

THE PIONEER

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STAFF NEWS

Boikhutso Kgafela join SADCAS as Administrative Assistant Intern
Otlaadisa Lechina joins SADCAS as Accreditation Administrator Intern (Medical)



Mr Xavier Mugari



Mr Boniface Badubi

We are pleased to present Issue 50 of the SADCAS Newsletter (March 2025 Edition) to keep our readers updated on accreditation activities in the region and beyond. This issue unpacks news on accreditation activities undertaken by SADCAS and developments in the field of accreditation.

As we kickstart the year, there has already been a lot of activities that have taken place, including the publishing of the 16th SADCAS Annual Report for the period 2023/24. SADCAS Management and Staff attended the 40th SADC TBT Meetings hosted in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe alongside the 20th SADCAS Annual General Meeting.

It was a memorable day for the NAFP Seychelles who were recognized as the 2025 Most Effective NAFP while NAFP Namibia was awarded the 2025 Most Improved Award. The role of the NAFPs is critical to the work of SADCAS as they contribute to the overall success of the organisation in terms of promoting the benefits of accreditation in their respective Member States.

Thank you so much for your support and growing the accreditation landscape in the region and beyond!

Happy reading!

SADCAS hosts 20th Annual General Meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



SADCAS Board & Management during the 20th SADCAS Annual General Meeting

SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) hosted its 20th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 26th March 2025 at the Peniel Retreat Centre, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The meeting was attended by the General Assembly members comprising the SADCAS Board and Management, National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) and other stakeholders.

Highlights from the AGM included celebrating 16 years of SADCAS operation and milestones for the 2023/24 period;

- As of 31 March 2024, the cumulative number of accredited facilities and certificates grew by 19% and 13% respectively over 2022/23.
- 304 training courses have been held as at 26 February 2025
- PTB Germany continued to support SADCAS, as they recently funded the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) were acknowledged for their Workshop held on 21 November 2024, whose aim was to improve overall effectiveness of NAFPs.

By 31st March 2024, SADCAS had registered:

- 5 Team leaders
- 156 technical assessors
- 25 technical experts



The AGM considered and ratified the 2023/24 Annual Report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.



The AGM mapped the following key strategies as SADCAS looks into the future:

- Continue to build awareness on the benefits of accreditation & the MRAs & market SADCAS service offerings so as to enhance the impact of our services on the economies.
- Ensure continued credibility of SADCAS services.
- Fully implement digital transformation and streamline core business processes to improve efficiency of services.
- Develop new accreditation schemes in the SADC, Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and AfCFTA priority sectors.

Signatory Status in ILAC MRA and IAF MLA:

- Maintain international recognition for the for TLAS, CLAS including Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS), MLAS, IBAS, VLAS, CBAS – MS Sub-scopes EMS, OHSMS and FSMS and CBAS –Prod)
- Extend international recognition for PTAS (Proficiency Testing)
- Develop, attract and retain the intellectual capital, skills, knowledge and expertise of staff, assessors and trainers so as to deliver credible accreditation services.
- Continue to strengthen the effectiveness of NAFFPs.
- Ensure financial sustainability of SADCAS beyond 2027.
- Develop and advocate for a consequence management system for the non-payment of Government contributions towards SADCAS sustainability.

SADCAS accredits Inspection Bodies in the Food, Agriculture and Petroleum



SADCAS is proud to announce that over the past year, there has been an increase in the number of accreditations granted in the Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS). New areas that have been accredited are in the food, agricultural and petroleum sectors. These sectors have been identified in the SADC Industrial Policy as some of the priority sectors for development in selected value chains. Within these sectors accreditation plays a key role from research to production, marketing, trading, quantity & quality verification, border controls and in strengthening the regulatory capacity. *Refer to Table 1 for a list of SADCAS accredited facilities, in the past year, under the Food, Agriculture and Petroleum of the Value Chains Sectors.*

Accreditation which is an independent evaluation an inspection body by an authoritative body, in this case SADCAS, confirms the competence, consistency and impartiality of the inspection body. Throughout the world many countries now rely on accreditation as a means of independently evaluating competence of inspection bodies

Through this accreditation, each accredited scope has been assigned a unique accreditation number, with accreditation certificates issued for each scope. The information summarised in Table 1 is publicly available on the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org on the database of accredited organisations.



Table 1: SADCAS – IBAS accreditations in Food, Agri & Petro Sectors in 2024–25

S/No	Facility Number & Name	Country	Facility & Accreditation Number	Scope (TG03)	New Accreditation, Scope, or Site	Date accreditation granted
1	Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency	Zambia	IB0244 INSP-1 003	Food	New Products	2024/07/27
2	Botswana Bureau of Standards - Compulsory Standards Unit - Department of Regulatory Compliance	Botswana	IB0270 INSP-15 001	Agriculture	New Branch: Francistown	2025/01/23
3	Botswana Bureau of Standards - Compulsory Standards Unit - Department of Regulatory Compliance	Botswana	IB0270 INSP-1 002	Food	New Branch: Francistown	2025/01/23
4	Bureau Burundais de Normalisation et Contrôle de la Qualité (BBN)	Burundi	IB0418 INSP-1 004	Food	New accreditation	2024/01/24
5	Direction De La Protection Des Vegetaux (DPV)	Burundi	IB0419 INSP-15 002	Plants and Plant Products	New accreditation	2024/01/24
6	Namibia Agronomic Board	Namibia	IB0422 INSP-15 002	Agronomic Products	New accreditation	2024/04/15
7	Core Laboratorios Angola	Angola	IB0432 INSP-16 002	Petroleum, Petroleum Products, Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas	New accreditation	2025/01/29
8	Core Laboratorios Angola	Angola	IB0432 INSP-15 003	Agri Products	New accreditation	2025/01/29
9	QIMA QUANTILAB LTD	Mauritius	IB0356 INSP-16 002	Refined Petroleum & Marine Products	New accreditation	2024/12/10
10	QIMA QUANTILAB LTD	Mauritius	IB0356 INSP-15 002	Food & AgriFood	New accreditation	2024/12/10
11	SGS Mauritius Ltd	Mauritius	IB0439 INSP-16 001	Petroleum Products & Liquid Petroleum Gas	New accreditation	2024/11/24

The SADCAS Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS) was established in June 2010 and is operated in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 the standard that specifies requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies. Accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS for inspection bodies are internationally recognised following the achievement of signatory status in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) for inspection in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020 in October 2017. ISO/IEC 17020 specifies criteria for the operation of various types of inspection bodies irrespective of the sector involved. It is the international standard against which inspection bodies are accredited.

SADCAS congratulates the inspection bodies for these noble achievements and welcomes them to the club of internationally recognized inspection bodies. SADCAS will undertake periodic assessments to ensure continued compliance with the requirements during the validity of the accreditation certificates.

For information on how to apply for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020, please contact the Scheme Coordinator Mr Victor Mundembe: vmundembe@sadcas.org

SADCAS grants Accreditation to the first Two Portuguese speaking facilities in Angola

SADCAS recently awarded accreditation to two Angolan facilities: the Central Laboratory of Sonangol-Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola, E.P., under the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. This accreditation covers chemical tests and provides technical competence for conducting aviation fuel tests and analyzing ambient air in activated carbon.



SONANGOL, E.P. is a state-owned oil company in Angola focused on exploring liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons found beneath the surface and on the continental shelf. The company is responsible for the exploration, production, manufacture, transport, and marketing of hydrocarbons in Angola



Core Laboratories Angola Ltda – Saybolt Division has been accredited under the ISO/IEC 17020:2012 standard for the inspection of agricultural products (Accreditation Certificate No. INSP-15 003) and for the inspection of petroleum, petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gas, and liquefied natural gas (Accreditation Certificate No. INSP-16 002) . Core Laboratories performs inspections and sampling in the oil and gas sector, as well as inspecting agricultural products.

The simultaneous accreditation of these companies took place in February 2025, marking the culmination of a process that began in 2024. *Notably, the accreditation process for these Angolan institutions was conducted entirely in Portuguese, making them the first Angolan institutions accredited by SADCAS in this language.*

The ISO/IEC 17025 standard enables laboratories to demonstrate their operational competence and produce valid results, thereby promoting confidence in their work both nationally and globally.

The ISO/IEC 17020 standard outlines requirements for various types of bodies that conduct inspections, surveys, and risk assessments. It specifies the competence required for bodies performing inspections, as well as the impartiality and consistency of their inspection activities.

The accreditation of SONANGOL's Central Laboratory under the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard, along with Core Laboratories' accreditation under the ISO/IEC 17020:2015 standard, signifies a significant milestone for these companies in Angola's oil and agricultural sectors. Furthermore, it contributes to the growing number of Angolan entities recognized by SADCAS, enhancing Angola's quality infrastructure through continuous pursuit of excellence, precision, accuracy, and quality in the services provided by conformity assessment bodies.

SADCAS congratulates these two Angolan institutions on their achievement in becoming accredited entities!!!

SADCAS ATRIBUI ACREDITAÇÃO ÀS DUAS PRIMEIRAS INSTALAÇÕES EM PORTUGUÊS

A SADCAS atribuiu recentemente a acreditação a duas instalações angolanas: o Laboratório Central da Sonangol-Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola, E.P., segundo a norma ISO/IEC 17025:2017. Esta acreditação abrange testes químicos e fornece competência técnica para a realização de testes de combustível de aviação e análise do ar ambiente em carvão ativado



A SONANGOL, E.P. é uma empresa petrolífera estatal em Angola focada na exploração de hidrocarbonetos líquidos e gasosos encontrados sob a superfície e na plataforma continental. A empresa é responsável pela exploração, produção, fabrico, transporte e comercialização de hidrocarbonetos em Angola.



A Core Laboratories Angola Ltda – Saybolt Division foi acreditada ao abrigo da norma ISO/IEC 17020:2012 para a inspeção de produtos agrícolas (Certificado de Acreditação nº. INSP-15 003) e para a inspeção de petróleo, produtos petrolíferos, gás liquefeito de petróleo e gás natural liquefeito (Certificado de Acreditação nº. INSP-16 002). A Core Laboratories realiza inspeções e amostragem no setor de petróleo e gás, bem como inspeciona produtos agrícolas.

A acreditação simultânea destas empresas decorreu em fevereiro de 2025, marcando o culminar de um processo iniciado em 2024. *Notavelmente, o processo de acreditação destas instituições angolanas foi conduzido inteiramente em português, tornando-as as primeiras instituições angolanas acreditadas pela SADCAS nesta língua.*

A norma ISO/IEC 17025 permite que os laboratórios demonstrem a sua competência operacional e produzam resultados válidos, promovendo assim a confiança no seu trabalho, tanto a nível nacional como global.

A norma ISO/IEC 17020 descreve os requisitos para vários tipos de organismos que realizam inspeções, vistorias e avaliações de risco. Especifica a competência exigida aos organismos que realizam inspeções, bem como a imparcialidade e coerência das suas atividades de inspeção.

A acreditação do Laboratório Central da SONANGOL sob a norma ISO/IEC 17025:2017, juntamente com a acreditação dos Laboratórios Core sob a norma ISO/IEC 17020:2015, significa uma conquista significativa para estas empresas nos setores petrolífero e agrícola de Angola. Além disso, contribui para o crescente número de entidades angolanas reconhecidas pela SADCAS, potenciando a qualidade das infraestruturas angolanas através de uma busca contínua da excelência, precisão, rigor e qualidade nos serviços prestados pelas entidades de avaliação da conformidade.

A SADCAS felicita estas duas instituições angolanas pelo facto de se terem tornado entidades acreditadas a nível da região da SADC!!

Highlights of the 40th SADC TBT Cooperation Structure Meetings



SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa represented SADCAS at the SADC TBT Meetings.

The 40th SADC Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Cooperating Structures Meetings were hosted in the majestic city of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe from 24th–28th March 2025 at the Peniel Retreat Centre under the theme: **Promoting Regional Harmonisation of Standards for Industrialisation and Economic Growth.**

The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in collaboration with SADC Secretariat hosted Cooperating structures each with a unique mandate to support the region's quality infrastructure.

The SADC TBT Cooperation Structures mandate is to support industrialization through the development of Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Metrology (SQUAM). It encompasses several specialised bodies with a mandate to support the region's quality infrastructure.

SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) a subsidiary multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15b of the SADC TBT Annex to the protocol on trade participated and shared critical insights on the role Accreditation plays in unlocking trade and fostering trust under the MRA arrangement.

Eleven SADC member states and foreign delegates attended the meetings. Ten (10) different companies also exhibited at the venue.






SADCAS publishes 16th Annual Report



The SADCAS Board of Directors approved the 2023/24 16th Annual Report for publication at the November 2024 meetings. The Report contains detailed information on SADCAS's financial and non-financial performance, progress, and activities for the year ended 31 March 2024. The 16th Annual report was ratified by the SADCAS AGM on the 26th March 2025.

Performance at a Glance

Financial Highlights

 Total Income 35.5 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 29.9 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 20.7 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	 Operating Income 31.3 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 25.2 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 17.9 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	Accreditation 28.0 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 23.2 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 14.8 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> Training 3.3 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 2.0 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 3.1 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>
 Government & Other Grant funding 4.2 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 4.7 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 2.8 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	 Cost of Sales (14.2) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (11.3) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (4.9) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	Accreditation (12.8) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (10.6) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (3.5) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> Training (1.4) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (0.7) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (1.4) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>
 Other Income 1.7 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 3.3 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 0.03 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	 Operating expenses (22.9) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (18.9) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (16.0) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	
 Profit /(loss) before tax 0.1 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 3.0 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (0.2) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	 Tax (0.4) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 1.1 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (0.8) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	Normal (0.1) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (0.9) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (0.8) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> Deferred (0.2) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 2.0 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (0.01) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>
 Profit /(loss) for the year (0.2) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 4.1 <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> (-1) <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	 Government Dependency 12% <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 14% <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small> 13% <small>2023/24 (BWP Million)</small>	

Performance at a Glance **Continue..**

Business Highlights

Accreditation have increased by
83 (62%)
over the past three years, an average of 20 % per annum.



The Website Upgrade project was successfully completed on 30 April 2024, the new website is modern, interactive and user friendly.



Social Media platforms were launched on 26th February 2024 (Facebook and LinkedIn) to enhance user experience and information dissemination.

SADCAS can now process applications in 3 SADC Official languages: English, French and Portuguese, and internal human resource (Assessor French and Portuguese) to deal with the language barrier. A major milestone was reached when 5 Medical facilities applications were processed in Portuguese.

Product Certification
ISO/IEC 17065 achieved
on 06 December 2023

Strategic Premium Highlights



Accreditation Applications

- ✓ 64 new accreditation applications invoiced
- ✓ 14 re-assessment applications received and handled



Assessments Undertaken

- ✓ A total of 324 assessments undertaken as follows:
 - 61 Initial assessments
 - 25 Re-assessment
 - 219 Periodic assessments
 - 19 other assessments



Accreditations

- ✓ 57 new facilities accredited
- ✓ 21 renewals of accreditation.
- ✓ 10 scope extension within same scope
- ✓ 12 new scope extensions
- ✓ 3 accreditations withdrawn
- ✓ By 31 March 2024 SADCAS had issued 349 accreditation certificates to 300 accredited facilities in 13 SADC Member States and 3 non-SADC countries Burundi, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire



Training

- ✓ 274 training courses held
- ✓ Over 4928 delegates trained
- ✓ SADCAS training courses registered with Botswana Qualification Authority



Assessors/Technical Experts

- ✓ 35 assessors mentored
- ✓ 30 assessors monitored
- ✓ 31 Assessors registered
- ✓ 7 Technical Experts registered



Accreditation Approvals Committee (AAC) members

- ✓ 2 AAC members mentored
- ✓ 4 AAC members monitored



Staff Recruited

- ✓ 4 positions
- ✓ Communications & Public Relations Officer
- ✓ Accreditation Administrators (2)

Website

- ✓ 27,000 users/visitors
- ✓ 46,342 sessions/visits
- ✓ 173,440 pages browsed



Customer Satisfaction

- ✓ 100% rated SADCAS overall accreditation services from good to excellent with 87% rating from very good to excellent

Training Calendar for the period –01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026



No.	Course	Date(s)	Venue (Country / City)	Fees Per Person (BWP)	Fees Per Person (USD)
1.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing	07-11 April 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
2.	Root Cause Analysis	28-30 April 2025	Virtual	4,700.00	350.00
3.	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing	05-09 May 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
4.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness	22 May 2025	Virtual	2,000.00	150.00
5.	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing	09-13 June 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
6.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing	23-27 June 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
7.	ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing	07-11 July 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
8.	Root Cause Analysis	16-18 July 2025	Virtual	4,750.00	350.00
9.	Method Validation, Verification & Measurement Uncertainty	11-15 August 2025	Virtual	8,000.00	600.00
10.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Auditing	25-27 August 2025	Virtual	4,700.00	350.00
11.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing (French)	8-12 September 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
12.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing (Portuguese)	22-26 September 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00

13.	ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Requirements & Internal Auditing	06-10 October 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
14.	Root Cause Analysis	29-31 October 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
15.	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing	10-14 November 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
16.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing	17-21 November 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
17.	ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Requirements and Internal Auditing	01-05 December 2025	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
18.	ISO 15189:2022 Awareness	08 December 2025	Virtual	2,000.00	150.00
19.	ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing	19-23 January 2026	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
20.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing	09-13 February 2026	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
21.	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing	16-20 February 2026	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
22.	Root Cause Analysis	25-27 February 2026	Virtual	4,700.00	350.00
23.	ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing	09-13 March 2026	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
24.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing	16-20 March 2026	Virtual	7,800.00	585.00
25.	Method Validation, Verification & Measurement Uncertainty	23-27 March 2026	Virtual	8,000.00	600.00

- Discounts available for group bookings
- Face-to-face training available on request (minimum of 10 participants)

**For more information, please contact SADCAS Training Administrator:
mmolaoa@sadacas.org**

NAFPs Seychelles and Namibia Scoop the 2025 NAFP Recognition Awards

The National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) for Seychelles and Namibia scooped the 2025 NAFP Recognition Awards. The Award Ceremony was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe during the 20th SADCAS Annual General Meeting on 26 March 2025. The meeting was attended by the General Assembly members comprising of SADCAS Board and Management, National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) and other stakeholders.



Most Effective NAFP - SEYCHELLES

NAFPs -



Ms. Corina Chang Ty-Sing
and
Mr. Guillame G. Woodcock

2025 Most Effective Award: NAFP Seychelles

- Ms. Corina Chang-Ty-Sing
- Mr. Guillaume G. Woodcock



Pictured NAFP Seychelles, Ms. Corina Chang Ty-Sing receiving a gift and certificate of recognition from the SADCAS CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa. Corina highlighted in her speech that Seychelles was committed in building the quality infrastructure in the country hence their commitment to their relationship with SADCAS and excellence.



Most Improved NAFP - NAMIBIA

NAFPs -



Mr. Joseph M. Shikongo
and
Ms. Maama Uahupirapi

2025 Most Improved Award: NAFP Namibia

- Mr. Josef M. Shikongo
- Ms. Maama Uahupirapi



Pictured Mr. Josef M. Shikongo (far left) receiving the gifts and certificates of recognition on behalf of Namibia for their Most Improved Award from the SADCAS CEO, Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa (middle) and the SADCAS Board Chairman, Mr. Steve Bruce Sidney. He expressed appreciation for the support and encouragement from SADCAS which contributed to attainment of this award.

Under the Eye of an Assessor – Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme (MLAS)



Mirriam Teffo is a dedicated and highly skilled medical technologist who is recognized by HPSCA as a private practitioner. Mirriam has also been registered with SADCAS as an assessor since 2022, specializing in immunology. Her educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Biomedical Technology from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

With a track record spanning over 25 years in the Laboratory space, Mirriam has acquired a wealth of knowledge and practical experience that uniquely qualifies her to conduct assessments in the specialized fields of Immunology and Molecular Biology.

"Conducting assessments within the medical laboratory setting is truly fulfilling because we are dedicating our efforts to aiding in the maintenance of the required ISO 15189 standards and actively contributing to safeguarding patient safety. The thorough assessment processes we engage in play a key role in ensuring CABs release quality and accurate patient results. SADCAS is committed to excellence in assessment processes for its member states."



From left to right: Mr Wonder Makhuzza (Zimbabwe), Dr Senate Sunday (Lesotho) Mirriam Teffo (South Africa and the team lead Dr Wilson Mtotela (Zimbabwe).

In 2024 a lot of CABs under SADCAS underwent a transition from ISO 15189 2012 to the new 2022 version. One of the members states that the assessment team visited was Eswatini. It was encouraging to see Eswatini CABs successfully adapting to ISO 15189:2022. The smooth transitions heighten the commitment and the readiness of the CABs, along with SADCAS efficiency in overseeing the process.

The involvement of assessors from various SADC Countries enhances the assessment by incorporating diverse expertise and perspectives. Additionally, this approach promotes regional cooperation and reinforces the quality assurance framework across the SADC region.

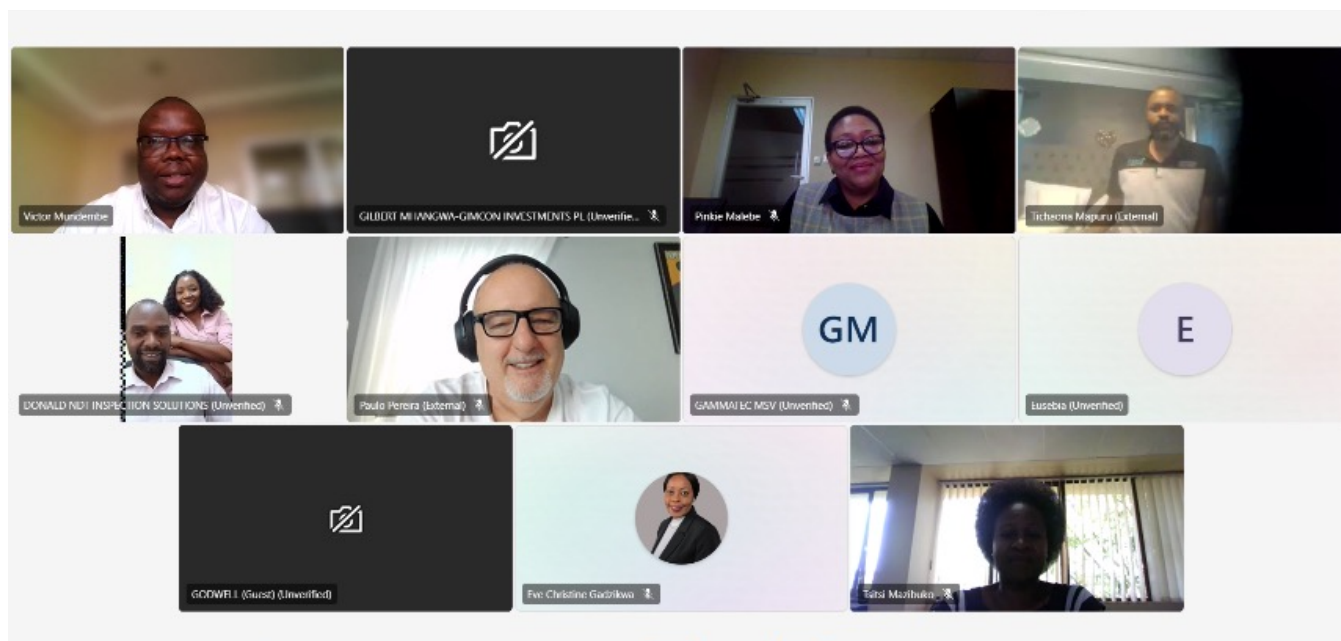
SADCAS holds Advisory Committee Meetings

The Advisory Committee is a fundamental and vital component of operating a technically relevant accreditation system. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide technical guidance on all matters relating to accreditation within a specific field of expertise, to ensure technical integrity of the accreditation processes as well as to guide technical policy and provide important support in technical matters to the assessment process. SADCAS has clearly defined terms of reference, registration and responsibilities of Advisory Committees in procedure SADCAS AP 11.

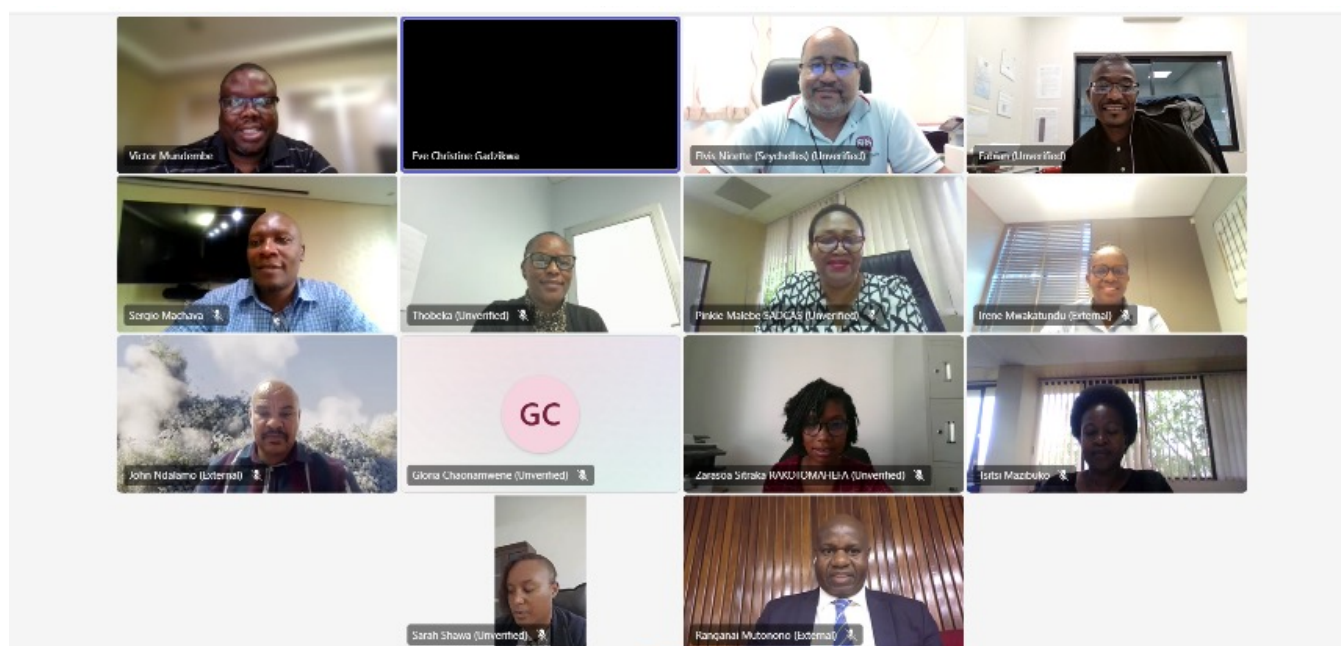
The main purpose of the Advisory Committee Meetings, as applicable, is to receive updates on:

- Developments at SADCAS
- Terms of Reference Registration and Responsibilities of Advisory Committees;
- Renewal of membership to the Advisory Committees
- Internal Audit (IA10 findings) relating to Advisory Committee;
- Identifying, analysing, evaluating and monitoring risk (SADCAS B06 2025-26 Risk Profile);
- Revised SADCAS documents;
- Developments at International Level;
- Technical documents under development or under revision;
- Identification of areas requiring technical supporting documents.

SADCAS held the full set of Advisory committee meetings as listed on **Table 1**.



Pictured: Advisory Committee.01 IBAS Zimbabwe, M.14, 2024-10-24

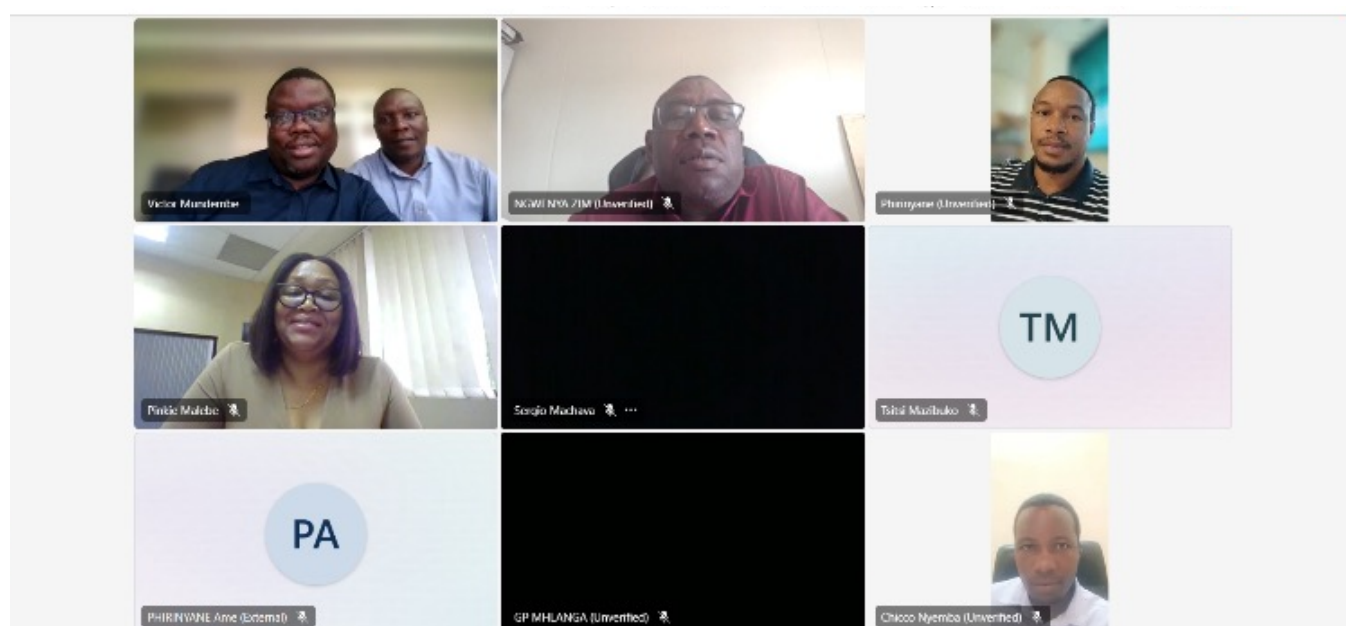


Pictured: Advisory Committee.05 CBAS, M.06, 2024-11-11 during the session

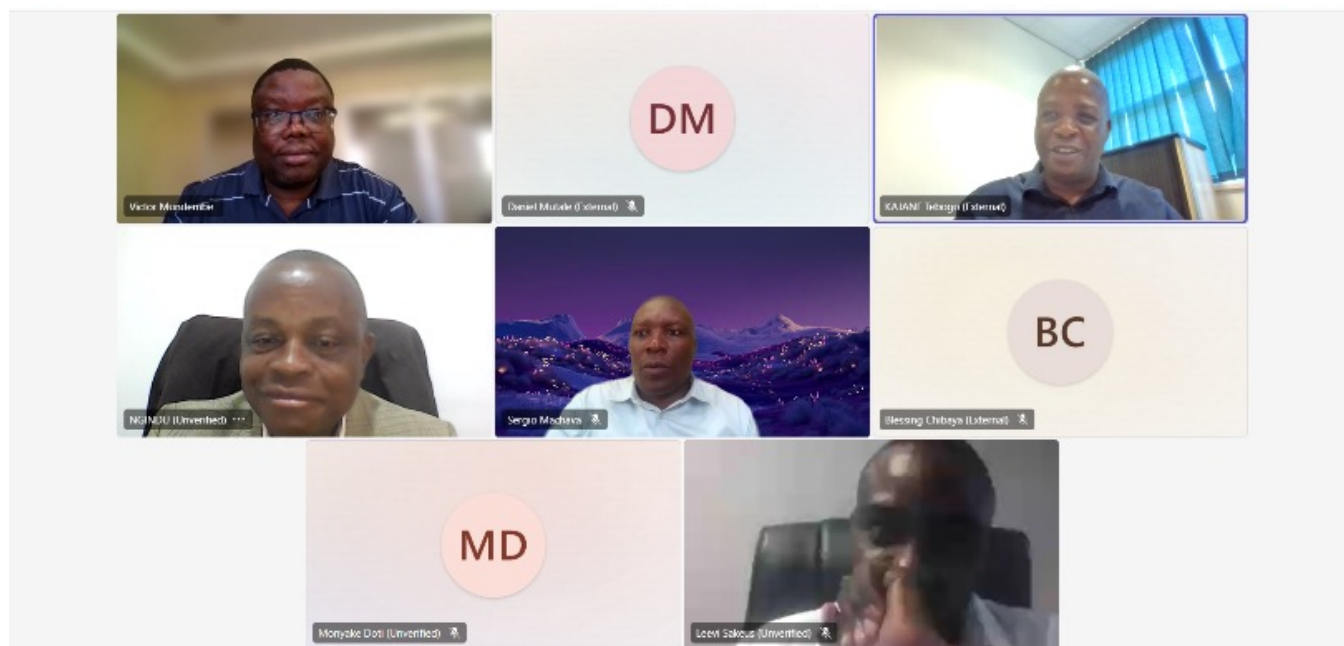
List of SADCAS Advisory Committees Meetings held 2024-25 and Key Resolutions / Actions

S/No	AC No	Meeting Number	Meeting date	Venue	Key Resolutions / Actions
1	PTAS	M.01	2024-10-14	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTAS Advisory Committee constituted; 15 experts from 10 Member states Procedures and Assessment checklists
2	AC.01 IBAS Zimbabwe	M.14	2024-10-24	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review 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 Revision of SADCAS AP 12-2- Draft 1 Issue 12 - Revision requested by the Advisory Committee to generalize requirements to apply to all Inspection Bodies in the SADC region. Participation in ongoing the revision of ISO/IEC 17020
3	AC.05 CBAS	M.06	2024-11-11	Virtual	Participation in ongoing the revision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISO/IEC 17024; ISO/IEC 17067 and; extraordinary revision to ISO/IEC 17065:2012
4	AC.04 TLAS/ VLAS	M.X	2024-11-21	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision and publication of SADCAS TR 18 - Criteria for Validation , Verification, Uncertainty of Measurement and Quality Assurance in Microbiological and Molecular Testing
5	AC.03 MLAS	M.08	2024-11-21	Virtual	Documents under development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADCAS TR X - draft guidelines on the validation and verification of quantitative and qualitative tests; SADCAS TR XX - draft document on Expression of uncertainty in clinical testing; SADCAS TR08 - Proficiency Testing and other Comparison Requirements for Testing and Medical Laboratories. SADCAS TR09 - Policy on Metrological Traceability
6	AC.07 MIAS	M.06	2024-11-22	Virtual	Documents under development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SADCAS TR XXX- Fluoroscopy and SADCAS TR XXXX - Mammography.

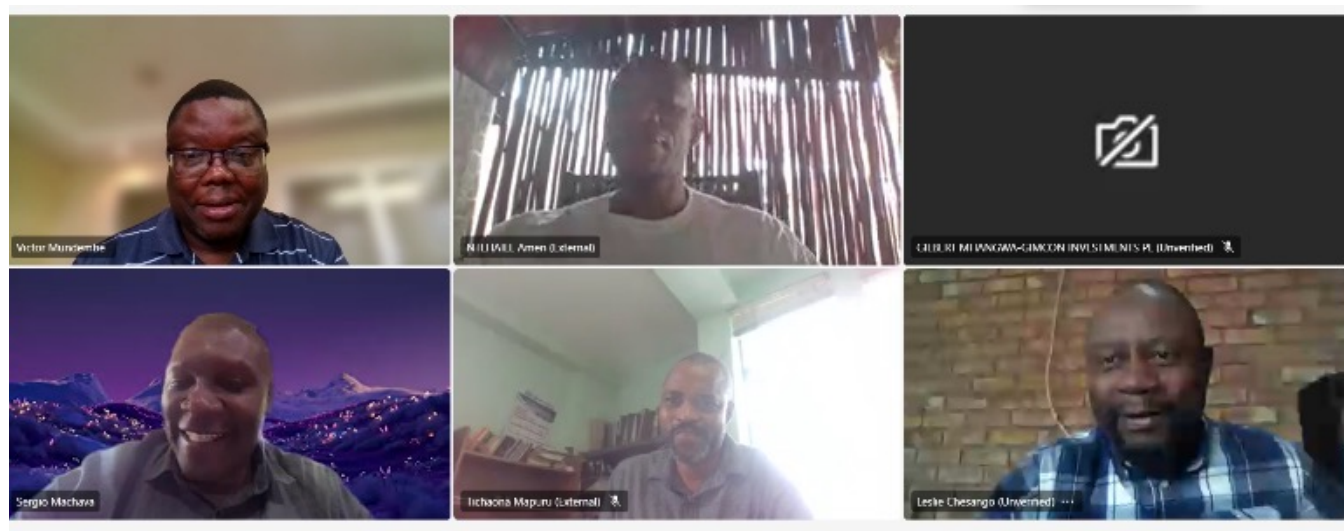
7	AC.08 LMAS	M.05	2025-02-11	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide input to SADCAS AP-12-2 draft to ensure suitability for Legal Metrology Bodies to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17020. • Participation in ongoing the revision of ISO/IEC 17020
8	AC.02 CLAS	M.09	2025-02-25	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final comments of document: SADCAS TR Y – Criteria for Laboratory Accreditation in Time and Frequency Metrology. • Final comments on document: SADCAS TR Z – Criteria for accreditation in the calibration of tachometers, Centrifuges and other Rotational speed equipment • New DWG on Force/Torque • Collaboration with SADC MET & AFRIMETS on assessments of NMs that submit CMCs for publication at BIPM KCDB
9	AC.06 IBAS Regional	M.06	2025-02-27	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of SADCAS AP 12-2- Draft 1 Issue 12 – Revision requested by the Advisory Committee to generalize requirements to apply to all Inspection Bodies in the SADC region. • Members to participate in their respective National Mirror Committees for the revision of ISO/IEC 17020



Pictured: Advisory Committee.08 LMAS, M.05, 2025-02-11



Pictured: Advisory Committee.02 CLAS, M.09, 2025-02-25



Pictured: Advisory Committee.02 CLAS, M.09, 2025-02-25

SADCAS congratulates the Advisory Committee during the session for successful meetings and requests that the document working groups (DWGs) and members undertake the outstanding actions within the agreed timelines to progress the objectives of each of their Advisory Committees

Foods Botswana trained on ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing



Staff after Foods Botswana training on ISO/IEC 17025: 2017

ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing training covers the standard requirements for bodies certifying products, processes, and services, ensuring they operate competently, consistently, and impartially, facilitating recognition of certification bodies and acceptance of certified products internationally.

The participants included the Quality Officer, Laboratory Technicians, Quality Control Inspector, Equipment Maintenance Officer, Production Manager, Accounts Supervisor, SHE Officer, Laboratory Assistant and Supplies Officer. Expectations from the participants included, understanding ISO 17025 standard requirements, how to develop and implement a Quality Management System, how to conduct audits, how to write quality manuals, how to fully address non-conformities to help the organisation to attain accreditation.

The course concluded with a practical audit session which covered the identification and classification of non-conformities, audit checklist, and reporting of audit findings, and this was followed by an exam.

The participants thanked SADCAS for delivery of the training course as they embark on their journey to accreditation.



SADCAS conducts ISO/IEC 17065:2012 for Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) & Department of Agriculture Research Services

ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Requirements & Internal Auditing training covers the standard requirements for bodies certifying products, processes, and services, ensuring they operate competently, consistently, and impartially, facilitating recognition of certification bodies and acceptance of certified products internationally.

Some funding was allocated under the auspices of the Trademark Africa to facilitate training and other supporting activities, and to help address the challenges in capacity that have been faced by conformity assessment bodies and certification service providers in Malawi.

The training course was conducted by SADCAS from 02-06 December 2024 at the Mount Soche Hotel, Blantyre – Malawi. The objective of the training was to capacitate staff of Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) and the Department of Agriculture Research Services (DARS) with knowledge and skills to understand, implement the standard and how to conduct internal audits.

A total of twenty (20) participants attended the training, with all of them being from the Product Certification Division of Malawi Bureau of Standards, carrying out regulatory certification work. The participants comprised mainly of the operational staff.



Accreditations November 2024 to March 2025



Organizations	AAC Decision	ACCR No.	New Accreditations	New Scopes accredited
TESTING LABORATORIES				
Sonangol, Angola	06/02/2025	TEST-5 0096	Fuel Testing	
UMZAMO Analytical Services, Botswana	19/02/2025	TEST-5 0097	Coal Testing	
MEDICAL LABORATORIES				
Mafinga Town Council Hospital Laboratory, Tanzania	25/01/2025	MED 181	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Serology	
Ukonga Prisons General Hospital Lab, Tanzania	21/01/2025	MED 182	Blood Bank Mycobacteriology Parasitology Serology	
CALIBRATION LABORATORIES				
Namibian Standards Institution Metrology	08/01/2025	CAL-2 006		Dimensional Metrology
Botswana Police Forensic Lab	19/02/2025	CAL-20 002	Traffic Mangnt (EBAs)	
INSPECTION BOBIES				
	29/01/2025			
Core Labs Angola	29/01/2025	INSP-15 003	Agri Products	
		INSP-16 002	Petroleum products	

Boikhutso Kgafela joins SADCAS as Administrative Assistant Intern



Boikhutso Kgafela joined the SADCAS team in February 2025 as an Intern Administrative Assistant. He holds Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Level 2 and Level 3 and is currently completing Level 4. Prior to joining SADCAS, Boikhutso worked at ABM University College as an Accounts Assistant.

Boikhutso is excited to work as an Administrative Assistant at SADCAS, where he will gain the necessary experience in the Finance and Administration team.

Otlaadisa Lechina joins SADCAS as Accreditation Administrator Intern (Medical)



Otlaadisa Lechina recently completed a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Medical Physics at University of Ghana. This advanced degree program provided a comprehensive understanding of the principles and applications of physics in medicine, with a strong emphasis on research and practical skills. During the program, Otlaadisa was engaged in rigorous coursework covering topics such as radiation therapy, medical imaging, and nuclear medicine.

Prior to pursuing the MPhil in Medical Physics, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics (BSc) in Radiation and Health Physics from University of Botswana. While there, he developed a solid foundation in radiation energy physics and gained initial exposure to its medical applications.

Before joining the MLAS Scheme in February 2025, Otlaadisa began his career at SADCAS in January 2021 with the CBAS/CLAS scheme, where he also served as an Accreditation Administrator (AA) Intern. Otlaadisa's duties include assessment documentation preparation and distribution, preparation of accreditations' approvals' committee packs and undertaking and leading the corrective action process.

INVITATION TO REGISTER TECHNICAL EXPERTS – PRIORITIZED SCOPES



SADCAS invites experts with specific technical expertise in the newly introduced Medical Imaging Accreditation Scheme (MIAS) and 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;

Technical Experts and Registered Assessors in PROFICIENCY TESTING
Technical Experts and Registered Assessors in DIGITAL FORENSICS
Technical Experts and Registered Assessors in PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION

TECHNICAL EXPERTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE FOLLOWING;

- General Radiography
- Ultrasound (US)
- Mammography
- Computerised Tomography (CT)
- Interventional Radiography (IR)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (NM)

 <p>Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensic analysis • DNA Testing • Civil Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Electrical Engineering • Radiation Dosimetry • Non-destructive Testing • Textile Testing • Petroleum Products Testing 	 <p>Medical Laboratories accreditation Scheme (MLAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Histopathology • Cytology • Parasitology • Endocrinology • Immunophenotyping • Blood Banking 	 <p>Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (VLAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mycology • Parasitology • Helminthology • Protozoology • Histology • Cytology • Toxicology • Pathology 	 <p>Pharmaceutical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (Under TLAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbiology • Chemical • Toxicity • Medical Devices Testing
 <p>Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Certification • Personnel Certification • Food Safety Management Systems • HACCP • Environmental Management Systems • Quality Management Systems • PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION (ISO/IEC 17024) 	 <p>Legal Metrology Accreditation Scheme (LMAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification • Repair and Maintenance • Inspection of Products for Sale • Quantity Control • Type Testing • OIML Certification Scheme • Certification of Verifiers • Certification of Repairers 	 <p>Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

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 \[issue 5\]](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.

- Minimum Diploma qualification
- Experience as an Assessor from a recognized Accreditation Body
- Experience working in a Conformity Assessment Body
- Assessor training
- Training on applicable Accreditation Standards
- Experience in conducting internal audits

Applications shall be addressed to:

Mrs Pinkie Malebe SADCAS – Technical Manager
 Email: pmalebe@sadcas.org; info@sadcas.org

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.