Roadmap to Accreditation –
A Step-by-step Prescriptive Approach

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What factors should you consider when choosing a laboratory?

• We need to be sure that it provides accurate and reliable test results on a timely basis.

• Technically competent to do the required testing.

• Excellent care and handling of customers
Why is a laboratory’s technical competence so critical to customers?

• Minimize risk by providing quality test results
• Avoid cost and time of retesting
• Enhance the customer’s confidence
The technical competence of a laboratory:

- The qualification, training, and experience of staffs
- Use of the right equipment – calibrated & maintained
- Suitable testing facilities
- Proper sampling practices
- Appropriate and valid testing procedures
- Quality Assurance procedures
- Meticulous recording and reporting system

All can be achieved if and only if the laboratory is accredited!
Accreditation

is a formal recognition of competency provided by an authoritative body
## Steps to Achieve Accreditation

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| **Obtain Decision** | • Commitment from Top Management  
• Allocate resource and establish accreditation committee |
| **Gap Analysis** | • identify gaps  
• develop schedule and action plan |
| **Establish QMS** | • Understand basic QMS, ISO 15189, int./national regulations  
• Develop Quality Document |
| **Implement QMS** | • Address the 12 QSEs  
• Cover all the technical and management requirements |
| **Check the System** | • Mgt. Review, competency assessment, EQA, Internal Auditing,…  
• Continuously improve the Quality System |
| **Ready for accreditation** | • Pre-accreditation assessment  
• Identify Accreditation Body and submit application |
Accreditation is Commitment to the Standard

Being accredited the first time is an **ACHIEVEMENT** for which a laboratory can be **pleased**!

Being accredited the second time is an **ACCOMPLISHMENT** of which the laboratory can be **proud**!

The **goal** is not the receipt of a certificate; it is the confidence that the laboratory provides **better and safer care** with fewer errors and continuously focus on **quality improvement**.
Motivation to Accreditation

- A structured approach to organize and manage laboratories
- Organizational harmony and culture
- Having more knowledgeable and cohesive staff
- National/international recognition of technical competence
- Fewer errors, reduced cost and increased savings
- Reduced risk and liability
- Greater customer, management and staff satisfaction
- Increased competitiveness and market share
Approaches to encourage accreditation

- National Laboratory Policy and strategic plan
- Commitment and allot resources
- Collaboration

- Requirement and satisfaction of customers
- Comply with standards
- Meeting the requirement

- Awareness Creation
- Advice & Guidance
- Communication
- Training & Mentorship

Awareness Creation

Advice & Guidance

Communication

Training & Mentorship

Communication
Tools to Support Preparation for Accreditation
Accreditation Bodies in Africa

Full members (MRA Signatories)

Associate members

Affiliate members
Thank you!

Everyone looks for a better service; therefore, it is good for laboratories to implement QMS and Achieve Accreditation!