SADCAS
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ACCREDITATION SERVICE

THE PIONEER
SADCAS NEWSLETTER
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Mr Xavier Mugari

Mr Mogae Molaoa

We are pleased to present Issue 40 of the SADCAS Newsletter (November 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 and developments in the field of accreditation.

COVID-19 pandemic is still a threat to global health and global economy. The emergence of Omicron variant is rattling countries around the globe and underlines the importance of reliable, accurate and timely testing. Specifying accreditation of testing laboratories as one of the requirements will help ensure the competence of testing laboratories and the reliability of results.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, SADCAS has ensured continuity in service provision by continually investing in technology so as to fully exploit the benefits presented by remote assessments, online training, virtual meetings and working remotely from home.

SADCAS Advisory Committees (AC) meetings were held remotely due to the COVID-19 induced travel restrictions. SADCAS Advisory Committees are a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committees 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.

Enjoy the reading and stay safe!

SADCAS HOLDS 5TH STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The SADCAS Board of Directors together with the Management team held the 5th strategic planning session via Zoom on 30 September and 1 October 2021. The purpose of the session which was facilitated by the Board Chairman, Mr Steven Bruce Sidney was to develop the 4th strategic plan for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027. All 8 SADCAS Board members and Management attended the 2 half-day sessions.

The strategic planning session started with opening remarks from the Facilitator who gave an overview and expectations from session and encouraged all members to participate in the discussions. This was followed by a review of progress of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan to determine the baseline. An analysis of the challenges faced and lessons learnt, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) was undertaken after which the SADCAS vision, mission, values, value proposition and tagline were reviewed resulting in changes to the SADCAS values. Discussions on the 2022 to 2027 goals, key strategic objectives and key operational initiatives ensued after which a risk analysis was undertaken.

The session was highly interactive with members fully participating providing management with the strategic direction to draft the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan with the theme **'Service Excellence and Growth'** which was subsequently approved on 18 November 2021. This 4th SADCAS Strategic Plan draws on the lessons learnt and successes so far to endorse further efforts that are needed to take SADCAS to the next phase of service excellence and growth. It reflects the company's continuous improvement philosophy designed to ensure that SADCAS continually operates as a sustainable, dynamic and customer focused organization. The approved strategic plan was subsequently presented to the NAFPs at their 15th annual meeting held on 25 November 2021.

Participants during the strategic planning session

SADCAS CEO ATTENDS CROSS FRONTIER ACCREDITATION EVENT

The SADCAS CEO Mrs Maureen Mutasa attended the Cross frontier accreditation event organized by the Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII). The event which was held virtually on 1 September 2021 was attended by over 150 delegates from all over the world. The purpose of the event was to comment on a study, a first to address the phenomenon of cross frontier accreditation based on empirical data.

The event started off with a presentation on cross frontier accreditation by Dr Ulrich Harmes – Liedtke and Dr Andres Matta. This was followed by comments by representatives of international accreditation alliances starting off with Mrs Etty Feller ILAC Chair who informed the delegates about the ongoing revision of ILAC G 21 Cross frontier accreditation Principles of Cooperation followed by Mr Emanuele Riva IAF Vice Chair and Director Certification and Inspection at ACCREDIA.

Mrs Maureen Mutasa
SADCAS CEO

The Director General at the TIC Council, Mrs Hanane Taidi commented from the conformity assessment body point of view. This was followed by presentations giving the regional and national perspectives starting off with a presentation by Mrs Mutasa entitled "Sharing accreditation goals: The SADCAS Experience". In her presentation Mrs Mutasa first gave a brief background to the establishment of SADCAS and why the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region went for a multi economy accreditation body and, the achievements so far. She then shared with delegates the challenges and key lessons learnt before commenting on the study. In commenting on the study she agreed that accreditation which is one of the pillars of a Quality Infrastructure, is probably the least developed in Africa of all the quality infrastructures. The multi economy accreditation body model whereby one accreditation body services the accreditation needs of a number of countries is an option for developing countries whose clientele base is not large enough to sustain a national accreditation body. It is a tool for the development of accreditation infrastructure in Africa especially in East, Central and West Africa where there are gaps. Over the years, SADCAS the first multi economy accreditation body in the world has proved to be a viable,

cost effective and sustainable model which optimizes limited financial and human resources.

A number of other regions in the world such as the Gulf region, Economic Community of West African States (UEMOA), etc. have benchmarked on the "home grown" SADCAS model, a concept developed by a group of experts from the SADC region. She informed the delegates that although SADCAS Offices are headquartered in Botswana, National Accreditation Focal Points who are appointed by the Governments and are as it were, SADCAS tentacles of reaching out to clients/potential in the SADC Member States, are based in the 14 SADC Member States. SADCAS should therefore not be counted as cross frontier accreditation as per the definition in the study report. Furthermore, all the countries serviced by SADCAS should be at the same level of development as they are all serviced by one body.

The last presenter was Mr Ferney Chaparro Diaz Director ONAC (Colombia) followed by a question-and-answer session then closing remarks by the Moderator Mr Christian Schoen.

SADCAS EXTENDS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION IN THE IAF MLA

SADCAS is delighted to announce the extension of international recognition in the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (IAF MLA) to the following sub-scope under the Main Scope Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1):

Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) – [Level 4: ISO/TS 22003; Level 5:ISO 22000]

This extension was granted by IAF on 14 October 2021 taking into account the letter of support from the African Accreditation Cooperation who had granted the said extension in September 2021. This brings to four (4) the sub-scopes for which SADCAS is now internationally recognized under the IAF MLA including:

Quality Management Systems, ISO/IEC 17021-3, QMS (ISO 9001:2015);

Environmental Management Systems, ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016, EMS (ISO 14001:2015); and

Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems, ISO/IEC TS 17021- 10:2018, OHSMS (ISO 45001:2018)

The IAF MLA status on the SADCAS page in the **Member Details - IAF** of the IAF website has been updated to reflect this achievement.

The IAF is the world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programmes of conformity assessment. Its primary function is to develop a single worldwide program of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon. Accreditation assures users of the competence and impartiality of the body accredited.

SADCAS secured funding from the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) to build accreditation capacity under FSMS. Through this international recognition the certificates issued by SADCAS accredited certification bodies are recognized in 69 economies worldwide thus removing the need for repetitive certifications. Effectively this means that through internationally recognized accreditation SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS and whose certification bodies are accredited by SADCAS have better access to foreign markets — A truly global reach!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 12TH AFRAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 12th African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) General Assembly (GA) was held virtually on 24 September 2021. The virtual meeting was attended by Member Accreditation Bodies (ABs), Stakeholders, development partners and other invited guests' representatives. SADCAS was represented at the meetings by Mrs. Maureen P Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Pinkie Malebe Technical Manager, Mr. Xavier Mugari Quality Manager, Mr. Victor Mundembe, Mrs. Eva Muronda and Ms Varsah Gungoa the latter 3 of whom are Scheme Coordinators. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Ron Josias, the AFRAC Chair and Mr. Hanie El Desouki, the AFRAC Vice-Chair. A total of 32 resolutions were passed by the AFRAC GA. Some of the key resolutions passed were as follows:

- The GA approved the A006-03 AFRAC Strategic Plan (2022-2026)
- The GA endorsed the EXCO's proposal that the Directors of AFRAC as required in the AFRAC Memorandum of Incorporation, are represented by the Executive Committee members.
- The GA congratulated the Secretariat for the positive outcome of the ILAC/IAF evaluation of the Secretariat, and also for addressing the findings raised which have since been cleared.
- Noting the urgency in finalizing the review and approval of the AFRAC Bylaws, which serves as the basis of the Memorandum of Incorporation and Public Benefit Organization documents required for the registration of AFRAC, the GA resolved that a shortened commenting and approval timeline be allowed for the Bylaws.
- The GA congratulated SADCAS on the extension of their MRA for Management Systems Certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015), approved on 10/09/2021 to include: - Sub-scope ISO/TS 22003: 2013 FSMS (ISO 22000: 2018).
- The GA expressed its appreciation to the AB members for presenting their AB reports which were very informative and serve as a platform for sharing experiences in coping under the persistent COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting challenges and information on investment in ICT technologies. The GA further requested the newly established ICT Working Group to consider these challenges and advise on means of addressing these challenges.
- The GA approved the following documents: M001-04 - Policies and procedures for an MRA amongst ABs, M004-02 - Policies & procedures for remote evaluations and A009-10 - AFRAC Executive Committee 2022 Work Plan.
- The GA unanimously elected Mr Thabo Chesalokile (SANAS) as the Technical Committee Chair for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
- The GA elected Eng. Mahmoud Eltayeb (EGAC) as the MRA Committee Chair for term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
- Noting the appointment of the current Vice-Chair of the MRA Committee as the Chair of the MRA Committee, the GA elected Mr Martin Chesire (KENAS) to serve as MRA Committee Vice-Chair for term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
- The GA unanimously re-elected Dr Ron Josias (SADCAS) as AFRAC Chair, for a term of office in accordance with the Bylaws.
- The GA expressed its appreciation to PTB-Germany for the presentation of their report and their continued financial support of AFRAC since its inception and looks forward to continued support.
- The GA expressed its appreciation to the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition for its financial support of the AFRAC Secretariat and looks forward to continued support.
- The GA expressed its appreciation to SANAS and the Secretariat for successfully hosting the meetings of the General Assembly via teleconference.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 IAF ANNUAL MEETINGS

The IAF annual meetings were held virtually from 9 September 2021 culminating in the IAF General Assembly (GA) on 4 November 2021. SADCAS was represented at these meetings by Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the Technical Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari, the Quality Manager, Mr Victor Mundembe, Scheme Coordinator for Certification Bodies. This was the third time that the ILAC / IAF meetings were held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 400 delegates attended the annual meetings.

The following IAF and joint IAF/ILAC meetings were attended by SADCAS representatives:

- IAF Executive Committee Meeting, 9 September 2021 representing SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA);
- Joint Working Group Communications (JWGC) — Accreditation Body Communication Professionals, 20 & 22 September 2021;
- Joint Management Committee (JMC), 29 September 2021 representing African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC);
- IAF Technical Committee (TC) Management System Certification Working Group, 5 October 2021
- IAF TC Food Working Group, 6 October 2021;
- JDSC, 13 & 14 October 2021;
- IAF TC, 26, 27 & 28 October 2021; and
- 35th IAF General Assembly (GA), 4 November 2021.

The 35th IAF General Assembly passed a total of 34 resolutions. The highlights of the IAF annual meetings with key issues summarized from discussions at the IAF GA and resolutions and related meetings are as follows:

Status of the Establishment of a Single International Organization for Accreditation

Refer to the Highlights of ILAC annual Meetings

IAF CertSearch Database

- Matt Gantley, the Database Management Committee (DMC) Chair presented essential modifications to IAF CertSearch database principles to achieve global database of accredited Certifications

- Designed to achieve the vision of certified once accepted everywhere
- Features:
  - IAF will own the database
  - DMC will have representatives from regions
  - Personal information is not required on the database
  - Contractual arrangements on data ownership, protection, management and security between CBs, ABs, IAF Database LLC and the service provider Quality Trade
  - Covers accredited Management Systems Certification only
- Consultative communications ongoing until April 2022 through FAQs and workshops
- SADCA held a successful consultative workshop with stakeholders on 27 October 2021
- Final DMC presentation will be made in April 2022 following which a ballot will be undertaken.
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Response to and Future Impact of COVID-19

- Transition to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 and the Coronavirus Outbreak (joint IAF / ILAC position paper in which IAF was anticipating possible delayed evaluations and impact on transition to ISO/IEC 17011:2017)
  - UNIDO has published 'Quality and Standards and
  - Their Role in Responding to COVID-19', a document examining the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade and the role that the Quality Infrastructure can play in mitigating negative impacts and supporting the SDGs
  - Development & publication of "IAF/ILAC-A1/A2: Addendum 01/2021 - IAF/ILAC Approach to Remote Peer Evaluations of Regions and Single Accreditation Bodies during the COVID-19 Pandemic" by JWG A-series.

- **IAF activities in response to COVID 19**
  - IAF COVID-19 FAQs which have been translated into Spanish, Italian and Korean
  - IAF Statement on COVID-19 (a reminder to use MD04 and ID03)
  - Joint IAF/ILAC Statement on: Replacement of assessments during the COVID-19 pandemic
  - IAF GA Resolution 2020-16 – IAF COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - Survey undertaken by IAF, ILAC and ISO to collect the views of the conformity assessment community and users on the use of remote techniques.
- **Concerns for the future**
  - How to prepare for the post-pandemic phase. It will be necessary to quickly update the requirements applicable to accreditation bodies (ABs) or conformity assessment bodies (CABs), or offer unambiguous interpretations on how to manage this new normal.
  - It will take years to incorporate the lessons learned during the pandemic before standards or IAF mandatory documents are changed.
- The plan is not to modify the 34 FAQs published on the https://iaffaq.com, to avoid market problems; Start a new list of FAQs aimed at the post-pandemic phase; collaborate with ILAC and ISO so as to come up with a harmonized approach; not to disband the TF at this moment.

Technical Committee

- IAF MD X:202X Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes was distributed for 30-day ballot on the 23rd of October 2021.
- The IAF Mandatory Document (MD) associated with the Transition requirements for ISO 50003 was distributed for 30-day ballot on the 6 October 2021.
- IAF MD 9:202X Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485) was revised as a result of the comments received from the 60-day comment period and provided to TC Chair for review, prior to being distributed for ballot.
- IAF MD 11:2019 IAF Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems

has been revised to align with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 requirements and provided to the TC Chair for review. The TC Chair is currently seeking approval from the TC to waive the 30-day TC comment period.

- IAF MD20 (Generic competencies of AB Assessors) is to be revised in a one step process, to remove duplicative competencies covered in ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and insert level 3 standard competencies once developed. When complete, the TF will recommend to the TC if the document should remain as a MD or be converted into an Informative Document (ID).
- IAF MD15:2014 IAF Mandatory Document for the Collection of Data to Provide Indicators of Management System Certification Bodies' Performance –To be revised by a joint Task Force (TF) between the WG Management Systems Certification and the new WG Accreditation.
- IAF MD16:2015 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies - Amended and sent to IAF TC members for 30-day comment. The comments are currently being considered by the WG Food.
- IAF MD4:2018 IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes - Issue 2 Version 2 published 03 August 2021 with updated links to the new website.
- In May 2021, the draft ISO 22000 expected outcomes document was sent to the IAF TC for 30-day comment. Substantial comments were received, and another round of TC comment is required. The document is being developed in association with ISO. The document was submitted for a further 30-day comment period in September 2021.

Revision of ISO/TS 22003
- JWG36 was set up in 2017 to revise ISO TS 22003:2013
- In 2019 Part 2 NWIP was balloted in both committees
- CD for both parts were balloted and approved by both committees in 2019 for Part 1 and in 2021 for Part 2
- Ballots for DIS are organized to run parallel for both Parts 1 and 2
- DIS Ballots opened on 11 August 2021 and closes on 3 November 2021
- Next meeting will be held in December 2021 to

address comments on DIS. During that meeting it will be decided whether to go to FDIS stage or not depending on the comments received on the DIS.

- If the documents do not go through the FDIS stage then the documents will be published early 2022. on the comments received on the DIS.
- Plans to have a workshop on the revised standards at the 2022 mid-term meetings.
  - CODEX voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes
    Codex has come up with guidelines for the use of voluntary 3rd party assurance programmes
    Structure of the standard besides the normal clauses [Preamble, Scope and definitions (mainly from ISO/IEC 17000 and ISO/IEC 17065)] contains Principles
  - Approach can be tailored to national settings
  - The approach allows authorities to adjust their risk-based inspection model based on a more accurate risk profiling of FBOs
  - The depth of any assessment of integrity and credibility should be proportionate to intended use to avoid unnecessary burdens
  - There should be close alignment between requirements set down in the VTPA standard and the regulatory requirements
  - Transparency may be aided by formalizing arrangements in say an MOU
- Roles, responsibilities and relevant activities
  Criteria to assess the credibility and integrity of the vTPA (Voluntary 3rd Party Authority)
- Regulatory approaches for the use of vTPA information data
  • Process considerations
  • Policy options
  • Key Reflections
  - Sharing of information is what makes this approach viable
  - The granularity of the data shared can be used to inform revisions to inspections
  - Food Business Operators (FBOs) own the data generated - confidentiality of what is shared and transparency in how it is used, are both critical to maintaining confidence
  - vTPA owners should commit to alerting the authority immediately if their auditors are

concerned about potential serious/imminent risk
- Pragmatic approach and a good demonstration of how public sector can work with private sector to reduce duplication of effort. Why waste resources on premises that are compliant rather than concentrate them on those premises that do not comply. Information serves as a basis of how we can work with regulators thus complement Governments. Third party certificate is valuable.
- The developed countries are the frontrunners in using the approach. The UK being a case. Chile African countries are working with UNIDO. This approach may help bring out the benefits of accreditation and an approach that supports making accreditation mandatory in such areas where safety of the public is concerned.

- Discussion papers
  - One discussion paper in relation to IAF MD5 was discussed, and consensus met in relation to the TC's response. The consensus position will be included in the TC decision log.
- Change in Personnel
  - Wolfram Hartmann was endorsed as a co-convener of the Food WG.
  - Wolfram Hartmann was endorsed as a co-convener of the Accreditation WG.
  - Nardia Page was endorsed as a co-convener of the Certification of Persons WG.
- The TF Remote Auditing/Assessment amended terms of reference so as to develop document(s) or content to be added to existing IAF documents to address remote auditing/assessment.

MLA Committee

- 140 % growth in sub-scopes from 5 to 12
- Three (3) new regional groups 2 already MLA signatories and the 3rd under Peer Evaluation so in future all applications will be held at regions.
- There are a total of 6 regions of which 5 are recognized and the 6th SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) is currently undergoing peer evaluation.
- Transitions to ISO/IEC 17011: 2017 was completed all ABs transitioned on time.
- IAF MLA 17029 - Electronic balloting on 2 Resolutions started before the IAF GA in order to allow adaptation of regions and ABs to the transfer from the ISO 14065:2013

Level 3 MLA to the ISO/IEC 17029:2018 Level 3 MLA with ISO 14065:2020 as Level 4 document and phasing out the ISO 14065:2013 MLA.

- Documents
  - IAF PL3: electronic balloting started in October 2021.
  - IAF ML2: electronic balloting starting in November 2021.
  - IAF ML4: to be amended to include Content of IAF Resolution 2016-24 and the operational sub-scope extension process
  - Amended Clause 2.5.1 on withdrawal/suspension of IAF MLA membership status
  - Requirements on ABs on CB uploading certificates to IAF CertSearch
  - First draft transmitted to IAF MLA MC members for commenting
- **AB IAF MLA Scope Extensions**
  - SADCAS Southern Africa (AFRAC) - Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; *Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/TS 22003; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 22000.*

Joint Development Support Committee (JDSC)

- Sharing of experiences workshops in 2020 and again October 2021 on remote techniques in regional activities including assessments.
- Workshop on IAF MD held in October 2021.
- Updated JDSC funding Policy.

Communications and Marketing Committee

- COVID an opportunity in terms of communication Committee more members attending meetings.
- Launched new website for IAF 400,000 views of new website compared to 100,000 before.
- Decision to go for LinkedIn was good a lot of interest on the platform as well as twitter handle.
- You-tube working well with WAD videos receiving a lot of views 47,000 views
- WAD webinar held on 9 June 2021 with Chairs of IAF and ILAC speaking.
- WAD 2022 – agreed on the theme *Accreditation Sustainability in economic growth and the environment*
- Podcast on Accreditation Matters where stakeholders will be invited to talk about accreditation, a promotion tool

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User Advisory Committee (UAC)

- Concerns from UAC:
  - IAF CertSearch
    - The UAC unanimously agreed to support of the database. UAC members hope that the delay in decision-making regarding IAF CertSearch will allow ABs and CBs to continue to work together to improve the DMC proposed model in order to better meet user, industry and regulators needs.
    - As supply chain decisions are made in real time, there is a need for faster, simpler ways to verify accredited management system certificates - If IAF cannot prove the relevance and effectiveness of accreditation going forward (such as through an effective database) the market will develop solutions.

Conformity Assessment Body Advisory Committee Report (CABAC)

- Pushed for a number of activities in support of use of remote technique during COVID pandemic such as FAQs. Continued IAF leadership in this is key.
- CABAC will continue to closely monitor developments in the single organization so as to ensure good outcomes of IAF work.

Conformity Assessment Body Advisory Committee Report (CABAC)

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- CABAC will continue to closely monitor developments in the single organization so as to ensure good outcomes of IAF work.

JWG A-Series Report

- JWG A-series document "IAF/ILAC Approach to Remote Peer Evaluations of Regions and Single Accreditation Bodies during the COVID-19 Pandemic" published in January 2021 (less than 4 months from start to publication). This document supplements the Peer Evaluation requirements of IAF/ILAC A1 and A2 in the COVID-19 pandemic

Reports by Regional Accreditation Groups

- Regional reports received from all 6 regions namely: African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC); Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC); Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC); European Accreditation (EA); InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC); and SADCA.

Election of IAF Directors

- The following Directors were elected to the IAF Board for a three-year term ending at the 2024 General Assembly:
  - Mr Emanuele Riva (ACCREDIA) elected as IAF Chair for an initial three-year term.
  - Ms Lori Gillespie (ANAB) elected as IAF Vice-Chair for an initial three-year term.
  - Mr Emmanuoil Geneiatakis (FAMI-QS) elected as Director representing Users and Industry Association Members for an initial three-year term.

- Mr Ekanit Romyanon (NSC) will complete his first term as Director Representing Low- and Medium-Income Economies at the 2022 General Assembly Meeting.

Resolutions

- Ballots of resolutions undertaken by election runner between 5 to 9 November 2021.
- Nine (9) resolutions adopted.

Future Annual Meetings

- 2022 Joint Annual Meetings, Montreal, Canada
  - Mid-term 2022 — A paper put together for a vote on the mid-term meetings. There are still many impediments, slow vaccination rates, quarantine requirements still significant and costly. Hotel rates still very high. Mid-term meetings likely to be virtual
  - Contract signed for face-to-face 2022 annual meetings which will be held in Montreal Canada

INVITATION TO REGISTER TECHNICAL EXPERTS - PRIORITIZED SCOPES

SADCAS invites experts with specific technical expertise in any of the accreditation schemes currently offered by SADCAS 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 or Technical Assessor.

The following specific areas will be prioritized;

Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS)

Forensic analysis
DNA Testing
Civil Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Radiation Dosimetry
Non-destructive Testing
Textile Testing

Medical Laboratories accreditation Scheme (MLAS)

Histopathology
Cytology
Parasitology
Endocrinology
Immunophenotyping

Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (VLAS)

Mycology
Parasitology
Helminthology
Protozoology
Histology
Cytology
Toxicology
Pathology

Pharmaceutical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (Under TLAS)

Microbiology
Chemical
Toxicity

Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS)

Viscosity
Electrical – DC low frequency
Electrical RF
Fibre Optics
Force/ Hardness/ Torque
Flow
Humidity
Radio Activity
Photometry
Radio frequency
Time and frequency
Wind speed
Acoustics and Vibration
Radiation Dosimetry Metrology

Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS)

Verification
Repair and Maintenance
Inspection of Products for Sale
Quantity Control
Type Testing
OIML Certification Scheme
Certification of Verifiers
Certification of Repairers

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://Microsoft Word - SADCAS F 26 - SADCAS Assessors-Technical Experts Information Record [Issue 5]** SADCAS will review and evaluate all applications received to ensure that the experts have the requisite qualifications, technical knowledge and experience required by SADCAS.

Applications shall be addressed to:
Mrs Pinkie Malebe SADCAS - Technical Manager
Email: **pmalebe@sadcas.org**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 ILAC ANNUAL MEETINGS

The ILAC annual meetings were held virtually from 13 October 2021 culminating in the ILAC General Assembly (GA) on 2 November 2021. SADCAS was represented at these meetings by Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa, the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the Technical Manager, Mr Xavier Mugari, the Quality Manager, Mrs Eva Muronda, Scheme Coordinator Medical, Mr Victor Mundembe, Scheme Coordinator for Inspection, Calibration and Legal Metrology. This was the third time that the ILAC / IAF meetings were held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 400 delegates attended the annual meetings..

The following ILAC meetings were attended by SADCAS representatives:

- ILAC Inspection Committee Meeting on 12 October 2021;
- Joint (ILAC/IAF) Development Support Committee on 13 October 2021;
- ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC) on 13 October 2021;
- ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) on 26 October 2021; and
- ILAC General Assembly (GA) on 02 November 2021.

ILAC Chair's Address and Executive Committee Report

The Chair's report covered issues handled since the last General Assembly (GA) as follows:

- Accreditation strong foundation for the future especially now with COP26 going on to address the challenges presented by climate change.
- There will be no increase in membership fees as done for 2021.
- Agreement for the provision of Secretariat services by NATA (Australia) extended for 2 years effective 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.
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- Accreditation strong foundation for the future especially now with COP26 going on to address the challenges presented by climate change.
- There will be no increase in membership fees as done for 2021.
- Agreement for the provision of Secretariat services by NATA (Australia) extended for 2 years effective 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.

ILAC P XX Cooperation between ABs

- Dutch Legal Counsel finalised the MOU EU Competition law assessment ILAC Policy.
- Recommendation required a revision of the policy to mitigate any potential risks from competition compliance perspective. The revision also took into account the European Court of Justice ruling of May 2021 and the 2021 National Trade Estimate report on foreign trade barriers by the US Trade Representatives released in April 2021.
- Policy document Version 7 was sent to members on 22 October 2021 together with an assessment of the ILAC policy and Annex 2.
- A complaint has been received on 2 November 2021 stating that the ILAC Executive decision to proceed to referendum is not following ILAC rules.
- The complaint must be investigated before proceeding further.

Key International Partners

- ILAC WADA Communique published 1 April. WADA virtual WEBINAR held on 27 April included presentation on case study
- ILAC IAF Remote technique survey published. Summary report available in ILAC news and full report on website. 79% would like to see blend and remote used whether or not there is COVID. Remote technique gives same level of confidence

- ILAC and IAF assisted in the development of the OECD compendium of International Organisations
- UNIDO
  - Launched Best Practice in Laboratory Policy Development, held virtually April 23, 2021.
  - Remote Assessment –Best Practices and Guiding Principles", held virtually on 24 June 2021.

Membership – Status Report

- Affiliate member category will cease to exist 31 December 2021.
- Of the five (5) members who were in affiliate, one has transitioned, one dropped off and the other 3 are in transition to the other categories of membership.

ILAC Secretariat Update

- ILAC Secretariat working fully remotely.
- There are 86 ILAC MRA signatories.
- The ILAC MRA Mark has been registered in 106 economies of which 100 registrations have been completed and six (6) are at provisional stage.
- New signatories under the Scope Proficiency Providers (PTP) and Reference Materials Producers (RMP) are allowed to use the ILAC MRA mark as long as they are signatory and the ILAC MRA Mark has been registered in their respective signatory economies.

Single International Organisation for Accreditation Report

- Presented by T Facklam.
- Based on decision by IAF and ILAC in 2019 at GA in Frankfurt that a contractor shall be engaged to lead the one single organization. TF appointed following a tender for the task
- Three (3) meetings with steering committee (SC) have been undertaken
- Prepared documents and got feedback from the Steering Committee
- Interviews with IAF and ILAC leading persons
- Optimistic that mid 2024 we will have this one organization. Name will be decided on a little later on.
- What is the new organization?
  - Launched Best Practice in Laboratory Policy Development, held virtually April 23, 2021.
  - Remote Assessment –Best Practices and Guiding

Principles", held virtually on 24 June 2021.
- International cooperation for accreditation and responsible for ensuring that Conformity assessment results to be used by reg, trade operator's industry and end users are reliable to contribute to a sustainable way to international trade, safety of persons and a clean environment- making the world better.
- Should be a member organization.
- Vision and mission of the single organization have been established but still need to be scrutinized.
  Varying opinions on membership, membership rights of the different categories of membership and in particular voting rights. However, all the SC members agreed that the new organization shall provide for the different membership rights for the various categories of membership. Document circulated to the Joint IAF ILAC Executive Committee (JEC)with a deadline for comment of 1 November 2021.
- Choice of country of registration shall take into account a number of criteria that have been set including language of operation in the country of registration.
- Could not reach consensus on all off the points hence asked JEC to vote on the Bylaws alternatives.
- Way forward
- If JEC provides clear decision on the issues requiring consensus the rules will be revised accordingly then circulated to members for comments following which the general rules will be finalized and given to a law firm to put it into the legal language
- If no consensus then we would have to look at other options.

ILAC Arrangement Council and Arrangement Management Committee report

- Two (2) new signatories Nepal and Saudi Arabia Accreditation Bodies.
- Seven (7) extended their scopes of recognition to include RMP, ISO 15189 and PTP.
- One (1) suspension NAAU (Ukraine) which was lifted recently,
- Regional peer evaluation in full swing
  African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) re-evaluation started February 2021
  Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) re-evaluation started in 2021

- Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) re-evaluation started Sept 2020
  InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) re-evaluation started September 2021
  SADCA PE application approved in December 2020. Peer evaluation underway.
- Addendum to IAF/ILAC A1 and A2 published and will remain in effect for the duration of pandemic. Allows exemptions to witnessing. Used addendum to prepare a schedule for regional PE and given to each of team leaders when preparing PE plans. This allows for consistency in PE
- Transition to 17025
  - ARAC, EA and IAAC accreditation bodies achieved 100% transition by 1 June 2021 deadline.
  - APAC, AFRAC and SADCA accreditation bodies did not achieve 100% transition and provided supporting information advising of the actions taken (e.g., suspension or withdrawal of accreditation) by the accreditation bodies in relation to the accredited laboratories that had not transitioned by the deadline. Two (2) accreditation bodies in the case of AFRAC, Two (2) accreditation bodies in the case of SADCA and 15 accreditation bodies in the case of APAC.
- Impact of COVID on Evaluations
  - Resulted in the publication of IAF/ILAC-A1/A2: Addendum 01/2021 — IAF/ILAC Approach to Remote Peer Evaluations of Regions and Single Accreditation Bodies during the COVID-19 Pandemic to help maintain the harmonization of processes and the robustness of the IAF, ILAC and Regional peer evaluation systems.
    Projects underway
    Structure of MRA/MLA
  - Survey of regions on the arrangement structures
    - Does IAF and ILAC need to go to 5 Levels — General consensus on this is to maintain the 5 levels
    - Reengineering of the peer evaluation process at regional level

ILAC Arrangement Committee Report

- Management of extraordinary event
  - 30-day comment was conducted in May/June 2021.
  - The collected comments have been provided to the convenor and are under review.
  - Structure of MRA/MLA
- ISO 20387 on Biobanking proposed resolution to be considered at this GA as level 3 document.

Accreditation Committee (AIC) Report

- **ILAC G 17** issued early this year.
- **ILAC P9** went for 60-day comments. The nature of the comments is such that there is need for a face-to-face discussion to decide the way forward
- **WG 15189**
  - In January 2021 ILAC received CD2 of ISO 15189 for ballot and comments.
  - Many of ILAC's comments to CD1 has been taken into account but there were still some issues of concern.
  - A small group from the AIC WG 15189, collated the ILAC comments for the CD2 then submitted them in to TC 212 in March 2021.
- **WG Assessor qualification**
  - ILAC G 3 issued in 2019
  - ILAC G 11 withdrawn
- **WG Sampling** — Has prepared a position paper dealing with measurement uncertainty in sampling. Paper to be advanced once we have more experiences.
- **WG Scopes** — ILAC G 18 was circulated to members for 60-day comment and is expected to go for ballot in November 2021.
- **WG Metrology**
  - CD VIM 4 circulated for comment
  - Comments submitted to JJCGM WG2
  - CD2 will be necessary
- **WG 17043**
  - ILAC submitted comments on CD 1 and CD 2 ISO
  - 17043 to ISO DIS expected end of 2021
- **WG 17034**
  - Agreed that MRA on Biobanking will be based on ISO 20387 as Level 3 document

Inspection Committee Report

- Held two (2) meetings on 22 April and 12 October 2021. Each meeting attended by 250 participants
- ILAC P 15
  - Reminder on implementation of ILAC P15 by 22 November 2021
  - FAQs available on website
  - ILAC P15 maintenance group disbanded
- Work ongoing on Inspection FAQs and information will feed into revision of ISIO/IEC 17020.

- Sampling as part of inspection – Task Group established to consider any issues /improvements needed when ISO/IEC 17020 is next revised.
- ISO/IEC 17020 up for systematic review next year and if confirmed no revision will be undertaken but if not confirmed then a revision will be undertaken early 2023. ILAC IC keeping a log of anomalies and issues to inform ISO.
- ISO CASCO feedback on interpretation of independence following the definition published in 1700 and it was decided that no change needed in ILAC P15

Marketing and Communications Committee Report

- 2 new brochures published
  - ILAC COVID-19 / Specifying Accreditation for

  - COVID-19 Testing: Published (October 2021). SADCAS has adopted this brochure.
  - Biobanking (October 2021)

Decisions/Resolutions

- 5 Decisions made outside GA meeting including the extension of timeframe for strategic plan
- Adopted 9 resolutions all of which were balloted on before the meeting.

2022 Meetings

- Refer to highlights of 2021 IAF annual meetings

SADCA HOLDS WORKSHOP ON IAF CERTSEARCH - GLOBAL DATABASE OF ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION

SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) held a virtual workshop on the International Accreditation Forum's (IAF) CertSearch – Global Database of Accredited Certification on 27 October 2021. The workshop was officially opened by Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa who in her capacity as the SADCA Chair welcomed the workshop presenter Mr Brahim Houla, Member of the IAF Database Management Committee, Chair of the IAF Communications and Marketing Committee and Accreditation Services Director GCC Accreditation Centre.

Mrs Mutasa gave a brief background on the development of the International Accreditation Forum's (IAF) Global Database which houses and provides an authoritative source for validating accredited certifications issued all over the world which dates back to 2014. The program was championed by the IAF's Database Management Committee (DMC) represented by Accreditation Bodies, Certification Bodies and Industry. The global database which was branded as IAF CertSearch was launched during the run up to the 2019 World Accreditation Day. A number of certifications bodies in the region had signed up to the IAF CertSearch amidst some concern on data security.

Mrs Mutasa outlined the objective of the Workshop which was to:

- Inform stakeholders about the *IAF CertSearch* Database;
- Inform stakeholders about the essential modifications that have to be made to the principles of the IAF CertSearch to achieve the intended purpose of a global database of accredited certifications.
- Hear at first hand the views of stakeholders on the proposed changes to the principles of the database

The workshop was well attended by at least 80 stakeholders on 59 gadgets logged onto the Zoom platform. The stakeholders who attended the workshop included accreditation bodies (AB) representatives from MAURITAS, SADCAS and SANAS, accredited and under process certification bodies (CBs), certified organizations mainly industry, procurement authorities, National Accreditation Focal Points, certification Advisory Committee members and AB assessors.

Mr Brahim Houla first presented the major issues with the current business model that include the voluntary nature of uploads of data by CBs, with only 35% achievement, due to many CBs having withheld data because of concerns of possible commercialization of data. With insufficient certification data, the current financial model of IAF CertSearch is not viable hence not sustainable. Furthermore, the persistent problem of fraudulent certificates has not

been addressed through IAF CertSearch, as evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic with fake certificates for PPE and medical devices. Mr Houla explained that certification trade associations, accreditation user groups and others remain supportive as long as the issues of concern are addressed.

The following key proposed changes were presented:
- To make the database mandatory for CBs to upload their certification data;
- To introduce a "user pays" model;
- To include contractual arrangements between CBs and the IAF Database LLC; and

- To update the contract between the service provider *Quality Trade* and *IAF Database LLC.*

Mr Brahim Houla explained that in the new self-funding model, revenue is generated from analytical services and verification services, but with the objective of being not-for-profit. The model is consistent with the principle of not selling certification data and compliance with relevant privacy laws. Electronic data management agreements formalise the controls necessary to prevent or limit unauthorized data mining (to prevent competitive poaching) as well other security measures to ensure data integrity and protect against unauthorized access to, and use of, the data. There will be no access to personal information.

The presentation was then followed by a question-and-answer session during which the following key issues were raised by the stakeholders and to which Mr Houla provided **answers** to the satisfaction of stakeholders:

- *What sort of information do the Credit Rating Agencies rely on from the database* - There are a number of supply chains and number of suppliers from those supply chains and the database is to confirm whether the suppliers bring the certificates that are fake or authentic or valid or what percentage of the work that they do is in conformance, and it will be possible to rate the suppliers as credible or not.
- *Could you clarify on the commercialization statement versus ownership of the database and related agreements. I am concerned on how the end-to-end process works like*—The old model the database was free, the IT service was free. The counterpart *Quality Trade* (QT) was putting a link on the database so that database users can go and see the other services available from QT, that wat QT had a benefit to commercialise themselves. There was concern that the certification data may or may not have been commercialised. The new model removes the option for QT to commercialise themselves and only has a subscription service where QT just provides the IT software.

- *Is the validity of certificates dependent on the registration status of the AB issuing accreditation to CBs or it is just limited to accreditation status of the CB* – the CB must be accredited and the AB must be a signatory to the IAF MLA under the Main Scope ISO/IEC 17021-1 Management Systems. All sub-scopes that the AB has accredited can still be uploaded.
- *Does this mean that anyone who wants to have access to the data who is not an AB or CB shall be required to pay* – No. It is free for most of the small verifiers, one just enters the code of that certificate into the database search engine to verify validity of the certificate. The reply may be "*this certificate is not in the database*". Those who want to verify hundreds of thousands of certificates will pay.
- *In terms of the competency of accredited CBs, does this new proposed database take this into account? Also, will a certified client be able to check this information on the database* – A certified client can check if their certificate has been uploaded or not. If not, they can ask the CB as to why their certificate is not on the database. One CB cannot check who are the clients of another CB. We are aware that there is competition between CBs and we don't want this information to go out. If you have been issued a certificate as a CB client, make sure that the certificate is authentic. If you are a user, a supply

chain operator, government, regulator you can access the database for free and confirm the authenticity of the certificate that you have in hand.

- *Elaborate on how ABs are going to make it mandatory for accredited CBs to upload all the certificates they have issued* –The document IAF ML4 will be revised to include a requirement that CBs must upload their certificates and that if they do not there will be sanctions. Such sanctions should normally be in the contract between the AB and the CB. The discussions at the moment indicate a normal way of dealing with nonconformities, followed by corrective process as per AB policy.

- *What are the criteria for recognising ABs* – The AB shall be an IAF MLA signatory under the main scope Management Systems ISO/IEC 17021-1. Which means that the AB is providing accreditation to Management System CBs, was peer evaluated by IAF and the Region and recognised as competent. All recognised ABs are listed on the IAF website, **https://iaf.nu/en/recognised-abs/** from which one can search or filter for the ABs in the different economies and view the scopes and sub-scopes that are recognised.

  The SADCA Arrangement members (MAURITAS, SADCAS & SANAS) meet the requirements, as they are recognised under the main scope Management Systems ISO/IEC 17021-1 and:

  - sub-scopes QMS and FSMS for MAURITAS;
  - sub-scopes QMS, EMS, OHMS and FSMS for SADCAS and
  - subs-copes QMS, EMS, OHSMS, FSMS and EnMS for SANAS.

- *Is the agreement going to be between the CB and the IAF or is it going to be between the CB and AB? Are the CBs that had already signed agreements with their ABs for IAF CertSearch going to sign new agreements?* – For using the database it's a user agreement so as a CB you will have a contract with *IAF Database LLC*, the entity managing the database. This is also because as the owner of the data, the CB submits the data to *IAF Database LLC* to manage the data. The contract between the CB and the AB is already in place since

application for accreditation, as required by ISO/IEC 17011. Most ABs will not need to sign a new contract as they already apply all the rules of the IAF. Some ABs may require a new agreement due to legal requirements when specific items are added to the contract. CBs must consult with their ABs on this matter.

- *How will the database handle certifications by more than one CB* – if an entity has different certifications from more than one CB, each CB will upload its own certificates. All certificates will be available on the database.

The SADCA Vice Chair, Mr Chankar Bheekhun gave the vote of thanks, appreciating Mr Houla for taking time at short notice to present at the workshop, for the comprehensive presentation and for the fruitful discussions, signifying how he values the significance of accredited certification. Mr Bheekhun thanked the SADCAS Chair Mrs Mutasa for coming up with this laudable initiative to organize the workshop. He thanked the Programme Director Mr Victor Mundembe the SADCA Technical Committee Vice-chair and the SADCA Secretariat Mrs Yolanda Vinnicombe and Ms Fikile Skosana for making all the necessary logistical arrangements for participation through the virtual Zoom platform.

Commenting on the outcome of the workshop, the SADCA Chair Mrs Maureen Mutasa had this to say:
"We had very good discussions based on the key points raised by stakeholders after Mr Houla's presentation. The workshop objective of informing stakeholders about the IAF CertSearch Database and the essential modifications that have to be made to the principles of the IAF CertSearch to achieve the intended purpose of a global database of accredited certifications were achieved. There is interest in the region for the IAF CertSearch for which some of the CBs in the region had already signed up for. Since data security has been addressed, I am sure those CBs that had not signed up for this will also be ready to join in making it easier for us to enforce the uploading of data".

As away forward consultations on the IAF CertSearch will continue into April 2022 through FAQs and webinars. A final presentation of the IAF CertSearch revised model will be made at the 2022 mid- term meetings after which a ballot will be undertaken amongst members.

SADCA PUBLISHES 2022 TO 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) has published its 4th strategic plan. The strategic plan covers the period 2022 to 2026. The process started off with the development of the Strategic Plan survey questionnaire which was subsequently circulated to stakeholders for completion. Inputs from stakeholders were then collated and analysed following which strategic planning workshops were successfully held on 25 March 2021 with all stakeholders and then on 26 March 2021 with the SADCA Executive Committee. All the inputs were then consolidated into a draft strategic plan which was then circulated to all members for comment. The comments received were then considered by the Executive Committee following which the final draft strategic plan was circulated to all members and subsequently approved through Resolution 14 of the 25th SADCA General assembly held on 6 May 2021.

With a fresh design and colourful outlook, the 2022 to 2026 Strategic Plan covers the Chairperson's Statement, SADCA mandate and aims, vision, mission and values, situation analysis, performance environment, organisational environment, performance information, links to the long-term infrastructure and other capital plans, private partnerships, financial plan, budget and indicator description.

Speaking during the SADCA General Assembly, Mrs Maureen Mutasa the SADCA Chair thanked members for their input into the strategic plan, Dr Josias the facilitator of the strategic planning process and SADCA Executive Committee for their hard work which has resulted in a well thought out strategy for the 2022 to 2026 period during which the SADCA Mutual Recognition will be internationally recognized. A plan that supports the SADC industrialization thrust and sustainable development in the region, facilitates trade and regional integration and enhances human capital development and competence. A plan where SADCA will work towards self-sustenance of its operational activities and a plan where SADCA's thrust will also focus on awareness creation on its MRA and designed to also increase membership in SADCA especially private sector involvement in its activities. A plan that avoids unnecessary duplication with the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC). The 2022 to 2026 Strategic Plan was uploaded on the SADCA website and the

link circulated to stakeholders for notification of its upload The Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (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. SADCA currently has a total of 20 Members:

3	*Arrangement Members (MRA Signatories);*
12	*Ordinary Members*
0	*Associate Members;*
5	*Stakeholder Members*

SADCAS PUBLISHES THE 13TH ANNUAL REPORT

SADCAS is proud to announce the publication of the 13th Annual Report(2020/21). The 13th SADCAS Annual Report was approved by the SADCAS Board of Directors on 18 November 2021. The Annual Report contains detailed information on SADCAS's financial and non-financial performance, progress and activities for the year ended 31 March 2021, the 4th year of the third five-year strategic plan for the period 2017 - 2022.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic SADCAS made some strides and on page 23 the **Performance at a Glance** has been presented outlining the key Business, Financial and Strategic premium.

The 2020/21 Annual Report has a fresh design and the electronic version has been published as an interactive PDF making it easier to navigate through the different sections of the annual report.

SADCA AND SADCAS HOLD WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING EFFECTIVENESS OF NAFPS

The workshop on enhancing the effectiveness of National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) in the work of SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) and SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) was held virtually from 22 - 23 November 2021. Participants to the workshop included NAFPs, NAFP Supervisors, SADCAS Management and staff and SADCA Executive Committee and Secretariat.

The 2-day workshop was funded by PTB Germany under the PTB/SADC SQAM Support Project on Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Trade and Enhancement, Competitiveness and Consumer Protection in SADC. Dr Ron Josias, the SADCAS Chair and Mr Steve Bruce Sidney, the SADCAS Board Chair facilitated the workshop.

The main purpose of the workshop was to review the NAFP model and their performance and to hear at first hand the challenges that NAFPs face in executing their roles and responsibilities and to find ways of enhancing their effectiveness in SADCA and SADCAS. The workshop was opened by the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Maureen Primrose Mutasa who welcomed all and introduced the main speakers.

On Day 1, Dr Josias presented an overview of SADCA, achievements and future plans for SADCA, rights and obligations of Ordinary Members (NAFPs) and review of the effectiveness of Ordinary Members. This was followed by discussions on challenges faced and strategies to enhance the effectiveness of Ordinary Members.

Day 2 focused on overview of SADCAS, achievements and future plans of SADCAS, review of NAFP Model, review of NAFP Job Description and Job Specification and review of NAFPs effectiveness in SADCAS. The day was concluded with discussions on challenges faced and strategies to enhance the effectiveness of NAFPs.

NAFPS HOLD 15ᵀᴴ ANNUAL MEETING

The 15th National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) Annual meeting was held virtually on 25 November 2021. The meeting was attended by 9 NAFPs and SADCAS staff. National Accreditation Focal Points from Botswana (1), DRC (1), Eswatini (2), Lesotho (1), Malawi (1), Seychelles (1) and Zimbabwe (2) attended the meeting.

The main purpose of the meeting was to develop the Framework for the 2022/23 Marketing Plan, to review Government Contributions for the periods 2012 – 2017 and 2017 – 2022, to review summary of quarterly reports for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 and to consider 2022/23 training needs. The NAFPs developed the Framework for the 2022/23 Marketing Plan which shall be populated, finalized and circulated to NAFPs by 27 April 2022 for comment by 4 May 2022 following which the 2022/23 Marketing Plan shall be finalized by 10 May 2022 and submitted to the SADCAS Board of Directors for approval.

A total of 15 resolutions were passed during the meeting which was chaired by Mrs Mutasa, the SADCAS CEO. The meeting was very interactive with NAFPs committing to step up their promotion and marketing efforts so as to realize the objectives set in the SADCAS 2021/22 Marketing Plan

NAFPs who are appointed by their respective governments are mainly responsible for the promotion of accreditation and marketing of SADCAS services within their respective countries. NAFPs are at the frontline of accreditation communication and marketing SADCAS service offering.

Assessor Corner

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR- MRS ANNAH MOTAUNG

Mrs Annah Motaung was registered as a SADCAS assessor in 2020 under Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS). Mrs Motaung is proudly South African and was initially assigned to conduct assessments on behalf of the SADCAS in October 2020, which was done remotely due to COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs Motaung holds a B-Tech degree in Biotechnology (Microbiology) and a B-Tech degree in Quality management and is currently studying towards Master of Science in Agriculture. She fell in love with quality management during her first three months after she joined Agricultural Research Council-Onderstepoort Veterinary Research (ARC-OVR), where she worked as a Research Technician in the Tuberculosis Laboratory in 2005. She was trained by SANAS on the ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory system and internal auditing (2005). She was appointed as a Quality Manager (ARC-OVR) for seven testing laboratories (Microbiology, Molecular biology, Serology, Tuberculosis, Rabies and BSE) in 2012. Mrs Motaung was trained by SANAS on documenting the system (2013), nominated and trained as a technical assessor and became a qualified SANAS technical assessor in 2014. In 2019, she was nominated and trained by SANAS to be a Team Leader.

For Mrs Motaung, conducting assessments for SADCAS covering Serology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology scope is a beautiful experience and very exciting. She appreciates meeting people from other countries and learning different cultures. She is always looking forward to planning and

Mrs Annah Motaung

conducting assessments. She says, the thought of improving the CABs systems and witnessing compliance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 requirements through assessment is fulfilling to her. She added that the assessments have made her to look at life differently, in addition improved her life as she became more of a listener, organised, aware of what is happening around her, more patient, manage time very well, always eager to learn more, investigate problems and prevent them from recurring where possible. "That to me is priceless".

Mrs Motaung is married to Mr Aaron Motaung and a mother to a 17 year old boy and a 15 year old girl.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR — MR BRIAN YALISI

Brian Yalisi holds a Master of Science degree in Applied Physics with a bias in Measurements and instrumentation. He is currently employed as a Pressure & Vacuum Metrologist and research Scientist in the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA) working in the development of pressure and vacuum measurement standards since April 2013. Before joining NMISA, he was a vacuum candidate scientist with the National Laser Centre, a division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria. Brian was trained by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) to be Technical Assessor with respect to ISO/IEC 17025 (both

Mr. Brian Yalisi

2005 and 2017 versions) in the calibration stream, carrying out over thirty technical assessments within South Africa since 2014. He joined SADCAS as a Technical Assessor for pressure calibration laboratories in 2018. He participates at the BIPM's Consultative Committee for Mass and Related Quantities (CCM) in the Pressure and Vacuum Working Group together with other world-renowned pressure and vacuum experts from other National Measurement Institutes such as the PTB (Germany), NIST (USA), CENAM (Mexico) and LNE(France). Brian is also a member of the SANAS special technical committee for Pressure.

Brian Yalisi enjoys the assessment process as it allows him to witness how different metrologists and entities interpret the well-known physics principle of Pressure = Mass X Gravity.

Although, on the surface, this principle seems straightforward enough, it can get complicated as other outside factors such as temperature, humidity, buoyancy, and height above sea level are brought into the equation. Because pressure calibration laboratories are found in different places throughout Southern Africa (and the world at large), calibration laboratories will take account of the aforementioned factors differently and they will all have their own explanations for how they calibrate pressure equipment, and this can be quiet engaging and exciting. For Brian, every technical assessment is a new experience which presents a great learning opportunity and thus a worthwhile activity.

UNDER THE EYE OF AN ASSESSOR - EZEKIEL KIMANI NJOROGE

Ezekiel K. Njoroge is a SADCAS registered Technical Assessor in the fields of Molecular Biology and Immunohematology (Blood Transfusion). Mr Njoroge was trained as an assessor by SANAS in 2014 and was initially registered as a Technical Expert then later as a SADCAS Technical Assessor. The recognition was after a stringent mentorship in both private and public laboratories in Botswana by experienced assessors who shaped his assessment skills.

Mr. Ezekiel Kimani Njoroge

Mr. Njoroge is a trained Medical Laboratory Scientist, holding a degree in Medical Laboratory Science from Kenya Methodist University (Kenya), Bachelor of Technology in Quality (South Africa), Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (South Africa) and currently pursuing a Master's Degree in public health. These have been backed- up by short courses in quality management

including implementing and auditing a system according to ISO 9001: 2008 and 15189: 2012 standards.

Mr. Njoroge has conducted over forty assessments since 2017, in countries including Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia. Onsite assessments were done when travel was

easy, but due to restrictions caused by COVID- 19, virtual assessments were implemented where Mr. Njoroge switched with ease. In both situations, the integrity of the assessments has been upheld, with the whole process carried out with equal integrity. The only slight difference was that, with virtual assessments, documents were expected to be submitted two weeks in advance, where the assessor would review them. Any other requirement like opening meeting, assessment methods, recording of observations and closing meeting was more or less like for onsite assessments.

Mr. Njoroge gained a bank of experience in a medical laboratory where he has worked in the public sector under the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Botswana. Due to his passion in quality, he was nominated and awarded twice in the ministerial awards, getting the Performer of the Year by cadre- 2011 (Number 3 in Botswana) and Supreme Performer- 2019. As the Quality Manager at Scottish Livingstone Hospital Laboratory, he led the team which saw the recommendation for accreditation by SADCAS according to ISO 15189: 2012, which was a great achievement. Mr. Njoroge has extended his expertise in quality management after joining Botswana- University of Maryland School of Medicine (BUMMHI) where he has been appointed as a Regional Laboratory Specialist. He will be overseeing implementation of quality management and accreditation of medical laboratories. The key statement in his quest for quality is meeting customers' needs through establishing, implementing and continually improving quality.

SADCAS REGISTERS MORE ASSESSORS

In order to meet the growing accreditation needs in the SADC countries it services, SADCAS continues to identify and register assessors competent in the accreditation scopes it offers. The pool of assessors who undertake assessments on behalf of SADCAS is growing having registered additional assessors and technical experts during the year 2021/2022.

We are delighted to announce the registration of the following assessors:

NAME	REGISTRATION	COUNTRY
Mr Nicholas van Zyl	Technical Assessor – Calibration (Force and Torque Metrology)	South Africa
Prof Elna Buys	Technical Assessor – Certification and Inspection (Food)	South Africa
Ms Mookho Morienyane	Team Leader - Certification	South Africa
Mzwabantu S Nyakama	Technical Expert – Calibration and Legal Metrology (Flow)	Malawi
Blessing Chibaya	Technical Expert – Calibration (Flow Metrology)	Zimbabwe
Mr Charles Katuruza	Technical Expert – Inspection (Pharmaceuticals)	Botswana
Mr Tinomudaishe Hove	Technical Expert – Inspection (Boilers and Pressure Vessels) and Certification (QMS and OHSMS)	Zimbabwe
Mr Eugene Horak	Technical Expert – Certification (Management and Product)	South Africa
Mr Benjamin Mtetwa	Technical Expert – Certification (OHSMS and WMS)	Zimbabwe

As at 31 October 2021, SADCAS had registered 126 technical assessors, 47 Team Leaders and 22 technical experts. Training of assessors is ongoing with the mentoring of experts trained in 2019 expected to be concluded in 2021/22 and other experts expected to be trained as assessors under the SADC EU EDF 11. See Figures 1 and 2 below.

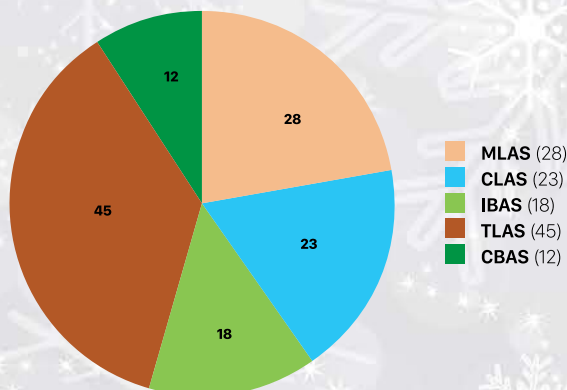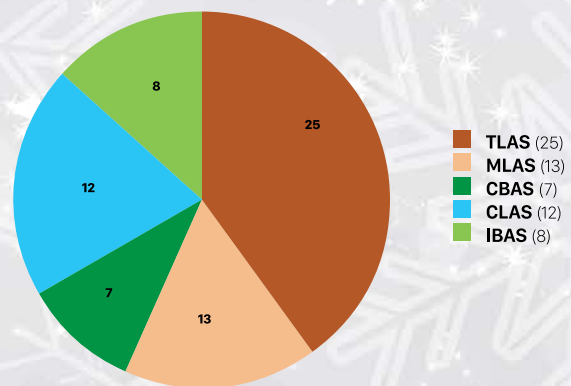**Figure 1 - Breakdown of Technical Assessors by Field of Accreditation**

MLAS (28)
CLAS (23)
IBAS (18)
TLAS (45)
CBAS (12)

Figure 2 - Breakdown of Team Leader by Field of Accreditation

TLAS (25)
MLAS (13)
CBAS (7)
CLAS (12)
IBAS (8)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR IBAS ZIMBABWE HOLDS 11TH MEETING

The 11th meeting of the Zimbabwe Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS – Zimbabwe) (AC.01) was held on 17 September 2021 remotely for the second time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was chaired by Engineer Ngoni Chirinda.

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 11th IBAS – Zimbabwe Advisory Committee meeting was attended by 14 of the 42 members, a 33% participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

Members of the Lifting Equipment Working Group were represented at the meeting.

Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for IBAS provided an update on developments at the ILAC Inspection Committee held on 22 April 2021 and at **AFRAC Inspection Sub-committee** held on 15 June 2021. Mr Mundembe also presented a report on the **2nd IBAS Regional Advisory Committee meeting** that was held on 23 November 2020.

The meeting discussed the matters arising from the previous meeting and mapped the way forward on outstanding action items. The meeting agreed to consider the review of **_SADCAS TR 05 - Criteria for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies Performing Inspection in Terms of the Pressure [Issue 4]_** to align with current practices, new technologies and new legal requirements in consultation with National Social Security Authority of Zimbabwe (NSSA) of Zimbabwe. NSSA was represented by Mr Penias Marunza, the Chief Inspector of Factories and Mr Tichaona Mapuru, Technical Expert.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CLAS HOLDS 6TH MEETING

The 6th meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) (AC.02) was held on 23 November 2021 remotely for the second time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main purpose of the 6th Advisory Committee Meeting was to discuss matters arising from the last meeting; provide overview of SADCAS and Update on Developments in SADCAS; provide update on revised SADCAS AP 11; provide update on development at international level; elect the Chair of the committee; provide update on documents under development and identify more areas requiring technical supporting documents.

At the plenary session Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented an overview of SADCAS, an update on developments in SADCAS, followed by another presentation on the revised SADCA AP 11. Mrs Eva Muronda, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for MLAS chaired the plenary session with Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CLAS facilitating during the comments and questions on Mr Malebe's presentations.

The breakout session of the 6th CLAS Advisory Committee meeting was well-attended by 12 of the 14 members from 10 countries, an 86 % participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting. Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CLAS provided an **update on developments at international level.**

The Advisory Committee meeting discussed technical requirements documents under development in the areas of **Pressure** and **Time and Frequency Metrology**. After considering the committee's comments that were incorporated, the meeting unanimously decided to submit the Pressure Criteria document for publication by SADCAS. Following a presentation by Mr Tebogo Kajane, the co-convener for Time and Frequency the conveners are to review the first draft and submit to the committee for comments following which another complementary document on **Timers and Tachometers** will be developed in parallel.

Mr Teboko Kajane from Botswana was unanimously elected as the Chair of the SADCAS AC CLAS for the next 5 years.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR IBAS REGIONAL HOLDS 3RD MEETING

The 3rd meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS – Regional) (AC.06) was held on 25 November 2021 remotely for the second time due to the COVID–19 pandemic.

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 3rd IBAS Regional Advisory Committee meeting was attended by 6 of the 14 members from 6 countries, a 43 % participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented an overview of SADCAS an Update on Developments in SADCAS, followed by another presentation on the revised SADCA AP 11. Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for IBAS and the Secretary of the LMAS AC chaired this session that also included comments and questions on Mr Malebe's presentations.

Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for IBAS provided an update on **Developments at international level**. Mr Mundembe who chaired the meeting following apology presented by the Chair due to prior commitments also presented a report on behalf on the convener on the outcome of the meetings of the Documents Working Group (DWG) on the draft **guidance document on accreditation of bodies performing NDT**. The committee unanimously agreed with the DWG's recommendation that that no specific guidance document is required and that Inspection Bodies should implement ISO/IEC 17020:2012, revised ILAC P15 (2020), SADCAS AP 12: Part 2 and be guided by applicable national legislation on NDT. SADCAS will then be able to accredit the Inspection Bodies against these criteria only without the need for any harmonized regional TR document on NTD.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TLAS HOLDS 6TH MEETING

The 6th meeting of the Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee (TLAS AC.03) was held on 23 November 2021. Due to the COVID–19 pandemic and the travel restrictions imposed in the SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS, the meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform.

The purpose of the AC.03 M6 was:
- To discuss matters arising from the minutes of the 5th TLAS SADCAS AC 03 M5 held on 25 November 2020;
- To provide an update on developments at international level relevant to TLAS;

- To provide an update on transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017;
- To provide an update on published SADCAS TR documents;
  - Statement of Conformity and Decision Rule

- Uncertainty of Measurement in Microbiology
- Revision of SADCAS TR 18

The meeting reviewed the following draft documents that were developed by the Document Working Group of the AC.03:
(i) The Document of Decision rule which is based on ILAC G 8 document. has been finalised and to be published; and
(ii) The document on Uncertainty in Microbiology Testing has been finalised and to be published.

There was a proposal to adopt the ISO 16140–3 to align with SADCAS TR 18 – *Criteria for Validation and Quality Assurance in Microbiological Testing* for grouping validation methods and this was assigned to the Document Working Group to work on reviewing the document.

The meeting was a success with fruitful deliberations.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CBAS HOLDS 3RD MEETING

The 3rd meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS) (AC.05) was held on 24 November 2021 remotely for the second time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 3rd CBAS Advisory Committee meeting was well attended by 9 of the 15 members from 8 countries, a 60 % participation which is over the quorum required for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 6th Advisory Committee Meeting was to Discuss matters arising from the last meeting; Provide overview of SADCAS and Update on Developments in SADCAS; Provide update on revised SADCAS AP 11; Provide update on development at international level; Elect the Chair of the committee; Provide update on documents under development and identify more areas requiring technical supporting documents.

At the plenary session Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented an overview of SADCAS an

Update on Developments in SADCAS, followed by another presentation on the revised SADCA AP 11. Mrs Eva Muronda, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for MIAS chaired the plenary session with Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CBAS facilitating during the comments and questions on Mr Malebe's presentations.

At the breakout session of AC CBAS Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for CBAS provided an update on **Developments at international level**. The CBAS Advisory Committee finalized the **List of Technical Support Documents** for CBAS and unanimously decided to submit the document for publication by SADCAS noting that the document will form the basis for identifying other areas requiring technical supporting documents.

Mr Fabianus Haufiku was unanimously elected as the Chair of the SADCAS AC CBAS for the next 5 years.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR MIAS HOLDS 3RD MEETING

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) (AC.04) held its 3rd meeting on 24 November 2021 virtually. A total of 6 experts from the SADC member states attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to:
- Update on developments in SADCAS;
- Update on revised SADCAS AP 11 –
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees
- Update on developments at international Level
- Review matters arising from minutes of SADCAS AC-07 M.2 meeting held in November 2020;

- Review status of the following documents:
  - SADCAS TR X: General Radiography
  - SADCAS TR XX: Ultrasound

The meeting agreed to work on two further criteria documents; namely **Computed Tomography** (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA) and the **Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme Brochure**

The meeting was fruitful and SADCAS is grateful for the continued technical guidance that Advisory Committees provide to SADCAS.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LMAS HOLDS 2ND MEETING

The 2nd meeting of the Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Legal Metrology Bodies Accreditation Scheme (LMAS) (AC.08) was held on 22 November 2021 remotely for the second time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by

10 of the 14 members from 8 countries, a 71 % participation which is well over the 25% required for a quorum for an advisory committee meeting.

The main purpose of the 2nd Advisory Committee Meeting was to Discuss matters arising from the last meeting; Provide overview of SADCAS and Update on Developments in SADCAS; Provide update on revised SADCAS AP 11; Provide update on development at international level; Provide update on documents under development and identify more areas requiring technical; supporting documents.

The meeting started off with introductions during which members were updated on the individual expertise and experience of members in Legal Metrology. Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager presented an overview of SADCAS an Update on Developments in SADCAS, followed by another presentation on the revised SADCA AP 11. Mr Victor Mundembe, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for LMAS and the Secretary of the LMAS AC chaired this session that also included comments and questions on Mr Malebe's presentations.

Mr Ditlhake Dommy Tau, the Chair of the Advisory Committee chaired the session in which Mr Mundembe presented updates on developments at international level and the document under development by the advisory committee i.e. *SADCAS LMAS Criteria*.

Mr Mundembe reported that he had presented the LMAS Criteria as part of a paper he presented to the NLA Annual Test and Measurement Conference on 26 October 2021. He reported that the paper was well received and an invitation was extended for the paper to be presented at the next AFRIMETS GA to be held in 2022.

The committee reviewed the update on the *draft LMAS criteria* document and reached a consensus for the document to be submitted for SADCAS publication process with a provision for members to submit additional comments by 31 December 2021, with any issues being handled electronically.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MLAS HOLDS 5TH MEETING

The Advisory Committee for the SADCAS Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) (AC.04) held its 5th meeting on 23 November 2021 virtually. A total of 8 experts from the SADC Member States attended the meeting. 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.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Update on developments in SADCAS;
- Update on revised SADCAS AP 11 —
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Update on developments at international Level;
- Review matters arising from minutes of
  - SADCAS AC-04 M.4 meeting held in November 2020; and Review status of the following Technical Requirements documents:
  - SADCAS TR X: Guidelines on the Validation and Verification of Quantitative and Qualitative tests;
  - SADCAS TR XX: Expression of Uncertainty in Clinical Testing;
  - SADCAS TR XXX: Technical Requirements for Microbiology Laboratory;
  - SADCAS TR XXXX: Technical Requirements of Blood Transfusion;
  - SADCAS TR08: Proficiency Testing and other Comparison Requirements for Testing and Medical Laboratories.

Mrs Pinkie Malebe, the SADCAS Technical Manager presentedan update on Developments in SADCAS, highlighted changes on revised SADCAS AP 11. Mrs Eva Muronda, the SADCAS Scheme Coordinator for MLAS chaired the plenary session.

The meeting agreed to work further on the area of Proficiency Testing and Calibration and review the current criteria documents.

Main highlight of the meeting was the report on the **Status of the Revision of ISO 15189 Medical Laboratories — Requirements for quality and competence:**

- CD2 ballot closed March 2021 with 225 pages of comments received
- May 2021 — Meeting held to discuss comment resolutions
- Opportunity to submit additional comments and suggestions by June 2021
- Draft DIS submitted to secretariat in July 2021
- Draft DIS posted October 2021
- Ballot due January 2022
- Projected publication 4th Quarter 2022

All Medical Laboratories are encouraged to plan and look out for the publication of the new standard by end of 2022, following which SADCAS will issue a transition plan to be followed by accredited and applicant Medical Laboratories for a seamless transition to the new standard.

CBAS AND LMAS ADVISORY COMMITTEES TRAINED ON ISO/IEC 17029:2019

SADCAS held two training courses for SADCAS Advisory Committee Members (Legal Metrology and Certification Bodies Accreditation Schemes), Conformity Assessment Bodies, Assessors, SADCAS Staff and SADCAS Trainers on ISO/IEC 17029:2019: Conformity Assessment – General Principles and Requirements for validation and Verification Bodies. The training courses were held remotely via WebEx platform with each course running over three days. The first course was held from 1 to 3 November and the 2nd course from 8 to 10 November 2021.

The Training courses were ably conducted by Ms Ann Howard, Director: Environmental Accreditation Programs, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board (ANAB). Ms Howard currently serves as co-chair of the IAF Validation and Verification Working Group and the IAF Forestry working group. She previously served as a UNFCCC Executive Board appointed expert on the UNFCCC CDM Accreditation Panel. Ms Howard was an active member of the ISO CASCO Working Group that developed the ISO/IEC 17029 standard thus provided the trainees with first-hand knowledge of how the requirements were developed and the rationale behind them.

The training courses were attended by 19 trainees from the 1 to 3 November group and 21 trainees from the 8 to 10 November group making a total of a total of 40 trainees. Taking into account that some of the trainees have more that one function at SADCAS, the following beneficiary functions attended the training:

- Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee (LMAS AC) members from 12 SADC Members States;
- Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme Advisory Committee (CBAS AC) members from 13 SADC Member States;
- Assessors;
- Conformity assessment bodies;
- SADCAS staff i.e. Scheme Coordinator CBAS/LMAS Mr Victor Mundembe, Quality Manager Mr Xavier Mugari and Technical Manager Mrs Pinkie Malebe; and
- SADCAS Trainers conversant in English, French and Portuguese.

The objectives of the training were targeted to the functions of trainees in their respective SADCAS activities as follows:

- LMAS AC.08 members to be adequately familiarized, gain an understanding of applicability and how to implement ISO/IEC 17029 so as to use the knowledge in exploring new schemes under LMAS and advise SADCAS on such
- CBAS AC.05 members to be adequately familiarized, gain an understanding of applicability and how to implement ISO/IEC 17029 so as to use the knowledge in exploring new schemes under CBAS, and advise SADCAS on such.
- Assessors to appreciate the requirements of ISO/IEC 17029 so as to be able to assess compliance against the standard.
- Conformity assessment bodies to be trained on the requirements and implementation of ISO/IEC 17029 so as to set up appropriate validation/verification schemes, thus create a clientele base for SADCAS.
- SADCAS staff to be adequately familiarized, gain an understanding of applicability and how to implement ISO/IEC 17029 so as to use the knowledge in Advisory Committee deliberations, developing and operation of new accreditation schemes.
- SADCAS Trainers to be adequately familiarized with the requirements, concepts, applicability and implementation of ISO/IEC 17029 to be able to train conformity assessment bodies' staff in preparation for accreditation.

After completion of the training courses, all trainees wrote the on-line examination of which all passed and were presented with Certificates of Successful Completion.

The feedback and advice from the trainees was discussed at the LMAS and CBAS Advisory Committee meetings held on 22 and 24 November 2021 respectively.

The funding of the project was on a cost sharing basis between SADCAS and PTB Germany. Many thanks go to PTB Germany who sponsored the standards for the non-SADCAS trainees, trainer's fee and training materials.

SADCAS PUBLISHES 2022 TO 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) has published its 4th strategic plan. The strategic plan covers the period beginning 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027. The framework for the 4th SADCAS strategic plan was developed at the 5th Board strategic planning session which was held virtually from 30 September to 1 October 2021 and attended by all Board members and Management.

Board and Management during the 5th strategic planning session

With a positive outlook the plan contains nine (9) sections:

- **Section 1** - Contains an introduction to the strategic plan which gives an overview of the achievements of the 4 years of the 3rd strategic plan; and outlines the purpose of the document and the contents of the strategic plan.
- **Section 2** - Provides the SADCAS profile, mandate, mission, objectives, vision, core values — added an additional value of "excellence", value proposition, tagline and governance and organization of SADCAS, services and regional and internal connections.
- **Section 3** - Reviews the progress (general and financial performance) made during the 1st 4 years of the 3rd strategic plan period of 2017 — 2022 and outlines challenges faced and lessons learnt.
- **Section 4** contains an analysis of SADCAS strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- **Section 5** outlines the SADCAS 9 key strategic objectives, key operational initiatives and the key assumptions.
- **Section 6** is the 5-year indicative budget and covers resource requirements

- Human - A total of 10 additional staff will be recruited during the strategic plan period to support the anticipated growth in business thus bringing the total staff complement to 24.
- Capital — Mainly furniture and IT equipment for new staff as well as replacements for existing staff.
- Funding — An operational budget deficit for the 5 year period amounting to BWP 22,5 million (US$1.96 million) is anticipated and of which
- SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS will be expected to contribute towards SADCAS sustainability over the five years. Break even on operational costs is expected to be achieved in the year of the strategic period after which government will be expected to contribute towards specific budget line items such as regional, continental and international participation and development of new accreditation schemes etc.
- **Section 7** gives an indication of the risks associated with activities and the mitigation measures.
- **Section 8** covers strategy implementation.
- **Section 9** outlines the strategy monitoring and evaluation process.

This 4th SADCAS strategic plan which was approved at the 72nd SADCAS Board meeting held on 18 November 2021, draws on the lessons learnt and successes so far to endorse further efforts that are needed to take SADCAS to the next phase of service excellence and growth. It reflects the company's continuous improvement philosophy designed to ensure that SADCAS continually operates as a sustainable, dynamic and customer focused organization. The plan supports the SADC industrialization thrust and sustainable development in the region, facilitates trade and regional integration and enhances human capital development and competence.

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 services the accreditation needs of 14 SADC MS namely: Angola; Botswana; Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Eswatini; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe. SADCAS is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the Botswana Companies Act CAP: 42:01. SADCAS is a subsidiarity Institution of SADC and its Offices are situated at Gaborone, Botswana. SADCAS offers accreditation services and training on accreditation related activities. SADCAS core business is accreditation services whilst training services are designed to build capacity on conformity assessment service providers thus create a clientele base for SADCAS. SADCAS currently offers the following accreditation schemes: Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (CLAS); Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS); Testing Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (TLAS); Veterinary Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (VLAS); Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS); Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS); Management Systems Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS - MS); Product Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS – Prod); and Personnel Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS -Pers).

SADCAS is now in its 13th year of operation and accreditations continue to grow in terms of field and scope of accreditation, sectorial coverage and also in terms of geographical diversity having accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States and 2 non-SADC Countries. By 30 October 2021, SADCAS had issued 218 accreditation certificates to 176 accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States. At the same time, SADCAS had cumulatively conducted 217 training courses in 13 SADC Member States as part of its efforts to develop capacity of conformity assessment bodies for accreditation. A total of 76 accreditation applications from 11 SADC Member States were at various stages of processing. Over the years, operational income has been increasing whilst generally dependency on government funding has been reducing from 100% as at 2009 to 33% as at 31 March 2021.

Six (6) out of the eight (8) accreditation schemes offered by SADCAS are internationally recognized. This means that the certificates issued by SADCAS accredited calibration/testing/veterinary/medical laboratories, and certification and inspection bodies are recognized in 103 countries worldwide thus removing the need for repetitive conformity assessment checks. Effectively this means that through internationally recognized accreditation SADC Member States serviced by SADCAS have better access to 103 foreign markets — A truly global reach.

Over the years, SADCAS the first multi economy accreditation body in the world has proved to be a viable, cost effective and sustainable model which optimizes limited financial and human resources. A number of other regions in the world such as the Gulf region, Economic Community of West African States (UEMOA), Caribbean Islands etc. have benchmarked on the "home grown" SADCAS model, a concept developed by a group of experts from the SADC region. By assuring technical competence, SADCAS is playing an important role in facilitating regional integration and in the protection of health, safety and the environment thus contribute towards the achievement of the SADC ultimate goal of achieving economic growth, alleviating poverty and enhancing the standard and quality of the life of its people

SEYCHELLES BUREAU OF STANDARDS TESTING LABORATORY ACCREDITATION RENEWED

SADCAS is delighted to announce the renewal of accreditation of the of Seychelles Bureau of Standards Testing Laboratory Accreditation following reassessment conducted by SADCAS in June 2021. The certificate which was re-issued on 31 August 2021 is valid for 5 years until 30 August 2026.

The laboratory has since enjoyed ten years of quality management system implementation to ISO/IEC 17025. The Environment Laboratory was initially accredited for pH,

Conductivity, Sulphate, Nitrate and Nitrite in potable water. The scope of accreditation was later extended to include Fluoride and Chloride in potable water. In 2016 the laboratory was accredited for testing of Mercury, Lead and Cadmium in fish and in 2017 the Food Chemistry Laboratory was accredited for histamine test in fish.

The laboratory has extended the scope of accreditation based on the needs of the industry to facilitate trade.

Histamine sample preparation

HPLC used for Histamine testing

Environmental Laboratory

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 REQUIREMENTS & INTERNAL AUDITING ONLINE TRAINING INHOUSE COURSE FOR SWASA (ESWATINI)

SADCAS conducted the ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Requirements & Internal Auditing Online Course for SWASA. The objective of the course was to train the staff of the Eswatini Standards Authority (SWASA) in auditing to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 so that they can perform internal audits of the SWASA certification management system in fulfilment of the relevant clause of the standard to which the certification body is seeking accreditation.

The 5-day ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 requirements and internal auditing course was attended by 10 participants from SWASA, the University of Eswatini, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade and a private company, Stefanutti Stocks. The training course started as scheduled with Ms. Sybil Dlamini the National Accreditation Focal

Point (NAFP) from the Regulatory and Quality Infrastructure Development Department (RQID) giving the opening remarks and welcoming the participants to the training course. This was followed by a session when each participant introduced themselves.

Participants were requested to inform of their expectations of the training course after which the Trainer outlined the objectives of the 5-day training course which she then summarized and presented to the participants. She then gave an outline of the course programme. The Trainer then explained the quality concepts and gave a detailed approach to the requirements.

The course ended with a short description of the accreditation process, after which the Training Administrator from SADCAS joined the meeting to explain how the exam was to be taken online. The Quality Assurance Manager of SWASA encouraged the candidates to consider taking up courses that will qualify them as auditors. The Executive Director of SWASA closed the training by thanking all the participants and also encouraged them to take up further training in auditing so as to sharpen their knowledge and put it into practice to sharpen their skills. On behalf of SADCAS, the trainer thanked all the participants for attending the training and for their active participation, giving them opportunity to provide feedback by completing the relevant SADCAS Training Evaluation/Feedback Form on the course to help SADCAS to use as an opportunity for improvement in the conduct of future courses.

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

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/IEC TS 17021-13 - Conformity assessment – Competence requirements for auditing and certification of compliance management systems (CMS)	International Standard under publication
ISO CD 15189:2012 Medical Laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence	DIS ballot initiated: 12 weeks
ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 - Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements	Close of review
ISO/IEC TS 17023:2013 - Conformity assessment — Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits	Close of review
ISO/IEC 17030:2021 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for third-party marks of conformity	2021 version published in September 2021. 2003 version withdrawn.
ISO/IEC 17040:2005 Conformity assessment - General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies	Close of review
ISO/IEC 17043:2010 - Conformity assessment — General requirements for proficiency testing	International Standard to be revised
ISO/IEC 17050-1:2004 Conformity assessment - Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 1: General requirements	International standard confirmed
ISO/IEC 17050-2:2004 Conformity assessment - Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 2: Supporting documentation	International standard confirmed
ISO/IEC DIS 17060 - Conformity assessment — Code of good practice	Close of voting
ISO/IEC 17067:2013 Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of products certification and guidelines for product certification schemes	Close of review
ISO/DIS 22003-1 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	Close of voting

STANDARD	STATUS
ISO/DIS 22003-2 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	Close of voting
ISO/IEC WD 27006-2 – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems – Part 2: Privacy information management systems.	Working Draft (WD) study initiated
ISO/DTR 14069 Greenhouse gases — Quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for organizations — Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1	Close of voting/comment period
ISO/DIS 45002 - Occupational health and safety management systems - General guidelines on implementation of ISO 45001:2018	DIS ballot initiated
A010-03 - SADCA Technical Committee Terms of Reference	Issue No.3 SADCA Technical Committee and approved by the General Assembly. The document defines describe the functions, composition and responsibilities of the SADCA Technical Committee's. Issue and application date: 11 November 2021
A001-06 - AFRAC Bylaws	Issue No.6 This document was prepared by AFRAC Secretariat. The document defines the formal structures and rules/procedures of AFRAC. Issue and application date: 26 October 2021
A006-03 - AFRAC Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026)	Issue No.3 Issue and application date: 24 September 2021
VIM 4 – International Vocabulary of Metrology	CD comment stage till 19 April 2021
IAF MD 10: 2013 IAF Mandatory Document for Assessment of Certification Body Management of Competence in Accordance with ISO/IEC 17021:2011	Withdrawn, as ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 was revised and superseded by ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015
IAF MD 11:202X **IAF Mandatory Document for** the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems (Draft Issue 2)	60-day comment period closing 10 January 2022
IAF MD16:2015 Application of ISO/IEC 17011 for the Accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies	IAF TC members for 30-day comment
IAF MD4:2018 IAF Mandatory Document for the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Auditing/Assessment Purposes	Issue 2 Version 2 published 03 August 2021 with updated links to the new IAF website.

NEW ACCREDITATIONS, SCOPE EXTENSIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND WITHDRAWALS FROM 1 AUGUST TO 31 OCTOBER 2021

Organization & Location	Scheme	Dates	New Accreditations	Scopes Extension	Suspension	Withdrawal
Sokoine Regional Referral, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.08.26	**MED 068** Mycobacteriology, Micro Parasitology, Serology			
Tanga Region Reference Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.09.17	**MED 069** Mycobacteriology, Micro Parasitology, Serology			
Benjamin Mkapa Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.09.27	**MED 070** Mycobacteriology, Bloodbank Parasitology, Serology			
Sinza Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.15	**MED 071** Parasitology, Serology			
Sengerema Designated District Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.15	**MED 072** Mycobactriology, Parasitology, Serology			
Litembo Diocesan Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.21	**MED 073** Mycobactriology, Parasitology Serology			
Consolata Hospital Ikonda Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.26	**MED 074** Hematology, Bloodbank Serology			
Namibian Institute of Pathology–Engela	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.26	**MED 075** Mycobactriology			
Namtumbo HealthCentre Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.27	**MED 076** Mycobacteriology Serology			
Dream Molecular Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.27	**MED 077** Molecular Biology			
Nkinga Referral Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	Medical to ISO 15189	2021.10.28	MED 078 Mycobacteriology, Parasitology, Serology			
Laboratoire d'Analyses Environnementales, DRC	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	23.09.2021	**TEST-5 0063** (Chemical Analysis) –Water			
Shabanie & Mashaba Mining, Zimbabwe	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	27.09.2021	**TEST-5 0062** (Chemical Analysis) – Mining, Minerals			

Organization & Location	Scheme	Dates	New Accreditations	Scopes Extension	Suspension	Withdrawal
Medlane Laboratory, Botswana	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	29.09.2021	**TEST-1 0022** (Microbiological Analysis) - Food products			
Gaborone Laboratory Services, Botswana	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2021.10.29		**TEST-1 0014** (Microbiological Analysis) Food and Water	**TEST-5 0064** Chemical Analysis – Water	
Feedmaster (Pty) Ltd, Namibia	Testing to ISO/IEC 17025 Testing to ISO/IEC 17025	2021.10.26	**TEST-1 0023** (Microbiological Analysis) – Food and Feeds **VET 006** (Veterinary Diagnostics) - Blood			
Botswana Bureau of Standards – Compulsory Standards Unit	Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020	2021.09.03	**INSP-15 001** Agriculture Products **INSP-13 001** Automotive Products **INSP-11 001** Building &Construction Products **INSP-12 001** Chemical Products **INSP-7 001** Electrical Products **INSP-1 002** Food Products **INSP-10 002** Mechanical Products			

DIARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates	Meetings	Venue
2021.10.25–26	National Laboratory Association – South Africa Test and Measurement Conference and Workshop	Virtual
2021.10.27	SADCA Workshop on IAF CertSearch	Virtual
2021.11.1–3	ISO/IEC 17029:2019 Training	Virtual
2021.11.8–9	ISO/IEC 17029:2019 Training	Virtual
2021.11.22	LMAS Advisory Committee Meeting	Virtual
2021.11.23	CLAS, MLAS and TLAS Advisory Committee Meetings	Virtual
2021.11.24	CBAS and MIAS Advisory Committee Meetings	Virtual
2021.11.25	IBAS Regional Advisory Committee	Virtual
2022.01.18	SADCAS Assessor Workshop	Virtual

SADCAS STAFF ATTEND VIRTUAL ILAC-IAF JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (JDSC) WORKSHOP ON REMOTE ASSESMENTS

The ILAC-IAF Joint Development Committee (JDSC) meeting was held virtually on 13 October 2021 and attended by 156 delegates including SADCAS staff. The JDSC actively supports members from developing economies through assistance from ILAC and IAF and mobilizes assistance from other world bodies where such assistance will benefit developing accreditation bodies in low- and middle-income economies. The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences on remote assessments.

Experience Sharing – Remote Assessments

NiNAS Experience (Celestine Okanya, CEO, NINAS)

- Remote assessments were done on a need basis.
- Policies and procedures developed.
- Policies on information security is key. The principles must be respected and maintained.
- Risk Management -NiNAS management monitor and document the risks and opportunities from the use of ICT, its personnel and the associated assessment activities in an ongoing basis
- ICT infrastructure must be properly selected, secure, reliable and must not compromise the integrity of the assessment
- NINAS prequalifies CABS for remote assessments by reviewing their internet strength, suitable conferencing video options etc
- Resolve all confidentiality and access before the assessment date
- Technical witnessing using best video option available, pre-tested a day before assessment.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM IN INDIA (Rajesh Maheshweni, CEO, NABCB)

- Policy and Procedure for Conducting Remote assessment established
- Eligibility criteria for Remote assessment established
- Qualification criteria for remote assessments determined
- Managed Accreditation assessment during COVID-19 Pandemic in 2 phases

Phase 1(March 2020 to June 2020)

- Developed policy for Management of Extraordinary events
- Extended existing accreditation validity by 3 months for accreditation and postponed due Surveillance assessments by 3 months
- Devised a pre-requisite checklist for remote assessments
- Initially conducted remote assessments for re-accreditation, surveillance & Scope Extension of sub-scheme successfully
- Deployed ICT tools e.g Microsoft Office teams, Skype, Business Zoom, Webex

Phase II (June 2020 onwards)

- Revised Remote assessment policy
- Allowed Remote assessment for initial assessments based on analyzing risk category
- Permitted conduct of remote witness assessment by making provisions of livestreaming of the process which is subject to audit/inspection by CB
- Allowed CBs to conduct initial Stage -1 & Stage 2 certification audits in part/full through remote assessment

Assessor Feedback

- Required more time than onsite assessments
- Trial runs as an effective tool before the assessment
- Most common challenge- CAB personnel not aquatinted with online assessment/deliberate attempts delay
- As rigor is concerned, Remote assessments is less effective than onsite assessment

A2LA (Trace McInturff, Vice President, Accreditation Services-A2LA)

- Conducted remote assessments from March 2020
- Created a remote assessment guidance document
- Established dedicated COVID -19 page on A2LA website in April 2020 (communication)
- Created Remote assessment brochure for CABs
- Created a remote assessment video for CABs
- Provided memos to all CAB

System and Technical assessments can be done remotely for

- Surveillance assessment
- Renewal in some cases
- Scope extensions
- Challenges encountered included camera control, connectivity, paper vs electronic

SADCAS STAFF ATTEND AFRAC WORKSHOP ON SHARING OF EXPERINCES - REMOTE TECHNIQUES IN ASSESSMENTS

The AFRAC workshop was held virtually on 27 September 2021 and attended by AFRAC members, SADCAS staff and stakeholders. Engineer Mahmoud Eltayeb facilitated the workshop.

The workshop started with opening and welcome remarks by the SADCAS CEO and AFRAC MRA Chair Mrs Maureen Mutasa who outlined the objective of the workshop which was to:

- Introduce the recently published AFRAC GD 003: AFRAC Remote Assessment Guide; and
- Share experiences in the use of remote techniques in accreditation assessments.

AFRAC Remote Assessment Guide

Mr Neville Taylor form SANAS explained that the document was intended to provide guidance for the harmonization of how Accreditation Bodies may conduct remote assessments without compromising their integrity and in ensuring compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017.
The document covers the following areas

- Eligibility Criteria for remote assessments;
- Identifying risks and opportunities of carrying out an off-site remote assessment;
- Prerequisite requirements for remote assessments; and
- Conduct of the remote assessment.

Remote Assessments Experiences

The COVID-19 pandemic with the resulting lock-downs and travel restrictions affected the way accreditation bodies carry out its day-to-day business, where most activities (e.g., meetings, training, audits, decision-making, etc.) including assessments had to be done remotely. Challenges faced during remote assessments included the following:

- Internet connectivity challenges especially at live-streamed witnessing due to limited technology;
- Power failures;
- Time zone differences;
- Limited CAB scanning equipment/technological platforms hindering efficient sharing of bulk documents during remote assessments;
- Time constraints leading to delays in closing remote assessments; and
- ICT challenges;

SADCAS STAFF ATTEND NLA-SA ANNUAL TEST AND MEASUREMENT CONFERENCE

The 2021 National Laboratory Association of South Africa(NLA-SA) Annual Test and Measurement Conference and Workshop was held remotely for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference was held on 25 and 26 October 2021 and was themed "Building Bridges…Connecting your world through measurement science". The four (4) SADCAS staff members namely Mrs Pinkie Malebe (Technical Manager), Mr Victor Mundembe (Scheme Coordinator – CLAS/IBAS/CBAS/LMAS), Ms Varsah Gungoa (Scheme Coordinator– TLAS/VLAS/PT) and Mr Otlaadisa Lechina (Intern-Accreditation Administrator) attended the conference. SADCAS staff attended the conference as part of implementation of training and professional development plan; to help them keep abreast with current and ever-changing developments within their technical areas of responsibilities; capacity building; marketing of SADCAS schemes to conformity assessment bodies in attendance and through the conference proceedings; and networking and sharing ideas with peers as well as sharing information about SADCAS, its mandate and services.

The objectives of the conference and workshop were among others:

- Presentation of papers on recent researches in line with the theme of the workshop that address aspects related to Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation, Testing and Calibration.
- To highlight how the measurements, one performs build bridges in industry and communities.
- To highlight value of Artificial Intelligence in Laboratories.
- To network and learn on ways of improving quality of testing and calibration services offered to clients.

The conference and workshop comprised of:
- Proceedings: These included the abstracts, manuscripts and PowerPoint presentations as provided by the speakers respectively.
- Technical Sessions: Each day's session had a theme and also suitable time was provided for discussion. Plenary sessions that were held in the morning of the first day and the afternoon of the second day and featured the keynote speakers.
- Exhibitions: Attendees were encouraged to visit the virtual booths where video conferencing allowed exhibitors to showcase company details and where online meetings could be held virtually between exhibitors and delegates.

All sessions were available for the all attendees, however, since some technical sessions were simultaneously held, each attendees had the option to choose either stream A or B for calibration and testing sessions.

The full set of presentations are available for download from the NLA website www.nla.or.za

Mr Mundembe presented a paper on the **"SADCAS Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme"** following which a representative from NMISA / AFRIMETS Dr Wynand Low requested that the presentation be made at the next AFRIMETS General Assembly.

The 2021 NLA conference was a success and it enabled the SADCAS staff to attend and fulfil the requirements of one of their performance outputs for the year. The continuous professional development plan for 2021/22 has been implemented with respect to the item on NLA Annual Conference. The attendees also interacted with a large number of experts and colleagues in the test and measurement community including existing and potential SADCAS stakeholders. The Conference and Workshops therefore served as an insight and a basis for learning and networking. Attendance certificates have been received by the participants

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 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.

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 ACCREDITATION SERVICE

WE WISH YOU

Merry Christmas

&

HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE SADCAS OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON

FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 2021

AND RE-OPEN ON

MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022.

SADCAS MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS 2022