

# **SADC EXPERT GROUP ON STANDARDIZATION, QUALITY ASSURANCE, ACCREDITATION AND METROLOGY (SQAMEG)**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SADC COOPERATION ON ACCREDITATION (SADCA)**

**APRIL 2004 to APRIL 2005**

### **1. SADCA PROJECT**

#### **1.1 SADCA PMC meetings held**

The reconstituted SADCA Project Management Committee (PMC) consisting of Beatrice Mutabazi – Chair; Masego Marobela – Vice Chair; Michael Peet – Regional Coordinator, Ronald Josias – Project Manager; Maureen Mutasa and Riundja Kaakunga met three times during the period under review. The first meeting, which was also attended by the SADC SQAM expert, the late Mr Austin Khulumula, was held from 24 – 25 June 2004 in Pretoria, South Africa. The meeting reviewed the SADCA project components including progress on SADCAS incorporation and the legal aspects thereof and also identified action plans for future funding. The meeting also discussed the outstanding initial training of NAFPs from DRC, Angola and Mozambique, the SADCA/IAAC cooperation and the tasks for the SADCA Marketing and Publicity subgroup which was going to meet from 19 – 21 July 2004.

The second meeting of the PMC was held on 7 October 2004 in Cape Town, South Africa. This meeting was primarily called to address pertinent issues for the SADCA meetings which were to be held on 8 and 14 October 2004. The meeting also prepared for the Permanent Secretaries' meeting to be held on 14 October 2004.

The third meeting of the PMC was held from 22 – 24 February 2005 in Swakopmund, Namibia. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare the financial report for the NORAD Phase I project, to discuss the draft NORAD Phase II project, to obtain an update from Mr Kaakunga on the incorporation of SADCAS. The meeting also finalised the SADCAS Bylaws and prepared for the SADCA Annual Meeting to be held in Mozambique in May 2005.

The first two PMC meetings held under the period under review were financed by NORAD whilst the third PMC meeting was financed by South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry (SA dti). Appreciation was expressed to both NORAD and the South African dti for financing these very important meetings. PTB sponsored the SADCA workshop on 01 May 2005.

#### **1.2 NAFP and SADCA Committee**

Official confirmations on the appointment of all 12 the NAFPs were received from the respective governments.

The NAFPs received overview training in October 2004 in Cape Town on the requirements of a technical and lead assessor. In addition they developed and adopted selection criteria to identify suitable technical experts in the respective Member States who would be undergoing technical assessor training. The trained technical assessors would form the pool of regional assessors for SADCAS. This training is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2005.

It is with pleasure that it can be reported that the NAFPs from Malawi and Tanzania have been officially launched in their respective countries with ministerial attendance at these occasions. The launching programmes of the NAFPs from Zimbabwe and Zambia had also been received. Their launching will take place in the first half of 2005.

The NAFP Marketing and Publicity subgroup met in July 2004 to develop a SADCAS brochure. The brochure was published in October 2004 and distributed at the ILAC/IAF Developing Countries seminar in Cape Town in October 2004. In addition this brochure has also been distributed at accreditation awareness seminars hosted by SADCA members in some Member States. The SADCAS brochure was translated into Portuguese by Ms Gabriela Rebello da Silva of Mozambique and Ms Teodora Lorenzo Silva of Angola. The brochure was also translated into French by Mr Viki Kanama of the DRC.

### 1.3 Meeting of PMC, SADCA Committee members and NAFPs with Permanent Secretaries of SADC Member States

On 14 October 2004 in Cape Town, South Africa, the PMC, SADCA Committee members and NAFPs met with Permanent Secretaries of Trade and Industry Departments of the various SADC Member States. The purpose of this meeting was to:

- inform the Permanent Secretaries of the responsibilities of the NAFPs and SADCA Committee members in the Member States and securing their support for the work of their appointed members;
- brief the Permanent Secretaries on the progress made with the SADCA project since its inception in 1997 in Mauritius;
- discuss how best the regional accreditation body, SADCAS, could operate to function in the region. To inform the Permanent Secretaries that not all the governments in the respective countries would be in a position to establish national accreditation bodies hence SADCAS;
- strategise and define the way forward for the NAFPs. As pillars of SADCA, the roles and responsibilities of the 12 NAFPs and SADCA Committee members were very important. The Permanent Secretaries supported the formation of SADCAS and promised their support to the respective NAFPs.

### 1.4 Incorporation of SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) as a legal entity

The SADCA legal coordinator, Mr Kaakunga, reported on the progress with the incorporation of SADCAS. He noted that the following legal documents provided for the establishment of new SADC institutions:

Article 9(2) of the Treaty establishing SADC provides for the establishment of new SADC institutions in addition to the existing organs of SADC. In addition, the SADC Protocol on Trade, Article 17 recognises the relevance and importance of international standards. Similarly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed, by the SADC Ministers responsible for trade matters, in conformity with Article 33 of the Protocol on Trade which obliges Member States to carry out their obligations arising from the Protocol.

The MoU deals specifically with standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology (SQAM), Article 10(1) and (2) of the MoU emphatically provides for cooperation in accreditation. The foregoing are but some of the legal framework for the establishment of a SADC-wide accreditation system known as SADCAS.

Continued meetings and consultations were held between Professor Erasmus and the PMC Task Group consisting of Riundja Kaakunga, Beatrice Mutabazi, Mike Peet and Ron Josias who initiated the draft proposed SADCAS Bylaws that were later presented to the entire PMC.

The proposed SADCAS Bylaws were finalised by the PMC and will be presented to the SADCA Committee members at a workshop to be held on 1 May 2005 in Maputo, Mozambique.

A full report on the progress of incorporation of SADCAS after the workshop will be tabled to the Ninth Annual SADCA meeting on 2 May 2005 in Mozambique. This report will also be presented to the SADCA Committee members at the workshop to be held on 1 May 2005 in Maputo, Mozambique.

#### 1.5 Report on NORAD Phase I Project

The NORAD Phase I project had been completed and a full report provided to The Royal Norwegian Embassy in South Africa.

### **2. SADCA / IAAC COOPERATION**

The SADCA Chair and Regional Coordinator signed a SADCA Statement of Technical Cooperation with the IAAC on 29 October 2004 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago during the General Assembly of the IAAC.

**LATE NOTE:** The financial report was audited by external auditors and accepted by the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

### **3. PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL MEETINGS**

#### 3.1 NLA Conference in South Africa – September 2004

Members of the SADC region made presentations at the 2004 NLA Conference.

#### 3.2 IAAC meeting in October 2003

The SADCA Chair, Mrs Beatrice Mutabazi, made a presentation at the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) in October 2004 on the present and future developments of SADCA. She also presented a paper on the challenges facing accreditation in developing countries at the IAAC Members seminar.

### **4. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS**

#### 4.1 Cape Town, South Africa ILAC/IAF Conference in October 2004

The SADCA Chair, Mrs Beatrice Mutabazi, made presentations to both the ILAC and IAF Executive General Assembly meetings on behalf of SADCA. It was the first time since the establishment of ILAC and IAF that these meetings were held on the African continent. In her presentations, Mrs Mutabazi informed the delegates about the activities of SADCA and the endeavours being made in the strengthening of SADCA as the regional accreditation cooperation body and the creation of the regional SADC accreditation service, SADCAS, which would provide accreditation services to those SADC Member States who would not immediately be establishing national accreditation bodies.

With the aid of donor funding, the PMC, SADCA Committee members and NAFPs were able to attend the ILAC/IAF Conference in October 2004 in Cape Town. In addition to the

ILAC/IAF meetings the SADCA members also attended a workshop on Proficiency Testing and a seminar for Developing Countries.

The SADCA Chair has been appointed by IAF as the Chairperson for the IAF Development Support Committee (DSC). Subsequently, she is also the Co-Chair of the ILAC/IAF DSC for a period of three years.

During the ILAC/IAF seminar for Developing Countries, the SADCA Chair made presentations on the problems facing developing countries on Proficiency Schemes. The immediate past chair, Mrs Maureen Mutasa, also made a presentation at this seminar.

In February/March 2005 the SADCA Chair represented SADCA at the ILAC and IAF Executive and ILAC Arrangement Committee meetings in Paris, France.

## **5. MARKETING AND PUBLICITY**

The SADCA Marketing and Publicity subgroup finalized the SADCA brochure which was published and widely distributed during the ILAC and IAF meetings in Cape Town and in Trinidad and Tobago during the IAAC meetings respectively.

During the period under review, the following articles on SADCA were published.

- Regular articles for the ILAC Newsletter.
- Regular articles for the IAF Newsletter.
- Regular articles for the APLAC Newsletter
- Regular articles for IAAC Newsletter.
- Regular articles for the SANAS Communiqué.
- Regular articles for the SANAS Newsletter.
- Various presentations on SADCA were also made throughout the period under review whenever an opportunity was provided with fellow regional co-operations on accreditation.

## **6. GENERAL**

SADCA now has a full time secretariat to attend to issues relating to SADCA, the PMC, SADCA Committee members and the NAFPs.

SADCA has commissioned its own website, namely [www.sadca.org](http://www.sadca.org). This website has a chat room facility for its members. With the full time SADCA secretariat, the website is to be further populated and will be updated on a regular basis.

SADCA wishes to thank SANAS for providing this important person attending to SADCA issues.