



# ***Southern African Development Community Accreditation Newsletter December 2006***

**The Regional Accreditation Structure of SQAM  
(Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology)**

## **OBITUARY: THE LATE MRS BEATRICE MARY MUTABAZI**

The voice of our friend and colleague, the SADCA Chairperson, Mrs Beatrice Mutabazi, will be silent forever. Beatrice was taken away from us suddenly on 25 November 2006 after suffering a severe stroke.

Beatrice Mary Mutabazi was born on 29 August 1953 at Missenyi, Bukoba Rural District, Tanzania. She attended primary and secondary school in Uganda. She graduated with a BSc Hons. [Agriculture] degree at the Makerere University in Uganda and also obtained a diploma in Education. Her speciality was Food Science.

In January 1977 after graduating Beatrice joined the National Bank of Commerce as Assistant Operations Manager, responsible for advising and processing loans to food industries and farmers in Tanzania. In October of that year she joined Tanzania Bureau of Standards [TBS] as a Standards Officer responsible for drafting Tanzania standards for the agriculture and food sectors. She worked herself up the ranks at TBS becoming head of the Quality Management Department in 1986 and in 1993 Beatrice was promoted to Deputy Director of TBS, the position she held until her death. During her tenure at TBS she chaired a number of TBS committees. Apart from the committees she chaired at TBS she was also involved in a number of committees in Tanzania.



In the international arena Beatrice had undertaken several study tours, routine factory visits and training courses, amongst others to Sweden, Britain, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Hungary, Tanzania, Kenya, Mauritius, Cyprus, Ireland, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa and the USA primarily to familiarise herself with standardisation and quality assurance activities. She had also done many factory inspections in Tanzania for certification and routine surveillance surprise checks as per the requirements of the Tanzania Standards.

Beatrice was involved as a resource person for training in quality assurance and quality management seminars within SADC countries. These seminars involved company chief executives and managers. She also ran many in-house courses in Tanzania as well as presentations at forums such as the Rotary and Lions Clubs and the business community to raise awareness on quality.

In 1997 at a meeting in Geneva, Beatrice was introduced to the Southern African Community Development Community in Accreditation [SADCA] by Mr Mike Peet who at that stage was the Regional Coordinator for SADCA. Beatrice had not heard of accreditation although she was very familiar with quality and standardisation. From the onset Beatrice told Mike that she was interested "in this accreditation story" as she aptly called it. If it meant progress for her country and for Africa she supported it. She attended her first SADCA meeting in 1998 in Angola.

In 1999 the annual Standardisation, Quality, Accreditation and Metrology Expert Groups [SQAMEG] meetings was hosted by Tanzania in Arusha. At the SADCA meeting Beatrice was elected as Vice Chair of SADCA with Mrs Maureen Mutasa as Chair of SADCA. At the 2004 annual SADCA meeting, Beatrice was elected as Chairperson, a position she held until her untimely death.

Under her leadership, SADCA became a regional body member of both the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation [ILAC] and the International Accreditation Forum [IAF] in 2002. In addition to being SADCA Chairperson, Beatrice was also elected to the Executive Committees of both ILAC and IAF. As a

member of the Executive Committees, Beatrice worked tirelessly to bring the problems and concerns of her beloved Africa to the attention of the international accreditation community. At each and every meeting Beatrice would report on the progress, if not, and why not, of Africa, but in particular that of the SADC region and would always look for opportunities to place Africa on the global map.

During 2005 Beatrice was elected IAF Chairperson of the Development Support Committee, a Committee concerned with support for developing countries. Similarly, ILAC also had a Development Support Committee and together with the ILAC Chairperson of their Development Support Committee, Beatrice co-chaired this joint ILAC / IAF Committee.

Back home in the SADC region, Beatrice was a dedicated Chairperson for SADCA and worked, as always, with enthusiasm to promote accreditation in the region in order for SADCA to be able to compete in the global accreditation market and for its export products to be accepted internationally. As resources, both human and financial, have always been a problem in the region, Beatrice made use of every available opportunity to meet and discuss with donors the possible funding for capacity building in our region.

Her sudden death has left the SADC accreditation community and in fact the international accreditation community with a gap that Beatrice filled with such passion and enthusiasm, promoting accreditation in SADC and Africa. The passing away of Beatrice has also left a huge gap in the services of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

“Beatrice although you are no longer with us, the impact you made on our lives will make you to be ever with us.”

She is survived by her parents, husband and four children.

#### **SADCAS AGM – April 2006**

SADCAS has held its inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Namibia, Windhoek during April 2006. Attended by 28 members representing SADC Member States, the chairman, Mr Othy Kaakunga of Namibia, opened the proceeding by sketching the background of SADCAS and how SADCAS was established.

He noted that as the European Accreditation (EA) represents a number of accreditation bodies in Europe, SADCA represents a number of accreditation bodies such as SANAS, MAURITAS and SADCAS in the SADC region. He added that for a period of time the region has been labouring on the establishment of SADCAS, a regional accreditation body. This regional accreditation body that would be servicing the accreditation needs of the SADC region and beyond must be acceptable to the governments in the region, even to those governments who have their own national accreditation bodies. SADCAS would be serving the needs of those Member States who, at present do not operate their own accreditation bodies, but were working towards the establishment of their own accreditation body.

In addition, he added that SADCAS has fulfilled the guidelines of both ISO 17011 and SADC subsidiarity status and was legally incorporated during December 2005 under Botswana law. However, it still required further competencies and the establishment of various structures. An interim Board was elected in 2005 but it now required a Board that would be legally responsible for the operational matters of SADCAS. This Board would be responsible for the implementation of an action plan and the motivations for subsidiarity status.

The following members were elected to the SADCAS Board of Directors by the 14 Member States:

- Mr R A Kaakunga                      Namibia
- Mr A H M Tukai                        Tanzania
- Mr M Mukelabai                        Zambia
- Mr C T Mokhorho                        Lesotho
- Mr S H Carstens                        South Africa
- Mr M A Peet                              South Africa
- Dr O Chinyamakobvu                    Zimbabwe
- Mrs B M Mutabazi                        Tanzania

Mrs Masego Marobela was co-opted onto the SADCAS Board of Directors.

It was proposed that Mr Kaakunga of Namibia remain as Chairman of SADCAS Board of Directors. This was seconded by all the other Board members. In his acceptance, Mr Kaakunga thanked the Board members for the confidence expressed in him and committed himself to continue working for the removal of technical barriers to trade in the SADC region.

As SADCAS is yet to become operational, there were no financial reports or budgets presented. However, the SADCAS project plan would be used as guidance. Comprehensive reporting would be given to the SADCAS members at the next annual general meeting.

### **SADCAS review - 2006**

The phase 1 milestones set for the 2005/6 financial year for the SADCAS Board included establishing an infrastructure for the operationalisation of SADCAS, donor funding and financial control mechanisms, and finally the establishment and launching of NAFPs in each Member State.

According to Ron Josias, the Phase 1 milestones were achieved and SADCAS has submitted the Phase II project proposal and Business Plan to a donor for funding. Funding is expected early in 2007. Priorities now include the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer, Technical manager and an administrator for SADCAS.

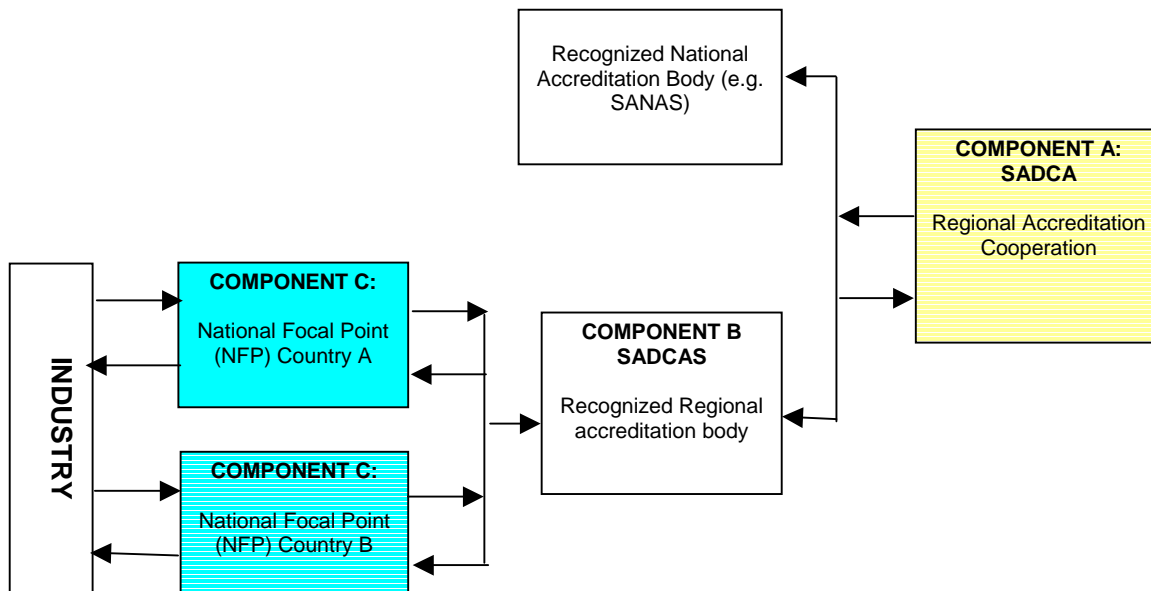
Whilst directors form the cornerstone of an organisation, their leadership, responsibilities and liabilities play an integral role in its success and sustainability. With the advent of the updated King II Report and the Public Finance Management Act earlier this decade, the necessity for formalised corporate governance in both the public and private sectors has been placed beyond question. Furthermore, while directors and senior officials in the private sector are routinely required to report on "Compliance with King", and senior government officials and executives of parastatals are required to adhere to the PFMA on pain of disciplinary action, all levels of management carry some degree of legal and organisational responsibility, and corporate governance is thus not the responsibility of directors and executives alone.

To meet this requirement of establishing a credible SADCAS, all board members will attend a Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Audit Committee training course, presented by an internationally recognised training institute in Pretoria during December 2006.

The course content covers the following topics:

- The King II Report
- Roles and Responsibilities of Directors and Officers
- Board Committees
- Risk Management and Internal Audit
- Compliance, Ethics & Sustainability Reporting
- Governance issues per the Public Finance Management Act
- The provisions of the Labour Relations Act re disciplinary action in the workplace
- The Prevention & Combating of the Corrupt Activities Act
- Fraud Risk Indicators
- How Managers get into Trouble

Mr Ron Josias added that while the NAFPs co-ordinate the accreditation process in their respective countries, the creation of a regional accreditation body in Southern Africa - SADCAS, is intended to support and supplement current and future SADC accreditation activity. Whilst it is not intended to compete with current or future national accreditation bodies, SADCAS offers a low risk alternative to determine Member State needs and addresses these in the most cost effective and sustainable manner as detailed hereunder.



Commenting on the way forward for NAFPs, the writer noted the following:

- the importance of the continuation of accreditation awareness in the Member States;
- assistance by NAFPs in the preparation of their national conformity assessment bodies for SADCAS accreditation;
- submitting of quarterly reports;
- appointment of a second NAFP in each of the Member States;
- completion of the outstanding NAFP launches.

According to Marie Chilcott, the SADCAS logo is under development and it is expected to be presented at the next AGM during April 2007.

#### **SADCA review – 2006**

- Mr Ron Josias was appointed as Regional Coordinator on 01 June 2006 – He is responsible for the secretariat and project management in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Two trainee technical assessors, one from SADC and the other from EAC attended an initial assessment as observers of a laboratory in the SADC region. The lead assessor was full of praise of their performance during the assessment.
- Only three NAFPs are still to be launched – Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland. Two NAFPs were launched in November 2006, namely Lesotho and Namibia.
- The NAFPs from Madagascar and the DRC received their attachment training at COFRAC, France. Appreciation to PTB for funding this training and thanks to COFRAC for receiving the two NAFPs.
- Mr Othy Kaakunga, PMC member attended the IAAC [Inter American Accreditation Cooperation] General Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina in August 2006.
- Mrs Beatrice Mutabazi of Tanzania, the SADCA Chair serves on both the Executive Committees of ILAC and IAF. She attended four executive meetings on behalf of SADCA during 2006.
- Mr Ron Josias attended the EA meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in October 2006 and presented a status report of SADCA.
- Mrs Beatrice Mutabazi presented a status report of SADCA to the ILAC general assembly meeting during November 2006 in Cancun, Mexico.

#### **SQAM – 2006**

Regional co-ordinators have identified a need to demystify the SQAM roles and responsibilities and the impact that Standards, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology have in eliminating Technical barriers to Trade and advancing international trade, not only in SADC Member States but globally. Funded by the PTB of Germany, The SQAM structures have embarked on a project to develop a multimedia presentation that

explains the importance Standards, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology in a typical production process. Mr Ron Josias commented that the project should be completed by early mid 2007.

### **SADCA report to the ILAC General Assembly meeting (Beatrice Mutabazi, SADCA Chairperson)**

1. SADCA held its regular annual meeting on 04 April 2006 in Windhoek Namibia. During the meeting, members re-elected Ms. Beatrice Mutabazi (Tanzania) as the Chair of SADCA and Ms. Masego Marobela (Botswana) as the Vice Chair.
2. A series of SADCA Project Management Committee (PCM) meetings were held during the year. Apart from the routine strategic issues discussed by the PMC, a large portion of the meetings was spent discussing the SADCAS Strategic and Business Plan and Phase II (SADCA) project, which had been approved by the Norwegian Government.
3. The SADC regional Accreditation Body (SADCAS) was officially registered in December 2005 in Botswana. The SADCAS Board of Directors was officially nominated by SADCA members in April 2006 after the SADCA meeting in Windhoek, Namibia. The SADCAS Board of Directors held their first meeting on 25 May 2006 in Pretoria, South Africa to lay a strategy for the operation of the SADCAS. The SADCAS Business Plan was also discussed. It was also agreed that the newly nominated Directors of SADCAS were to receive training in corporate governance and in addition the full SADCAS Board of Directors and the SADCA PMC to receive training in audit and risk management.
4. The challenge ahead of SADCAS is to make the accreditation body operational and all the donors are eager to ensure its success. SADCAS hopes to make use of the ILAC and IAF DSC programmes to assist in its development. Currently, SADCAS is trying to be operational through the implementation of the Phase II project funding supported by the Norwegian Government.
5. SADCA continued to receive donor assistance from NORAD of Norway and PTB of Germany and also **the dti** of South Africa. The assistance includes training of SADCAS Assessors for the SADC region.
6. On 01 June 2006 Mr Ron Josias was appointed as the SADCA Regional Coordinator, taking over from Mr Mike Peet who held the position since the inception of SADCA in 1997.
7. Mr. Peet attended a workshop which was donor funded and attended by the metrology role players in Africa and abroad. The participants brainstormed the idea of African metrology cooperation. Consensus reached at this workshop was for the establishment of an African body for metrology, which would be named AFRIMETS. Mr. Peet was then asked whether the continent could initiate an African body for cooperation in accreditation. With this question in mind, proposals have been submitted to the New Partnership Development for Africa (NEPAD) to have a single cooperation accreditation body for the African continent.
8. Two trainee assessors, one from the SADC region and one from the East Africa Community (EAC) attended an initial assessment as observers of a laboratory in the SADC region. Donors have been approached for funding of a further 9 SADC trainee assessors. These assessor trainees attended a technical assessor course in September 2005 after the Test and Measurement workshop.
9. Most NAFPS have already been launched, save for three; Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland due to various reasons.
10. The way forward -
  - Once the Phase II SADCA project has been approved by the donors', efforts will commence to ensure SADCAS becomes operational.
  - SADCA will also assist in the integration of the technical infrastructure being created within SADC into the regional strategies to manage TBT and SPS related activities to ensure regional trade increases.
  - Finalise the integration of the SADCAS and SADCA project plan with other regional structures for Metrology, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Standards (SQAM)
  - Full implementation and monitoring of the SADCAS project plan.

- Submission of projects to two international donor-funding organizations for further funding of SADCA activities.
- Liaison and cooperation with other regional accreditation bodies like the EA, APLAC and continue the cooperation with IAAC.