accreditation as a means of improving business performance. Using the services of accredited facilities provides confidence in the goods or services being provided, helping to win new business and establishing credibility. This has seen increasing number of organizations, in both the public and private sectors specifying accreditation as a precondition to tendering for contracts. An increasing number of Governments are also specifying accreditation as a criterion for the registration of conformity assessment service providers.

Accreditation which is the process by which an authoritative body i.e., SADCAS gives formal recognition that an organization/person is competent to carry out specific tasks involves the creation of confidence in the work carried by conformity assessment bodies. Accreditation is the basis of trust amongst trading partners.

Accreditation is now widely accepted as a transparent and non-discriminatory means of assuring technical competence of conformity assessment and it plays a key role towards the achievement of SADC Member States goals in trade, economic liberation and development and in the protection of health, safety and the environment.

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## SADCAS HOLDS HALF-DAY WORKSHOP ON ISO CASCO ACTIVITIES, ISO/IEC 17029:2019 AND THE OIML CERTIFICATION SCHEME BASED ON ISO/IEC 17065:2012

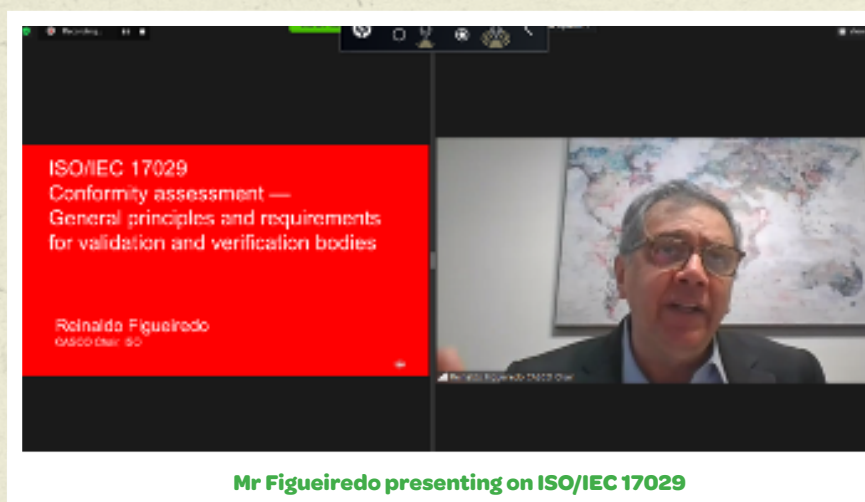
SADCAS held a half-day virtual workshop on 31 March 2021 that was facilitated by Mr Reinaldo Figueiredo, a renowned international expert in Standardization, Conformity Assessment and accreditation and the Chair of ISO CASCO and by Mr Paul Dixon, Assistant Director International Bureau of Legal Metrology (BIML) and the Executive Secretary of the OIML Certification Scheme (OIML-CS).

### The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide an overview of ISO/CASCO activities and the ISO/CASCO tool box; Introduce the ISO/IEC 17029: 2019, a recently published international standard on *Conformity Assessment – General Principles and Requirements for Validation and Verification Bodies*; and
- Be informed about the OIML Certification Scheme (OIML-CS) that is based on ISO/IEC 17065: 2012 on *Conformity Assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and Services*.

The workshop was opened by the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa who welcomed participants, outlined the objectives of the workshop and introduced the speakers. Mr Reinaldo Figueiredo then presented on ISO/CASCO activities that included the recent CASCO Main events, the ISO/CASCO Toolbox with work in progress such as the *ISO/IEC 17060 – Conformity Assessment – Code of Good Practice*, under development through the Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 60. The ISO CASCO Chair, Mr Figueiredo in his second presentation gave an introduction to ISO/IEC 17029: 2019 - *Conformity Assessment – General Principles and Requirements for Validation and Verification Bodies*. Mr Figueiredo submitted the March 2021 ISO/CASCO Report for sharing with all participants and invited members to continue participating in ISO/CASCO activities through the mirror committees established by the National Standards bodies.

Mr Paul Dixon presented the OIML structure; OIML publications that form the basis of Legal Metrology Technical Regulations and the requirements of the OIML Certification System that encompasses ISO/IEC 17065/ISO/IEC 17025 criteria complied with by OIML approved accredited Certification Bodies (Issuing Authorities)/Testing Laboratories of measuring instruments used for legal metrology purposes. Mr Dixon encouraged workshop participants to contribute to the OIML technical work that leads to the development of OIML recommendations and participate in OIML-Certification Scheme as Utilizing Authorities and continue to develop their capabilities to become accredited OIML Issuing Authorities in the future.



**Mr Figueiredo presenting on ISO/IEC 17029**

The workshop which included a discussions and questions session on the presentations was facilitated by Mr Victor Rodreck Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for the Legal Metrology Advisory Scheme (LMAS) who also summarized the discussions before vote of thanks and closure by Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager.

The workshop participants were drawn from SADCAS Advisory Committee of the Legal Metrology Advisory Scheme (AC.08); SADCAS Management and staff; SADCAS Assessors and Technical Experts; SADC Cooperation in Accreditation Technical Committee (SADCA TC) members; Representatives from other Accreditation Bodies in the SADC region (SANAS and MAURITAS); Legal Metrology Authorities, Service Providers and Experts drawn from all over Africa including SADC Cooperation in Legal



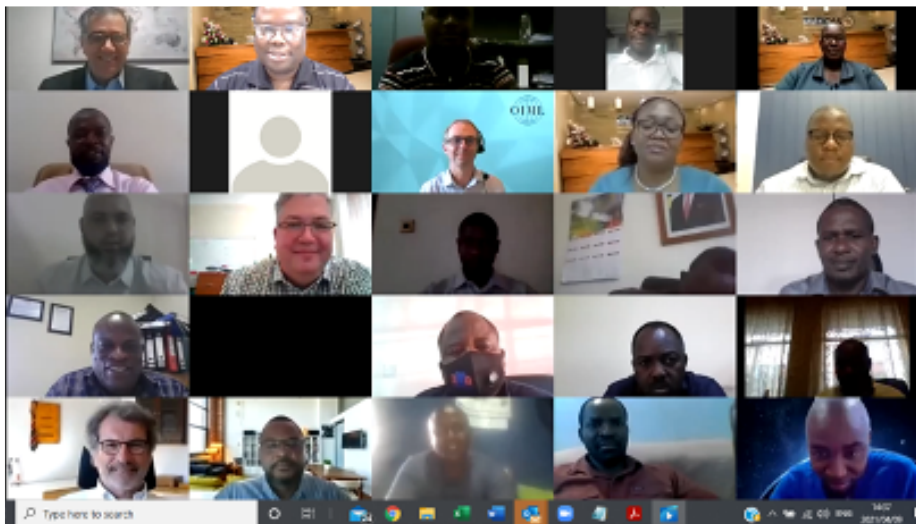
**Mr Dixon presenting on the OIML Certification Scheme**

## Marketing and Promotion

Metrology (SADCMEL) and Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS). Mr Martin Kaiser a Consultant with PTB Germany also participated at the workshop. All the 74 participants and presenters were drawn from 14 ISO member bodies, 5 ISO corresponding members from Africa and mostly from 13 out of the 14 SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS.

The participants benefitted through the understanding of the ISO/CASCO activities and the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17029 and ISO/IEC 17065 standards, the OIML structure, OIML publications and the OIML Certification System thus providing a basis for the implementation of the international standards, and OIML requirements that form part of the criteria for accreditation of Legal Metrology service providers. All presentations were shared with all participants after the workshop.

SADCAS and the participants are looking forward to the next workshop on the Requirements of ISO/IEC 17029, scheduled to be held virtually in July 2021, following which the SADCAS Legal Metrology Advisory Committee (AC.08) will meet and advise on the way forward regarding Legal Metrology Accreditation criteria to be adopted by SADCAS. SADCAS looks forward to continued cooperation with ISO/CASCO, the OIML and PTB Germany.



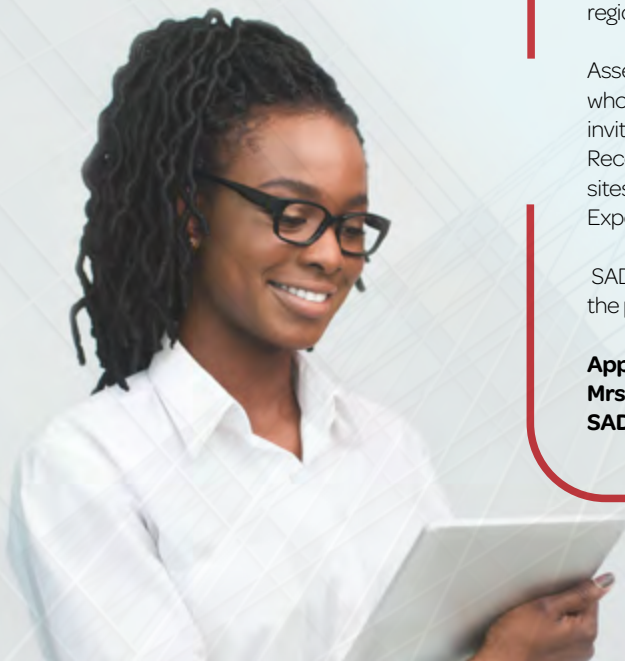
## INVITATION TO REGISTER AS SADCAS ASSESSORS

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) invites qualified assessors to be registered as SADCAS assessors for its testing/calibration/medical laboratories, and certification (management systems/product)/ inspection bodies' accreditation schemes. SADCAS' strategy is to grow its pool of assessors so as to cover the anticipated scopes of accreditation, and the geographical and language diversity in the SADC region of which 14 Member States are serviced by SADCAS.

Assessors from private and public sectors as well as from technical institutions/associations who have been trained, qualified and registered as assessors by an accreditation body 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://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20\[Issue%205\].pdf](http://www.sadcas.org/sites/default/files/pdf-documents/SADCAS%20F%2026%20-%20SADCAS%20Assessors-Experts%20Information%20Record%20[Issue%205].pdf)

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

**Applications shall be addressed to:**  
**Mrs Pinkie Malebe**  
**SADCAS Technical Manager Email: [pmalebe@sadcas.org](mailto:pmalebe@sadcas.org)**



# NAFPS – ESWATINI AND MALAWI SCOOP 2021 CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

The National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) for Eswatini and Malawi scooped the 2021 NAFP Awards with NAFP-Eswatini scooping the Most Effective NAFP Award whilst NAFP-Malawi scooped the Most Improved NAFP Award. The decision to award the 2021 certificates of recognition to NAFPs Eswatini and Malawi was made at the 68th SADCAS Board of Directors meeting held on 18 February 2021.

National Accreditation Focal Points who are appointed by their respective governments are mainly responsible for the promotion of accreditation and marketing of SADCAS services within their respective countries. They are a channel of information from and to SADCAS. In executing SADCAS activities, NAFPs prepare annual national action plans in support of SADCAS annual implementation plans in order to achieve SADCAS objectives. The 2020/21 Marketing Plan whose framework was developed at the 13th annual NAFP meeting held on 26 November 2019 directed NAFPs to focus their activities into the strategic area of increasing awareness on the benefits of accreditation especially to policy makers and regulators and to market SADCAS services. The revised NAFP handbook, which also contains frequently asked questions, guides NAFPs in their day to day work.



**Mrs Sybil Dlamini**



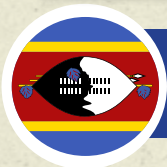
**Mrs Phindile Dlamini**



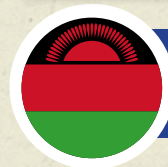
**Mr Masautso Ngamwane**



**Mrs Margret Sauzande**



**NAFP- Eswatini  
2021 Most Effective NAFP**



**NAFP- Malawi  
2021 Most Improved NAFP**

The 2021 Awards are based on the reports for the period 1 January up to 31 December 2020 using five (5) criteria weighted. The criteria were weighted according to their importance. Based on all the reports for the year, an evaluation matrix and a summary of NAFPs quarterly reports submissions and estimate realization for the period were prepared which formed the basis of the nominations.

The average estimate realization for 2020 was 68%, less than 71% for 2019 and 2018 and slightly less than 69% for 2017. NAFPs Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Seychelles registered improvements whilst the estimate realization for NAFPs Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe registered a decline. No comparison was made for NAFPs - Comoros and Zambia. Based on the evaluation matrix, NAFPs – Eswatini was identified for the 2021 Most Effective NAFP Award with NAFP – Eswatini coming up with the highest score at 91 out of 100 and an improvement of +3.75% in average estimate realization whilst NAFP- Malawi had a total score of 88 out of 100 and an improvement of +22.75% in average estimate realization. Thus NAFP-Malawi was selected for the 2021 Most Improved NAFP Award.

The NAFP Award ceremony is an annual event held in conjunction with the SADCAS Annual General Meeting to recognize NAFPs efforts and contributions towards SADC goals on accreditation. Due to the COVID -19 pandemic the certificates and awards will be handed over during the 15th NAFP Annual Meeting scheduled to be held from 23 to 24 November 2021 assuming things return to some normalcy by that time.



## NAFP– MALAWI AT THE FRONTLINE OF PROMOTING ACCREDITATION IN MALAWI

National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) established in SADC Member States using SADCAS services serve as the administrative links between SADCAS and clients/ potential clients in the respective countries. In Malawi SADCAS has a NAFP office which is manned by Mr Masautso Ngamwane of Malawi Bureau of Standards and Mrs Margaret Sauzande of Ministry of Industry and they are under the supervision of Symon Mandala and Mr Phangaphanga respectively.

The NAFP office develops National Action Plan in line with SADCAS strategic plan and every quarter the NAFP submits report on activities carried out. The main activities undertaken by NAFP-Malawi are as follows;

- enhancing accreditation awareness;
- handling accreditation enquiries;
- attending SADCAS meetings;
- undertaking target marketing visits;
- distribution of SADCAS promotional materials; and
- collaboration with Laboratory Association of Malawi in promoting accreditation

It is worth mentioning that the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent restrictions has negatively affected the planned activities. All those activities that require physical meetings, were completely suspended. However, the pandemic has also helped us to explore other means of doing business using technology to achieve planned activities, e.g. virtual meetings.

Out of the activities planned for the period the office has managed to constantly enhance accreditation awareness and promotion of the same through emails and calls to potential clients. The officers have also managed to attend SADCAS meetings virtually, handle accreditation enquiries and distribute SADCAS accreditation promotional materials. Collaboration with the Laboratory Association of Malawi (LAM) has also been enhanced such that when SADCAS requested identification of testing and calibration laboratories to participate in Capacity Building of Testing/Calibration Laboratories in the Key Development Sectors for Malawi, 3 were identified through LAM.

Further to the above, we are delighted to report that in Malawi the concept of accreditation is now becoming well known such that recently there has been an overwhelming interest by laboratories, both medical and industrial, to be accredited. Some of the laboratories interested in accreditation have already gone further by engaging SADCAS on accreditation and/or training.

It is therefore proper to conclude that the NAFP structures SADCAS established in member states to promote issues of accreditation are working perfectly despite the Covid-19 pandemic – the case of Malawi-NAFP.



**Mr Masautso Ngamwane**



**Mrs Margret Sauzande**

# SADCAS HOLDS 4th ASSESSOR CONCLAVE

The SADCAS 4th Assessor Conclave was held remotely for the first time on 11 December 2020. The Assessor Conclave was attended by a record 219 assessors, technical experts, SADCAS staff and facilitators. Accreditation assessments are undertaken, on behalf of SADCAS, by a pool of SADCAS registered assessors and technical experts who make recommendations for accreditation by the SADCAS Accreditation Approvals Committee (AAC). By 31 January 2021, SADCAS has registered 120 Technical Assessors and 42 Team Leaders and 6 Technical Experts.

The objective of the half-day assessor conclave was to inform about how SADCAS has been ensuring continuity in accreditation service delivery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, to share experiences in remote assessments and to hear first-hand from assessors and technical experts how SADCAS can continuously enhance service delivery not only in terms of quality of service but more importantly how to ensure the integrity, information security and confidence of remote assessments. The assessor conclave was also an opportunity to present to the assessors the revised SADCAS Quality Management System (QMS) and to discuss assessor specific issues such as assessor conduct, contract and assessor claims.

The assessor conclave started with opening and welcome remarks by the SADCAS CEO, Mrs Maureen Mutasa during which she gave an update on developments in SADCAS and outlined the objective of the conclave and programme of the day. The assessors were then updated on how SADCAS has been ensuring continuity in accreditation service delivery under COVID-19 pandemic through a presentation from Mr Xavier Mugari, the SADCAS Quality Manager.

The session on sharing experiences in remote assessment was kick-started by the first guest speaker from peer ILAC/IAF Signatory Accreditation Bodies.



Some of the Assessors who attended the Conclave

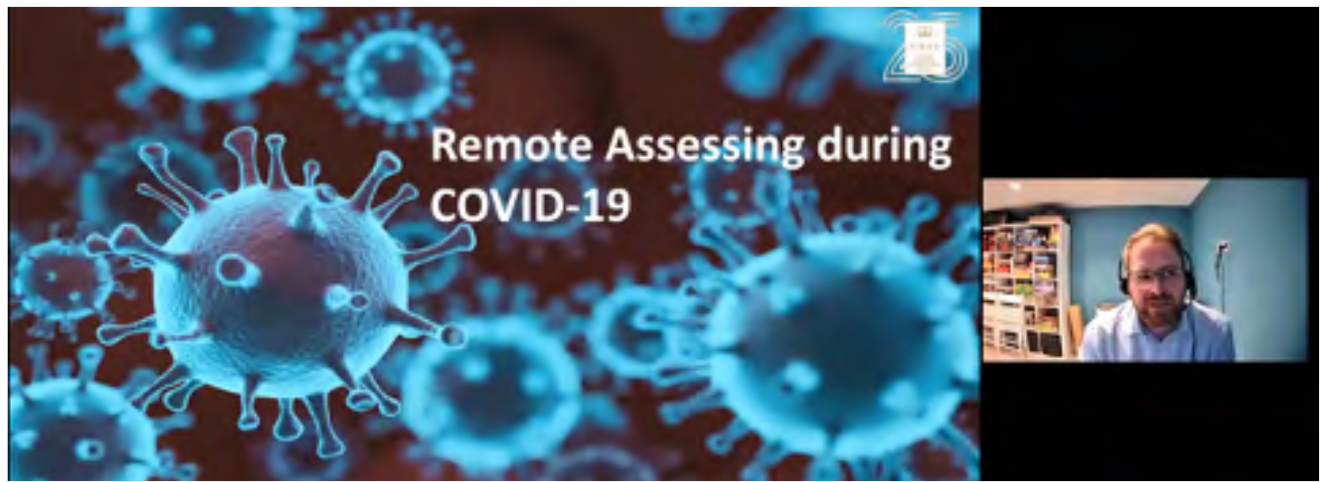
Mr Alok Jain – Director, Training and Capacity Building, Quality Council of India (National Accreditation Board for Laboratories and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies) gave the first presentation that was followed by that of Ms Hellen Morokane – Assessment Specialist, South African National Accreditation System, SANAS. The last guest speaker was Mr Jeff Ruddle – Strategic Development Director, United Kingdom Accreditation Service, UKAS.



Mr Jain Guest Speaker from NABCB



Mrs Morokane Guest Speaker from SANAS



**Mr Ruddle Guest Speaker from UKA**

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the Assessor conclave Programme Director and SADCAS Technical Manager, presented highlights on procedure SADCAS AP 23 - *Remote Assessments - Management and Execution*. The session on Sharing of experiences on Remote assessments by SADCAS assessors was initiated by Mr Benson Gabi, Team Leader, Technical Assessor and Trainer, who shared his experiences while undertaking remote assessment of the SADCAS Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS). Mr William Abram, SADCAS Technical Assessor shared his experiences on remote assessment in the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) from his base in Australia. Mr Ranganai Mutonono, Team Leader and Technical Assessor also shared his experiences on remote assessments that included witnessing of audits and office file reviews for the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS).



**Mrs Malebe SADCAS Technical Manager presenting on SADCAS AP 23**



**Mr Gabi presenting on his experiences with remote assessments TLAS**



**Mr Abram presenting on his experiences with remote assessments MLAS**

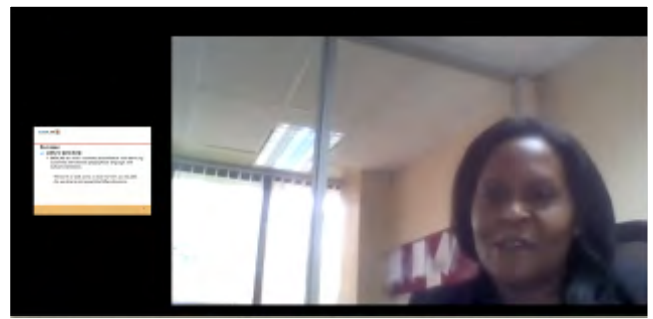


**Mr Mutonono presenting on his experiences with remote assessments CBAS**

During the session on Assessor Issues, Mr Xavier Mugari, SADCAS Quality Manager presented the Revised SADCAS QMS documents following which Mrs Eva Muronda, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) presented on Assessor Conduct, SADCAS F 49 – Independent Contractor Arrangement amendments and Assessor claims.



**Mr Mugari SADCAS Quality Manager presenting the revised SADCAS QMS**



**Mrs Eva Muronda presenting on Assessor conduct**

Mr Victor Mundembe, SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for the calibration laboratories, certification, inspection and legal metrology accreditation schemes (CLAS, CBAS, IBAS and LMAS) facilitated the discussions on various presentations on key issues to strengthen SADCAS AP 23 to ensure the integrity, information security and confidence of remote assessments and on assessor issues.

The credibility of SADCAS accreditation services hinges on the competence of assessors and technical experts who undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS. Continuous communication between SADCAS and the pool of assessors and experts is key in ensuring consistency, integrity and continuous improvement of SADCAS services. The assessor conclave provides the platform to do just this. All the presentations made at the Conclave were made available to all assessors and technical experts. The next Assessor meeting will be held in 2022 at a date still to be advised.

## **COMMUNIQUE TO ASSESSORS /TECHNICAL EXPERTS – CLARIFICATION OF “ASSOCIATIONS” THAT ARE NOT VIEWED AS INTERESTS**

Clause 6.2.2 of ISO/IEC 17011:2017: *Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*, requires all personnel involved in the accreditation process to notify the accreditation body of any existing, prior or foreseeable relationships which may compromise impartiality. This requirement is implemented by SADCAS Assessors and Technical Experts (TEs) by completing SADCAS F 45a - Non-Disclosure-Confidentiality Statement - Assessors-Experts prior to each assessment. One of the declarations made on the SADCAS F 45 (a) form relates to all **interests and associations** that the Assessors or TEs may have had with the facility being assessed and its personnel.

This Communique serves to clarify to SADCAS assessors/TEs that previous assignments such as assessments, monitoring and mentoring are **not** considered as interests and associations that must be declared, as they do not compromise impartiality. SADCAS already has on record such previous assignments for each registered assessor/TE, and that would have been subjected to the impartiality review.

## SADCAS REGISTERS NEW TECHNICAL EXPERT- HANNANIAH MOYO



**Mr Hannaniah Moyo**

When I got an email that I have been registered as a Technical Expert, I was filled with joy. I was getting worried everyday as when I would get registered. I am a qualified Medical Laboratory Technologist, with a Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology, Diploma in Quality Management, Diploma in Sigma and Bachelors of Science in Public Health. I am based in Malawi.

I was registered on 19 September 2020 in the area of Haematology and Clinical Chemistry. Since being registered, I conducted assessments as an observer at Nyangabgwe Referral Hospital Laboratory, Botswana and the Namibia Institute of Pathology Walvis Bay Laboratory as a Technical Expert.

The experience has been rewarding for me, one gets to improve on the skills of implementing a Quality Management System in one's workplace.

## IAN MATONDO IS REGISTERED AS SADCAS TECHNICAL EXPERT UNDER IBAS

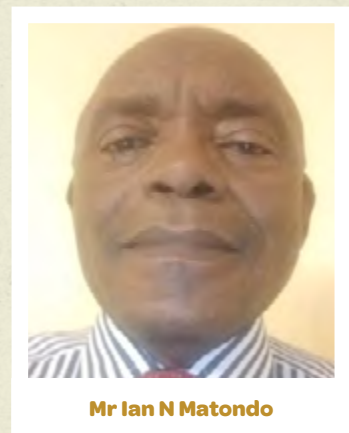
Ian Nyaradzai Matondo has been registered as a Technical Expert under the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS). He holds a BSc (Hons) in Applied Biology from Greenwich University (England, UK) and a MSc in Analytical Biochemistry (Scotland, UK). He also trained at the University of Koln Germany in screening for drugs of abuse in sports.

### He has worked as a technical advisor to the following:

- Ministry of Health and The Namibia Institute of Pathology, under Crown agent USA and Management Science for Health (USA)-USAID funded.
- Ministry of Health Malawi, under the Liverpool Associates in Tropical Medicines (DFID funding). In both instances he was advising on pharmaceutical quality assurance supply chain management and Pathology laboratory management and supply management of laboratory reagents.

Ian also worked in Madagascar assessing the supply chain for contraceptives and allied products, under USAID. Ian's quality assurance career started at Nestle as a Quality assurance manager for all raw materials and the final products before being appointed Projects and Health Care Group Executive at Premier Services Medical Aid in Zimbabwe, Director of the WHO/Zimbabwe Regional Drugs Quality Control Laboratory and he was the Director Scientific Liaison in the office of the President and Cabinet, advising Government on Science and Technology (Zimbabwe). Ian has also worked with the World Bank as a procurement advisor (Health Care and Agro Chemicals – Bangladesh) and as a Research Scientist at the Elbert Einstein College of Medicine in New York USA (AIDS Research). He also served on the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Biologicals and International Standards Organization, ISO TC157 committee.

Ian was initially registered as a Technical Expert under the Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme in December 2019 before his registration under IBAS for Pharmaceuticals and GMP Inspections. He has undertaken SADCAS assessments on behalf of SADCAS in Zimbabwe and Zambia.



**Mr Ian N Matondo**



**Mr Faradally A. Ollite**

## FARADALLY OLLITE REGISTERED AS SADCAS TECHNICAL EXPERT

Mr Faradally A. Ollite has been registered as SADCAS Technical Expert for SADCAS. He is from Mauritius and has brought to SADCAS his valuable experience in the field of applied Physics. He holds a Master's Degree in Medical Radiation Physics from Mc Gill University in Canada and a Bachelor's degree in Physics with First Class Honours from the University of Mauritius. He is presently the Director of the Radiation Safety and Nuclear Security in Mauritius, and has served as the CEO of the national regulatory body for radiation safety and nuclear security in Mauritius since 2006. Mr Ollite is also the Chairman of the Metrology Standard Committee of the Mauritius Standard Bureau.

During the past 15 years, Mr Ollite has built extensive working experience at international level. He served as expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in several Advisory Missions and Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) missions of the IAEA. He participated in the development of several IAEA Safety Guides and Standards, and served as lecturer and facilitator for various IAEA training courses, workshops and meetings. He also served as chairman for the IAEA International Conference on Effective Nuclear and Radiation Regulatory Systems held in November 2019 in The Hague, Netherlands.

Mr Ollite was appointed as Technical Expert for SADCAS in February 2021 to conduct the 2nd periodic assessment for National Dosimetry Laboratory in Botswana. "I was very impressed with the level of professionalism to which the organisation carries out its mission. My first participation as a Technical Expert for SADCAS has enabled me to better understand the role of SADCAS in the region and its established system for conducting assessments as part of its accreditation process. This was also an opportunity for me to bring my contribution to SADCAS in sharing my experience in this particular field of science, and I would glad to further contribute to the mission of SADCAS in the future" he said.

## DESIRE PASIPANODYA REGISTERED AS A SADCAS FSMS TECHNICAL EXPERT

Mr. Desire Pasipanodya is a Food Safety Professional, with over 15 years experience in developing, implementing and assessing Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) in the Agro-Food Industry including various work with international conformity assessment bodies (CAB's) in the SADC region.

He is a Certified Lead Auditor, Consultant and Trainer for GFSI Schemes (FSSC 22000 V5, Primus GFS V3.1, IFS Food V7, BRC GS Food Safety Issue 8 and Global GAP V5), ISO 22000:2018 FSMS, ISO 9001:2015 QMS and HACCP. He has spent the largest part of his career in Food Microbiology, Food Safety and Quality Assurance and has been directly involved in Food Safety Risk



**Mr Desire Pasipanodya**

Assessment (HACCP/HARPC), Food Fraud Vulnerability Assessment (VACCP) and Food Defence Threat Assessment (TACCP) in many companies already Certified to GFSI Schemes. He holds several qualifications in International Food Safety Management from Wageningen University and Aeres University in Netherlands, as well as postgraduate Certificate International Trade from University of Adelaide in Australia. He studied his Masters in Business Leadership and Biological Sciences Degree at Bindura University, Zimbabwe. He has participated in a number of international workshops on Food Safety including WTO-SPS Thematic Workshop on Control, Inspection and Approvals of Food Imports in Switzerland, Global Quality Infrastructure for Food Safety in Sweden, WTO Trade Policy and Negotiation Skills for Trade Officials in South Africa, UNITAR/FAO-Food and Nutrition Security in International Trade Agreements in Switzerland and the FAO Risk Based Control of Food Imports in Zimbabwe.

Desire was registered as a SADCAS Technical Expert in September 2020 for Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1, sub-scope ISO 22000 for FSMS and HACCP, and has been assigned to an assessment for an application that is under process.

## DR EFREM KEBEDE EJIGU REGISTERED AS A SADCAS TECHNICAL EXPERT - TEMPERATURE METROLOGY

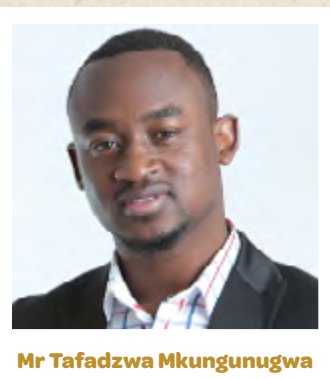
Efrem Kebede Ejigu is a senior-scientist at the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA) where he is the senior technical person and technical signatory in both contact and non-contact thermometry measurement. He is responsible for the training of new employees and Metrologists from Inter Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS) region. He also represents NMISA temperature laboratory at the Consultative Committee for Temperature (CCT), Asia Pacific



**Dr Efrem K Ejigu**

Metrology Programme (APMP), and AFRIMETS meetings participating in number of technical working groups. He joined NMISA in January 2009. In 2018, by the invitation of AFRIMETS TC-QS, Dr Ejigu peer-reviewed the National Metrology Institute of Botswana's Temperature laboratory, in preparation for the laboratory's Quality System approval to support their Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMC) submission. He obtained a PhD degree in Electrical and Electronics engineering science from the University of Johannesburg. His main research interest is in radiation thermometry and optical interference filters. He has published a number of papers in those fields in international peer reviewed journals.

After being registered as SADCAS Technical Expert in June 2020, Dr Ejigu participated in SADCAS technical assessment of temperature metrology laboratories in Tanzania and Botswana in 2020 and 2021 respectively.



**Mr Tafadzwa Mkungunugwa**

## TAFADZWA MKUNGUNUGWA REGISTERED AS SADCAS FSMS, HACCP AND MICROBIOLOGY TECHNICAL EXPERT

Tafadzwa Mkungunugwa is a young adult male born and educated in Zimbabwe and holds a MSc in Food Science, 2014 and BSc Hon. Food Science and Nutrition, 2008 from the Midlands State University (MSU). He has been with the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) since 2008 where he has been involved in food analyses, food inspection, food safety training as well as food safety audits. He is currently the Chemical and Food Technology Manager at SAZ Harare Laboratory, the position he holds since March 2015.

Tafadzwa's areas of expertise include Laboratory Management, Food analyses (Food Microbiology and Food Chemistry), Food Safety / Laboratory Management System Development and implementation, Food Safety Audit and Inspections, Food safety Training (ISO 22000:2018, HACCP, VACCP, TACCP, Quality Infrastructure for Food Safety).

Tafadzwa was registered as a SADCAS Technical Expert in September 2020 for Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1, sub-scope ISO 22000 for Food Safety Management System (FSMS) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and for testing laboratories under the Microbiology scope.

## IN THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR – FAITH HUNGWE

I graduated from Rhodes University with a Master of Science degree in Astrophysics. I also hold a BSc Hons in Astrophysics and Space Science and a BSc in Physics, and am currently employed at the National Metrology Institute of South Africa, as a scientist in the Length laboratory, where I am responsible for the national standard for Length among other duties.

My first SADCAS assessment was in 2019, and since then I have undertaken 5 other assessments. I had only completed 2 onsite assessments before we went into lockdown (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and SADCAS began remote assessments. This has been a steep learning curve, especially when assessing laboratories, one has never been to, physically. It is a challenge to get a feel of how the laboratory conducts its business in this case. Regardless, it is still very possible to conduct a thorough assessment remotely and one should use all the different resources available and understanding of the relevant ISO/IEC standards and other accreditation criteria.

Being a SADCAS Technical Assessor has been an interesting journey for me as it takes me full circle from sitting in the consultative committee for length (CCL of the BIPM) to the laboratory. This allows me not only to bring international exposure to laboratories but also, to get a sense of developing economies' perspective and needs and take them to the CCL. Participation in international key comparisons allows me to take a critical look at Inter Laboratory Comparison (ILC) reports and help with submission of (Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMCs) in the Key Comparison Database (KCDB). Being a SADCAS Technical Assessor has also been beneficial to me in that it has strengthened my knowledge



**Ms Faith Hungwe**

## IN THE EYE OF THE ASSESSOR - LESLIE CHESANGO

My registration as a SADCAS assessor was concluded in 2013. I was registered as a Team Leader for *ISO/IEC 17020 - Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection* as well as Technical Assessor for Pressure Vessels.

I hold a BSc Honours degree in Metallurgical Engineering, and an MBA with other short courses in Risk Management as well as other registrations as a competent person to inspect pressurised equipment in service (e.g. refineries, fertilizer making entities, etc).

I had the opportunity to work in the process engineering environment and rose to positions where I was overall in charge of the whole production process. When I was still strongly involved in operations management, I always regarded external audits (including internal audits) as a 'necessary evil or pain' we had to endure once every year.

My first assessment on behalf of SADCAS was in 2018, when I had to conduct a pre-assessment for an inspection body in Zimbabwe (pressure vessel inspections). I have since been involved as Team Leader in 4 other remote assessments during 2020. The assessments were undertaken remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When I started doing assessments on behalf of SADCAS, initially these assessments were viewed negatively by the auditees, as most assumed that it was something that was being pushed onto them by regulators, etc. However, through interactions and the raising of nonconformities where necessary, the perception from industry started to change as everyone began to realise the value that third-party assessments bring to business. For example, we have had to raise a couple of findings on calibration of equipment (compliance to SADCAS TR 09- Policy on Metrological Traceability), and slowly accredited inspection bodies began to realise that ensuring proper metrological traceability to international standards assists in protecting themselves against unwarranted claims in future.

I would like to encourage SADCAS to keep doing the good work of encouraging clients and countries within the region to support accreditation initiatives, as this will assist to break the barriers to trade in the region.



**Mr Leslie Chesango**



## IN THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR - FABIANUS HAUFIKU

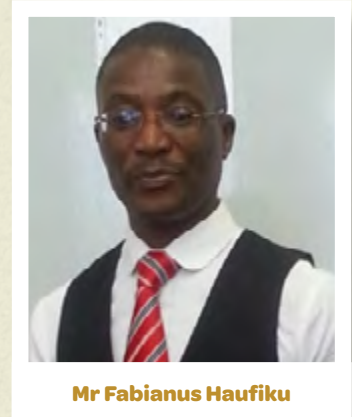
The year 2020 known as the "Covid 19" year impacted global mobility, logistics and posed many challenges that affected the normal routine of conducting food safety assessments. At the same time, it prompted innovations such as the application of remote assessments. The assessment of Certification Bodies Certifying Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) normally requires onsite assessment for both documentation, vertical assessments and witnessing of audits. However, with the limited movements and strict adherence to social distancing requirements that resulted in national borders being closed with the aim of curbing the spread of the notorious virus, onsite assessments were impossible.

Remote assessments had to be executed using remote assessment techniques and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google meet, etc. This ICT was used for both documentation assessment, vertical assessments and witnessing Certification Body (CB) audits. Online Certification Body (CB) audits were also performed by a limited number of auditors due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Challenges related to network connectivity and inaccessibility to network sites and audit sites were experienced during the remote assessment.

However, despite challenges with the onsite assessments, as a SADCAS Technical Assessor, I managed to conduct the planned FSMS assessments for the sectors of packaging, beverages and fishery products using innovative remote assessment techniques as was guided by the SADCAS AP 23 – Remote Assessment- Management and Execution.

Covid-19 pandemic led to the discovery of the inner abilities of assessors to use other non-conventional assessment techniques that will form the basis of the blueprint of future of assessments.



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## SIBONGILE ZIMUTO UPGRADED TO TEAM LEADER

Mrs. Sibongile Zimuto qualified as a SADCAS Team Leader in February 2020 under the Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme. She has been a SADCAS Technical Assessor for nearly 10 years, having initially been registered as a SADCAS Technical Assessor, in June, 2011. She conducted her first assessment for SADCAS in July 2012 and over the years has conducted numerous assessments as a Technical Assessor.

Following her qualification as Team Leader her first assessment was in July 2020. The assessment was conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions. "The assessment was a good experience although challenging as I had to manage the team as well as the laboratory representatives virtually" said Mrs. Zimuto. Since then, she has been Team Leader in 3 other virtual assessments.

Professionally, Mrs. Zimuto qualified as a Medical Laboratory Scientist, specializing in Haematology and Blood Transfusion Science in 1998. She also holds a Post Graduate qualification in Quality Management from Robert Gordon University (UK) and has 22 year working experience as a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

As SADCAS Team Leader it is critically important to plan and prepare for the assessment in advance in order to ensure that the assessment goes well and that challenges and interruptions are minimized. It is also important to ensure that the team requests documents on time and that the laboratory in turn submits the documents on time as well. Following the assessment, the Team Leader needs to ensure that all documents have been completed and signed, prior submission to SADCAS. "I enjoy being a Team Leader, as I contribute in strengthening of laboratory quality systems for improved health care services" said Mrs. Zimuto.



## SADCAS REGISTERS LIZ THOBELA AS TECHNICAL ASSESSOR

Liz Thobela is a South African based Microbiologist, with just over 13 years of experience under her belt. Over the years, she has earned her stripes in the Microbiology field, navigating through the Food Industry as well as the pharmaceutical industry.

When she isn't in the laboratory invading the privacy of poor microbes at her 9 - 5 job, she will typically be home chasing after her 3 little kids. Although being a mother comes with its many challenges, like many other moms, she acknowledges that it's the most fulfilling job ever.

When asked how she feels about being registered as a SADCAS Technical Assessor, she joked: "I've aced being a mom. I can pretty much conquer anything". Liz is very excited to join the SADCAS family and cannot wait to embark on the journey that lies ahead.



**Mrs Liz Thobela**

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## SADCAS REGISTERS DR TINY HLOKWE AS NEW TECHNICAL ASSESSOR UNDER VLAS

Dr Tiny Hlokwe has been registered by SADCAS as a Technical Assessor for the Veterinary Laboratories Accreditation Scheme since March 2020, responsible for the assessment of Microbiological scope including Bacteriology, Serology and Molecular Biology. She possesses a PhD degree (Veterinary Science) and a Master of Science degree in Microbiology. Dr Hlokwe has been working for the Agricultural Research Council-Onderstepoort Veterinary Research (ARC-OVR) for the past 17 years as a Senior Researcher and Head of Tuberculosis laboratory within the Bacteriology Section.



**Dr Tiny Hlokwe**

She was trained by SANAS and served as a Technical Assessor since 2012. Before being registered by SADCAS, she was monitored by a qualified assessor whilst performing assessments covering all the relevant requirements of her scope of operation, and was subsequently recommended. Dr Hlokwe has completed accreditation courses such as Technical Assessor course, a Combined Laboratory Systems and Documenting Systems course (ISO/IEC 17025: 2005) and she obtained a certificate for attending the Assessor workshop based on ISO/IEC 17025: 2017.

To date, she has conducted assessments in different laboratories for both SANAS and SADCAS. She is registered as a Professional Natural Scientist (Microbiological Science) with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), and also registered as a Veterinary Technologist with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC).

Dr Hlokwe is married and she is a mother of three boys.

Armed with her qualifications and experience, she is bringing a valuable contribution to SADCAS.

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# SADCAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LMAS HOLDS 1ST MEETING

**The 1st meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Legal Metrology Bodies Accreditation Scheme (LMAS) (AC.08) was held on 31 March 2021 remotely for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by 11 of the 14 members from 11 countries, a 79% participation which is well over the 25% required for a quorum for an Advisory Committee meeting.**

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.

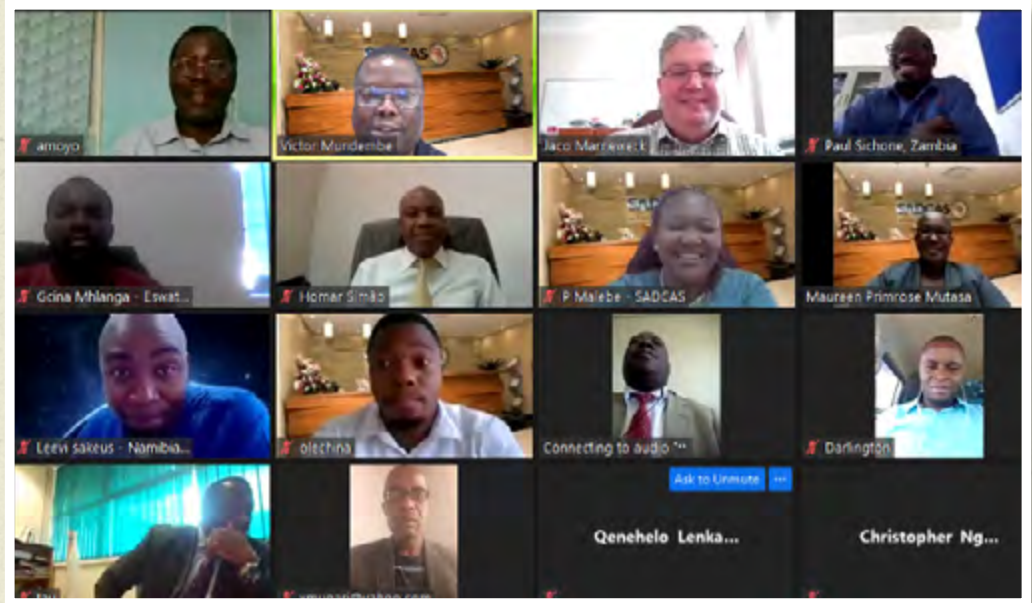
**The main purpose of the 1st Advisory Committee Meeting which was very ably chaired by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, SADCAS CEO was to:**

- Provide overview of SADCAS and update on developments in SADCAS;
- Provide update on how SADCAS is Coping Under COVID -19 Pandemic;
- Provide an overview of SADCAS LMAS;
- Discuss Terms of Reference of the AC;
- Discuss the SADCAS Accreditation Process;
- Review Accreditation Criteria;
- Elect the AC Chairperson; and
- Establish of Documents Working Group to input into the development and revision of regional and international documents.

The meeting started off with introductions during which members were updated on the individual expertise and experience of members in Legal Metrology, following which Mrs Mutasa presented an overview of SADCAS and Update on developments in SADCAS. The SADCAS Quality Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari, then presented an update on how SADCAS is Coping Under COVID -19 Pandemic. This was followed by Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for LMAS and the Secretary of the LMAS AC who presented an overview of SADCAS LMAS and another presentation on the SADCAS Accreditation Process. The Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee were presented by Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager. Mr Mundembe then gave a presentation on the Accreditation Criteria (SADCAS and ILAC requirements) following which Mr Jaco Marneweck, the SADCMEI Regional Coordinator and SADCAS Legal Metrology Technical Expert presented the additional accreditation criteria from the OIML and SADCMEI.

Mr Dithlake Dommy Tau from Botswana was elected Chair of the Advisory Committee. A Documents Working Group (DWG) of the Advisory Committee was also established comprising Ms Qenehelo Lenka (Lesotho), Mr Darlington Chibwe (Zambia), Mr Paul Sichone (Zambia), Mr Christopher Ngwenya (Zimbabwe) and Mr Alfred Moyo (Malawi). The DWG will assist SADCAS in commenting on regional and international technical documents as required by SADCA, AFRAC, IAF and ILAC.

The meeting was very interactive and members appreciated the presentations made during the meeting. All the presentations and discussions held during the meeting provided the AC members with a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities.



Due to the diverse nature of legal metrology services, the Committee also came to understand the need to review and prioritise on the accreditation criteria basing on the accreditation needs of the region. After the meeting, all members of the AC attended the afternoon workshop on ISO/CASCO Activities, ISO/IEC 17029: 2019 and the OIML Certification Scheme (OIML-CS) based on ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

## MATSHIDISO RAMOSWEU JOINS SADCAS AS ACCREDITATION ADMINISTRATOR



**Mrs. Matshidiso Ramosweu**

Matshidiso Ramosweu joined SADCAS in January 2021 as an Accreditation Administrator in the Technical Unit. She is actively involved in assessment scheduling; assessment documentation preparation and distribution; travel arrangements & coordination; corrective action process; and preparing accreditation approvals committee packs. Mrs. Ramosweu brings with her extensive experience in the business administration field from previous organizations she has worked for. Prior to joining SADCAS, she worked in the Programs Department at ITECH – Botswana.

She has a Bachelor of Business Administration, Advanced Diploma in Project Management and Diploma in Secondary Education.

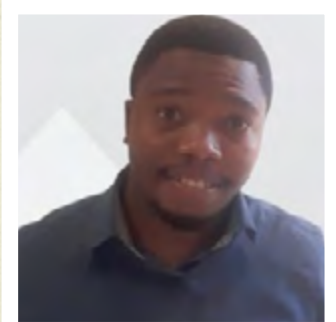
In addition to this she has done several short courses with different institutions of learning, such as; Quality Management Systems (ISO 9000:2008), Management and Leadership, Economics evaluation, and Monitoring and evaluation. Mrs. Ramosweu is indeed a passionate individual with a strong and coordinated work culture. She prides herself in her ability to stay focused in her efforts to achieve set targets.

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## OTLAADISA LECHINA STARTS ACCREDITATION ADMINISTRATOR INTERNSHIP AT SADCAS

Otlaadisa Lechina, an undergraduate Physics degree holder (Radiation and Health) from University of Botswana started Internship as an Accreditation Administrator (AA) in January 2021. The position offers an intern the opportunity to gain new insights and knowledge in the fast-growing accreditation field. With seven (7) accreditation schemes currently being offered by SADCAS, the intern has an opportunity to rotate amongst the various schemes and gain invaluable experience on the administrative work undertaken during the accreditation process.

“This was indeed an opportunity I did not expect to experience. Besides an opening to gain valuable industry knowledge, I find the internship opportunity at SADCAS enlightening because I get to learn about the accreditation criteria to which laboratories must comply to be accredited. This will indeed have a tremendous impact on my professional growth, he said.”



**Mr Otlaadisa Lechina**

## UNIDO PUBLISHES AND LAUNCHES GUIDE TO DEVELOP AN INCUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LABORATORY POLICY

The United Nations Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Network on Quality Infrastructure (INetQI) launched a new guiding document on **Laboratory Policy Development**, which is a spin off and further complements policy documents already published publications namely: Guiding Principles for Quality Policy Development, the Technical and Practical Guide. The guide was launched on 23 April 2021 in a Webinar event organized with the support of the GQSP and which show cased best practices from Colombia.

This initiative fulfils UNIDO's key purposes by enabling its normative function on standards and quality, providing policy advisory services and convening partnerships. The guidance document is a result of the strengthened partnership between UNIDO and INetQI. The guide contributes to promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) to enhance the ability of the UNIDO member countries to meet market, environmental and societal needs to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, it aims at addressing the needs related to the development and strengthening of the Laboratory Infrastructure, a key component of any Quality Infrastructure.

Drawing from UNIDO's extensive experience in Quality Infrastructure, Quality Policy development and laboratory capacity building, and on the wealth of experience and knowledge of member countries, this guiding document was designed to assist countries to establish a sustainable, fit-for-purpose, efficient and effective laboratory capability that embodies international best practices. It will also offer policymakers the necessary guidance to create fundamental conditions to ensure good governance of their quality infrastructure systems.

A sneak peek of the publication and what to expect is available in the brochure **[Inclusive and Sustainable Laboratory Policy.pdf \(unido.org\)](#)**.

For more information on UNIDO's work on quality and laboratory policy visit the UNIDO Knowledge Hub on **[Quality Policy | UNIDO Knowledge Hub](#)** or contact Juan Pablo Davila on **[J.Davilla@unido.org](mailto:J.Davilla@unido.org)**

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## SADCAS CONDUCTS ISO/IEC 17025:2017 REQUIREMENTS & INTERNAL AUDITING ONLINE IN-HOUSE COURSE FOR BOTSWANA POLICE SERVICE (FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY)

**SADCAS conducted the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing Inhouse Course for the Botswana Police Service – Forensic Science Laboratory from 16 to 20 November 2020. This was the third course that was held online since the introduction of the SADCAS Online Training Platform.**

The SADCAS Training Administrator Mr. Mogae Molaoa welcomed the participants to the training and gave the opening remarks. He highlighted that the training was interactive hence the participants were urged to take part and participate as much as possible. The participants were also required to take advantage of the opportunity presented to them and ask as many questions and learn from the very experienced trainer. Mr. Mogae Molaoa then introduced the trainer, Mrs. Makaya from Zimbabwe. Mrs. Makaya fully introduced herself giving background information about her experience as Quality Manager at Central Veterinary Laboratory from 2003 and as trainer for SADCAS from 2011.

There were 20 participants comprised of the Quality Manager, Ballistic Technicians, Quality Management System Officers, Forensic Laboratory Assistants, Forensic Analysts, Assistant Forensic Scientists and Laboratory Technicians.

All the participants appreciated the training indicating during the closing meeting that the training would enable them to attain accreditation as it helped them introspect into their process and identified gaps in their system. They also appreciated the trainer for an insightful training. The participants promised to go back and implement what they had learnt.

## SADCAS HOLDS ONLINE TRAINING COURSE ON ISO/IEC 17020:2012 FOR THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE INDUSTRY & TRADE - ESWATINI

**SADCAS held the ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing Course for the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Trade from 9 to 13 November 2020. This was the 2nd course that was held virtually since the launch of the SADCAS Online Training Platform. The National Accreditation Focal Point for Eswatini Ms Sybil Dlamini and Mrs Phindile Dlamini were also in attendance and gave the opening and welcome remarks. The SADCAS Training Administrator Mr. Mogae Molaoa was also in attendance to provide administrative and technical support to the trainer and participants.**

The training was conducted by Mr Danmore Mabambe, a registered SADCAS Trainer who works as an Engineering Manager for a Standards Body. Although virtual, the training was quite interactive and the participants took advantage of the opportunity presented to them and asked questions. The participants in attendance were a diverse group from the different conformity assessment bodies in Eswatini. In total there were 24 participants.

The training went on well with and was concluded with an audit practical session on Friday morning before the participants set for an examination which was done virtually on the SADCAS website.

In closing the participants appreciated the online training and saw this as an opportunity and exciting way of training amidst these difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic where there is limited travel and social distance protocols as participants can attend courses from the comfort of their offices or homes.

On his part the trainer wished the participants well and advised everyone to take care of themselves and adhere to the COVID-19 protocols.

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## SADCAS HOLDS ANOTHER OPEN TRAINING ON ISO/IEC 17025:2017 IN BOTSWANA

The Botswana ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing Open Course was conducted from 2 to 6 November 2020 at Cresta Botsalo Hotel in Palapye approximately 300 Km from the capital city Gaborone. This was the second face to face training conducted since the advent of COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in travel restrictions in many countries including those serviced by SADCAS. Travel within the defined zones within Botswana is still restricted with those that need to travel required to acquire interzonal permits. The Trainer was Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager.

The training was held under strict COVID-19 guidelines. In her opening remarks and on behalf of SADCAS Management, Mrs Malebe welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending the training course amidst the difficult times we were living in. She gave a brief overview of SADCAS, its mandate and its services.

The trainer took time to explain to the participants that this was SADCAS' 4th training course to be conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a 2nd one for Botswana. She urged the participants have to take extra precaution by washing hands regularly using the soap and water provided by the hotel, that they should continue to sanitize, have their masks on at all times as well as maintain the social distancing during discussions and at break times. The hotel provided a dedicated SHE officer for registration and temperature monitoring twice a day.



**Dedicated COVID-19 registration station**

The course was organized to give technical staff in the laboratory sector an understanding of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and practical skills to develop and implement a laboratory quality management system as well as practical skills to conduct internal audits.

The objective of the 5-day training was to train laboratory testing laboratories staff on the requirements, implementation and auditing in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025: 2017: General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. The training was an intensive 5-day course with the following objectives:

- To learn the fundamentals of Management Systems with special reference to application in laboratories
- General understanding of ISO/IEC 17025:2017
- Enable effective participation in establishing and implementing a Management System
- Gain the knowledge, interpersonal, administrative and technical skills required to become a successful auditor
- Enable the achievement and maintenance of accreditation
- Provide a pathway for continuous improvement of the laboratory

The 5-day ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements, implementation and internal auditing course was attended by 21 participants from different laboratory sectors in Botswana that included Department of Waste Management and Pollution Control from Gaborone (5), Morupule Coal Mine (7), Botswana Power Corporation Morupule A (3), Botswana Power Corporation Morupule B (4) from Palapye and Francistown College of Technical and Vocational Education (2). The participants comprised laboratory technicians, Plant Operators, Samplers and College Lecturers; a very diverse group that made the discussions lively and interesting.

The training course was interspaced with exercises and care was taken to ensure fair distribution of participants by organization and by gender and social distancing was observed. 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 a written examination all in an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the training.

Based on the feedback provided after the training participants were happy that their training expectations had been met. All the participants said the course was well planned and relevant and useful to their work and were eager to go back and implement what they learnt in a bid to seek accreditation.



**Participants to the 5- day ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements, Implementation and Internal Auditing Course held in Gaborone; Botswana pose for a photo with the Trainer.**

## NEW ACCREDITATIONS, SCOPE EXTENSIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND WITHDRAWAL 1 DECEMBER 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

Organization & Location	Scheme	Dates	New Accreditations	Scopes Extension	Suspension	Withdrawal
1. Singida WQL	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-25	<b>TEST-5 0052</b> Chemical Analysis (Water)			
2. Central WQL	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-26	<b>TEST-5 0053</b> Chemical Analysis (Water)			
3. Kigoma Zonal WQL	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-26	<b>TEST-5 0054</b> Chemical Analysis (Water)			
4. Musoma WQL	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-26	<b>TEST-5 0055</b> Chemical Analysis (Water)			
5. Shinyanga WQL	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-29	<b>TEST-5 0056</b> Chemical Analysis (Water)			
6. Bukoba WQL	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-29	<b>TEST-5 0057</b> Chemical Analysis (Water)			
7. DQCL - Seychelles	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-31	<b>TEST-5 0058</b> Chemical Analysis (Pharmaceuticals)			
8. Farming & Engineering	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-31	<b>TEST-5 0059</b> Chemical Analysis (Soil, water, plant Material Testing)			
9. Trace Element Analysis Lab	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017	2021-03-31	<b>TEST-5 0060</b> Chemical Analysis (Trace Elements)			
10. Namibia Institute of Pathology Limited – NIP Rundu Private Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2020-05-19	<b>MED 053</b> Chemical Pathology Haematology			
11. National Institute for Medical Research - Mbeya Medical Research Centre	Medical to ISO 15189	2020-08-31	<b>MED 054</b> Mycobacteriology			
12. Pathology Laboratory Mnazi Mmoja Hospital	Medical to ISO 15189	2020-10-15				<b>MED 015</b> - Parasitology - TB - Hematology
13. Diagnofirm Medical Laboratories - Gaborone	Medical to ISO 15189	2020-12-11		<b>MED 012</b> Molecular Biology -SARS-CoV-2/ COVID 19		
14. Botswana National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-03	<b>MED 056</b> Mycobacteriology			



## News on Services

Organization & Location	Scheme	Dates	New Accreditations	Scopes Extension	Suspension	Withdrawal
15. Ndola Teaching Hospital Pathology	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-04	<b>MED 055</b> Blood Bank Haematology Molecular Biology Serology			
16. Balaka DREAM Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-04	<b>MED 057</b> Molecular Biology			
17. Blantyre DREAM Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-05	<b>MED 058</b> Molecular Biology			
18. Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme.	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-16	<b>MED 061</b> Clinical Chemistry Serology Haematology, Molecular Biology			
19.. HIV National Reference Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-16	<b>MED 060</b> Molecular Biology			
20. Partners in Hope	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-16	<b>MED 059</b> Molecular Biology			
21. Arthur Davison Children's Hospital Laboratory, Zambia	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-02-19	<b>MED 062</b> Haematology, Serology, Microbiology, Clinical Chemistry			
22. Chest Diseases Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-03-09	<b>MED 063</b> Mycobacteriology			
23. NIP – Keetmanshoop Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-03-09	<b>MED 064</b> Clinical Chemistry Serology, Microbiology Haematology, Molecular Biology			
24. Muhimbili Central Hospital Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-03-22		<b>MED 005</b> Serology Blood Banking		
25.. Mwaiwathu Private Hospital Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-03-29	<b>MED 067</b> Clinical Chemistry			
26. NIP- Rundu Regional Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-03-29	<b>MED 066</b> Clinical Chemistry, Endocrinology, Serology, Mycobacteriology Haematology			
27. NIP- Walvis Bay Laboratory 28. Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-03-30	<b>MED 065</b> Clinical Chemistry Serology, Mycobacteriology Haematology			
29. Gamma Allergy and Immunology Laboratory	Medical to ISO 15189	2021-03-31	Clinical Chemistry Serology		<b>MED 039</b> Clinical Chemistry Serology	
30. Veritec Inspection Engineers, Zimbabwe	Inspection to ISO/ IEC17020:2012	2021-03-12				<b>INSP-5 003</b>

# STATUS OF KEY ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND ILAC/IAF/SADCA DOCUMENTS

STANDARD	STATUS
<b>ISO/IEC TS 17021-13</b> - Conformity assessment – Competence requirements for auditing and certification of compliance management systems (CMS)	Balloting initiated - 12 weeks from 2021-03-09 until 2021-06-01
<b>ISO/IEC Guide 68:2002</b> – Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results	Close of review
<b>ISO 15189:2012</b> Medical Laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence	Committee Draft 2
<b>ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015</b> - Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 1: Requirements	Close of review
<b>ISO/IEC TS 17023:2013</b> - Conformity assessment – Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits	Close of review
<b>ISO/IEC 17030:2003</b> Conformity assessment -- General requirements for third-party marks of conformity	DIS ballot initiated 12 weeks
<b>ISO/IEC 17040:2005</b> Conformity assessment - General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies	Close of review
<b>ISO/IEC 17043:2010</b> - Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing	CD approved for registration as DIS
<b>ISO/IEC 17050-1:2004</b> Conformity assessment - Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 1: General requirements	International standard confirmed
<b>ISO/IEC 17050-2:2004</b> Conformity assessment - Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 2: Supporting documentation	International standard confirmed
<b>ISO/IEC 17060</b> - Conformity assessment – Code of good practice	DIS registered
<b>ISO/IEC 17067:2013</b> Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of products certification and guidelines for product certification schemes	Close of review
<b>ISO/CD 22003-1</b> Food Safety Management Systems - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems - Part 1: Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems	CD approved for registration as Draft International Standard
<b>ISO/AWI 22003-2</b> Food Safety Management Systems - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems - Part 2: Requirements for bodies providing audit of food safety management systems in conjunction with safe food product/process certification	CD approved for registration as Draft International Standard
<b>ISO/IEC DTS 27006-2</b> - Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of privacy information management systems according to ISO/IEC 27701 in combination with ISO/IEC 27001 – Part 2: Title missing	CD approved for registration as Draft International Standard
<b>ISO/IEC 27006:2015/ AMD 1: 2020</b> - Information technology – Security techniques – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems	International standard published
<b>ISO 14065:2013</b> - Greenhouse gases - Environmental information – Requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information	International Standard to be revised
<b>ISO/TR 14069:2013</b> Greenhouse gases – Quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for organizations – Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1	International Standard to be revised
<b>ISO/FDIS 14091</b> – Adaptation to climate change – Guideline on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessment	FDIS ballot initiated
<b>ISO/FDIS 14097</b> Framework and principles for assessing and reporting investments and financing activities related to climate change	FDIS registered for formal approval.
<b>ISO/DIS 19694-1</b> Stationary source emissions – Determination of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in energy-intensive industries – Part 1: General aspects	Close of voting
<b>ISO 50003:2014</b> Energy management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of energy management systems	International Standard to be revised

STANDARD	STATUS
<b>ILAC G3:08/2020</b> Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors Used by Accreditation Bodies	Published These guidelines have been prepared to assist accreditation bodies to set up training courses that are in line with international practice and which will enable them to generate the lead assessors and technical assessors that they need.
<b>ILAC P14:09/2020</b> ILAC Policy for Measurement Uncertainty in Calibration	Published This document sets out the requirements and guidelines for the estimation and statement of uncertainty in calibration. This latest revision reflects the 2017 versions of ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025. The policy continues to be based on the Guide to Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) and retains the common understanding of the term CMC from the joint declaration issued by the BIPM and ILAC.
<b>IAF ID 1:2020</b> IAF Informative Document for QMS and EMS Scopes of Accreditation	(Issue 3, Issued 06 August 2020, application from 06 August 2020) This document is applicable for QMS and EMS management systems certification and is intended to facilitate the consistent application of Clause 7.1.2 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and Clause 7.2.1 of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 by Accreditation Bodies.
<b>IAF ID 4:2020</b> Market Surveillance Visits to Certified Organizations	(Issue 2, Issued 06 August 2020, application from 06 August 2020) This document is intended to provide suggestions about how short market surveillance visits might be used by accreditation bodies or others in order to complement traditional oversight techniques
<b>A001-07</b> - SADCA Bylaws	Issue no.7 This document has been prepared by SADCA Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly. Issue and application date: 11 September 2020
<b>A007-03</b> - SADCA EXCO Terms of Reference	Issue no.3 This document has been prepared by SADCA Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly. Issue and application date: 11 September 2020
<b>A014-02</b> - SADCA Secretariat Procedure	The purpose of this document is to describe the SADCA Secretariat's responsibilities.
<b>ISO 22000</b> - Handbook for SMEs	Published 9 March 2021
<b>IAF MD 16</b> - Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Certification of FSMS	30 - day comment period
<b>ILAC P9:06/2014</b> - ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities	Under revision. Circulated to ILAC members for 2nd 60-day comment in February 2021
<b>ISO 45002</b> - Occupational health and safety management systems - General guidelines on implementation of ISO 45001:2018	Committee Draft (ISO TC 283/SC -/WG3)
<b>ILAC G17:01/2020</b> - Introducing the Concept of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing in Association with the Application of the Standard ISO/IEC 17025	Published in January 2021. This document provides guidance and related references for the evaluation and reporting of measurement uncertainty in testing in order to fulfil expectations of the relevant clauses of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The document also aims to assist laboratories in understanding the common approach taken by accreditation bodies when performing assessments against these requirements included in ISO/IEC 17025:2017
<b>ILAC G18:04/2010</b> - Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Laboratories	Under revision
<b>ILAC-G19:08/2014</b> - Modules in a Forensic Science Process	This document is intended to provide guidance for Forensic Science units involved in examination and testing in the Forensic Science process by providing application of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17020. The document is under revision, comments stage
<b>ILAC G24:2007 / OIML D10</b> - Guidelines for the determination of calibration intervals of measuring instruments - under revision with OIML	A final draft was circulated and commented on early November 2020 and it is expected to be ready for ballot in both OIML and ILAC first half of 2021
<b>ILAC G28:07/2018</b> - Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Inspection Bodies	Published. The aim of this document is to assist accreditation bodies in consistently meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 associated with scopes of accreditation for inspection body accreditation and to encourage an effective and harmonized approach to scopes among accreditation bodies in relation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012
<b>VIM 4</b> - International Vocabulary of Metrology	CD comment stage till 19 April 2021
<b>M004-01</b> - AFRAC Policy and Procedure on Remote Evaluations	Published. The document provides requirements and guidance for the consistent use of ICT as part of the evaluation process where the majority of the evaluation activities will take place remotely. It does not apply to the general use of email or the limited use of ICT to facilitate communication, such as occasional web conferencing or the electronic sharing of documentation.
<b>SADCA M003</b> - Structure of the SADCA MRA and procedures to expand the scopes of the MRA	Approved by SADCA GA 8 April 2021

## DIARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES	MEETINGS	VENUE
2021-04-08	AFRAC Peer-evaluator Training	Virtual
2021-04-12	SADCA marketing and communications committee (mcc)	Virtual
2021-04-13	SADCA Evaluators Working Group (EWG)	Virtual
2021-04-13	SADCA TC Inspection Sub-committee	Virtual
2021-04-13	SADCA TC Certification Sub-committee	Virtual
2021-04-13	SADCA TC Testing and Calibration Sub-committee	Virtual
2021-04-14	SADCA Technical Committee (TC)	Virtual
2021-04-14	SADCA MRA Committee	Virtual
2021-04-15	ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC)	Virtual
2021-04-16	SADCA MRA Council	Virtual
19-21 April 2021	ILAC AIC WG ISO 17043	Virtual
19-20 April 2021	ILAC AIC WG ISO 15189	Virtual
2021-04-20	ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC)	Virtual
2021-04-27	IAF UAC	Virtual
2021-04-29	IAF MLAC	Virtual
2021-05-05	SADCA Executive Committee (EXCO)	Virtual
2021-05-06	SADCA Annual General ASSEMBLY (GA)	Virtual
2021-05-06	26th SADCA General Assembly Meeting	Virtual
2021-05-06	ILAC Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)	Virtual
11-14 May 2021	SADC TNF Services	Virtual
2021-05-12	IAF Technical Committee (IAF TC)	Virtual
17 to 19 May 2021	55th SADC TNF	Virtual
2021-05-20	SADCAS Human Resources and Remuneration Committee	Virtual
2021-05-20	SADCAS Finance Risk and Audit Committee	Virtual
2021-05-20	SADCAS Board	Virtual
2021-05-27	IAF Executive Committee	Virtual
2021-06-04	IAF WG Management Systems	Virtual
7-11 June 2021	AFRAC Peer Evaluator Training Workshops	Virtual
14-18 June 2021	AFRAC Mid-year meetings	Virtual
2021-07-14	SADCAS-SANAS Twinning Partnership Arrangement Meeting	Virtual
20-24 September 2021	AFRAC GA Meetings	Virtual

# 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](http://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.



**BUSINESS  
BENEFITS**  
Evidence. Impact. Value.



ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE



MARKETING MESSAGE



COST SAVINGS



MARKET OPPORTUNITIES



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



COMPANY PERFORMANCE

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.



**SADCAS**

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

