

**Message from the Chair Of AFRIMETS**  
**World Metrology Day**  
**20 May 2021**



**Dr. Mohamed Amer**

**Dear Metrology colleagues in Africa,**

It is a privilege for me, Dr. Mohamed Amer, Chair of AFRIMETS, to deliver a WMD 2021 message to you.

We find ourselves in extraordinary circumstances with the world in the grips of a pandemic. This makes the theme of World Metrology Day 2021 very appropriate - **Measurement for Health**, as Metrology colleagues and institutes across the Globe are applying their expertise in measurement science in the fight against the pandemic.

The past year many metrology institutes on our continent used electronic media to continue with the important work of establishing an accurate measurement system in their countries and to link this to the international measurement system.

Led by the countries that have adhered to the Metre Convention, the major sub-regional hub NMIs KEBS of Kenya, NMISA of South Africa, NIS of Egypt, DEFNAT & INRAP of Tunisia and LPEE of Morocco organised online conference, training courses and managed the system of the comparison of national measurement standards. In addition, several proficiency testing schemes were launched in the area of food safety, and the Pan African Quality Infrastructure PAQI launched the first comprehensive project involving all the pillars of the Quality Infrastructure to improve the Casava value chain. The documentary standards needed, regulations for fair trade, conformity assessment including the infrastructure for accurate measurement and accreditation were assessed and specific interventions were identified. These are now addressed with projects to fill the gaps to enable intra and inter trade of Casava and its value-added projects, and most importantly, to ensure the safety of the consumer. Most notably AFRIMETS Technical Committee for Chemistry and Biochemistry motivated a project for the development of a certified reference material for cyanide in Casava that will also be used to conduct proficiency testing amongst analytical laboratories in the region. Similar projects in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area will follow soon.

In the physical metrology field, the comparisons AFRIMETS TC-Temperature conducted that past 5 years were of great value for the accurate calibration of temperature scanning devices. We are also grateful to the Chinese Metrology Association for the donation of a system to calibrate infrared thermometers that is widely used in the fight against the pandemic. The system is currently being commissioned at the AFRIMETS Secretariat and will be available to calibrate hand-held infrared thermometers.

So we can report on many successes, but what does the future hold? It is already apparent that we will not be able to meet in person for the AFRIMETS GA 2021. Rather than to again cancel the GA as we had to do in 2021, we plan to hold the TC meetings and the GA online during July. The TC chairs will contact metrologists to organise the meeting and the Secretariat and EXCO will communicate on the GA. I sincerely hope that you will support these efforts and make our first online General Assembly a success.

I wish you all the best with the fight against the pandemic in your respective countries. Don't forget that you can call on our extensive metrology network at any time for assistance.

Until we meet again, stay safe!

I trust that you are with us looking forward to a new era in international metrology where we are better positioned to respond and address the measurement needs of grand challenges and future pandemics. I am looking forward to meet with you all in either a post-Covid-19 world, or a world where we have found ways to manage the pandemic effectively. Stay safe until we meet again.

**Mohamed Amer**

**Chair of AFRIMETS**