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**CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE 2024/25 SADC QUALITY AWARDS**

**BACKGROUND**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Committee of Ministers of Trade (CMT) in June 2009 approved the implementation of the SADC Annual Quality Awards. The purpose of the awards is to encourage entities in the region, both public and private, to apply and comply with international standards in their activities. The quality awards give entities that have done this an opportunity to be regionally recognised and celebrated, with an award of a trophy and a certificate. Over and above motivating the winners to continue applying that standards quality principles, the competition creates champions for quality in the region for others to emulate.

The SADC Quality Awards recognises five categories, namely:

1. Company of the Year;
2. Product of the Year;
3. Service of the Year;
4. Exporter of the Year; and
5. Individual of the year.

The first four categories have two subcategories each which consists of the Large Enterprise and the Small Enterprise.

The SADC Annual Quality Awards competition has been running since 2011. SADC Member States that have participated in the awards to date include Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. There is still a need to encourage more of the SADC Member States to participate in the competition as a self-declaration to the commitment to applying SQAM principles at the national level. Thus far, the regional competition has received entries from the Chemical, Agriculture, Medical, Transport, Food processing, beverage, testing laboratory, Security, Energy and the property and construction sectors.

**CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE SADC QUALITY AWARDS 2024**

The regional quality award competition will open on 29November 2024 and close on 28 January 2025. Individuals and companies interested to participate in the 2024/2025 competition are requested to obtain Entry Forms from the National Quality Award Focal Points of the Member State. Entries for the regional award will be the ones that have been recognised at the national level as the winners. In each of the 16 SADC Member States the Quality Awards Focal Person will forward, to the SADC Secretariat, the entries, clearly indicating which category they are entering.

All entries shall be in soft copy and submitted in a folder that is marked with the name of **Member State, followed by** Category, the sub-category and the name of the entity e.g.

Ex: **COUNTRY\_ POY-LE\_PHARMABOLO\_**

The adjudication panel will meet in February 2025 to select the regional winners. The overall results of the competition will be reported to the SADC Technical Barriers to Trade Expert Group Meeting of March 2025.