

THE PIONEER



Inside The Edition

- ▶ **Honoring a Trailblazer : Ms Eve Christine Retires from SADCAS**
- ▶ **INS Mozambique Secures Landmark SADCAS Accreditation as First Accredited ISO/IEC 17043:2023 Proficiency Testing Provider in the SADC Region**
- ▶ **SADCAS Staff Graduate from the Stellenbosch Management Development Programme**
- ▶ **Highlights of the 8th Annual SADC Industrialisation Week 2026**
- ▶ **NAFPs Celebrates World Accreditation Day 2026**
- ▶ **SADCAS Continues to Build Competence Through Regional Training Initiatives**

What's inside?



05

General and Leading Stories

Honoring a Trailblazer : Ms Eve Christine Retires from SADCAS

SADCAS Grants Accreditation to Municipal Council of Manzini
 Strengthening Confidence Through Accreditation in Emerging Conformity Assessment Scopes
 SADCAS Strengthens Accreditation Awareness in the Democratic Republic of Congo
 INS Mozambique Secures Landmark SADCAS Accreditation as First Accredited ISO/IEC 17043:2023 Proficiency Testing Provider in the SADC Region
 Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Accreditation: Opportunities, Risks and Readiness for Africa
 Building Trust in Zimbabwe's Gold Industry Through Accreditation of Freda Rebecca Gold Mine Laboratory, Zimbabwe

23

Regional and International Interactions

Highlights 8th Annual SADC Industrialisation Week

26

Marketing and Promotion

SADCAS World Accreditation Day Press Release

28

NAFP News

NAFPs Celebrates World Accreditation Day 2026

38

Assessors Corner

Under the eye of an Assessor – MLAS
 Under the eye of a Technical Expert– CLAS
 Building Trust and Opportunity: The Role of Accreditation For Regulators and SMEs – A Technical Expert's Perspective

42

Staff News

SADCAS staff graduate from the Stellenbosch Management Development Programme (MDP)
 Mdigo Vusi Thunzi joins SADCAS as Assessor Medical (MVT)
 Tebogo Annah Odireng joins SADCAS as Human Resources Officer

45

Training & Business Development

2026/27 Training Calendar- September 2026 to December 2026
 A Safer Africa Through Training and Accreditation
 SADCAS Continues to Build Competence Through Regional Training Initiatives

55

Adverts

Invitation to Register Technical Experts- Prioritized Scopes
 Assessor Advert



Mr Xavier Mugari

We are pleased to present Issue 54 of the **SADCAS Pioneer Newsletter (July 2026 Edition)**, which continues to keep our readers informed about accreditation activities across the region and beyond. This issue highlights key developments within SADCAS and the broader accreditation landscape.

June 9th marked World Accreditation Day (WAD) 2026, SADCAS joined the the global community in commemorating **World Accreditation Day 2026**. This year's theme, **"Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation"**, underscores the vital role accreditation plays in enabling innovation, building trust, and supporting a more sustainable future. This issue unpacks the WAD celebrations globally, regionally and locally as well as celebrations by the National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFPs) across the SADC region.

Stakeholder engagement remains at the cornerstone of SADCAS operation as we celebrated the accreditation of Municipal Council of Manzini in Eswatini and Freda Rebecca Gold Mine Laboratory in Zimbabwe. Outgoing CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa participated at the 8th Annual SADC Industrialisation Week (SIW 2026), held in Durban,



Mr Boniface Badubi

South Africa, which brought together governments, industry leaders, investors, development finance institutions, academia and regional organisations. The event was held under the theme **"Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialisation through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World"**.

The SADCAS Board of Directors announced the retirement of Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa as Chief Executive Officer, effective 31 July 2026, and expressed deep gratitude for her dedicated service and exceptional leadership over the past four years. During her tenure, Ms. Gadzikwa made significant contributions to advancing SADCAS's strategic objectives, enhancing its regional and international reputation, and fostering greater confidence in accreditation across the SADC region.

SADCAS continues to grow in leaps and bounds across the board and there were two new staff appointments; Assessor Medical and Human Resources Officer which indicates the continued growth of SADCAS operations.

Happy reading!



Farewell Message from the Outgoing CEO of SADCAS (2022–2026)

*Eve Christine Gadzikwa, MBA, PGP
AIML, MLS (Med. Microbiology)*

Dear Members of the Board, Management, Staff, Assessors, Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies, National Focal Points, Partners, and Valued Stakeholders

As I conclude my four-year journey as Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), I do so with a heart full of gratitude, pride, and hope for the future.

Serving SADCAS has been one of the greatest honours of my professional life. When I assumed this role, I was entrusted with the responsibility of leading an institution that plays a critical role in strengthening quality infrastructure, facilitating trade, protecting consumers, and enhancing the competitiveness of products and services across our region. Today, as I reflect on our collective journey, I am humbled by how much we have achieved together.

“No leader succeeds alone. Every milestone we attained was made possible by dedicated people who believed in our shared vision and worked tirelessly to turn that vision into reality.”

To the **Board of Directors**, I extend my deepest appreciation for your guidance, wisdom, and unwavering support. Your strategic leadership, confidence in management, and commitment to good governance provided the foundation upon which many of our achievements were built.

To the **Management Team**, thank you for your professionalism, resilience, and commitment to excellence. Through challenges and opportunities alike, you remained focused on delivering results and advancing the SADCAS mandate. Your efforts did not go unnoticed.

To the **Staff of SADCAS**, I offer my heartfelt gratitude. Your dedication, hard work, innovation, and passion have been the driving force behind our success. I have had the privilege of working alongside an exceptional team that consistently demonstrated integrity, competence, and a willingness to go beyond expectations. You are, and will always remain, SADCAS's greatest asset.

To our **assessors, technical experts, peer evaluators, accredited facilities, regulators, governments, development partners, regional and international organizations, and all our stakeholders**, thank you for your trust, collaboration, and support. Together, we have strengthened confidence in accreditation, strengthened technical competence, delivered trust and enhanced its contribution to sustainable economic development throughout the region. Your combined contributions have been instrumental in driving SADCAS' growth and success, helping to consolidate its impact and achievements over the years.

As I look back on the past four years, I am proud of the remarkable progress we have made together. We strengthened the visibility and credibility of SADCAS, advanced the digital transformation of our operations, expanded our service offerings into new areas like proficiency

testing, strengthened stakeholder engagement, invested in technical competence and capacity building of our assessors, improved readiness of our CABs and enhanced overall organizational effectiveness. Most importantly, we reinforced SADCAS' role as a trusted partner in supporting quality, trade facilitation, regulatory confidence, and consumer protection.

However, beyond the statistics, reports, and performance indicators, what I value most are the relationships we built and the lives we touched. Accreditation is often viewed as a complex technical process, but at its core it is about people. It is about helping organizations grow, inspiring confidence in the marketplace, creating opportunities, and contributing to the prosperity of our nations. SADCAS has achieved this over the years.

Among the many memorable moments during my tenure, none compares to witnessing organizations achieve accreditation after years of commitment, preparation, and perseverance. I will always remember the pride and excitement on the faces of, personnel, inspectors, certification professionals, and organizational leaders as they received their accreditation certificates. Those moments served as a powerful reminder of why SADCAS exists. Behind every accreditation certificate is a story of determination, excellence, and a desire to make a meaningful difference.

I have learned that accreditation is not merely a strategic business tool or about compliance; it is the invisible glue that holds economies together when everything else fails. Without trust, regional integration and industrialisation cannot be realised. It is about building trust. It is about creating confidence in products, services, and systems. It is about supporting economic growth, facilitating regional integration, protecting consumers, and improving lives.

As I hand over leadership to the **Acting CEO Mrs Pinkie Malebe and her team**, I do so with complete confidence in your ability to guide SADCAS into its next phase of growth and success.

The future presents exciting opportunities. The world is changing rapidly, driven by digital transformation, innovation, sustainability imperatives, evolving technologies, and increasing

expectations for quality and competence. These changes create new opportunities for SADCAS to expand its impact and relevance.

As you implement the **2026/27 Strategic Plan**, I encourage you to remain focused on the values that have made SADCAS a respected and trusted institution. Continue to place stakeholders at the centre of your decisions. Embrace innovation while safeguarding the integrity and impartiality of accreditation. Invest in your people, strengthen partnerships, and pursue excellence in everything you do. Continue building an agile and sustainable organization that responds effectively to the needs of Member States and stakeholders while maintaining the highest international standards.

As I bid farewell, I do not view this as an ending but as the beginning of a new chapter, both for myself and for SADCAS. I leave with immense pride in what we have achieved together and with great confidence in what lies ahead.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, your friendship, for allowing me the privilege of serving this remarkable institution. The foundation of SADCAS is strong, its people are capable, and its future is bright. I am confident that the organization will continue to grow from strength to strength and remain a beacon of excellence in accreditation service delivery.

May we continue to champion quality, inspire confidence, foster innovation, facilitate trade, and contribute to a stronger, more prosperous, and more competitive Southern African region.

With heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for continued success, Eve Christine Gadzikwa, Outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS).

“Leadership is temporary, but the impact of service, integrity, and empowering others lives on. Continue to dream boldly, work diligently, and lead courageously. The best chapters of the SADCAS story are still ahead.”

Celebrating the Legacy of Outgoing CEO, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa in Pictures



SADCAS Grants Accreditation to Municipal Council of Manzini



SADCAS Scheme Coordinator- Dr. Varsha Gungoa handing over the accreditation certificate to Mayor of Municipal Council of Manzini, Councillor, Mr. Xolani Masuku.

On 12 June 2026, the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) officially handed over an accreditation certificate to the Municipal Council of Manzini, Scheme Coordinator- Dr Varsha Gungoa attended the ceremony as SADCAS Representative. The handover ceremony was held in conjunction with Eswatini's commemoration of the 2026 World Accreditation Day.

The event was graced by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Apollo Maphalala; the Under Secretary from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade; the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Council of Manzini; senior government officials; representatives of the National Laboratory Association of Eswatini; industry stakeholders; regulators; and members of the media.

The occasion marked a significant milestone in the Municipal Council of Manzini's commitment

to strengthening its laboratory services. The accreditation formally recognised the Municipal Laboratory's successful extension of its accredited scope to include food testing. This achievement resulted in the accreditation of the Municipal Council of Manzini Food Testing Laboratory, making it the first accredited food testing laboratory in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The Municipal Council of Manzini regarded the accreditation as an important advancement in strengthening the country's food safety systems and improving the delivery of public health services. It also demonstrated the Council's continued commitment to ensuring that laboratory operations are conducted in accordance with internationally recognised standards of competence, impartiality and reliability. This will enhance confidence in laboratory results used to support food safety, regulatory and public health decisions.



Honorable Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Apollo Maphalala (fifth from left) with top officials celebrating the milestone of the accreditation of the Municipal Council of Manzini.

This landmark achievement further reflected the Council's dedication to quality assurance, technical competence and compliance with established accreditation requirements. Through the accreditation of the Food Testing Laboratory, the Municipal Council of Manzini is expected to make a stronger contribution to food safety, consumer protection and improved public health outcomes. The accreditation will also promote public confidence in municipal services and encourage a culture of excellence, accountability and continuous improvement.

On her remarks, Dr Varsha Gungoa highlighted that, "Municipal Council of Manzini joins the prestigious club of internationally recognized laboratories accredited to standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 to Microbiological Analysis with the unique Facility Accreditation Number: TEST-1 0024. Accreditation is specific to the test methods and matrices used and listed in the Schedule of Accreditation and the scope of the tests done in the facility hence, this is not a blanket accreditation."

Following the formal handover of the accreditation certificate by SADCAS, the Honourable Minister delivered an address that placed accreditation within the context of the daily need for credible and reliable evidence. He also highlighted the responsibilities of laboratories, conformity assessment bodies, regulators, industry stakeholders, medical professionals and members of the public in supporting effective quality systems.

The Principal Secretary's remarks placed accreditation within Eswatini's broader national development agenda, while the participation of the SADCAS representative, Dr Varsha Gungoa, gave the event a strong regional dimension. In conclusion, the Municipal Council of Manzini reaffirmed its commitment to providing services that meet the highest standards of quality, reliability and public confidence. The accreditation of the Food Testing Laboratory represents an important step towards ensuring that municipal laboratory services contribute meaningfully to national development, consumer protection and the overall well-being of the people of Eswatini.

Strengthening Confidence Through Accreditation in Emerging Conformity Assessment Scopes

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) continues to advance confidence in conformity assessment across the region through the accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies in both established and emerging technical scopes. Over the past year, SADCAS has recorded significant growth in the number and diversity of accreditations granted, demonstrating the increasing maturity, competence and international recognition of conformity assessment services within the region.

Accreditation provides independent assurance that a conformity assessment body operates competently, consistently and impartially in accordance with internationally recognised standards. As global trade, industrial development and regulatory requirements continue to evolve, accreditation remains a vital tool for building trust among regulators, industry, consumers and trading partners.

The accreditations and scope extensions achieved during the period under review reflect several noteworthy milestones for both SADCAS and its accredited facilities. These include the establishment of first-time accreditations in countries and technical fields, expansion into specialised metrology disciplines, growth in inspection services, and the introduction of new certification schemes. Collectively, these achievements strengthen technical infrastructure, improve market access, and support quality assurance throughout the SADC region and beyond.

Among the notable accomplishments were:

- The first SADCAS accreditation in Time and Frequency Metrology in Zimbabwe.
- The accreditation of Angola's first accredited calibration laboratory.
- Recognition of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards Metrology Laboratory as the facility with the largest number of accredited calibration scopes within the SADCAS accreditation programme.
- The first SADCAS accreditation in Weighbridge Calibration is from Eswatini.
- Record scope expansion by the Botswana Bureau of Standards Industrial Metrology Unit, which successfully added four new calibration fields during reassessment.
- Accreditation of the first inspection bodies in Tanzania and Seychelles.
- Namibia pioneered the SADCAS accreditation for the inspection of Diagnostic Imaging Equipment, Security X-Ray Scanners and Radioactive Sources, representing a new technical area within the Inspection Bodies Accreditation Scheme (IBAS).
- The first accreditation within the Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) certification sub-scope was of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe.
- New accreditations and extensions in Food Safety Management Systems, Environmental Management Systems, metrology, inspection, and management systems certification.

These achievements demonstrate the growing capability of conformity assessment bodies to meet the demands of increasingly sophisticated industries and regulatory environments. 2

They also reflect the commitment of accredited organisations to continual improvement, technical excellence and international best practice.

Through this accreditation, each accredited scope has been assigned a unique accreditation number, with accreditation certificates issued for each scope.

The information summarised below is publicly available on the SADCAS website www.sadcas.org on the database of accredited organisations.

S/No	Facility Number & Name	Country	Accreditation Number	Scope (TG03)	Type of Accreditation / achievement	Date accreditation granted
1	CL0079 Botswana Bureau of Standards – Trade Metrology Unit	Botswana	CAL-8 005	Mass Metrology	Renewal of accreditation	2025/05/28
2	CL0001 Seychelles Bureau of Standards – National Metrology Laboratory	Seychelles	CAL-8 001	Mass Metrology	Renewal of accreditation	2025/07/06
3	CL0442 Goldair Technologies Private Limited	Zimbabwe	CAL-8 015; CAL-9 007; CAL-14 012; CAL-15 002	Mass Metrology; Volume Metrology); Temperature Metrology; Time and Frequency Metrology	New accreditation; 1st SADCAS accreditation in Time & Frequency Metrology in Zimbabwe	2025/08/29
4	CL0459 Pangolim Prestacao de Servicos, Lda	Angola	CAL-3 003; CAL-12 006; CAL-14 013; CAL-8 016; CAL-9 008	Electrical Metrology; Pressure Metrology; Temperature Metrology; Mass Metrology; Volume Metrology	New accreditation; 1st accredited calibration laboratory in Angola	2025/09/29
5	CL0441 BEKL Prestacao de Servicos Lda	Angola	CAL-3 002; CAL-12 005	Electrical Metrology; Pressure Metrology	New accreditation	2025/10/30
6	CL0438 Rapid Instrumentation Company	Namibia	CAL-14 014	Temperature Installations & Isothermal Media	Extension within existing scope	2026/01/13
7	CL0003 Tanzania Bureau of Standards – Metrology Laboratory	Tanzania	CAL-2 002, CAL-8 010, CAL-9 005, CAL-14 007, CAL-15 001, CAL-12 002, CAL-5 003 and CAL-7 001	Dimensional Metrology; Mass Metrology; Volume Metrology; Temperature Metrology; Time and Frequency Metrology; Pressure Metrology; Torque Metrology; Humidity Metrology	Renewal of accreditation; Largest number of accredited calibration scopes in SADCAS	2026/02/11
8	CL0140 B and P Scales (Pty) Ltd	Eswatini	CAL-8 007	Weighbridges	First SADCAS accreditation in Weighbridges	2026/03/16

S/No	Facility Number & Name	Country	Accreditation Number	Scope (TG03)	Type of Accreditation / achievement	Date accreditation granted
9	CL0007 Zambia Metrology Agency - Industrial Metrology	Zambia	CAL-3 004	Electrical DC Low Frequency Metrology	Scope extension	2026/03/25
10	CL0004 Botswana Bureau of Standards - Industrial Metrology Unit	Botswana	CAL-2 001; CAL-14 001; CAL-5 005; CAL-12 001; CAL-3 005; CAL-15 003	Dimensional Metrology; Temperature Metrology; Force Metrology; Pressure Metrology; Electrical DC Low Frequency Metrology; Time and Frequency Metrology	Renewal of accreditation, with a record four new scopes: CAL-5 005 (Force Metrology); CAL-12 001 (Pressure Metrology); CAL-3 005 (Electrical DC Low Frequency Metrology) and CAL-15 003 (Time and Frequency Metrology); Successful reassessment facilitated approval of the Quality System AFRIMETS TC-QS	2026/05/27
11	CL0151 Malawi Bureau of Standards - Metrology Services Department	Malawi	CAL-14-014	Temperature Metrology	Scope extension	2026/05/29
12	CL0368 Caltes Company Limited - Calibration Laboratory	Tanzania	CAL-9 009; CAL-7 002; CAL-12 007	Volume Metrology; Humidity Metrology; Pressure Metrology	Scope extension, highest number of calibration scope extensions undertaken at the time of periodic assessment	2026/06/14
13	CL0002 Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre - National Metrology Institute	Zimbabwe	CAL-3 001	Electrical DC Low Frequency Metrology	Scope extension	2026/07/02

The value of these accreditations extends beyond national borders. Through its status as a signatory to international mutual recognition arrangements, SADCAS ensures that accredited services enjoy broad international acceptance. Accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS facilitate confidence in test results, calibration data, inspection reports and certification decisions, thereby supporting trade, regulatory acceptance and market access.

These accreditations are recognised under the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI), Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

SADCAS congratulates all accredited conformity assessment bodies listed above for their outstanding achievements. The milestones highlighted illustrate not only organisational

excellence, but also the continued growth and development of quality infrastructure within the region. SADCAS remains committed to supporting competence, impartiality and consistency through its accreditation schemes and will continue to conduct periodic assessments to ensure ongoing compliance with accreditation requirements throughout the validity of accreditation certificates.

Together, these achievements reinforce the role of accreditation as a catalyst for quality, innovation, regulatory confidence and sustainable economic development across the SADC region and beyond.

SADCAS Strengthens Accreditation Awareness in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Lubumbashi, 30 April 2026 – The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) successfully hosted an Accreditation Awareness Workshop at the Hotel Lubumbashi Conference Centre, Democratic Republic of Congo.

The event brought together fifty six(56 participants) from diverse sectors including mining, medical inspection, and environmental services, underscoring the growing recognition of accreditation as a key driver of quality, credibility, and market access.

Opening the programme, SADCAS CEO Ms Eve Christine Gadzikwa highlighted recent developments within SADCAS and emphasized the transformative role of accreditation in enhancing competence, consistency, and impartiality. She noted that accreditation builds trust, supports regulatory compliance, and strengthens consumer confidence.

Key Highlights

- Dr Varsha Gungoa presented on the Role of Accreditation in Developing Quality Infrastructure and the Assessors' Development Program.
- Mr Vikash Ramessur explained the Accreditation Process and Costs.
- Case studies were shared by Mons Dieudonne (OCC Kasumbalesa) and Mons Eric Kitwa (Alfred H Knight, DRC), who offered practical insights into their accreditation journeys.



Participants during the Democratic Republic of Congo Accreditation Awareness Workshop held in Hotel Lubumbashi Conference Centre

The workshop also showcased **SADCAS's digital transformation strategy**, which is modernizing accreditation processes through ERP systems, remote assessments, and enhanced client interfaces. These innovations are designed to ensure sustainability, efficiency, and resilience in a rapidly evolving environment. Interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions reinforced the importance of accreditation in **supporting trade, strengthening quality infrastructure, and advancing regional integration**.

SADCAS extends its sincere appreciation to all participants for their active engagement and commitment to advancing accreditation in the DRC and across the wider SADC region.

SADCAS Renforce la Sensibilisation à l'Accréditation en République Démocratique du Congo

Lubumbashi, 30 Avril 2026 - Le Service d'Accréditation de la Communauté de Développement de l'Afrique Australe (SADCAS) a organisé avec succès un atelier de sensibilisation à l'accréditation le 30 avril 2026 à l'Hôtel Lubumbashi Conference Centre en République Démocratique du Congo.

L'atelier a réuni **56 participants** issus de secteurs variés tels que **l'exploitation minière, l'inspection médicale et les services environnementaux**, témoignant de l'intérêt croissant pour l'accréditation en tant que moteur de qualité, de crédibilité et d'accès aux marchés.

Le programme a été ouvert par la **Directrice Générale de SADCAS, Mme Eve Christine Gadzikwa**, qui a présenté les développements récents de SADCAS et a souligné les avantages de l'accréditation en matière de compétence, de cohérence et d'impartialité. Elle a mis en avant le rôle de l'accréditation dans la construction de la confiance, le respect des réglementations et le renforcement de la confiance des consommateurs.

Les principales interventions comprenaient :

- **Dr Varsha Gungoa**, qui a présenté le Rôle de l'Accréditation dans le Développement de l'Infrastructure de Qualité ainsi que le Programme de Développement des Évaluateurs.
- **M. Vikash Ramessur**, qui a expliqué le Processus d'Accréditation et les Coûts.
- Témoignages de **Mons Dieudonne** (OCC Kasumbalesa) et **Mons Eric Kitwa** (Alfred H Knight, RDC), qui ont partagé leurs parcours d'accréditation et leurs expériences pratiques.

L'atelier a également mis en avant la stratégie de **transformation numérique de SADCAS**, visant à moderniser les processus d'accréditation grâce à des systèmes ERP, des évaluations à distance et une interface client améliorée. Cette initiative

garantit la durabilité, l'efficacité et la résilience dans un environnement en constante évolution. Les discussions interactives et le partage d'expériences ont renforcé l'importance de l'accréditation pour soutenir le commerce, améliorer l'infrastructure de qualité et favoriser l'intégration régionale.

SADCAS remercie chaleureusement tous les participants pour leur engagement actif et leur contribution au renforcement de l'accréditation en RDC et dans l'ensemble de la région SADC.



Dr. Varsha Gungoa interagit avec le public lors de l'atelier de sensibilisation à l'accréditation.



INS Mozambique Secures Landmark SADCAS Accreditation as First ISO/IEC 17043:2023 Proficiency Testing Provider in the SADC Region

A New Era for Laboratory Quality Assurance in the SADC Region



The INS Mozambique team posing for a picture with SADCAS Assessment Team (fifth from left): Mponeng Poo, Neville Taylor and Assessor Portuguese- Sergio Machava.

The National Institute of Health of Mozambique (Instituto Nacional de Saúde – INS) has achieved a historic milestone in laboratory quality assurance after being granted accreditation by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) as a Proficiency Testing Provider in accordance with ISO/IEC 17043:2023.

Awarded on 23 July 2026, this landmark accreditation positions INS as the **first Proficiency Testing Provider to be accredited by SADCAS under the ISO/IEC 17043:2023 standard**, receiving the distinguished **Accreditation Certificate PTA-001**. This achievement represents a significant advancement not only for Mozambique but also for the Southern African region, highlighting the growing importance of internationally recognized quality systems in healthcare, scientific research, and laboratory services.

The accreditation confirms INS's competence to develop, coordinate, and manage proficiency testing schemes that enable laboratories to assess and improve the accuracy, reliability, and comparability of their results. By meeting the requirements of the latest edition of ISO/IEC 17043, INS has demonstrated its commitment to quality, technical excellence, impartiality, and continual improvement.

As an accredited Proficiency Testing Provider, INS will play a critical role in supporting laboratories

across Mozambique and the SADC region through high-quality proficiency testing programmes that strengthen laboratory performance and confidence in test results. Reliable laboratory data are essential for effective healthcare delivery, disease surveillance, scientific research, regulatory decision-making, and public health interventions.

This achievement also aligns with regional and continental efforts to strengthen accreditation, conformity assessment, and quality infrastructure systems that support public health, innovation, economic development, and international cooperation. As countries continue to enhance laboratory systems and preparedness for emerging health challenges, accredited proficiency testing providers such as INS serve as vital partners in building competence, resilience, and trust in laboratory services.

By becoming the first institution to receive SADCAS accreditation under ISO/IEC 17043:2023, INS has established a new benchmark for excellence in the region and reinforced its position as a leader in public health and laboratory quality systems.

The award of **Accreditation Certificate PTA-001** marks not only a major achievement for INS but also an important contribution to the advancement of quality infrastructure, laboratory competence, and public health across Southern Africa. This historic recognition reflects INS's unwavering dedication to quality and excellence and opens new opportunities for regional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in laboratory quality assurance.



Instituto Nacional de Saúde de Moçambique obtém Acreditação Histórica da SADCAS como Primeiro Provedor de Ensaios de Proficiência acreditado segundo a ISO/IEC 17043:2023 na Região da SADC

Um Novo Marco na Garantia da Qualidade Laboratorial em Moçambique e na Região da SADC



INS Mozambique team during the assessment opening meeting.

O Instituto Nacional de Saúde de Moçambique (INS) alcançou um marco histórico no fortalecimento da qualidade laboratorial ao obter a acreditação do Serviço de Acreditação da Comunidade de Desenvolvimento da África Austral (SADCAS) como **Provedor de Ensaios de Proficiência**, em conformidade com os requisitos da norma internacional **ISO/IEC 17043:2023**. Esta distinção reconhece a competência técnica do INS para planificar, coordenar e implementar programas de ensaios de proficiência, contribuindo para o reforço da confiança, fiabilidade e comparabilidade dos resultados laboratoriais em Moçambique e na região da SADC.

A acreditação, oficialmente atribuída em 23 de julho de 2026, representa uma conquista sem precedentes para Moçambique e para toda a região da África Austral. Com este reconhecimento, o INS tornou-se o primeiro Provedor de Ensaios de Proficiência acreditado pela SADCAS ao abrigo da mais recente versão da norma **ISO/IEC 17043:2023**, recebendo o prestigiado **Certificado de Acreditação PTA-001**.

Este reconhecimento atesta a competência do INS para desenvolver e implementar programas de ensaios de proficiência de acordo com os mais elevados padrões internacionais, reforçando a sua posição como referência regional em qualidade laboratorial e saúde pública.

Os ensaios de proficiência são instrumentos estratégicos para avaliar e melhorar o desempenho dos laboratórios, promovendo resultados mais precisos, fiáveis e comparáveis, essenciais para a tomada de decisões em saúde pública.

Na qualidade de **Provedor Acreditado de Ensaios de Proficiência**, o INS passa a desempenhar um papel estratégico no fortalecimento dos sistemas laboratoriais em Moçambique e nos demais países da região da SADC. Os programas desenvolvidos pela instituição contribuirão significativamente para a melhoria contínua do desempenho laboratorial, promovendo elevados padrões de qualidade e reforçando a credibilidade dos resultados utilizados nos cuidados de saúde, na vigilância epidemiológica, na investigação científica, na monitoria de doenças e nos processos regulatórios.

Ao disponibilizar programas de ensaios de proficiência alinhados com as melhores práticas internacionais, o INS apoiará os laboratórios na demonstração da sua competência técnica e na conformidade com requisitos nacionais e internacionais de qualidade. Esta contribuição será fundamental para aumentar a confiança nos serviços laboratoriais e para fortalecer a capacidade dos sistemas de saúde de responder de forma eficaz aos desafios atuais e emergentes da saúde pública.

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Accreditation: Opportunities, Risks and Readiness for Africa



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping industries across the world, from healthcare and finance to manufacturing and logistics. The conformity assessment and accreditation community is not immune to this transformation. Laboratories are beginning to deploy AI-enabled analytical systems; certification bodies are exploring automated document reviews, and accreditation bodies are examining how AI may support assessment activities and operational efficiency. As these technologies gain momentum, a critical question emerges: how can accreditation continue to provide confidence and trust in an increasingly AI-driven environment?

For Africa's accreditation ecosystem, AI presents both significant opportunities and complex risks.

The challenge is not whether AI will be adopted, but whether institutions are sufficiently prepared to govern its use while maintaining the principles of competence, impartiality, transparency, and reliability that underpin accreditation.

AI's Growing Influence on Conformity Assessment

Across the conformity assessment landscape, AI is being integrated into activities that were traditionally performed by people. Laboratories are increasingly exploring machine learning tools for data interpretation, pattern recognition, quality monitoring, and workflow automation. In other sectors, AI is being used to support risk analysis, document processing, and decision-support systems.

This evolution creates opportunities to improve efficiency, reduce repetitive work, and process large volumes of information more effectively. At the same time, it raises important questions about validation, accountability, and oversight. If an AI system contributes to a laboratory result or assessment decision, how can its outputs be verified? How can users demonstrate that decisions remain objective and free from bias? These are questions that the accreditation community will increasingly be required to address.

Opportunities for Accreditation Bodies

One of the most promising applications of AI lies in improving operational efficiency. Accreditation bodies process large quantities of documentation, assessment records, corrective action reports, technical records, and surveillance information. Properly governed AI systems may assist with information retrieval, trend analysis, scheduling, and administrative support, allowing assessors and accreditation personnel to focus on higher-value technical activities.

AI may also strengthen risk-based decision making. By analysing historical assessment data, complaint trends, nonconformities, and corrective action patterns, AI tools could help identify areas requiring increased oversight or surveillance. Such capabilities could improve the effectiveness of accreditation programmes while supporting more targeted use of resources.

For laboratories and other conformity assessment bodies, AI-enabled technologies offer the potential for improved consistency, real-time quality monitoring, automation of routine processes, and enhanced detection of anomalies that may otherwise go unnoticed. These developments align with broader global trends in laboratory digitalisation and modernisation.

The Risks Cannot Be Ignored

Despite its promise, AI introduces risks that accreditation stakeholders must approach with caution. One of the most significant concerns is transparency. Many advanced AI systems operate as “black boxes”, producing outputs that are difficult for users to fully explain. In accreditation, where technical competence and traceability are fundamental principles, decisions must be justifiable and supported by evidence. An inability to explain how an AI system arrived at a conclusion

can undermine confidence in conformity assessment results.

Another challenge is bias. AI systems learn from data, and if that data contains inaccuracies, imbalances, or historical biases, those weaknesses can be reflected in the system’s outputs. As AI becomes more involved in decision-support functions, there will be a growing need for validation, monitoring, and independent oversight to ensure fairness and reliability.

Cybersecurity represents another emerging risk. As conformity assessment activities become increasingly digital, organisations must protect sensitive technical information, assessment records, and customer data. Cybersecurity failures can compromise confidence in conformity assessment outcomes and damage organisational reputation. This is one reason why digital governance and information security are becoming increasingly important across accreditation systems worldwide.

Emerging Standards and Governance

The global standards community has already begun responding to the growth of AI. ISO/IEC 42001, published as a management system standard for artificial intelligence, provides a framework for organisations seeking to establish governance, risk management, transparency, and accountability around AI systems. The increasing attention being given to AI governance demonstrates that trust in AI will depend not only on technological capability but also on effective management and oversight. Similarly, broader conversations within conformity assessment and accreditation are increasingly focused on ensuring that accreditation frameworks remain relevant as organisations adopt AI-enabled technologies. According to discussions emerging from accreditation and conformity assessment forums, the pace of technological innovation is significantly exceeding the pace at which standards and regulatory frameworks traditionally evolve. This creates pressure on accreditation bodies to remain agile while preserving the rigour that gives accreditation its value.

What Does Readiness Mean for Africa?

For African accreditation bodies, readiness should not be understood simply as acquiring new technology. True readiness involves establishing

the governance structures, policies, competencies, and regulatory frameworks necessary to manage AI responsibly.

Firstly, accreditation bodies will need to build internal competence in AI-related technologies and risks. Assessors and technical experts must understand enough about AI systems to evaluate their validation, governance, and performance within accredited organisations.

Secondly, investment in digital infrastructure and cybersecurity will become increasingly important. Reliable digital systems, robust information security controls, and strong data governance practices are foundational requirements for the effective use of AI.

Thirdly, collaboration will be essential. Accreditation bodies, regulators, universities, industry associations, and conformity assessment bodies must work together to understand emerging technologies and develop appropriate approaches for their evaluation. As AI technologies continue

to evolve, no single institution will possess all the expertise required to address every challenge.

Looking Ahead

Artificial Intelligence is likely to become one of the most important technological developments affecting accreditation over the next decade. It offers significant opportunities to improve efficiency, strengthen data analysis, and support innovation across conformity assessment activities. However, these benefits can only be realised if AI is deployed within frameworks that preserve trust, transparency, competence, and accountability.

For Africa's accreditation community, the future challenge is not simply adopting AI but governing it wisely. Accreditation has always existed to provide confidence in systems, processes, and results. As organisations increasingly rely on artificial intelligence, that mission remains unchanged. What will change are the tools, competencies, and governance mechanisms required to uphold it.



Building Trust in Zimbabwe's Gold Industry Through Accreditation of Freda Rebecca Gold Mine Laboratory, Zimbabwe



SADCAS CEO, Eve Christine Gadzikwa (left) celebrating accreditation status of Freda Rebecca Gold Mine Laboratory alongside Mutapa Gold Resources Chief Executive Officer- Patrick Maseva-Shayawabaya (center) and Professor Alfred Chinyere General Manager (right), Freda Rebecca Gold Mine.

Bindura, Zimbabwe - The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Eve Christine Gadzikwa officially presented the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation certificate to Freda Rebecca Gold Mine Laboratory, operating under Mutapa Gold Resources, at a handover ceremony held on 16 July 2026.

This accreditation represents far more than the attainment of an international standard. It is a strategic investment in confidence, credibility and competitiveness within Zimbabwe's mining sector. In the gold industry, laboratory results

influence every stage of the mining value chain, from exploration and resource estimation to grade control, metallurgical accounting, mine planning and bullion verification. The reliability of these results is critical to sound decision-making and sustainable business performance.

Accreditation provides independent assurance that a laboratory is competent to produce accurate, reliable and internationally accepted results. It gives confidence to mine management, regulators, investors, customers and other stakeholders that testing is conducted in accordance with globally recognised best practices. Such confidence is

invaluable in an industry where precision directly affects operational efficiency, resource valuation and commercial outcomes.

A particularly important aspect of this achievement is the strengthening of local testing capacity. The availability of accredited laboratory services within Zimbabwe enables mining companies to access internationally recognised testing closer to their operations. This reduces reliance on laboratories outside the country, shortens turnaround times, lowers testing costs and supports faster decision-making. The ability to generate trusted results locally enhances productivity and strengthens the country's quality infrastructure.

The impact of accreditation extends beyond individual mining operations. It contributes directly to trade facilitation and export competitiveness. International buyers and refiners require assurance that mineral analyses are accurate and trustworthy. Accreditation provides that assurance by demonstrating that laboratory results are produced under a system that meets internationally recognised requirements for technical competence. As a result, accredited testing helps reduce technical barriers to trade, supports market acceptance and strengthens confidence in Zimbabwean gold exports.

For Zimbabwe, where gold remains one of the country's most important export commodities and a vital source of foreign currency earnings, this milestone carries special significance. It strengthens the credibility of the country's mining industry, enhances confidence in its mineral products and reinforces Zimbabwe's position in global mineral markets. Trusted testing and verification systems are essential for attracting investment, supporting sustainable growth and maintaining competitiveness in an increasingly demanding international trading environment. This achievement also aligns with broader national and regional objectives of industrialisation, value addition and beneficiation. Strong local conformity assessment infrastructure enables countries to retain more value within their borders, develop

specialised technical skills and support the growth of world-class industries. Accreditation creates the foundation upon which quality, innovation and competitiveness can thrive.

As SADCAS, we are delighted to support the mining value chain and the broader critical minerals sector through accreditation. Our mission is to build confidence in the competence of conformity assessment services and to facilitate trade, industrial development and economic growth. The accreditation of Freda Rebecca Gold Mine Laboratory demonstrates the powerful role that accreditation plays in enabling trusted results, supporting exports and strengthening economies.

We commend the Board, Management and Laboratory Team at Freda Rebecca Gold Mine and Mutapa Gold Resources for their vision, dedication and commitment to excellence. Their achievement is not only a success for the organisation but also a significant contribution to Zimbabwe's mining sector and economic development.

“Accreditation is more than a certificate of competence. It is the foundation of trust that enables trade, attracts investment and supports industrialisation. Through achievements such as this, Zimbabwe continues to strengthen its position as a competitive and credible participant in the global gold industry.”

Highlights of the 8th Annual SADC Industrialisation Week 2026

Reflections from the Chief Executive Officer, SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS)

The 8th Annual SADC Industrialisation Week (SIW 2026), held in Durban, South Africa, brought together governments, industry leaders, investors, development finance institutions, academia and regional organisations to discuss the future of industrial development in Southern Africa. Held under the theme **“Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrialisation through Infrastructure Development, Agricultural and Critical Minerals Transformation in Pursuit of a Just World,”** the event reaffirmed the region’s commitment to economic transformation, regional integration and globally competitive industries.

As Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), I was encouraged by the strong commitment demonstrated by Member States and stakeholders towards advancing industrialisation as a driver of sustainable economic growth, job creation and improved livelihoods. The discussions highlighted both the progress achieved and the work still required to transform the SADC region into a leading industrial hub.



SADCAS CEO, Eve Christine Gadzikwa, joined fellow experts as a panellist in the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain & Localisation session: “Towards Competitive and Resilient Industrialisation in SADC.”

Relevance to SADCAS

As the regional accreditation body, SADCAS remains committed to supporting industrialisation through internationally recognised accreditation services that build trust, facilitate trade and enhance the competitiveness of regional products and

services. Accreditation ensures that laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies operate competently and deliver reliable, internationally accepted results.

SIW 2026 reinforced the critical importance of a robust Quality Infrastructure ecosystem comprising standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment. These pillars underpin industrial development by promoting quality, safety, innovation and regulatory effectiveness. Strong quality infrastructure reduces technical barriers to trade, strengthens regional value chains, supports implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and enables SADC industries to compete successfully in regional and global markets.

Advancing the SADC Industrialisation Agenda

A key message emerging from the Industrialisation Week was the need to accelerate implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015–2063. Participants emphasised the importance of translating policies into practical actions that strengthen productive capacity, promote economic diversification and enhance regional competitiveness.

Industrialisation remains central to achieving long-term economic resilience. Across the region, there is growing recognition that sustainable development depends on increased

manufacturing, value addition and beneficiation of locally available resources. Strengthening industrial capabilities is essential for reducing dependence on imports, increasing exports and creating meaningful employment opportunities.

Critical Minerals and Value Addition

One of the most significant areas of discussion was the role of critical minerals in driving industrial growth. Southern Africa possesses abundant mineral resources that are increasingly important for renewable energy technologies, advanced manufacturing and emerging industries.

Participants stressed the need to move beyond the export of raw minerals towards local beneficiation, processing and manufacturing. This shift would enable Member States to maximise value from their natural resources, create jobs, encourage technology transfer and strengthen domestic industries. The region's future competitiveness will depend on its ability to develop integrated value chains that transform mineral wealth into higher-value industrial products.



Eve Christine Gadzikwa, CEO, SADCAS, Prof. David Katerere, Tshwane University of Technology (Moderator), Dr. Mlungisi Cele, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, UNIDO, Stavros Nicolaou, Aspen Pharmacare Bathusi Kgosietsile, Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA), Alejandro Rivera Rojas, UNIDO.

Strengthening Regional Value Chains

Regional value chains emerged as a critical pillar of industrialisation. Discussions focused on opportunities in agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, consumer goods and critical minerals beneficiation.

There was broad consensus that industrialisation cannot occur in isolation. Regional cooperation is essential for achieving economies of scale, improving market access and strengthening supply chain resilience. By leveraging the comparative advantages of different Member States, SADC can build stronger and more competitive value chains that stimulate intra-African trade, reduce production costs and create opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Infrastructure Development as a Growth Enabler

Infrastructure development featured prominently throughout the week. Reliable energy systems, efficient transport networks, modern logistics infrastructure, water security and digital connectivity were identified as fundamental requirements for industrial competitiveness.

Participants acknowledged that significant investment is required to address infrastructure gaps that continue to constrain industrial development. Innovative financing mechanisms and stronger public-private partnerships were highlighted as essential for accelerating infrastructure delivery. Modern infrastructure improves productivity, lowers business costs and enhances the region's attractiveness as a destination for domestic and foreign investment.

Investment, Partnerships and Innovation

The Industrialisation Week provided a valuable platform for networking, investment promotion and partnership development. Governments, investors and industry leaders explored practical solutions for accelerating industrial growth.

Participants emphasised the importance of creating an enabling environment that supports investment, entrepreneurship and innovation. Transparent regulatory frameworks, efficient institutions and improved ease of doing business were identified as critical factors for attracting long-term investment. Public-private partnerships

were recognised as important mechanisms for mobilising resources and advancing industrial projects.

Innovation, digital transformation and emerging technologies were also identified as key drivers of future industrial growth. Investments in research, technology and innovation ecosystems will be essential for enhancing productivity and competitiveness across the region.

Women and Youth at the Centre of Development

An encouraging aspect of SIW 2026 was the strong emphasis on inclusivity. Discussions highlighted the importance of empowering women and youth as active participants in industrial development.

Entrepreneurship, skills development and digital inclusion were recognised as critical enablers for expanding economic participation. Delegates noted that future industrial growth will increasingly be driven by technology, artificial intelligence, automation and knowledge-based industries. Investing in education and skills development will therefore be essential to ensure that the region's workforce is equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The Strategic Importance of Quality Infrastructure

From the perspective of SADCAS, one of the most important outcomes of the Industrialisation Week was the growing recognition of quality infrastructure as a foundation for industrial development, trade and competitiveness.

Quality infrastructure, comprising standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment, provides confidence that products and services meet recognised requirements. Without these systems, industrial growth cannot be sustained, and businesses face challenges in accessing regional and international markets.

Accreditation plays a critical role by ensuring confidence in the competence of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies. Reliable conformity assessment services facilitate market access, reduce technical barriers to trade and support regulatory effectiveness, consumer protection and investor confidence.

As the SADC region seeks to strengthen regional value chains and increase participation in global markets, continued investment in quality infrastructure will be essential for supporting

sustainable industrialisation and economic integration.

Looking Ahead

The 8th Annual SADC Industrialisation Week demonstrated that Southern Africa possesses the resources, talent, institutions and vision required to transform its economic landscape. It also highlighted the importance of moving decisively from dialogue to implementation.

Achieving the goals of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy will require stronger regional cooperation, increased investment, modern infrastructure, innovation-driven development and robust quality infrastructure systems. By working together, Member States can create a more competitive, resilient and integrated regional economy.

Final Reflections

The 2026 SADC Industrialisation Week demonstrated that Southern Africa possesses the resources, talent and strategic vision necessary to accelerate industrial transformation. The challenge before us is execution: building resilient regional value chains, strengthening quality infrastructure systems, investing in innovation and ensuring that industrial growth remains sustainable and inclusive.

SADCAS stands ready to work with governments, industry, regulators and development partners to ensure that accreditation continues to support regional trade, industrial competitiveness and economic integration across the SADC region. Through internationally recognised accreditation services, we will continue to strengthen confidence in regional products and services, facilitate market access, reduce technical barriers to trade and contribute to the successful implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Agenda.

The outcomes of SIW 2026 inspire confidence that Southern Africa is well positioned to advance an industrial future that is resilient, sustainable and inclusive, creating lasting social and economic benefits for present and future generations.



PRESS RELEASE

SADCAS Celebrates World Accreditation Day 2026: Innovation, Trust and Sustainability – The Power of Accreditation

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) proudly joins the global community in commemorating World Accreditation Day 2026, held annually on 9 June. This year's theme, "Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation", underscores the vital role accreditation plays in enabling innovation, building trust, and supporting a more sustainable future.

Driving Innovation

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, businesses must innovate to remain competitive while meeting stringent compliance requirements. Accreditation provides the assurance that conformity assessment bodies operate with competence, impartiality, and reliability. By verifying systems and processes, accreditation enables innovation to progress safely and responsibly, ensuring that new technologies and solutions are trusted by regulators, markets, and consumers alike.

Building Trust

Trust is the cornerstone of trade, consumer confidence, and institutional credibility. Accreditation strengthens this trust by offering independent oversight that validates the quality and reliability of products, services, and institutions. Through internationally recognized accreditation schemes, SADCAS ensures that conformity assessment results are accepted across borders, reducing duplication of checks and facilitating smoother access to foreign markets.

SADCAS Milestones

Now in its 17th year of operation, SADCAS continues to expand its reach and impact with accreditations in 13 of the 14 member-states under its operational boundaries and 3 outside its boundaries (Burundi, Mauritius, and Uganda). With average 50 applications at various stages of processing, this reflects a strong and growing demand for accreditation services. In addition, our service offering has been extended to include accreditation of Proficiency Testing providers.

Capacity building remains central to SADCAS mission. To date, the organization has conducted 324 training courses across most SADC Member States, equipping conformity assessment bodies with the skills needed to meet international standards. These efforts align with the SADC Industrial Policy, focusing on priority sectors and value chains critical to regional development.

About SADCAS

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (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. Typically, in the developed world, each country has its own accreditation body but within the SADC region considering the cost of establishing and sustaining such a body and further taking into account the limited financial and human resources, the region decided to establish one accreditation body which services the accreditation needs of a number of countries.

SADCAS provides accreditation services to organizations that perform calibration, testing including medical testing, inspection, certification (personnel, product and management systems) and those that provide legal metrology services against international standards. SADCAS will broaden its scope of accreditation as needs arise. SADCAS also offers training services on accreditation related activities.

For more information

Please visit: www.sadcas.org or contact: Communications and Public Relations Office – bbadubi@sadcas.org

Supporting Sustainability

As sustainability becomes a defining priority for governments, businesses, and consumers, accreditation plays a critical role in verifying environmental claims and supporting responsible practices. By ensuring that sustainability standards are credibly assessed, accreditation helps organizations demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Global Reach

Seven of the nine accreditation schemes offered by SADCAS are internationally recognized. This global recognition means that certificates issued by SADCAS for testing, calibration, medical laboratories, inspection bodies, and management systems certification are accepted worldwide. For SADC Member States, this translates into enhanced market access, reduced trade barriers, and greater participation in global value chains.

Looking Ahead

World Accreditation Day 2026 is a reminder that accreditation is more than a technical process—it is a strategic enabler of innovation, trust, and sustainability. As SADCAS continues to broaden its scope and strengthen its services, it reaffirms its commitment to supporting regional integration, facilitating trade, and building a resilient quality infrastructure for the future.





#WAD2026

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2026

INNOVATION, TRUST and SUSTAINABILITY

The Power of Accreditation

www.global-aci.org



Eswatini Celebrates World Accreditation Day 2026



Drum majorettes from St Theresa High School in Manzini during the 2026 World Accreditation Day 2026 march.

The Kingdom of Eswatini joined the international community in commemorating the 2026 World Accreditation Day on Friday, 12 June 2026, in Manzini. The event was organised under the theme, **“Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation.”** It brought together representatives from Government, the Municipal Council of Manzini, the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service, national quality infrastructure institutions, industry, the media and other esteemed stakeholders.

The commemoration provided an important platform for raising awareness about accreditation and its contribution to public safety, consumer protection, international trade, innovation and sustainable development. It was held alongside the formal handover of an accreditation certificate to the Municipal Council of Manzini Laboratory.

The commemoration began with a public awareness march led by drum majorettes from St

Theresa High School. The procession started at the Manzini City Council premises, moved through the streets of Manzini town and ended at the Manzini Chambers, where the formal programme was held.

Approximately forty five (45) people participated in the march. The energetic performance by the drum majorettes attracted the attention of members of the public and helped communicate the importance of accreditation beyond the formal event.

The march demonstrated the collective commitment of Government, the Municipality, SADCAS and quality infrastructure stakeholders to promoting a culture of competence, quality and accountability in Eswatini.

Following the march, participants gathered at the Manzini Chambers for the formal World Accreditation Day programme.

The Acting Principal Secretary, Mr Phesheya Dube, delivered remarks on behalf of Government. He explained that accreditation provides independent assurance that laboratories and other conformity assessment bodies are competent, impartial and capable of operating according to internationally recognised standards.

He further highlighted the contribution of accreditation to national development, public confidence, safety, innovation, competitiveness, trade and sustainable service delivery. The address emphasised that innovative products, technologies and services can only gain public and market acceptance when they are supported by reliable testing, inspection and certification systems.

SADCAS was represented by Dr Varsha Gungoa, Scheme Coordinator for Testing Laboratories, Proficiency Testing and Veterinary Laboratories. She delivered an address on behalf of the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer.

Dr Gungoa explained that the World Accreditation Day theme brought together three important elements. Accreditation enables innovation by providing reliable and verified systems, builds trust in products and services and supports sustainability through responsible practices and credible evidence.

“She also highlighted the regional contribution of SADCAS in developing accreditation services and technical competence across Southern Africa. Dr Gungoa noted that, as of 31 March 2026, SADCAS had issued 423 accreditation certificates to 352 facilities across 13 SADC Member States and had conducted 324 training courses.”

Her address demonstrated the increasing demand for internationally recognised accreditation services and the importance of regional cooperation in strengthening quality infrastructure.

The Honourable Minister for Housing and Urban Development delivered the ministerial address after the accreditation certificate had been

formally handed over to the Municipal Council of Manzini Laboratory.

The Minister described accreditation as a public assurance mechanism that gives people confidence in the products they purchase, the services they receive and the evidence used to make important decisions.

He explained that accreditation ensures that organisations conducting testing, calibration, inspection and certification have qualified personnel, controlled methods, suitable equipment and reliable management systems. The Minister emphasised that accreditation ensures that the organisations responsible for checking the work of others are also independently assessed.

Addressing the theme, the Minister stated that innovation requires reliable measurement, trust depends on credible and consistent results and sustainability claims must be supported by verifiable evidence. He encouraged laboratories, regulators, industry, health professionals and the public to support accreditation as an important instrument for national development and international trade.

Throughout the programme, accreditation was presented as an important foundation for public confidence and sustainable development.

For consumers, accreditation provides assurance that products and services have been assessed through competent processes. For regulators, it provides reliable technical evidence to support compliance and enforcement decisions. For businesses, it supports market access, reduces the need for repeated testing and improves confidence among customers and trading partners.

Accreditation also encourages conformity assessment bodies to continuously improve their operations. Accredited organisations are expected to demonstrate the competence of their personnel, the suitability and calibration of their equipment, the validity of their methods and the effectiveness of their quality management systems.

These requirements help reduce the risk of inaccurate, inconsistent or unreliable results.

The 2026 World Accreditation Day commemoration successfully raised public and stakeholder

awareness about the role of accreditation in supporting innovation, trust and sustainability.

The awareness march increased the visibility of the event in central Manzini, while the formal programme provided participants with a better understanding of the contribution of accreditation to public health, consumer protection, trade and economic development.

The commemoration also strengthened cooperation among Government, SADCAS, the Municipal Council of Manzini and other quality infrastructure stakeholders. Other laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies were encouraged to pursue accreditation and demonstrate internationally recognised competence.



Dr Varsha Gungo, SADCAS delivering a speech during the 2026 WAD in Manzini



Drum Majorattes from St Theresa High School and some participants during the march for 2026 WAD



Namibia Raises Awareness on the Importance of Accreditation through World Accreditation Day 2026

Namibia joined the global community in commemorating World Accreditation Day (WAD) on 9 June 2026 under the theme **“Accreditation: Innovation, Trust and Sustainability – The Power of Accreditation.”**

As part of the national awareness campaign, Namibia used various communication platforms to promote awareness of accreditation and its contribution to quality, safety, consumer confidence, and sustainable economic development.

A key highlight of the commemoration was a television interview where NAFPP’s shared insights on the importance of accreditation, its role in strengthening Namibia’s quality infrastructure, and how accredited conformity assessment services support trust in products and services.

In addition, short awareness videos were developed and shared on social media platforms to reach a wider audience and encourage greater understanding of accreditation among stakeholders and the public.

Through these initiatives, Namibia continues to promote the value of accreditation and its role in supporting innovation, facilitating trade, and building confidence in quality assurance systems.

Seychelles Celebrates World Accreditation Day 2026



The National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) office in Seychelles organized a seminar on World Accreditation Day 2026. The seminar took place at the Seychelles Bureau of Standards on Tuesday 9th June 2026. Invitees from the different fish establishments were present; representatives from different private medical laboratories, public medical laboratories and testing laboratories were also present. A special invite was for students and lecturers from the culinary classes of the Seychelles Tourism Academy.

The public became aware of the event through the media organization, Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) that broadcasted the seminar on one of its daily television news. The NAFPP invited Quality manager representatives from four SADCAS accredited organization in Seychelles and they each made a presentation on their organization’s journey towards accreditation. Additionally, on that day there was an exhibition of the different divisions of the Seychelles Bureau of Standards including SADCAS- accredited laboratories.



First NAFPP Seychelles, Ms Corina Chang Ty- Sing giving a speech on World Accreditation Day 2026.



Participants during World Accreditation Day seminar in Seychelles.



Quality Manager representatives from Seychelles Bureau of Standards (on the left) and Drug Quality Control Laboratory (on the right).



Figure 4.0: Quality Manager representatives from SOCOMEP (on the left) and Seychelles Public Health Laboratory (on the right).



Malawi Joins the Global Community in Commemorating World Accreditation Day 2026

“Accreditation demonstrates technical competence, reliability, and confidence in the services provided by laboratories, inspection bodies, and certification bodies. Through our internationally recognised accredited scopes, the MBS continues to strengthen Malawi’s quality infrastructure and support innovation, trade, and sustainable development.”
– Mr. Symon O. Mandala Director General, MBS



Malawi joined the global community in commemorating World Accreditation Day 2026 under the theme “Innovation, Trust and Sustainability through Accreditation.” The day is observed annually on 9 June to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation in supporting trade, economic development, public safety and in building confidence in products and services. However, in Malawi, the commemoration was held on Wednesday, 8 July 2026, with the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) hosting the event at its Head Office in Blantyre.

Speaking during the commemoration, the Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Industrialization, Business, Trade and Tourism Mr. Wiskies Nkombezi described accreditation as a strategic enabler of industrialization, economic growth and consumer confidence. He underscored that as Malawi advances the aspirations of Malawi 2063 and implements the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), accreditation provides confidence that products, services and systems meet internationally recognized standards, enabling local businesses to compete in regional and global markets.

In his keynote address, the Director General of the MBS, Mr. Symon Mandala, who is also National

Accreditation Focal Point – Malawi Supervisor, underscored the importance of accreditation in assuring the technical competence of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies. He said that accreditation builds confidence in testing, calibration, inspection and certification results, protecting consumers while supporting investment and trade. He also highlighted the MBS’ growing international recognition, showcased through its ten internationally accredited scopes, which demonstrate Malawi’s technical competence and commitment to continual improvement.

The commemoration featured exhibitions displaying accredited services and innovative technologies, presentations from students, industry experts and researchers, and the recognition of organizations that have demonstrated excellence in quality management and continual improvement. The commemoration brought together Government officials, industry representatives, accredited conformity assessment bodies, academia and development partners to reflect on the role of accreditation in driving innovation, facilitating trade and supporting sustainable national development.



"Accreditation provides assurance that conformity assessment services are performed by competent and impartial bodies using internationally recognized requirements. It is a foundation for trust, enabling industries, regulators, and consumers to make informed decisions based on reliable results." – **Mrs. Gloria Chaonamwene Meleka, Director of Quality Assurance Services, MBS**



"Accreditation is a strategic tool for industrialization and economic transformation. As Malawi advances towards the aspirations of the Malawi 2063... and expands participation in regional and global markets through initiatives such as the AfCFTA, we must continue strengthening our quality infrastructure to ensure that our products and services meet internationally recognized standards." – **Mr. Wiskies Nkombezi, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Industrialization, Business Trade and Tourism.**



Zimbabwe Commemorates World Accreditation Day 2026: Driving Innovation, Trust and Regional Trade Integration

MUTARE, ZIMBABWE - In alignment with global observances, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in collaboration with national stakeholders, hosted the national commemorations for World Accreditation Day (WAD) 2026 at the Manica Skyview Hotel in Mutare, Manicaland Province.

Held under the global theme "Innovation, Trust, and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation," established by the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI), the event brought together policy leaders, regulatory authorities, industrial bodies, and conformity assessment service providers to highlight how accredited testing, calibration and inspection drive sustainable growth across the region.



Dignitaries seated at the WAD 2026 commemorations: (Centre) Ms. Eve Gadzikwa, SADCAS CEO, to her right, Ms. R. Chibanda; further right, Mr. K. Masunungure; seated to her left, Mr. M. Rubaya; and further left, Mr. D. Chinamasa, QMIZ CEO.

The welcome remarks were delivered by Mr. M. Rubaya, Director of Economic Affairs and Investment Promotion in the Office of the President and Cabinet (Manicaland), on behalf of the Permanent Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution (Manicaland), Mr. A. Maronge. In his address, Mr. Rubaya demonstrated how provincial economic growth relies on accredited standards across key value chains, including timber, agriculture, mining, and tourism.

Delivering the Keynote Address on behalf of Ambassador T.T. Chifamba, Permanent Secretary for Industry and Commerce, Ms. R. Chibanda highlighted accreditation as Zimbabwe's "technical passport" for trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2).

SADCAS Regional Overview: Theme & Digital Transformation

Ms. Eve C. Gadzikwa, CEO of the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) and guest of honor at the event, delivered the regional technical overview, demonstrating how SADCAS supports 14 member states across English, French, and Portuguese-speaking nations as a multi-economy accreditation body.

In her presentation, Dr. Gadzikwa unpacked this year's theme, detailing how accreditation fosters innovation, builds trust, and drives sustainability across regional supply chains. She also demystified the common confusion between certification and accreditation, while highlighting SADCAS's ongoing transition to a fully digital Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform, developed in partnership with the Nigerian National Accreditation System (NiNAS) and Germany's National Metrology Institute (PTB).



Delegates and stakeholders in attendance at the World Accreditation Day 2026 commemorations in Mutare.

Practical Case Studies: Public Health & Provincial Growth

Presenting a practical case study, Mr. H. Shoko, Quality Manager at the Government Analyst Laboratory (GAL) under the Ministry of Health and Child Care, outlined GAL's journey to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation which was formally granted by SADCAS in March 2023. GAL's accredited status reinforces statutory capabilities in food safety analysis, anti-microbial resistance (AMR) tracking, water testing, and forensic toxicology.

Industrial Growth Engine

In his presentation on industrial growth, Quality Management Institute of Zimbabwe (QMIZ) CEO Mr. D. Chinamasa illustrated how technical accreditation directly drives macroeconomic

expansion. He emphasized that validating the impartiality and technical competence of testing, calibration and certification entities lowers trade barriers, aligns domestic industries with NDS2 goals, and elevates national competitiveness under Vision 2030 and AfCFTA protocols.

Conclusion

The 2026 World Accreditation Day commemorations in Mutare reaffirmed Zimbabwe's commitment to utilizing regional quality infrastructure as a catalyst for economic growth. Through continued partnership with SADCAS, local industries, regulators, and conformity assessment bodies are well-positioned to leverage accreditation as the ultimate bridge for innovation, market trust, and regional sustainability.

World Metrology Day 2026 Commemorated With Call For Strong Measurement Systems



Senior officials during World Metrology Day in Blantyre, Malawi

Malawi joined the global community in commemorating World Metrology Day 2026 on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 in Blantyre, with calls for stronger and more reliable measurement systems to support fair trade, consumer protection, and evidence-based policy making.

The commemoration, held in Blantyre under the theme “Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making,” highlighted the growing importance of accurate measurements in national development and economic transformation.

Speaking during the event, the Principal Secretary for Industrialization in the Ministry of Industry, Business, Trade and Tourism, Dr. Bright Mollande said accurate and traceable measurements are essential for effective governance, public confidence and sustainable development. He warned that without reliable metrology systems, policymaking becomes guesswork while trade, healthcare and industrial growth are negatively affected.

The Director General of the Malawi Bureau of Standards, Mr. Symon O. Mandala, said the MBS continues to strengthen Malawi’s metrology systems through alignment with international standards, expansion of accredited laboratories and enhanced certification of weighing and measuring instruments. He also announced ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Health to roll out nationwide verification of medical

equipment to improve patient safety and diagnostic accuracy.

The MBS reminds importers, traders and manufacturers of measuring instruments to comply with licensing and type approval requirements to avoid penalties and supply chain disruptions.

The event brought together government officials, technical regulators, industry and business leaders, consumer protection representatives, development partners and the academia. Masautso Ngamwane, NAFP Malawi was among the invited guests at the function.



Participants during the World Metrology Day celebrations.

Under The Eye Of An Assessor – Mdigo Vusi Thunzini



MDIGO VUSI THUNZINI

Assessor – Medical Laboratories
Accreditation Scheme

“Mdigo Vusi Thunzini is a dedicated technical assessor committed to promoting quality, competence, and continual improvement through conformity assessment and accreditation. As a SADCAS Assessor, he has developed valuable practical experience in conducting assessments against international standards, contributing to the credibility and effectiveness of conformity assessment bodies (CABs).”

“Having joined SADCAS as an Assessor enabled me to understand the role of an assessor during accreditation application phases, handling applications, planning for assessments, conducting assessments, compiling assessments reports and reviewing assessments reports for Accreditation Approvals Committee. My journey as a Technical Assessor has been both rewarding and enriching. During my first assessment in Malawi in May 2026, I was fortunate to receive excellent mentorship and guidance from experienced assessors, which provided me with a solid foundation in the assessment process. The support and knowledge shared during that assessment gave me the confidence to independently conduct subsequent assessments.

Since then, I have been able to apply my assessment skills effectively, conducting assessments objectively while gaining a deeper understanding of how conformity assessment bodies implement and maintain their management systems. Each assessment has broadened my technical knowledge and strengthened my appreciation for the importance of impartiality, consistency, and competence in the accreditation process. This experience has equipped me to approach future assessments with greater confidence, objectivity, and ease, while continuing to contribute to the integrity and credibility of accredited conformity assessment activities across the region.”

Mdigo Vusi Thunzini joined SADCAS in May 2026 as an Assessor- Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme.

Under the Eye of a Technical Expert – Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (CLAS) Pamidzani Ntima



PAMIDZANI NTIMA

Technical Expert – Calibration
Laboratories Accreditation Scheme

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to SADCAS for granting me the opportunity to serve as a Technical Expert in Force and Pressure within their Assessment Team. During my first assignment, I felt somewhat overwhelmed by anxiety; however, with the guidance of the Monitor, I received valuable direction on the requirements, techniques, and best approaches. This experience was truly eye-opening, and it made subsequent assignments much smoother.”

Serving as a SADCAS Technical Expert has provided me with indispensable exposure and knowledge of how calibration work is carried out across the diverse SADC countries. Through these assessments, I became more familiar with the SADCAS Technical Requirements Documents and how they are applied by different laboratories.

The demands of traveling on tight schedules have strengthened my ability to plan effectively and deliver timely reports. I am proud to be recognized as one of the experts in Metrology engaged by SADCAS, and I look forward to continuing to learn while also sharing my knowledge and experiences with fellow experts.”

Building Trust and Opportunity: The Role of Accreditation For Regulators and SMEs – A Technical Expert’s Perspective



MERCY MUGALA NG'AMBI

Technical Expert– Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS)

“Accreditation assessments carry significant importance for regulators who rely on credible conformity assessment to support their enforcement and policy mandates. From my experience during accreditation assessments, I have seen firsthand how accredited systems provide regulators with reliable assurance that inspections, testing and certification activities are conducted competently, consistently and impartially, benefiting not only large organizations but also SMEs, women-led, and youth-led businesses.”

During an assessment, every process is scrutinized to ensure it aligns with standards and operates effectively. Competence of personnel, assessment methodology, evidence collection and risk management are all evaluated. These elements are not mere administrative requirements; they underpin the confidence that regulatory authorities place in accredited conformity assessment bodies.

Accreditation provides regulators with several key benefits. Firstly, it strengthens the credibility of enforcement decisions, as outcomes from accredited assessments are recognized as impartial and technically sound. Secondly, it reduces the likelihood of complaints and disputes

from regulated entities because decisions are grounded in verifiable, standardized processes. Thirdly, accreditation promotes efficiency and consistency in regulatory oversight, ensuring that inspections, certifications and assessments meet agreed international benchmarks. This is particularly important for SMEs, women-led and youth-led enterprises, who depend on fair, transparent and accessible certification and compliance processes.

Risk-based thinking, as applied in accreditation, aligns closely with regulatory priorities. Through SWOT analyses, regulators can identify strengths, such as robust procedures; weaknesses, such as gaps in competence records; opportunities,

such as continual improvement programs; and threats, like complaints from key stakeholders. Accreditation assessments help regulators preemptively mitigate these threats, ensuring that regulatory actions are defensible and transparent. These processes create an enabling environment for SMEs and emerging entrepreneurs, especially those led by women and youth, to access markets with confidence.

Consistency and traceability are paramount. Accreditation ensures that processes documented by conformity assessment bodies match actual practice. For regulators, this means confidence that inspection reports, certifications and assessment findings are reliable, reproducible and verifiable. Misalignments, such as outdated procedures or unmonitored personnel competence, are detected and corrected before they can affect regulatory decisions, safeguarding opportunities for smaller and emerging enterprises.

From a personal perspective, participating in SADCAS assessments reinforces the accountability framework that regulators depend on. I am responsible for ensuring that evidence, explanations, and processes are clear and accurate. For regulators, such accountability translates to reduced risk, enhanced trust and confidence in decisions that affect public safety, trade compliance and market fairness. It also ensures that SMEs, women, and youth-led businesses are treated fairly and consistently.

In conclusion, accreditation is a strategic tool for regulators. It provides a structured, risk-based approach to evaluate conformity assessment

systems, strengthens confidence in assessment and certification outcomes and supports regulators in making fair, transparent and credible decisions. Accreditation is not merely a compliance exercise – it is a foundation for trust, risk mitigation, public confidence and inclusive opportunities for SMEs, women and youth-led enterprises. Moreover, SMEs and youth-led businesses should also seek to get certification on International Standards such as Quality Management Systems (QMS), Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), and other Global Food Safety Initiatives (GFSI) group of Standards for food-related businesses, Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for environmentally related businesses and Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) for occupational health and safety, and Integrated Management Systems (IMS) for those who would like to integrate multiple Standards, thereby, unlocking further market access and competitive advantage.

About the Author

Mercy Mugala Ng'ambi is a Technical Expert supporting SADCAS in QMS, FSMS, EMS, OHSMS and IMS. She is an award-winning and well-traveled Quality Assurance, Technical Regulation and Continuous Improvement professional, recognized for excellence in Quality Assurance and Kaizen initiatives; a Trade Law Centre SheGovernsTrade Fellow, and serves within the Executive Director's Department at the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency, supporting systems-based oversight and conformity assessments.

SADCAS staff graduate from the Stellenbosch Management Development Programme (MDP)



A huge round of applause to

Segomotso Kobe, Mmamotse Gaotilwe, and Pearl Kgengwenyane for triumphantly completing the prestigious Stellenbosch Management Development Programme (MDP)—a remarkable milestone in their leadership journey!

Mmamotse P.
Gaotilwe



Pearl Tshepo
Kgengwenyane



Segomotso
Tsholofelo Kobe



For more info visit:

www.sadcas.org

Mdigo Vusi Thunzi joins SADCAS as Assessor Medical (MVT)



MDIGO VUSI THUNZINI JOINS SADCAS AS ASSESSOR- MEDICAL

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Mdigo Vusi Thunzini as an Assessor- Medical Laboratories Accreditation Scheme, effective May 2026.

Mr. Thunzini brings over five years of specialized experience in Laboratory Quality Management Systems, Internal Auditing, and Risk Management Applications. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences from the Southern Africa Nazarene University, Eswatini, and has successfully completed advanced training in ISO 15189:2022, Technical Assessor Techniques, and Risk Management in Medical Laboratories.

His professional expertise includes conducting laboratory assessments in line with ISO 15189:2022 standards and guiding laboratories through the accreditation process. With a strong commitment to advancing laboratory quality and safety, Mr. Thunzini's appointment further strengthens SADCAS's mission to enhance regional laboratory systems and promote excellence in healthcare services.

"I look forward to leveraging my expertise in laboratory quality management systems, ISO 15189:2022 implementation, and medical laboratory assessments to support SADCAS's mission of fostering competence, building confidence, and ensuring compliance with international standards across the region."



MDIGO VUSI THUNZINI
ASSESSOR- MEDICAL

For more info visit: www.sadcas.org

Tebogo Annah Odireng joins SADCAS as Human Resources Officer



Introducing Tebogo Annah Odireng – Human Resources Officer

The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Tebogo Annah Odireng, who joined the organization as the Human Resources Officer since 1st of June 2026. Ms Odireng brings over 20 years of progressive experience in Human Resources Management across higher education and the public sector

Ms Odireng is a seasoned HR professional with extensive expertise in strategic human resource management, organizational development, talent acquisition, employee relations, learning and development, performance management, workforce planning, and policy development. She holds a Master of Public Administration (Human Resources Management) and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences (Public Administration and Political Science), both obtained from the University of Botswana. She is also a Certified Human Resource Business Partner (CHRBP 2.0) and a Certified Change Agent, reflecting her commitment to advancing organizational transformation and people excellence.

As SADCAS continues to strengthen its position as a leading accreditation body in the Southern African region, Tebogo's wealth of experience and strategic HR expertise will support the organization's mission of achieving operational excellence through its people.

"I am passionate about building high-performing organizations through strategic leadership, data-driven decision-making, and people-centred solutions. With my strengths in leveraging strategic vision and execution, HR analytics, leadership and stakeholder engagement. I look forward to cultivating a culture of continuous improvement in SADCAS."



**TEBOGO
ANNAH ODIRENG**
HUMAN RESOURCES
OFFICER

For more info visit:

www.sadcas.org



ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Exigences et Audit interne (cinq jours)

TRAINING OUTCOME

Le cours de 5 jours sur les exigences ISO/IEC 17025 et l'audit interne sont conçus pour promouvoir une compréhension approfondie des exigences de la norme ISO/IEC 17025 et pour transmettre aux membres du personnel des laboratoires d'étalonnage/essais les connaissances et compétences en audit interne afin de surveiller la conformité à l'ISO/IEC 17025.



7-11,
September 2026

V E N U E

VITRUAL

QUI DEVRAIT Y ASSISTER?

La gestion et le personnel des laboratoires d'étalonnage/essais impliqués dans la mise en œuvre et la maintenance du système de laboratoire, ainsi que ceux impliqués dans le suivi de la conformité du système par des audits internes.

SADCAS recrute ses formateurs parmi un vivier d'experts qualifiés et expérimentés de la région SADC, qui ont une implication à jour dans les questions d'accréditation, que ce soit en matière de mise en œuvre des systèmes et/ou d'évaluations.

Register Now!

Contact our training department
mgoleanye@sadcas.org to secure your spot.

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A Safer Africa Through Training and Accreditation

Across Africa, industries are evolving rapidly to meet growing demands for quality, safety, and international competitiveness. From healthcare and construction to mining, agriculture, manufacturing, and environmental protection, organizations are expected to deliver products and services that are reliable, safe, and compliant with recognized standards. Achieving these outcomes requires more than regulations alone—it requires competent people and trusted systems. This is where training and accreditation play a transformative role.

Training equips professionals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to implement international standards effectively. Whether it is laboratory personnel applying ISO/IEC 17025, medical laboratory professionals working towards ISO 15189, inspection bodies implementing ISO/IEC 17020, or certification bodies operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021, continual professional development ensures that technical competence remains at the heart of service delivery. Well-trained personnel are better able to identify risks, prevent errors, improve efficiency, and maintain consistency in their work.

However, competence must also be independently demonstrated. Accreditation provides this assurance by verifying that conformity assessment bodies—including laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, and proficiency testing providers—operate in accordance with internationally recognized standards. Through rigorous assessments, accreditation builds confidence that test results, inspections, certifications, and calibration services are technically valid, impartial, and reliable.

The combination of training and accreditation creates a powerful framework for improving safety throughout Africa. In the healthcare sector, accredited laboratories produce dependable test results that support accurate diagnosis and effective patient care. In construction and engineering, competent inspection and testing help ensure that buildings, bridges, and infrastructure meet safety requirements. In the mining industry, accredited testing and inspection contribute to safer operations while protecting workers and

surrounding communities. Within agriculture and food production, accredited laboratories and inspection services help safeguard food quality, protect public health, and facilitate access to regional and international markets.

Beyond individual sectors, the benefits extend to governments, businesses, and consumers alike. Organizations that invest in training and pursue accreditation often experience improved operational performance, stronger risk management, enhanced customer confidence, and greater market acceptance. Governments benefit from stronger regulatory systems and increased public trust, while consumers gain confidence that the products and services they rely on have been assessed by competent organizations.

For Africa, these benefits are particularly significant as the continent advances regional integration through initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Mutual recognition of accredited conformity assessment results reduces technical barriers to trade, enabling businesses to access new markets more efficiently while maintaining high standards of quality and safety. This supports economic growth while ensuring that increased trade does not come at the expense of consumer protection.

As the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), we recognize that accreditation is only as strong as the competence of the people who implement it. This is why training remains a cornerstone of our mission. Through a comprehensive portfolio of courses covering international standards, internal auditing, measurement uncertainty, method validation, root cause analysis, quality management systems, and other technical disciplines, SADCAS supports organizations across the region in building the expertise needed to achieve and sustain accreditation.

A safer Africa is built one competent professional, one accredited organization, and one trusted result at a time. By investing in people through training and strengthening institutions through accreditation, we create a culture of quality that protects lives, supports sustainable development,

promotes innovation, and enhances confidence in African products and services.

Together, training and accreditation are not simply tools for compliance—they are catalysts for safer workplaces, healthier communities, stronger

economies, and a more resilient Africa. As we continue to build capacity across the continent, SADCAS remains committed to partnering with stakeholders to advance excellence, inspire confidence, and contribute to a safer Africa for present and future generations.



Requisitos da ISO/IEC 17025:2017 e Auditorias Internas (Curso de Cinco Dias)

TRAINING OUTCOME

O Curso de Requisitos da ISO/IEC 17025:2017 e Auditorias Internas, com a duração de cinco dias, foi concebido para proporcionar aos participantes uma compreensão abrangente dos requisitos da norma ISO/IEC 17025:2017 e desenvolver os conhecimentos e competências necessários para realizar auditorias internas eficazes em laboratórios de calibração e ensaio.



21–25,
September 2026

V E N U E

VITRUAL

QUEM DEVE PARTICIPAR?

O curso visa capacitar os colaboradores dos laboratórios para monitorizar e avaliar a conformidade com a ISO/IEC 17025:2017, contribuindo para a melhoria contínua dos sistemas de gestão laboratoriais.

O SADCAS seleciona os seus formadores a partir de um grupo de especialistas qualificados e experientes da região da SADC, envolvidos ativamente em atividades de acreditação, incluindo a implementação de sistemas de gestão e a realização de avaliações de acreditação. Desta forma, os participantes beneficiam de conhecimentos atuais, práticos e relevantes sobre os requisitos e as melhores práticas de acreditação.

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SADCAS

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Requirements & Internal Auditing (Five Days)

TRAINING OUTCOME

ISO/IEC 17021-1 requirements and internal auditing course is designed to promote a thorough understanding of ISO/IEC 17021-1 standard requirements and to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to certification bodies' staff to monitor compliance with ISO/IEC 17021-1.



05-09
October 2026

V E N U E

VITRUAL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Management and staff of certification bodies involved in the implementation and maintenance of the system as well as those involved in monitoring system compliance through internal audits.

Register Now!

Contact our training department
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SADCAS Continues to Build Competence Through Regional Training Initiatives

SADCAS remains committed to strengthening quality infrastructure across the Southern African region by delivering practical, internationally recognized training that equips professionals with the knowledge and skills required to implement and maintain globally accepted management systems and technical standards.

SADCAS successfully conducted three key training programmes, demonstrating its continued commitment to supporting laboratories and other conformity assessment bodies in achieving competence and promoting confidence in testing, calibration, and medical laboratory services.

ISO 15189:2022 Training at Nyangabwe Referral Hospital, Francistown- Botswana

SADCAS conducted an in-person ISO 15189:2022 Requirements and Internal Auditing training programme for 10 participants from Nyangabwe Referral Hospital in Botswana on 6th to 10th July 2026. The training provided laboratory professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the requirements of ISO 15189, enabling participants to strengthen their quality management systems, improve technical competence, and enhance the reliability of medical laboratory services.

The interactive face-to-face format encouraged practical discussions, peer learning, and the exchange of experiences, ensuring that participants gained valuable insights that can be directly applied within their laboratories.

Virtual ISO/IEC 17025 Training for NESCH MIN TECH, Tanzania

As part of its regional outreach, SADCAS also delivered a virtual ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Internal Auditing training programme for NESCH MIN TECH Laboratory in Tanzania from 6th to 10 July 2026.

The virtual platform enabled participants to receive high-quality instruction while eliminating travel costs and minimising operational disruptions. Through expert facilitation and practical examples, participants enhanced their understanding of laboratory competence, impartiality, risk-based thinking, documentation requirements, and continual improvement. This initiative further demonstrates how technology enables SADCAS

to effectively serve organisations across the SADC region.

Virtual Regional Open Course on ISO/IEC 17025

In addition to organisation-specific programmes, SADCAS hosted an Open Course on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 on 29 June to 3 July 2026, bringing together participants from across the SADC region. The open course created an excellent platform for professionals from different countries and sectors to exchange experiences, discuss common challenges, and learn best practices in implementing the international standard.

The diversity of participants enriched discussions and reinforced the value of regional collaboration in strengthening laboratory quality systems and promoting harmonised approaches to accreditation readiness.

Investing in Competence for Sustainable Quality

Training is a fundamental pillar in achieving and maintaining accreditation. By investing in the competence of personnel, organisations improve the consistency and reliability of their operations, enhance customer confidence, support regulatory compliance, and drive continual improvement. SADCAS remains dedicated to supporting laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, and other conformity assessment organisations through high-quality training programmes delivered both virtually and in person. As demand for internationally recognised standards continues to grow, SADCAS will continue expanding its training offerings to meet the evolving needs of industry and regulators throughout the SADC region.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Nyangabwe Referral Hospital, NESCH MIN TECH, and all participants who attended our regional open course for choosing SADCAS as their trusted training partner. We look forward to continuing our collaboration in advancing quality, competence, and accreditation across Africa.



Root Cause Analysis

TRAINING OUTCOME

The objective of this course is to provide participants with knowledge and skill to manage incidents/nonconformities, with specific emphasis on the identification of the root cause.

Register Now!

Contact our training department
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21-23
October 2026

V E N U E

VITRUAL

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SADCAS
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ACCREDITATION SERVICE

ISO 15189:2022 Requirements & Internal Auditing (Five Days)

TRAINING OUTCOME

The objective of this Standard is to promote the welfare of patients and satisfaction of laboratory users through confidence in the quality and competence of medical laboratories. This standard contains requirements for the medical laboratory to plan and implement actions to address risks and opportunities for improvement.

09-13 November 2026

V E N U E

VITRUAL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Laboratory personnel in Medical Laboratories
- Laboratory Directors
- Quality Managers
- Technical Managers
- Quality Officers
- Top Management of medical laboratories
- ISO 15189 consultants and experts

Register Now!

Contact our training department
mgoleanye@sadcas.org to secure your spot.

www.sadcas.org

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements & Internal Auditing (Five Days)

TRAINING OUTCOME

The 5-day ISO/IEC 17025 requirements and internal auditing course is designed to promote a thorough understanding of ISO/IEC 17025 standard requirements and to impart internal auditing knowledge and skills to calibration/testing laboratories staff to monitor compliance with ISO/IEC 17025. The course will cover the following main topics:



**16-20
November 2026**

V E N U E

VITRUAL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

SADCAS draws its Trainers from a pool of qualified and experienced experts from the SADC region who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters be it system implementation and/or assessments.

Register Now!

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ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Awareness (One Day)

TRAINING OUTCOME

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



**08 December
2026**

V E N U E

VITRUAL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The course is aimed at top management and support staff to make them appreciate the need for accreditation and their role in this process.

SADCAS draws its Trainers from a pool of qualified and experienced experts from the SADC region who have up to date involvement in accreditation matters be it system implementation and/or assessments. SADCAS is committed to provide value adding services through training courses designed to meet customers' needs

Register Now!

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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)

 Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (TLAS) • Forensic analysis • DNA Testing • Civil Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Electrical Engineering • Radiation Dosimetry • Non-destructive Testing • Textile Testing • Petroleum Products Testing	 Medical Laboratories accreditation Scheme (MLAS) • Histopathology • Cytology • Parasitology • Endocrinology • Immunophenotyping • Blood Banking	 Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (VLAS) • Mycology • Parasitology • Helminthology • Protozoology • Histology • Cytology • Toxicology • Pathology	 Pharmaceutical Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (Under TLAS) • Microbiology • Chemical • Toxicity • Medical Devices Testing
 Certification Bodies Accreditation Scheme (CBAS) • Product Certification • Personnel Certification • Food Safety Management Systems • HACCP • Environmental Management Systems • Quality Management Systems • PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION (ISO/IEC 17024)	 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	 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	

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.



14 SADC MEMBER STATES SERVICED BY SADCAS

ANGOLA



BOTSWANA



COMOROS



DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



ESWATINI



LESOTHO



MADAGASCAR



MALAWI



MOZAMBIQUE



NAMIBIA



SEYCHELLES



TANZANIA



ZIMBABWE



ZAMBIA



SADCAS provides accreditation services and offers training in accreditation-related courses to 14 SADC Member States. The organization continues to expand its reach in terms of accreditation scope, sectoral coverage, and geographical diversity, now serving countries such as Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mauritius. Additionally, SADCAS is now able to process applications in all three official SADC languages: English, French, and Portuguese.

the pion eer.



SADC Accreditation Service:
SADCAS



Physical Address: Plot 50369 Unit 3A, Second
Floor Tholo Office Park, Fairgrounds, Gaborone,
Botswana



SADC Accreditation Services



+267 3132909



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