

# LESOTHO COUNTRY REPORT

LESOTHO LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION (LLA)

2014

MALAWI

COMPILLED BY MR. WILLIAM

MOKOTJO-LLA PRESIDENT

# **LESOTHO COUNTRY REPORT 2014**

## **LESOTHO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

It is with great honor and privilege as LLA to have this golden opportunity to present country report on behalf of the Lesotho Library Association. LLA wishes to pass gratitude to all SCECSAL members present here today. The report outlines the achievements, challenges, recommendations and the future plans of the association. The report covers the duration of two years 2012 and 2013.

### **2.0 LLA Achievements**

#### **2.1 LLA SITE**

In May 2013, the following improvements wear made on the site:

- Fencing
- Construction of a small structure
- Installation of electricity and sewerage system
- Renting out of the site

The association is still awaiting major site developments that would make it easier for the LLA to survive and be well established in terms of permanent office location.

## **2.2 LLA web site**

The LLA web site was developed in April 2014. Due to financial constraints, it could not be launched as scheduled. However, it will be launched before the end of the year. The purpose of the web site is to market the association and to benefit LLA members by sharing skills and experiences relating to the profession.

## **2.3 Fundraising activities**

In an effort to raise funds for the association, the following activities were undertaken:

- Re-negotiation of government subvention with the Ministry Tourism, Environment and Culture
- Renting out of the LLA site
- Selling of T- shirts

## **2.3 Community development services**

In line with the LLA objective to promote, safeguard and encourage the establishment and improvement of libraries and professional interests of librarians, LLA with the support of the Lesotho National Services, the Central bank of Lesotho and international bodies such as World Vision Lesotho managed to donate books to fifty five High Schools within the country.

### **3.0 Libraries in Lesotho**

The library system in Lesotho is made up of the National, public, special, academic and school libraries. Out of these five types of libraries, the school libraries are the most disadvantaged as they are manned by unqualified personnel and are lacking in equipment and study materials. This can lead to lower students' learning and achievements.

The association sensitized the school principals in their regular meetings on how to improve the library services in their schools.

### **3.3 LIS Programme**

In 2009 the National University introduced an LIS programme at the diploma level. Some members of the Association assisted with tutoring. The programme was unfortunately later suspended due to lack of resources (Human and Financial). The negotiations to resuscitate it are still ongoing.

### **4.0 Challenges**

- Lack of sponsorship for Diploma students at NUL
- Minimal absorption of Diploma graduates in the workplace
- Lack of Financial Capacity to establish LLA Secretariat (Staff) and National Office that will assist the association to execute its mandate and programs accordingly.
- Absence of Government Subvention and Development Partners (Donors) Funding to support LLA programs and activities.

- Absence of the National Library Act of which the draft bill is still to be presented to parliament
- Lack of enthusiasm among the library professionals. Members are reluctant to participate in association's activities such as payment of subscriptions.

## **5.0 LLA Future Plans for 2015/2016**

- ❖ To mobile resources for the establishment of Community or Pack Homes Libraries and LLA national office (site development).
- ❖ To conduct intensive trainings for the School Library Assistants and Principals.
- ❖ To sensitize the community of the importance of library services.
- ❖ To devise membership-based projects that will stimulate LLA members in addressing the challenge of lack of enthusiasm.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

The SCECSAL Coordinating Body should develop the standard format for developing a country report that will indicate the critical areas to be covered and why.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

The library associations play a vital role nationally by imparting knowledge to individuals. Sharing of achievements, challenges and plans of associations will each other to address the national challenges jointly.