

# **C&I Assessment Study for SADC: Survey Findings**

## **Regulatory Framework and Institutions**

- South Africa and Botswana have regulatory frameworks and regulations which establish technical requirements for products and services, to be legally imported and deployed in the marketplace.
- Namibia's Type Approval Regulations is however under development and still in draft form.
- South Africa is the only country which has adopted comprehensive conformity assessment schemes for market entry. Includes certification through testing in labs and labelling.
- Botswana relies on documents from test labs outside the countries and also use proxies such as EC, FCC and other for conformity assessment.
- SABS Product Marking Scheme is based on ISO/IEC 17025, which outlines the general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- All the respondents have compulsory legislations and regulations dealing with ICT and telecom products.
- With the exception of South Africa, all the other countries are having challenges with enforcement due to capacity constraints.
- None of the respondents have MRAs. South Africa will however accept test reports that are issued by an Accredited Test Laboratory (ATL),
- South Africa and Botswana have national standards system and national SDOs. There was no response on this issue from Namibia.

## **Capacity for C&I in SADC**

- No training (especially on digital-migration) among SADC Member States;
- No C&I test facilities in SADC Member States;
- No training of trainers (TOT) on C&I within SADC;
- No C&I training for consumers of ICTs;
- Lack of capacity and infrastructure for an effective conformance assessment regime.
- The countries also lack MRA co-ordination.
- There is lack of capacity in the development and implementation of frameworks and regulations for conformance assessment.
- The huge economy, high literacy rate and large telecommunications market of South Africa makes it an attractive destination for setting up an accredited test lab. The government with relatively more resources available has the ability to set up a certification body and also to build up capacity for conformity assessment.

## **Accreditation Body and Test Lab**

South Africa is the only country with an accreditation body: South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). SANAS covers ICT and Telecom products and Electrical Equipment and etc. It is also the only country with accredited test labs. These include Telkom, SABS, Gerotek, Test Africa, ITC Laboratories are accredited by SANAS.