

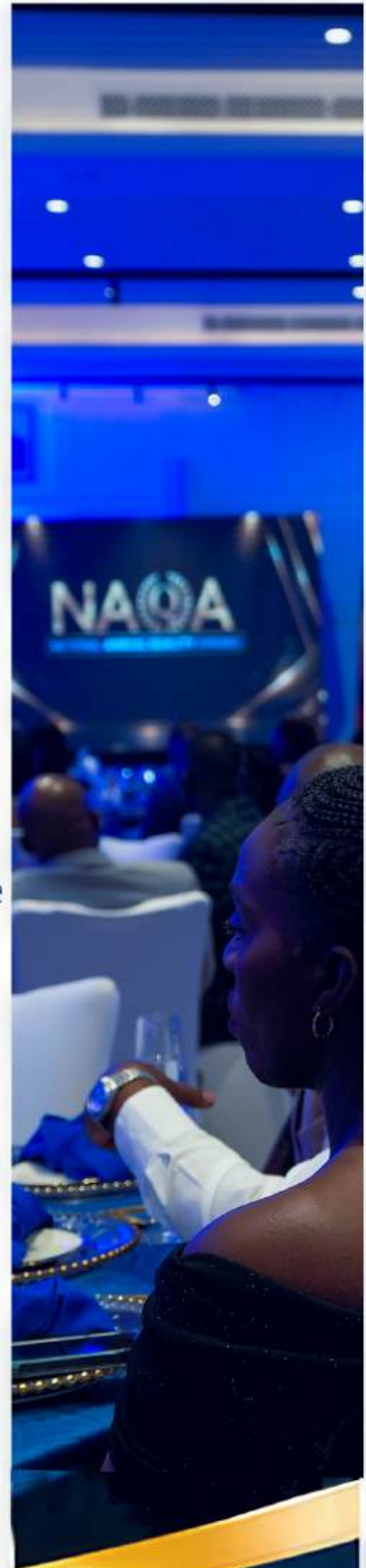
Zimbabwe's Quality Leaders Honored at the 2026 National Annual Quality Awards

Organizations and individuals demonstrating outstanding commitment to quality, standards and continual improvement were recognized at the 13th edition of the National Annual Quality Awards, held on 11 September 2026 at Hyatt Regency Harare The Meikles. The ceremony brought together Government, industry, quality infrastructure institutions and other stakeholders, with Engineer Muchumairi, Director Business Practices in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, representing the Minister, Hon. Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndlovu, and serving as the Guest of Honour.

The 2026 National Annual Quality Awards (NAQA) celebrated organizations and individuals whose achievements demonstrate the value of quality in strengthening competitiveness, productivity, consumer confidence, and sustainable economic growth.

The awards recognized excellence in company performance, products, services, export development, and individual contribution to the quality infrastructure. National winners will proceed to represent Zimbabwe at the SADC Quality Awards, carrying the country's quality story to the regional stage.

NAQA originated from the SADC Annual Quality Awards, approved in 2009 by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade. The national program is open to certified and non-certified organizations and encourages enterprises to embed measurement systems, quality management systems, sound procedures and continual improvement practices aligned with local, regional and international standards.



“ *Quality today builds a stronger and more prosperous tomorrow.* **”**

Standards as a Passport to Competitive Markets



Standards create trust across borders, support fair trade, strengthen supply chains, protect consumers and enable innovation."

Mr Cosmus Mukoyi
*Director General
Standards Association
of Zimbabwe*

Welcoming guests, Standards Association of Zimbabwe Director General Mr. Cosmus Mukoyi described NAQA as a national platform that recognizes organizations and individuals who have made quality a practical driver of competitiveness, productivity, consumer confidence and economic growth.

He stressed that excellence is not accidental, but is built through standards, continual improvement, competent people, and a commitment to doing things right every time. In an increasingly demanding global marketplace, he said, standards create trust across borders, support fair trade, strengthen supply chains, protect consumers and enable innovation.

Mr. Mukoyi encouraged Zimbabwean enterprises to move beyond compliance and use quality as a strategic advantage. He also acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, members of the Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) Committee, adjudicators, participating organizations and other partners who made the program possible.

Ministerial Address Sets the National Quality Agenda



“ *Quality is not merely a technical requirement or compliance obligation, but an essential foundation for sustainable economic development and national prosperity.”*

Engineer Muchumairi
*Director Business Practices
Ministry of Industry and Commerce*

Engineer Muchumairi, represented the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Hon. Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndlovu, and delivered the keynote address on the Minister’s behalf. The address placed the awards within Zimbabwe’s wider pursuit of competitiveness, productivity and inclusive economic transformation, emphasizing that quality is not merely a technical requirement or compliance obligation, but an essential foundation for sustainable economic development and national prosperity.

The Minister’s message highlighted Cabinet’s approval of the Zimbabwe National Quality Policy 2 (2026–2030), which provides a coordinated framework for strengthening Zimbabwe’s national quality infrastructure. The policy is anchored on six pillars: standardization, metrology, accreditation, conformity assessment, technical regulations, and quality promotion and use.

The address also linked quality to Ease of Doing Business reforms, industrialization, local content development, and wider access to regional and international markets. It called for sustained cooperation among Government, industry, standards and conformity assessment bodies, academia, research institutions, development partners and civil society to advance innovation, skills development and productivity.

Government congratulated all winners and nominees and urged this year’s national winners to represent Zimbabwe with pride and distinction at the SADC Quality Awards.

A Rigorous and Evidence-Based Adjudication Process

The credibility of the awards was underpinned by a rigorous adjudication process conducted from 10 to 21 August 2026 using the SADC Quality Awards Guideline, adopted without amendment. A total of 34 entries were received across the award categories—12 more than in 2025.

The adjudication panel comprised representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Trade Measures, the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre's National Metrology Institute, the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe and SAZ, providing a fair and expert evaluation. Each entry was assessed rigorously against predefined criteria.

A preparatory workshop was held on 11 June 2026 to guide prospective entrants on the submission requirements. The adjudication report reinforced that the entry form is an evaluation framework, not merely an administrative requirement: its sections address specific criteria, and marks are allocated to each question. The strongest submissions responded comprehensively to every section and supported their claims with evidence, while incomplete responses reduced scores and entries that did not meet mandatory requirements were disqualified.



Key Lessons from the Adjudication Process

Although participation was below the level anticipated, the report noted positively that exporters entered the awards for the second time in five years. The increase in overall submissions also reflected growing interest in the national quality recognition program.

The adjudicators found that the quality of submissions varied. Successful entries provided comprehensive, evidence-based responses to every section of the entry form, showing clearly how the relevant criteria had been addressed.

Incomplete sections had a significant effect on the overall scores of several entrants. The report therefore urged future participants to follow the submission guidelines carefully, respond directly to every criterion and provide sufficient supporting evidence.

On behalf of the SQAM Committee, the adjudication report congratulated the 2026 award recipients and wished the national winners' success as they proceed to the SADC Annual Quality Awards, encouraging them to raise the Zimbabwean flag high.

A large, stylized version of the NAQA logo is centered on a dark background with golden light effects. The letters 'NAQA' are in a bold, serif font, with the 'Q' being particularly large and ornate, featuring a laurel wreath around it.

NATIONAL ANNUAL QUALITY AWARDS

2026 National Annual Quality Awards Results

The following organizations, products and individuals were recognized for outstanding performance:

Category	Placing	Award Recipient
Company of the Year — Large Enterprise	First Runner-Up	Mashonaland Tobacco Company
	Winner	Saint-Gobain Construction Products
Company of the Year — SME	First Runner-Up	Woodlot Timbers
	Winner	Real Star Security
Product of the Year — Large Enterprise	Second Runner-Up	Saint-Gobain Construction Products — Rhinaset
	First Runner-Up	Allied Timbers Zimbabwe (ATZ) Pvt Ltd — Kiln-Dried Timber
	Winner	Delta Beverages — CBC Shumba Maheu
Product of the Year — SME	Second Runner-Up	Mukati Investments (Pvt) Ltd — WELLPURE Balanced Purified Water
	First Runner-Up	Buntu Foods — Sorghum and Millet Flour
	Winner	Lifestyle Motors — Lifestyle LS150TB 150cc Dual-Purpose Motorcycle
Service of the Year — Large Enterprise	First Runner-Up	Freight World (Pvt) Limited
	Winner	Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA)
Service of the Year — SME	First Runner-Up	Zimbabwe Insurance Brokers
	Winner	ZimTrade
Exporter of the Year	Winner	Irvine's Zimbabwe
Individual Award of the Year	Second Runner-Up	John Chingorivo
	First Runner-Up	Gift Maruta
	Winner	Panashe Natasha Mukaro

Editor's note: During the ceremony, Freight World (Pvt) Limited was erroneously announced as Second Runner-Up in the SME category. The company actually placed First Runner-Up in the Large Enterprise category, as reflected in the results table.

From National Recognition to Regional Representation

For the winners, the awards marked both recognition and responsibility. As Zimbabwe's representatives at the next SADC Quality Awards, they will have the opportunity to demonstrate how standards, leadership, innovation, customer focus and disciplined continual improvement are strengthening organizational performance across the country.

The closing proceedings acknowledged the contribution of award recipients, nominees, adjudicators, sponsors, partners, and guests. Participants were encouraged to sustain the quality journey beyond the ceremony, while organizations that did not receive awards were urged to strengthen their systems, improve future submissions, and take part again.

NAQA 2026 demonstrated that quality is not confined to technical departments or large organizations. It is evident in leadership decisions, production processes, service delivery, export strategies, product development, and the daily commitment of professionals who continue to raise the standard.

SAZ congratulates all 2026 winners and runners-up and wishes the national winners every success as they proceed to represent Zimbabwe at the SADC level. SAZ invites organizations across Zimbabwe to make quality a measurable, repeatable and strategic part of the way they operate.

Follow SAZ communication platforms and visit the SAZ website for updates on the winners' SADC journey and the next National Annual Quality Awards cycle.

