

THREE SADCAS STAFF MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED AS SADCA OFFICE BEARERS

The 24th Southern African Development Community Accreditation Cooperation (SADCA) General Assembly (GA) was held virtually on 11 September 2020 having been rescheduled from 12 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GA was attended by more than 30 delegates. A total of 27 resolutions were passed during the 24th GA including the unanimous election of the following three (3) SADCAS staff as SADCA office bearers:

- **Mrs. Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager** was unanimously elected as Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Committee Vice-chair for a second term of office. The objective of the MRA Committee is to plan and manage the implementation and maintenance of SADCA's MRAs;
- **Mr. Xavier Mugari, the SADCAS Quality Manager** was unanimously elected as MRA Council Vice-Chair for a first term of office. The SADCA MRA Council makes decisions on the acceptance of applications to the SADCA MRA and admittance, suspensions and extensions to the MRA; and
- **Mr. Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator** for Calibration, Legal Metrology, Inspection & Certification Bodies Accreditation Schemes was unanimously elected as Technical Committee Vice-chair for a first term of office. The objective of the Technical Committee is to provide technical support for the accomplishment of SADCA activities.



Mr Xavier Mugari



Mrs Pinkie Malebe



Mr Victor Mundembe

SADCA is a Cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. SADCA is a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperation Structure established under the TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade to coordinate accreditation activities in the region and facilitate the national, regional and international recognition and acceptance of SADC accreditation infrastructure and providing Member States with accreditation as a tool for facilitating trade and the protection of health and safety of the public and the environment in both the voluntary and regulatory areas. SADCA launched its MRA for Testing and Calibration laboratories accreditation schemes in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 on 14 March 2019. Following the endorsement of the SADCA MRA Council recommendation by the General Assembly on the 11th of September 2020, the scope of SADCA MRA was extended to include Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 in the sub-scope of QMS (ISO 9001:2015).

SADCA currently comprises of 20 members as follows: 3 Arrangement members; 12 Ordinary members; and 5 Stakeholder members. SADCA Membership covers 15 out of the 16 SADC Member states namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

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