

# **BOTSWANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REPORT**

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**22<sup>nd</sup> SCECSAL**

**SWAZILAND**

**25 – 29 April 2016**

**Presentation by the Vice President, BLA  
Dr Batlang Comma Serema**

# Introduction

- **INTRODUCTION**

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- Botswana Library Association (BLA) presents its report for the years 2014 - 2016. The report covers activities from the various sectors of the library community in Botswana to demonstrate the progress that the country has made since the last SCECSAL conference in 2014.

# Conference and Meeting

- BLA conference continues to grow in recognition every year. We held an annual conference in 2015, and has scheduled the 2016 conference for July 2016
- Themes
- 2015 – Access to information for sustainable development
- 2016 – From Action to impact, connecting communities through library and information provision
- The 2015 conference was sponsored by the following organisations
- Libwin Library Systems, Springer, Worldwide Information Service (WWIS), EBSCO, BNLS, Emerald, Books Botswana
- We hosted the IFLA Africa Section meeting in February 2016
- We need your support in participating at the **BLA** annual conferences

# Training

- Several workshops and seminars have been hosted in the past two years to capacitate members with new skills and competencies.
- 2015 -
- Marketing
- Project management
- facilitated by Dr Peter Sebina & Dr Batlang Comma Serema and (DLIS)
- Capacity building on advocacy for Teacher librarians

# Stakeholder engagement

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- BLA has been consistently meeting with key stakeholders for the past 2 years. The last meeting was held in November 2015 and has seen more positive responses from various stakeholders; feedback from this meeting informed discussions at the strategic planning review held last month
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- We also paid courtesy calls on the different departments of Government including meeting the Minister responsible for libraries Hon Thapelo Olopeng who became our patron.

# Advocacy

- Held a professional forum run by Mr Tsebe and Ms Nicholson

His Honour The Vice President Mokgweetsi Masisi Meeting, Mr Tsebe, Mrs Raseroka, Dr Sebina

- Hon Minister of Youth Sports and Culture Hon Thapelo Olopeng and the Director BNLS
- The Acting Permanent Secretary Director of National Archives and Records Services
- Awaiting an appointment with Minister of Education and skills development to advocate for teacher librarians

# Outreach

- In addition to the mobile libraries, exhibitions and talk shows we improvise where there is no mobile vehicles, by using an ordinary vehicle to reach out to the customers
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- Outreach programmes include taking the library to confined customers like, women shelter, prison-in-mates and rural area dweller settlements

# Fundraising initiatives

- Dinner - A fund raising dinner is held in 2015 in May. In addition to assisting with raising funds the dinners has also boosted the association stakeholder engagement and recognition.



# Programmes

- Library in-programmes are categorized into six broad areas of education, capacity/skills transfer, cultural, special needs and ICT.
- The total uptake of these programmes is growing rapidly and has an average increase of about **2000** in every **3** months
- The most popular programme is the basic ICT training. This program has a component of training members of the public on the one hand and the regular ICT access for different purposes including e-mail, database researches, office applications, skype and games
- Also have a ICT program for people with disability such as zoom text and speech

# Programmes

- BSLA project sponsored by IFLA is progressing well
  - Legislation – review constitution and recognition by government
  - Creating national & regional structures
  - Benchmarking in South Africa and Nigeria
  - Improving libraries
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- Strategy planning session with Mr Tsebe. Kind enough to do it pro bono

## Public Libraries

- Public libraries in Botswana have recently seen a spike in growth in terms of refurbishments, remodelling of service and recognition. Libraries offer diverse and more appealing programmes aimed at transforming the lives of the communities they serve. These include life skills, educational, cultural and recreational programmes. Over 26 035 people participated in these programmes during in the last Financial Year.

# Public Libraries

- 14 libraries have been contracted and are fully operational under our partnership with the Robert and Sara Rothschild Family Foundation. The thirteenth library is under construction at Werda and is scheduled to start operation by June 2016.
- The total number of Public libraries is 105 in Botswana out of which 66 have internet and computer access.
- Libraries are now among the first choice in terms of information access and we have had to increase opening hours from 35 to 46 per week in order to meet the demands

# Public Libraries

- **1.2 Stakeholders Involvement**
- The National Library of Botswana has several strategic partners whose partnership programmes are to improve delivery of library services. Major stakeholders include:
  - **1. Robert and Sara Rothschild Family Foundation** who intends to build two libraries per year for ten (10) years started in 2007 until 2016. The Foundation has built twelve (14) libraries so far.
  - **2. American Embassy-** Collaborated in doing an American corner at the Maun Public library
  - **3.** Other partners are based at local libraries level and they provide different items ranging from books, TV, DVD players, Computers etc

# Academic Libraries

- There is a surge of private colleges now being established in Botswana. This as a result has increased academic libraries as it's a requirement now that colleges must have libraries
- University of Botswana held the Cape Town IFLA Reference and Information Services Section pre conference in Gaborone
- UB continues to play a major role in our activities

# Botswana Library Consortium

- The BLC held a conference end of 2014 and BLA participated
- They continue to assist in the procurement of databases

Thank you....