



PL 002-03

NiNAS Impartiality Policy

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1. Purpose/Scope

This document defines the policy of NiNAS with respect to the impartiality of its accreditation activities. It applies to all NiNAS personnel, assessors, committee members, contractors and related bodies.

2. References

- a. MP 17 NiNAS Risk Procedure
- b. ISO/IEC 17011:2017 *Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*
- c. QM 1.0 NiNAS Quality Manual
- d. NiNAS Quality Policy Statement

3. Definitions

Impartiality - the presence of objectivity, i.e. to be fair and unbiased.

4. General

At NiNAS, impartiality is vital in the provision of accreditation services and is important in maintaining the confidence and trust of stakeholders. NiNAS is committed to adhere to the requirement of ISO/IEC 17011:2017-‘*Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*’ that accreditation shall be undertaken impartially and the maintenance of impartiality is a priority in the conduct of NiNAS’ business.

It is the policy of NiNAS to operate in fair, unbiased and impartial manner and to eliminate or manage any potential conflicts of interests. One of the main mechanisms to achieve this is through the use of the Advisory Committee whose balanced membership of interested stakeholders ensures the fairness of NiNAS’ policy. Policies are reviewed to ensure they are non-discriminatory; procedures are written to reflect these policies to help ensure their application in a non-discriminating manner. NiNAS’ accreditation services are accessible to all bodies, irrespective of size or affiliation, whose operations include activities for which NiNAS’ accreditation services are available. Access is not conditional based on the size of the applicant, the number of



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applicants already in the programme, the affiliations of the organisation or the location of the organisation within the operational area of NiNAS.

All NiNAS' personnel, contractors and committee members are obliged to commit to impartiality through the signing of the Code of Conduct declaration form that contains the requirement for impartiality. In addition, assessors selected to participate in an assessment on behalf of NiNAS are obliged to sign the impartiality declaration form.

NiNAS evaluates on an ongoing basis potential risks to its impartiality with a view to safeguarding impartiality using a combination of internal audit, management review and consultation with relevant stakeholders. NiNAS will not establish a relationship that threatens its impartiality and will continue to establish formal relationships, both at an individual and organisational level that will promote the application of NiNAS' accreditation services in conformity with ISO/IEC 17011:2017 - Conformity assessment - *Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*. NiNAS assesses its relationships and potential relationships with a view to eliminating conflict of interest and maintaining confidentiality, objectivity and impartiality.

Celestine Okanya

DG/CEO, NiNAS

20 February, 2023



5.0 Document History

Modification No/Date	Proposed by	Page No.	Summary of Modification
20/02/2023	Quality Manager	All	To reflect the findings during the desk review of NiNAS management system.