Editors Note

The second issue of the Accreditation Mirror is currently going through the formative stages after its establishment. However I hope that it would grow to become a premier source of information and knowledge on Accreditation in our region. Therefore, its establishment should be seen as a sign of growth of accreditation development in the SADC region especially, that of SADCA, and the other various organisations that are involved with accreditation, such as the Accreditation Bodies (namely SADCAS, SANAS, MAURITAS, IAAC), the various National Accreditation Focal Points in countries without their own national accreditation body who are utilising SADCAS and the various stakeholders with an interest in accreditation such as the conformity assessment body community.

I would like to reiterate that the Accreditation Mirror is a SADCA initiative that is aimed at raising awareness on the benefits of accreditation and the various accreditation activities in the SADC region. It is published twice annually in April and October and I hope this newsletter would play a significant role in the marketing of accreditation as well as in the fulfilment of an establishment of a robust SADCA mutual recognition arrangement in the long-term.

This newsletter is dedicated to the 2017 World Accreditation Day Commemorations. However, it is also critical that we also appreciate that 2017 has been declared an African Year of Quality Infrastructure.

Finally, I would like to thank and appreciate all those who contributed their time and efforts towards the production of this newsletter.

Edward Eddie Mmatli
Accreditation Mirror Editor

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2017 World Accreditation Day (WAD) Press Release

By: ILAC/IAF

June 9, marks World Accreditation Day (WAD) as a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. The inaugural WAD was celebrated in 2008.

The theme for 2017 World Accreditation Day is “Accreditation: Delivering Confidence in the Construction and the Built Environment”. World Accreditation Day 2017 focuses on how accreditation delivers confidence in construction and the built environment. Standards, conformity assessment and accreditation are well-established and accepted tools that are used to support the construction industry, building owners and operators from contractors to manufacturers, designers and architects, to structural and civil engineers. They are also used by policy makers, local authorities and regulators to support construction-based regulation, environmental protection, public safety, fraud prevention, public trust and innovation.

The building sector is important for economic development, employment creation and the environment. In less developed economies, existing commercial and domestic properties, as well as infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and transport networks, tend to be highly vulnerable to climate and disaster risk. In more developed economies, construction is a complex and highly competitive sector, which provides challenges for companies seeking to improve margins, and reduce costs whilst improving build quality, ensuring a safe environment on site and delivering increasingly sustainable buildings. The digital revolution is also reaching the construction sector with Building Information Modelling for the design of structures, to the embedding of smart and connected technology in construction components.

Construction supply chains are being impacted by the pace of urbanization, technological advances in manufacturing and construction techniques, environmental pressures, changes in design preferences, and evermore globalization of supply chains. Given these factors, it is critical that the public have confidence in the safety, security, and sustainability of construction projects and the built environment. Accreditation provides this confidence by providing a system that supports the management of risk, helps drive efficiency, and demonstrates compliance with national or local regulation. Accredited testing, calibration, inspection and certification provide suppliers, purchasers and specifiers with assurance that construction projects run efficiently, construction sites are safe and reliable materials are used.

They also provide Government and Regulators with reliable evidence that completed projects meet regulatory compliance, and existing buildings continue to be safe to use. Accreditation covers many disciplines throughout the building supply chain. Laboratories are accredited to test construction products and raw materials, geotextiles, engineering materials, machinery and structures, acoustics, and air leakage testing. Calibration laboratories specialise in acoustics, dimensional, mass, density, volume, force, torque hardness, electrical, pressure, fluids, temperature and humidity calibration.

Accredited certification of Quality, Environmental, Occupational Health & Safety, and Energy Management Systems ensure that construction companies have the appropriate controls and processes in place to deliver projects efficiently, control their environmental impact and energy efficiency, and deliver a safe working environment. Inspection bodies carry out construction-related activities such as welding and welding procedures, pressure vessels, piping, and gas, electrical safety, lifting equipment and the carriage of dangerous goods. Accreditation also covers inspection services in areas such as asbestos surveying and legionella risk assessments.

A brochure giving more details of how accreditation delivers confidence in construction and the built environment is available for download from the IAF and ILAC websites. Further case studies, research and support material is available at http://www.publicsectorassurance.org/topic-areas/construction. Links to the IAF and ILAC websites and public sector assurance site are provided on the SADCA website.

To commemorate 2017 World Accreditation Day a number of activities were lined up in various SADC Countries serviced by SADCAS which include conferences, workshops and, press and television coverages. This press release is also part of efforts to raise awareness on the role of accreditation in delivering confidence in construction and the built environment.

At first glance achieving SADCAS accredited certification status may appear to be yet another distraction that prevents the time-strapped business owners from concentrating on providing the company’s products or services. In fact the opposite is true, as accreditation can help business owners devote more time to the sharp end of their business.

Light Touch Regulation
LESOTHO COMMENERATED WAD

A number of people enquired about the accreditation with regard to the benefits towards construction industry as indicated by the theme, following the publication of the “Press Release” on print media.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Lesotho through the Department of Standards and Quality Assurance that hosts the National Accreditation Focal Point within the Ministry of Trade and Industry celebrated World Accreditation Day on 30 June 2017 at Victoria Hotel marking this year’s theme, “Accreditation: Delivering Confidence in Construction and Built Environment”

The World Accreditation Day Commemoration was attended by forty five (45) people from the following organizations;

Government Ministries and Regulators
- Building Design Services – Ministry of Public Works and Transport
- Roads Directorate
- Legal Section – Ministry of Public Works and Transport
- Legal Section – Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
- Legal Section – Ministry of Labour
- Occupational Safety and Health Department – Ministry of Labour
- Lesotho Communication Authority
- Department of Trade – Inspection – Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Standards and Quality Assurance – Ministry of Trade and Industry

Private Organizations and Academia
- Lesotho Association of Engineers
- Lesotho Civils’ Construction Association
- Architectural Association of Lesotho
- Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory - Construction
- National University of Lesotho – Academic
- Members of the media

The event was honoured by the Office of the Principal Secretary – Ministry of Trade and Industry who presided on the official opening of the commemoration and thereafter the presentations were made by different organizations from the Government/Regulators and Private Organizations.

The participants showed enthusiasm on the theme and were impressed by the presentations by Construction Companies that portrayed remarkable achievement thus far regarding accreditation programme implementation.

Through this demonstration of commitment by different organizations we believe that there will be significant developments towards accreditation in the Construction Industry in Lesotho. The event was covered by different media. Below are some pictures of the commemoration.
Swaziland joined the world and commemorated the 2017 World Accreditation Day. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade through the National Accreditation Focal Point in collaboration with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) of Swaziland held the World Accreditation Day on the 29th June 2017. The event was in a form of a workshop where different stakeholders from Government and the construction sector were present. This year’s theme; **Accreditation: Delivery Confidence in the Construction and Built Environment** focuses on how accreditation delivers confidence in the construction sector.

Preparations for this day started off in April 2017. Meetings between the Construction Industry Council and National Accreditation Focal Point were held in order to make this day a success. The World Accreditation Day celebrations were then held at The George Hotel. It started at 8:30am and ended at 1.00 o’clock pm. The event was a success.

A total of 55 people from Government, the construction industry and Media Houses attended the World Accreditation Day. The Programme Director, Ms. Georgina Shabangu made her welcome remarks to all stakeholders present. The Chief Quality Systems Administrator, Ms. Priscilla Priscilla Dlamini also made her Opening Remarks.

The NAFP, Ms. Sybil Sthembiso Dlamini was the first to make a presentation. She presented on **Accreditation, its importance and benefit** in the construction industry, she was followed by Ms. Sihle Zwane, the Executive Director for SWASA who presented on the role of standards in the construction sector. The Vice Chairperson of the National Laboratory Association of Swaziland gave a presentation on the Laboratory Quality Awards and the role of a laboratory in the Construction Industry Council. He was followed by Mr. Themba Simelane who presented on the role of metrology in the construction industry and lastly the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nhlanhla Dlamini from the Construction Industry Council presented on the role of accreditation in the construction industry.

Questions between the presentations were invited and all questions were answered by the relevant technical barriers to
SANAS COMMEMORATES WAD

The annual World Accreditation Day (WAD), was celebrated on Friday June 9 at Premier Hotel in Midrand, Johannesburg. WAD is a global initiative, jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation.

The 2017 theme was, Accreditation Delivering confidence in construction and the built environment. The purpose is for global accreditation bodies like SANAS to continue focusing on supporting the professionals in this industry, including contractors, manufacturers, designers, architects, civil standards and accredited conformity assessment are market-based tools that can be used in the construction sector to cover construction products and materials, building techniques and practices, on-site Health & Safety, environmental impact, to even the use of digital technology in smart buildings.

The attendees included representatives from the Departments of Trade and Industry, SANAS board members, representatives from the dti’s COTTI, Construction industry, stakeholders within the construction and built environment sector as well as other related industries.

We were honored to have speakers such as Mr Prags Govender (SANAS Chairman), Mr Ndwakhulu Mukhufhi, CEO of National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA), Mr Rudolf Opperman from National Regulator for Compulsory Specification (NRCS), Mr Gerry Joubert from Department of Public Works, and Mr Ishmail Cassiem from Development Board (CIDB). The delivered presentations covered various topics outlining the various regulations and requirements relevant to the construction and build environment.

The construction sector is complex and highly competitive, and provides challenges for companies seeking to improve margins, and reduce costs whilst improving build quality and ensuring a safe environment on site. Accreditation supports the construction sector to control risk, help drive efficiency, demonstrate regulatory compliance, and provide supply chain confidence.

SANAS currently has approximately sixty civil engineering laboratories across the country, accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. These laboratories supports the planning, design, construction of roads, bridges, buildings and water treatment plants. They focus on materials testing parameters to ensure safety and quality? Some of the most common parameters which are regularly tested are as follows:

Concrete strength
globally for that matter.

In recent times we have heard of unfortunate reports regarding the collapse of buildings and sinking of roads (as shown hereunder in pictures 1 and 2). The outcome of these tests (as listed shown above) are used to make important decisions which impact on people’s lives. Several samples are collected on the roads, or land where buildings are to be constructed. The results of such materials tests informs the type of soil for which construction is to take place (i.e. collapsible or stable). It informs the type of structure, design of the concrete slab, amount of steel required and strength of the foundation suitable for a particular building.

There's also an economic benefit derived from the work carried out by these accredited laboratories. Effective infrastructure is considered to be a key precondition for national economic growth. Roads serve as an enabler of growth by linking internal and external communities with the global economy. For instance as a result of their work the nation benefits from proper roads which promotes development either in rural or urban areas through improved mobility and access.

This results in reduced travel time and travel costs while transporting valuable goods and products across the country and beyond our borders.

Picture 1 - Collapsing Bridge.

Picture 2 – Collapsing Building
SADCAS SIGNATORY STATUS IN AFRAC MRA EXTENDED

AFRAC Marketing and Communication Working Group

SADCAS signatory status in the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) has been extended to include:

- Medical Testing to ISO 15189; and
- Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020

Following an extraordinary joint AFRAC/ILAC peer evaluation successfully held from 14 to 19 May 2017. SADCAS has been an AFRAC MRA signatory for Testing and Calibration to ISO/IEC 17025 since 8 October 2015.

AFRAC Arrangement Members are all independent accreditation bodies appointed or recognized by the government of the Member State or sub-regional block and legally established and operating in the African region. These accreditation bodies declare in their membership application that they are operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011, the relevant international documents of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the requirements of AFRAC.

Furthermore, Arrangement Members are accreditation bodies who have been peer evaluated under applicable AFRAC procedures and found to comply by the MRA Council with the requirement for admission as a signatory to the AFRAC MRA. The awarding of the AFRAC MRA is significant especially as AFRAC waits for the international recognition from ILAC and IAF. SADCAS is a multi-economy accreditation body established to meet the accreditation needs of SADC Member States namely: Angola; Botswana; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

SADCAS SCOPE IN ILAC MRA EXTENDED

Maureen Mutasa

SADCAS is proud to announce the extension of its scope in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement to include Medical Testing to ISO 15189 and Inspection to ISO/IEC 17020 following an extraordinary joint peer evaluation successfully held from 14 to 19 May 2017 by ILAC and the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC).

The decision was made by the ILAC Arrangement Council at its meeting held on Saturday 28 October 2017 in Vancouver, Canada and once again in a record 5 months after the evaluation. The MOU was signed during a ceremony held in conjunction with the Joint ILAC and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) held on Sunday, 30 October 2017 in Vancouver, Canada. The SADCAS Board Chairman Mr Steven Bruce Sidney who is also the ILAC Laboratory Committee Chairman was there together with Mrs Maureen P Mutasa the SADCAS CEO to receive the MOU on behalf of SADCAS.

Mrs Maureen Mutasa, SADCAS CEO receiving the ILAC MRA Certificate from Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chairman ILAC
SADCAS originally joined ILAC as an Affiliate Member in 2008. SADCAS membership was then upgraded to Associate Member in 2011 having accredited enough testing and calibration to meet the competence requirements for consideration as a Full member. In June 2014 SADCAS underwent a pre peer evaluation of its Testing and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Programs to determine its readiness for peer evaluation which was subsequently undertaken in May 2015. SADCAS was originally admitted as an ILAC full member in November 2015 when she achieved signatory status in the ILAC MRA for Testing and calibration to ISO/IEC 17025. The extraordinary peer evaluation for scope extension was conducted in May 2017 and culminating in the achievement.

SADCAS Board Chairman, Mr Steve Sidney proudly poses for a photo with Mrs Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, Chairman ILAC; Mrs Mutasa

With this additional achievement the accreditation certificates issued by SADCAS for the Medical Laboratories, Inspection bodies, Testing laboratories and calibration laboratories’ accreditation programs are internationally recognized thus enhance the acceptance of test/calibration/medical/inspection results across national borders, remove the need for repetitive testing/inspection of products traded internationally and in the case of medical improves patient care. In line with its value proposition SADCAS is truly delivering confidence and assuring technical competence.

NOTICE FROM THE SADC SECRETARIAT

SADC Secretariat

The 2018 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Annual meetings have been confirmed to be held as follows:

Event: Annual Meetings of the SADC TBT Cooperation’s Structures
Date: 11 – 16 March 2018
Venue: Johannesburg, South Africa
Host: The Government of the Republic of South Africa

The actual venue will be confirmed in due course.
As a public sector organisation, the public sector assurance website will help you learn about the benefits of using accredited conformity assessment. Standards, certification, accreditation, testing, inspection – conformity assessment – can be a great asset in the toolkit of the public sector to meet policy objectives. To illustrate the value of conformity assessment, case studies from around the world in key policy areas show how different tools help government officials and regulators deliver results. This is backed up with research confirming this success and supporting information to delve deeper. The following case study topics, research and supporting information is available on the website:

- Construction;
- Crime and security;
- Economic development;
- Efficient delivery of public services;
- Energy;
- Environmental protection;
- Food safety and agriculture;
- Health and safety;
- Products and services; and
- Trade.

The Public Sector assurance are always seeking the best examples to post on this website of conformity assessment helping the public sector. If you have a great example, please send it to us at iaf@iaf.nu or, submit online.

Public Sector Assurance showcases how accredited conformity assessment is used around the world by central government, local government and regulators to deliver positive benefit. The following organisations are contributing to the establishment and running of public sector assurance:
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