

FOREIGN TRAVEL REPORTING TEMPLATE

Name(s) of official(s) and designation(s): Ms A Lötter, Director and Ms Naniki Moeketsi, Assistant Director: Technical Infrastructure **Division(s):** IDD

Country and Organisation(s) visited: Malawi, Lilongwe

Date(s) traveled: Departed: 18 – 24 March 2012

Purpose of travel:

Attending South African Development Community (SADC) Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM), and Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) annual meeting in Malawi, Lilongwe.

Description of trip (Trip analysis):

1. The 27th SQAM Annual meeting was held from 18 – 23 March 2012 to discuss about the progress of work proposed and planned during the year 2011.

The dti's representatives, Ms A. Lötter and Ms N. Moeketsi together with the representatives from all the Technical Infrastructure institutions represented the South African delegation to the SQAM annual meeting. The South African Technical Infrastructure institutions, that is, the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA), the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) and the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) were represented.

2. All the SQAM/ TBT structures, namely, SADCTBT Stakeholder Committee (SADCTBTSC), SADC Technical Regulation Liason Committee (SADCTRLC), SADC Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN), SADC Cooperation in Measurement Traceability (SADCMET) , SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADCMEL), and SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) held meetings regarding their respective functions and the progress report regarding the establishment of National supporting structures within their government. Representatives from all SADC member states participated in the meetings, except for Madagascar, who is still suspended.
3. The second SADC Annual Quality Awards took place on the 21 March 2012 where the 2011 South African Quality Award winners were submitted as entries for the competition.

Special Achievements / milestones reached / targets

4. Three South African companies, winners of the South African Quality Awards, were SADC Quality Award winners, namely:

Category 1: (Large Enterprise) Best Enterprise Award

Winner: Itron – represented by Mr Paul de Villiers

Category 2: (Large Enterprise) Best Quality Product Award

Winner: South African Breweries Ltd.

Category 3: (Large Enterprise) Best Quality Service Award

Winner: Swift Micro Lab (Pty) Ltd – represented by Ms Anza Bester

5. The 2nd SADC Annual Quality Awards ceremony was held the evening of 21 March 2012. The winners for the year were from South Africa and Zimbabwe, Lesotho also held a national Quality Awards competition and has submitted its winners on time for consideration at the regional level.

6. Dates of the meetings:

6.1 18 March 2012 – The SADCTRLC Exco meeting took place to prepare for the SADCTRLC Annual General Meeting on 21 March 2012.

6.2 19 March 2012 – The keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the 27th Annual SADC SQAM meetings was the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture. This was followed by a Workshop on Referencing Standards in Technical Regulations . The workshop focused on:

- The use of standards referenced in technical regulations and the technical regulations at large in Inspection and Testing of boilers and pressure vessels.
- Experiences with referencing standards in legal metrology technical regulations in South Africa
- The role of technical regulations in trade

6.3 20 March 2012 - SADCTBTSC meeting took place on the. Member states have made substantial progress towards the formation of national laboratory associations. Member States were requested to consult at national level and submit their recommendations regarding the technical regulations that they wish to see harmonised at regional level and submissions be made through the annual reports.

6.4 21 March 2012 - SADCMET meeting took place. Member states have made progress regarding the drafting and reviewing of legislations based on the draft model metrology law. The SADCMET encouraged member states to continue their support in improving the national, sub-regional and regional metrology infrastructures for supporting global trade as well as developing the technical competency required for international membership.

- 6.5 21 March 2012 - The SADCTRLC meeting took place. The draft GHS Policy document was presented to all the member states for comments and they are expected to forward the comments by end of April 2012. The draft policy document will be presented to the Ministers of Trade and Industry for approval.
- 6.6 22 March 2012 - SADCSTAN took place. The SADCSTAN requested the member states to engage with the respective government departments to request for the additional resources for supporting the harmonization work in their countries. SADCSTAN will host ISO workshop on Intellectual Property Rights and other legal issues and also another workshop between SADCSTAN, SADCTBTSC and SADCTRLC to develop guidelines regarding the work
- 6.7 22 March 2012 – SADCA meeting took place. During the financial year 2011/2012 SADCAS managed to accredited an additional three facilities bringing the total accredited facilities to six, and encouraged member states to utilise SADCAS' accreditation services and to support SADCAS directly in order to ensure its future sustainability.
- 6.8 23 March 2012 - The SQAMEG meeting discussed the resolutions of the different meetings that were held during the week. Crosscutting issues that were discussed include: A proposed tool on the monitoring of the Implementation of the TBT Annex; proposed amendments to the TBT Annex; the need for SADCSTAN and SADCTRLC to hold a workshop on the clarification of their respective roles and the interaction between the two structures.

7. Lessons learnt/ value added to the dti:

- 7.1 South Africa through **the dti's** Technical Infrastructure institutions provides the Secretarial and the Regional Co-ordinator services to the SQAM/ TBT structures, namely, SADCTBTSC, SADCTRLC, SADCSTAN, SADCMET, SADC MEL, and SADCA .
- 7.2. The respective SADCSQAM structures through the sponsorship from PTB managed to host several workshops that focused on the work of the SADC Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology in South Africa as per the 2011 resolutions of the SQAM structures.
- 7.3 The SQAM annual meeting resolutions included:
- The establishment of National supporting structures within member states
 - Implementation of the monitoring tool for the existing TBT Annex to the Protocol on Trade
 - The development of the SADC Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Policy Paper
 - The identification of needs for Harmonized Technical Regulations

- The development of proposals for SADCTRLC harmonized Technical Regulations
- Determining priorities for the harmonization of Technical Regulations in SADC
- Consultation Process, Impact Assessment and Risk Assessment
- Develop a framework to secure technical assistance to prepare Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) for accreditation
- Facilitation of awareness workshops as well as workshops for training

8. Accounting/ Reporting on sources of and disbursement of funds for the trip.

The budgeted cost of the trip for two officials was R 47,831 includes plane tickets, accommodation and S&T allowance.

9. Recommendations for and / follow-up required from the dti:

- 9.1 The development of the SADC GHS Policy is still in progress and South Africa will submit inputs to the draft SADC GHS policy.
 - 9.2 The SADC Secretariat will report to the Ministers of Trade for noting progress on the development of the SADC GHS Policy.
 - 9.3 The SADC Secretariat reported that a SADC Policy for Strategy Development, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation was approved by Council in March 2012.
10. The 28th SQAM Annual meeting is planned for March 2013, in Angola.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Signed:_____

Date:_____

IDD - DDG:_____

Date: _____

Note: Please ensure that a copy of the fully signed report is kept within your division for audit purposes