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5<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Mr Ben Martin  
Parliamentary Portfolio Committee  
Department of Trade and Industry

Dear Sir,

The promulgation in 2007 of the Measurement Units and Measurement Standards Act, that created the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA) and the Accreditation for Conformity Assessment, Calibration and Good Laboratory Practice Act that created the South African National Accreditation Service (SANAS) refers. These two Acts, together with those now under consideration place South Africa, in our opinion, amongst the leaders in international developments in the area of Standards, Quality, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM).

SANAS welcomes the opportunity to present its views on the two bills currently under consideration by the Portfolio Committee namely Standards and the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications. Together these bills, with the two Acts mentioned in the opening paragraph, address the holistic creation and maintenance of a sound and sustainable domestic technical support infrastructure for SQAM for the benefit of South African industry, commerce and local consumers.

The clear separation of responsibilities for Standards creation and the subsequent use of such in compulsory specifications by a regulator as contained in these two complimentary Bills is an important new development, especially given that the SABS, in line with many if not all of its peers, also offers conformity assessment services on a commercial basis.

The separation of roles between the SABS and the proposed National Regulator for compulsory specifications, together with the recent creation as a public entity of SANAS, and the creation of NMISA, now allows for a level playing field for all the relevant domestic private and public providers of conformity assessment, including those provided by the SABS, to prove their competence to perform tests and inspections against local compulsory specifications through the vehicle of accreditation to such a totally independent regulatory authority.

The legal standing of results and associated sanctions for non conformance by SANAS accredited bodies contained in the Act that created SANAS in 2007 provides the necessary confidence that such results can be accepted without further confirmation, as part of the regulatory decision making processes. It also allows foreign providers that also offer the required type of service to be recognised in a similar way. This will obviously promote freer flows of goods and services that meet local regulatory requirements.

The technical infrastructure that will be created by the implementation of these four complimentary Acts should not only allow South Africa to provide leadership within the African region but also create valuable opportunities for negotiating reciprocal recognition agreements with our major trading partners. Such agreements would substantially reduce the risk of locally produced goods and produce being rejected by foreign trading partners due to lack of confidence in our local technical infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MA PEET', written in a cursive style.

**MA PEET**  
Chief Executive Officer