



### **Official Inauguration of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation at the Quality Surveillance Laboratory (QSL)**

The Quality Surveillance Laboratory (QSL), the principal medicines quality assurance arm of the Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council (NMRC), has officially achieved accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standard. This marks a significant milestone in its mission to ensure the safety and efficacy of medicines available to the public.

The primary objective of the QSL is to safeguard public health by conducting a series of rigorous quality tests on medicines and related substances. These tests are designed to verify that medicines comply with stringent regulatory standards, assessing critical factors such as purity, integrity, efficacy, and safety.

In pursuit of the highest standards in testing, QSL applied for accreditation under the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard through the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) in August 2021. The accreditation process involved a comprehensive assessment by SADCAS, evaluating key aspects of QSL's operations, including its quality policy, staff competence, equipment suitability and maintenance, the testing environment, and the overall reliability of its test results.

Achieving ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation provides formal recognition of QSL's technical competence and commitment to excellence. As of June

2022, QSL has met all the requirements of this internationally recognized standard, positioning the laboratory for greater opportunities in the global marketplace. Accreditation not only enhances the credibility of QSL's test results but also facilitates the acceptance of these results by international markets, paving the way for enhanced global trade and cooperation in pharmaceutical quality assurance.

This achievement underscores QSL's ongoing dedication to maintaining the highest standards in laboratory testing, reinforcing its critical role in protecting public health through the regulation of medicines in Namibia.