



**1 May 2016 – 31 March 2018**

## **REPORT TO SCECSAL GENERAL COUNCIL**

**President: Dr Batlang C. Serema**

**Botswana Library Association**

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Botswana Library Association presents its report for the years 2016-2018. The report covers activities from the Library community in Botswana to demonstrate the progress of that the country has made since the last SCECSAL conference in 2016.

### **2. CAPACITY BUILDING**

- i. Botswana Library Association in collaboration with the Department of Library and Information Studies held a workshop led by Prof Robert Davison from the Department of Information Systems, City University of Hong Kong in May 2016 at the University of Botswana. The workshop was on writing and publishing. The objectives of the workshop were to:
  - Open up the black box of publishing so that researchers have a better idea of the expectations of journals and journal editors.
  - Encourage the undertaking and writing of high quality, publishable, consumable research.
  
- ii. The Association had a workshop for its members in September 2017 on the theme: Research in Information Practice facilitated by Dr Athulang Mutshewa of the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana. 30 BLA members were in attendance from Special Libraries, School Libraries and Academic Libraries. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness on the importance of research to the profession to equip members with skills that enable them to create evidence based research and to also expose them to research process which covers among other issues:
  - Criteria used to evaluate any thesis or research work
  - Overview of standard format of report
  - Abstract writing

- iii. The Association went on study tour to Mokolodi Game Reserve in May 2016.

### **3. NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

BLA held its annual conferences in July 2016 and September 2017 respectively. The theme for 2016 theme was **“From Action to Impact”** and the keynote address was delivered by Mr. Calvin Kario, Managing Director of Gem Diamonds. The conference attracted 63 participants and 15 papers were presented. The theme for the 2017 conference was **“Libraries and other infomediaries in the transformation agenda towards 2036”**, keynote address was delivered by Dr B.N. Jorosi, Head of Department, Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana. The 2017 conference was held at Cresta Hotels in Francistown, from 20 to 22 September 2017 and the theme of the conference reflected the importance and centrality of the role the BLA needs to play towards the realization of Botswana’s National Vision 2036 and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The conference attracted 80 participants and 20 papers were presented. The then President of the Botswana Library Association (BLA), Dr. Peter Mazebe II Mothataesi Sebina who is also the Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Humanities announced his resignation at this conference. Dr Sebina announced his decision to step down at the recent BLA Annual General Meeting which was held in the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> September during the Association’s annual conference in Francistown from 20 to 22 September 2017. Since July 2015, Dr. Sebina has been serving as the BLA President as well as the Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Botswana. BLA has as per its constitution consequently reshuffled its Executive Committee and Dr Batlang Comma Serema who has been serving as Vice president has taken over as President and Mrs Lynn Jibril as the Vice-President. Dr Sebina continues to be a committed member of the Executive Committee and will serve as Chief Editor of the Association.

### **4. MAJOR PUBLICATIONS**

The BLA publishes on a regular basis the newsletter and conference proceedings as the major publications. In 2016 a book of abstracts was published while in 2017 both the conference proceedings and the book of abstracts were produced.

### **5. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

The BLA paid courtesy calls on the Ministry of Basic Education on the 29<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 respectively. The purpose of the meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> August was to request the Ministry to sponsor School Librarians to attend the BLA 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference scheduled for the 20-22 September 2017. The 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 meeting was a follow up from the conference where members wanted the Association to constantly visit them in their institutions to find out how they are doing. The purpose of this meeting therefore was to seek permission from the Ministry to conduct such visits.

The BLA paid a courtesy call to Botswana National Library Services (BNLS) on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The meeting was attended by BLA Executive Committee and BNLS management. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the working relations between BLA and BNLS.

## 6. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

This year the Botswana Library Association joined the International Community in commemorating the International Women’s day on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 at a dinner organised by the Association under the theme **#PRESS FOR PROGRESS**. The purpose of the dinner was to bring together women Librarians to motivate them to join the global momentum that strives for gender parity and to celebrate the achievement of women in the Library and Information profession. The Guest speaker at the dinner was Prof Kgomotso H. Moahi of the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Botswana and had acted as Vice-Chancellor from February 2017-November 2017. The dinner was attended by 70 women participants. Among them was Prof Priti Jain who had just recently been promoted to a full Professor in the Library and Information Studies field, Prof Julie Edwards, a Fulbright scholar with the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of Botswana and a Librarian with the University of Montana in the United States of America, Mrs Alison Mckee an officer in the Public Affairs office of the United Sates Embassy in Botswana who has also served as a Director in the Military community library in Germany. She has also worked as a Public Librarian, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian in USA prior to joining the Embassy.

The Association bid and won a highly competitive proposal to establish a modern Library for Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) in December 2016. The BOCRA Information Resource Centre (BOCRA-IRC) Project was envisaged to help amplify the business process of the organisation through the collection and availing of relevant and comprehensive information. The IRC therefore will other than provide information also become a research hub for the organisation’s business requirements.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Professional Members	176	30	206
Institutional Members	-	-	45
Student Members	2	-	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>253</b>

The Association strive to recruit information professionals to the Association and since 2016 membership increased by 28 new members.

## **8. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. Dr Batlang Comma Serema – President; [Batlang.Serema@mopipi.ub.bw](mailto:Batlang.Serema@mopipi.ub.bw)
2. Mrs Lynn Jibril - Vice President; [jibrill@ub.ac.bw](mailto:jibrill@ub.ac.bw)
3. Ms Oarabile Rakgamanyane –Treasurer; [rakgamanyane@mopipi.ub.bw](mailto:rakgamanyane@mopipi.ub.bw)
4. Mrs Tiny Toto – Secretary; [tinyktus@gmail.com](mailto:tinyktus@gmail.com)
5. Mrs Khumo Dibeela - Vice Secretary; [kkgari@buan.ac.bw](mailto:kkgari@buan.ac.bw)
6. Dr Peter Sebina – Editor; [SEBINAPM@mopipi.ub.bw](mailto:SEBINAPM@mopipi.ub.bw)
7. Mrs Bongiwe Magocha – Deputy Editor; [bongiwem@bac.ac.bw](mailto:bongiwem@bac.ac.bw)
8. Mrs Kgomotso Radijeng – Ex-officio; [KRadijeng@bitri.co.bw](mailto:KRadijeng@bitri.co.bw)
9. Mrs Lebogang Gopolang - Additional member; [lseleka@bca.bw](mailto:lseleka@bca.bw)
10. Lieutenant General Sam Chimbombi - Additional member; [samchimbombi@gmail.com](mailto:samchimbombi@gmail.com)

## **9. OFFICIAL CONTACT ADDRESS**

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