

**Accredited conformity assessment bodies available to support South African manufacturing and exports**

*SANAS celebrates World Accreditation Day*

*Durban* – SANAS accredited testing, calibration, certification and inspection services in South Africa helps South African manufacturers and exports.

That was the word from SANAS, the South African National Accreditation System, as it marked World Accreditation Day today at an event hosted in conjunction with the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The international theme is: Accreditation: Facilitating World Trade and the national focus of this year's event was the important role that accreditation plays in supporting South African manufacturers and exports.

In order for South African products to be more widely acceptable, it is critical that they are tested, certified or inspected by an accredited laboratory, inspection or certification body (these are also called conformity assessment bodies, CAB's). In South Africa, SANAS is the sole accreditation body for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

"Accreditation is established as a means to minimise risk, avoid expensive re-inspection, enhance customer confidence, and improve acceptability of goods locally and internationally," said SANAS CEO, Ron Josias, pointing out the fact that a growing number of organisations that provide conformity assessment services are choosing accreditation in order better to serve industry". Mr Neville Matjie from Trade and Investment Kwazulu-Natal confirmed that access to competent conformity assessment services is important because as international trade has boomed, so too has the number of different local and global regulations governing products and trade that safeguard people's health and security.

According to Josias, SANAS recently finalized accreditation programmes that included the programme for certification bodies that measure and verify energy saving through efficient use of energy as well as those bodies that validate and verify greenhouse gas emissions. These programmes are important for industry and our country that is pressurized by the demand for energy and the efficient use thereof. Another programme that SANAS will roll out later this year is the accreditation programme for energy management.

As a result we, as SANAS, have been working hard over the past while to develop our capacity – and that of our clients – to provide accreditation to CAB's which is needed by industry.

SANAS – South African National Accreditation System

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Mr Prags Govender the Chairperson of SANAS's Board of Directors also confirmed "It is, my conviction that organisations that become accredited by the internationally-recognised SANAS - will help South Africa re-industrialise, thereby boosting the local economy, which contributes to South Africa's economic development."

*DTI funding programme to boost manufacturing*

Government has in recent years recognised the enormous need that exists to support the manufacturing competitiveness to local manufacturers. "To this end, billions of Rands have been set aside by government to support its Manufacturing Competitiveness Enhancement Programme (MCEP)" Sam Sekgotho from **the dti** said.

*International recognition for South Africa products*

It is important to note that SANAS is recognised by both the International Laboratory Accreditation Corporation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for the reason that if SANAS accredited conformity assessment bodies' issues certificates to local manufacturers and exporters, that certificate is recognised in around 61 economies around the world.

"The creation of jobs through manufacturing – and the consequent boost that this will mean for the economy - requires competent conformity assessment services that will enable locally-manufactured goods to be welcomed internationally," he concluded. "We at SANAS are ready to play our part."

**For more information on SANAS, please see the attached fact sheet, or visit [www.sanas.co.za](http://www.sanas.co.za).**

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