

Hosting the SADCSTAN Technical Committee on Automotive and Transportation



The Mauritius Standards Bureau hosted the 2nd Validation Meeting of the SADCSTAN Technical Committee on Automotive and Transportation at La Pirogue Hotel from 12 to 16 August 2019. The SADCSTAN TC 2 Meeting was organized by the SADC Secretariat under the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme which is funded by the European Union. The objective of the Meeting was to develop harmonized road transport policies, laws, regulations and standards for efficient cross border road transport in the Tripartite Regions (COMESA, SADC and EAC). Around 70 delegates from SADC Member Countries and 10 Mauritian delegates attended the Meeting. Representatives from South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe as well as representatives of ARSO and other institutions attended the Meeting. Officials from SADCSTAN Secretariat were also present at the Meeting.

The focus of the Meeting was, *inter alia*, on:

A. Roadworthiness of Vehicles

- (i) Requirements for vehicle examiners

- (ii) Requirements for Testing Equipment

- (iii) Requirements for Combination

B. ISO-Compliant Driving Licence

C. Transportation of dangerous goods by road

D. Number plates and Vehicle Identification Systems

E. Equipment on vehicles

- (i) brakes

- (ii) lighting position and numbers

- (iii) safety belts

- (iv) glass

- (v) reflective tapes

- (vi) crash helmets

The Mauritius Standards Bureau hosted a Gala Dinner at La Pirogue Hotel on 13 August 2019 for the delegates as well as Mauritian officials.



During the Gala Dinner, Mrs R Nanhuck,

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Acting Director of MSB, gave a welcome speech and briefly highlighted some of the initiatives undertaken by the Mauritius Standards Bureau for the implementation of regulation. She underlined the importance of the Mauritian Technical Regulatory Framework with the view to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of Technical Regulations and avoiding the creation of unjustifiable obstacles to trade. She also spoke about the Mauritian National Standardization Strategy being elaborated by MSB which would provide a roadmap for a coherent and comprehensive approach to standards development in Mauritius.



Mrs B. Fatwma Abdool Raman– Ahmed, PS MICCP

Mrs B. Fatwma Abdool Raman-Ahmed, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection (Industry Division), delivered a speech at the Gala Dinner on behalf of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection. She stressed that common solutions should be sought to boost economic growth, bolster regional trade, promote the welfare of our citizens and protect the environment not only at the SADC level but at the continental level and for the whole African

Continent.

She identified two key principles, that is, integration and cooperation to address the challenges and mitigate the problems faced by African countries. She pointed out that the Agreement signed on 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda for the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) was a landmark event and testified the commitment of African countries to pursue economic cooperation and regional integration.

On a different note, she pointed out the measures taken by the Government of Mauritius to reduce road fatalities and which are in line with the initiatives taken by SADCSTAN TC2 Meeting on Automotive and Transportation.

She ended her speech by again welcoming all the delegates and wishing them fruitful deliberations.



The SADCSTAN 2nd Validation Meeting was highly successful.◊

B Guness
Head of Standards Development Unit