

Sharing Accreditation Goals – The SADCAS Experience

Presented By

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Presentation Overview

- Why SADCAS?**
- Achievements so far**
- Challenges**
- Lessons Learnt**
- Conclusion and Comment on the study**

Why SADCAS?

- ❑ **Established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade**
- ❑ **SADCAS established to assure technical competence**
- ❑ **Typically in the developed world one country one AB**
- ❑ **Why Multi economy AB in SADC Region?**
 - ↳ Optimize limited financial resources
 - ↳ Optimize the limited human resources
 - ↳ Limited clientele base
 - ↳ Sustainability of the national infrastructure
 - ↳ Tendency to take action when needs are externally driven

Why SADCAS?

- ❑ **Conceptualized in 1996**
- ❑ **A good 10 years of conceptualizing and developing the model as well as getting its approval by the region and acceptance by ILAC and IAF being the 1st in the world**
- ❑ **Subsidiarity institution of SADC**
- ❑ **Incorporated in December 2005 in Botswana as a not for profit Company limited by guarantee**
- ❑ **First staff took up positions in April and June 2008.**
- ❑ **Office set up by October 2008**
- ❑ **SADCAS launched in 2009**
- ❑ **Started offering services in October 2009.**
- ❑ **Accreditation services and training in accreditation associated activities**

Why SADCAS?

SADCAS services

14 SADC MS:

Angola, Botswana,
Comoros, DRC,
Eswatini Lesotho,
Madagascar,
Malawi,
Mozambique,
Namibia,
Seychelles,
Tanzania, Zambia
and Zimbabwe



Funding of SADCAS

- ❑ **SADCAS generates income from**
 - ✦ Accreditation Services
 - ✦ Training Services
- ❑ **Operational Budget deficit funded by the Governments of SADC MS serviced by SADCAS**
- ❑ **Government contributions based on accreditation market potential**
- ❑ **Over the years that SADCAS has been in operation operational income has been increasing whilst dependency on Government/donor funding has been decreasing**

Achievements

- ❑ **13th year of operation**
- ❑ **As at 31 July 2021**
 - ↪ Issued 195 accreditation certificates to 161 accredited facilities in 13 SADC MS and 2 non SADC countries
 - ↪ 1% cross frontier
 - ↪ 78 accreditation applications from 10 SADC MS at various stages of processing of which 8 are SADC Member States.
 - ↪ 216 training courses throughout the region
- ❑ **6 out of 8 schemes internationally recognized having achieved initial recognition in 2015, extended scopes in 2017 and then again in 2019**

Challenges

- ❑ **Lower demand for accreditation services than anticipated due to**
 - ↪ Low levels of awareness on accreditation issues
 - ↪ Poor readiness of CABs for accreditation
 - ↪ Accreditation seen as a cost than an investment
 - ↪ Thrust has been on marketing and promotion
 - ↪ Efforts beginning to bear fruit
- ❑ **Funding**
- ❑ **Assessors**
 - ↪ **Limited pool of assessors taking into account**
 - **Field and scope of services**
 - **Geographical**
 - **Language diversity**
 - ↪ Continuous communication key, it is expensive to bring together assessors at conclaves

Lessons Learnt

- ❑ **Government funding towards SADCAS sustainability is inevitable**
- ❑ **Training of Assessors**
 - ↪ Not an event but a process which takes time and resources
 - ↪ Is ongoing
 - ↪ As much as possible assessors have to be locally based so as to manage accreditation costs
- ❑ **Covid-19 pandemic has presented an opportunity to multi economy accreditation bodies**
 - ↪ Remote technique is a cost effective tool to undertake assessment
 - ↪ Online training is a cost effective tool to build capacity of CABs
 - ↪ Virtual meetings are a cost effective means of holding
 - Assessor conclaves
 - Advisory Committee meetings etc.
- ❑ **Investment in technology is a must for SADCAS and its stakeholders**

Conclusion and Comment on Study Report

- ❑ **Over the years, SADCAS the first multi economy accreditation body in the world has proved to be a viable, cost effective and sustainable model which optimizes limited financial and human resources.**
- ❑ **A number of other regions in the world such as the Gulf region, Economic Community of West African States (UEMOA), have benchmarked on the “home grown” SADCAS model.**
- ❑ **Comments on Study**
 - ↪ Study shows Africa as a region with deep reds pink and light blues which agrees with my initial remarks
 - ↪ The multi economy AB model is an option for developing countries whose clientele base is not large enough to sustain a national accreditation body.
 - ↪ It is a tool for the development of accreditation infrastructure in Africa especially East, Central and West Africa
 - ↪ SADCAS operational boundary is 14 SADC MS and should not be counted as cross frontier accreditation