



SANAS CELEBRATES WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY

On the 9th of June 2016, SANAS celebrated World Accreditation Day in South Africa. The celebration breakfast was attended by the Chief-Director from **the dti**, Dr Tshenge Demana, the Chairman of the SANAS Board of Directors, Mr Prags Govender, SANAS board members, the CEO of NMISA, Mr Ndwakhula Mukhufhi, Ms Milly Ruiters from the Department of Labour and Mr Rudolf Brits who is a WTO TBT representative from **the dti** as well as various other regulators and government representatives.

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) global theme was “**Accreditation: A global tool to support public policy**”, and in line with this theme; the topics covered the importance of national policies. The 9-point Plan was announced by the President during the 2015 State of the Nation Address. The plan was to set South Africa onto a higher growth trajectory. **the dti** is leading in three areas of the 9-point Plan for example advancing mineral beneficiation or adding value to our mineral resources, scaling up private sector investment and the implementation of a higher impact Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP).

Dr Demana confirmed that during the current difficult and tough economic conditions it is imperative that the national accredited conformity assessment bodies (CAB) network is on par with international requirements in order for international trading and exchange of services to continue with ease. Accreditation by SANAS, as a key element of the South African technical infrastructure framework, has a major role to play in the country's economy.

- *Firstly*, SANAS will facilitate South Africa's industrialisation efforts through the accreditation of a pool of accredited conformity assessment bodies to avoid expensive re-testing, re-certification or re-inspection in the manufacturing

sector and facilitate the acceptance of conformity assessment results. This will ensure measurement accuracy, verify compliance with specifications, grant access to international markets and give the sector a competitive edge.

- *Secondly*, SANAS will support the IPAP sectors to comply with the regulations of the regulators of health, safety and environment, such as workplace safety, occupational hygiene regulations and energy efficiency.

Mr Prags Govender pointed out the fact that IPAP calls on SANAS to continue to play a strategic industrial policy role in the achievement of the IPAP objective to re-industrialise South Africa.

In this regard SANAS supports the IPAP traditional sectors such as agro processing, textiles and clothing, plastics and chemicals. SANAS also supports the IPAP energy and high technology sectors including the green economy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and advanced manufacturing.

SANAS accreditation delivers confidence in the manufacturing sectors of South Africa that need to make sure that products are of high quality, comply with regulations and standards, and meet customer's needs. The use of accredited services in the manufacturing process is aimed at minimizing product failures and recalls, as well as to support access to markets.

- SANAS accredits testing and calibration laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025; *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* that serve a broad range of manufacturing sectors.

Accredited testing and calibration is performed to support the manufacturing process through component testing, product testing, and calibration and dimensional testing to ensure accurate measurement.

Testing and calibration underpins the production of many products from food products, plastics, fuels and oils, detergents, paints and coatings, consumer goods, textiles, glass, cosmetics, construction products and electronic goods.

- SANAS accredits certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17021; *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems* to provide certification in a range of areas that provide supply-chain confidence for those operating in the manufacturing sector.

These include ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems (QMS), ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Certification (EMS), ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems (EnMS), OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health, Safety Management Systems (OHSAS), ISO 27001 Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) and ISO 22000-1 Information Technology Service Management Systems (ITSMS).

- Inspection bodies are accredited to ISO/IEC 17020: *Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection* to provide inspection services to manufacturers such as measurement and verification of energy efficiency, inspection of occupational hygiene at the workplace, valves, pressure systems, storage vessels and tanks and the transport of dangerous goods by rail or road in pressure vessels.

The use of accreditation to support public policy implementation in South Africa is growing. Following are the additional initiatives SANAS is involved in addition to the activities in support for the South African Industrial Policy initiatives:

- SANAS works closely with:
 - The Department of Labour to support their public policy responsibilities such as work place safety;
 - The Department of Water Affairs to ensure water quality;
 - National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications to ensure safety of fish and food products, electro-technical products as well as automotive vehicles and components meets specifications;
 - The Department of Health to ensure compliance of blood services in South Africa

Over the past year, SANAS worked with the Department of Health and the Medical Control Council with the process of finalising the regulations for medical devices. The

accreditation programme that SANAS will develop for the certification of medical devices is important for the medical device manufacturing industry in South Africa. The industry is still relatively small but has been identified as an IPAP sector that has the potential to grow.

In his closing remark, the CEO of SANAS mentioned that the day's discussions only touched the tip of what SANAS does to support public policy. SANAS' international recognition covers more than 112 economies around the world, and plays a leadership role in accreditation matters on our continent through the chairmanship of the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) and as SADC Regional Coordinator for accreditation. SANAS is well positioned to support your health, safety and environmental protection policy mandate as well as to support industry development and government with growing our economy.

END