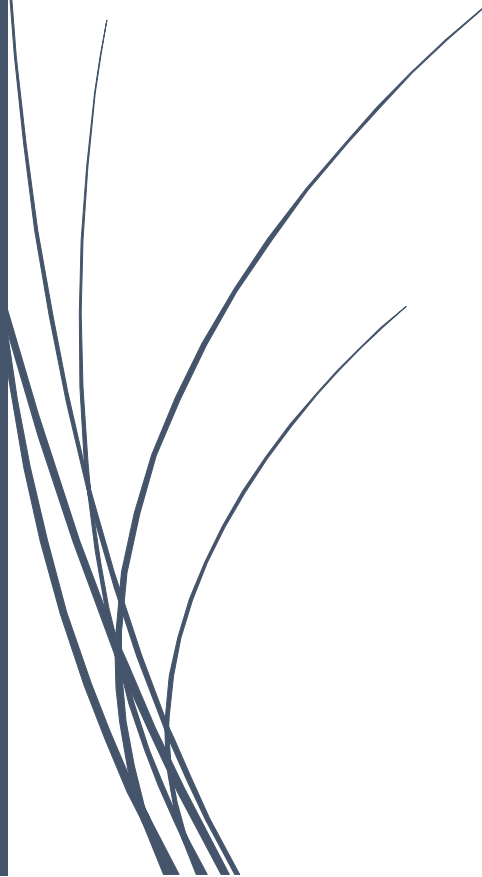


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5/28/2018

# APLESA

Gaborone, Botswana

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REPORT OF THE 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND  
MEETING OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES FOR EASTERN AND  
SOUTHERN AFRICA  
GICC, GABORONE 2018.

## Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	2
<b>18TH APLESA CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BOTSWANA MS BARBARA N. DITHAPO.....	2
OFFICIAL OPENING .....	4
PAPER PRESENTATIONS ON THEME AND SUBTHEMES .....	5
<b>EXCURSION.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>AMENDMENT OF THE APLESA CONSTITUTION.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>VOTE OF THANKS.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>OFFICIAL CLOSING.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>ANNEX .....</b>	<b>34</b>

1. Introduction
2. 18th APLESA Conference Proceedings
  - 2.1 Official Opening
  - 2.2 Paper Presentations on Theme and Subthemes
    - 2.2.1 Keynote Speech:
    - 2.2.2 Presentation on Subthemes
3. Excursion
4. 18th APLESA Annual General Meeting
  - 4.1 Agenda
  - 4.2 Communication from the APLESA President
  - 4.3 Tabling of the 18th APLESA Conference 2017 Report
    - 4.3.1 Annual Report 2017
    - 4.3.2 Report on the 2017/17 Tasks
5. OFFICIAL CLOSING
6. CONCLUSION

## INTRODUCTION

The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) was held in Gaborone, Botswana at the Grand Palm from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 under the theme “Realigning Parliamentary Library Services towards achievement of SDGs”

Delegates to the conference came from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Pan African Parliament, the Eastern African Legislative Assembly making a total of 33 delegates.

## 18TH APLESA CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

### KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BOTSWANA MS BARBARA N. DITHAPO

In her presentation the Clerk of the National Assembly of Botswana indicated that APLESA is an association that was established to strengthen cooperation and information sharing, particularly in the area of library and information services among Parliaments in the Eastern and Southern Africa region. She stated that in this regard the association provides a platform for continuous learning, benchmarking and setting standards amongst Librarians, Researchers and other information managers in an effort to achieve excellence, efficiency and effectiveness.

Ms Dithapo stated that the theme for this year’ conference is “Realigning Parliamentary Library Services towards achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. She pointed out that SDG’s were adopted by the UN in September 2015 as a framework to guide the world’s development Agenda towards the year 2030 and they outlined the world’s long-term objectives pursuant to economic, environmental and social development in all countries. The expected results are sustainable peace, economic growth and sustainable ecosystem among others. Therefore, in order to drive effective implementation of this pattern of development, Parliaments as supreme oversight institutions have been tasked with the responsibility to closely monitor

their implementation and hold governments accountable for achievement for achievement of the desired goals.

Madam Clerk reiterated that the theme for this year's conference resonates well with the aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063, which guides the development pattern of the entire African continent. Africa's agenda towards 2063, is to have: among others, a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development and an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and rule of law. She mentioned that the role of Parliaments in delivering these aspirations cannot be overemphasized. A healthy democracy is marked by a Parliament that is transparent and accountable. Such can only be achieved when Parliaments are facilitated by efficient libraries and other information services.

That being said, Parliamentary libraries in the Eastern and Southern Africa region face varying challenges in providing services. These challenges necessitate a decision by this forum to reflect on the practices and service delivery standards of its member Parliaments and develop a 'best practice guide' as a resource for operational standards amongst APLESA members. Although most of the African Parliaments are operating within limited resources which are likely to hinder their efficiency, this should not deter us from being innovative and creative in finding lasting solutions.

Organizations across the world have identified the digital environment as an opportunity to engage with the customers and stakeholders. Seamless access to information is critical and Parliaments as legislative bodies cannot be left behind in this regard.

In an effort to continuously improve the quality of support services, Parliaments ought to take advantage of knowledge based systems and technologies. This will not only strengthen Parliaments but also deepen democratic processes, which are centred on free access and information flow to the citizenry. It is worth mentioning that as professionals who deal with information management, you are better placed to make a change in this direction.

Furthermore, Madam Clerk gave a brief background about Parliament of Botswana for the benefit of those who might be attending APLESA conference in Botswana for the first time. She indicated that the National Assembly of Botswana is a 65-member unicameral Parliament of which 57 are directly elected through the simple majority (or First-Past-the-Post) electoral system while six members are specially elected for a term of five years and the remaining two are (the President and the Speaker) who are ex-officio members. The National Assembly also has

an advisory body known as Ntlo ya Dikgosi, which comprises 35 traditional leaders from different tribal groupings in Botswana.

The two houses are facilitated by staff complement 485 employees. Out of these, 285 are based at Constituency offices and the remaining are in Headquarters. As you would be aware, Parliament is facilitated by various support services, amongst them being Library, Research and Information Services.

Madam Clerk said that in line with the goals of both the SDGs and Agenda 2063, Botswana Parliament has a transformational agenda, which is aligned to the country's Vision 2036 aspiration of achieving prosperity for all. She mentioned that among other things, the Vision seeks to create a knowledge based economy by using science, technology and innovation.

In an effort to address the plea of Members of Parliament for improved access to quality information services and to facilitate execution of their constitutional mandate, Parliament of Botswana leveraged on ICT to improve service delivery. Consequently, Parliament Library has started automating its functions and created an information management platform which was initially piloted in four constituencies. She detailed that the project will be rolled out to 27 constituencies during the current financial year and to the remaining ones in the next financial year. She expressed her wish to present a paper on this project termed "Botswana Speaks" at the next APLESA Conference.

In her conclusion, Madam Clerk indicated that even though Parliamentary Libraries may be at different stages in the development cycle, the APLESA umbrella provides a platform where they can listen to each other, learn from each other and to work together. She assured delegates that the National Assembly of Botswana aligns itself with the ideals of APLESA as espoused in the constitutional mandate and reiterated its commitment towards fostering development and cooperation in the area of information and knowledge management.

## OFFICIAL OPENING

The 18th Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) was officially opened on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana Hon. G. K. T. Kokorwe. In her remarks, Madam Speaker welcomed and thanked the delegates for gracing the conference. She started by expressing gratitude to the upcoming presenters for the contributions they will present in making the conference a reality.

She indicated that she understands that the mandate of APLESA is to foster close cooperation between parliamentary libraries in the region. She stated that librarians are the custodians of information and they are key in facilitating parliaments. Therefore, she urged all participants to take this opportunity to establish networking and build bridges in order to establish a common goal of improved and quality library services and information for parliaments in the region.

The theme for the conference, “Realigning Parliamentary Library Services towards the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, has been well chosen. It fits into the current world’s agenda, which has been set under the auspices of the United Nations, to provide the tone and direction for global development over the next 15 years. The Speaker expressed her wish that through this conference, delegates have the opportunity to discuss ways in which they can facilitate their respective parliaments on the achievement of the SDGs.

The Speaker stated that Sustainable Development Goals are far better equipped to make a difference in any country across the world because they are universal and interconnected. She went on to explain that it is however unfortunate that not many people know about them and not many countries include them in their policies. She therefore encouraged and congratulated Librarians for playing a significant role in the achievement of SDGs.

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS ON THEME AND SUBTHEMES**

### **PRESENTATION BY MS G. KGOTLA, DIRECTOR BOTSWANA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES**

**Topic: The General Development Structure and Status of Library and Information Services in Botswana-**

The Director outlined the focal areas or objectives of her presentation as follows:

- The picture of public libraries evolution as knowledge stimulants and the pulse of the local community within the context of Sustainable Development Goals;

- Shows the solid and gradual transformation of libraries from traditional print based collections to modernised bases for promoting quality of lives;
- Acknowledges partnerships that have played a role in repositioning the public librarians in Botswana;
- Underscores the bleak picture of libraries before transformation as derived from the empirical evidence on the perception study;
- Demonstration of how the impact study portrays public libraries as essential vehicles and strategic platforms in the socio-economic arena;
- Botswana's demographic overview profile, and that of the Botswana National Library Service, the geographic spread of the libraries and their categories

### **Country demographic profile**

- Botswana is a landlocked country sharing borders with Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia and Zambia. It is a semi-arid country of 582,000 square kilometres. Has about 30 spoken languages – the official being Setswana and English
- Persons enumerated in 2011 stands at 2 038 228 as opposed to 1 680 863 enumerated in 2001, according to the 2011 Population and Housing Census in Botswana, showing a 1.9 % annual population growth rate
- 62% of the population are reported to be young and vibrant between the ages of 15 and 64
- Botswana's inequality measured by per capita consumption declined from 64.7% in 2003 to 60.5% in 2010, that is still high according the World Bank 2015
- Commendable effort was made towards reducing abject poverty through a Poverty Eradication Programmes which benefited vulnerable members of the society and resulted in reducing poverty from 19.3% in 2009/2010 to 16.3% in 2015/2016, according to *Botswana Core Welfare Indicators (Poverty) Survey of 2016*
- In Botswana, the unemployment rate measures the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labour force. According Statistics Botswana update in March 2018 unemployment rate stood at 18.1% in 2017 from 17.6% in 2016
- Generally, unemployment rate decreases with age, as those aged from 15 to 19 have the highest unemployment rate at 41.4 % followed by those aged from 20 to 24 years at 34.0 %.

## **National Framework on Information Access**

- The National Vision (2016) and subsequent National Vision (2036) identified the importance of information, developing of efficient information system and networks to support research, education, development and communication with the rest of world
- The National Library Policy (2013) recognises the current ICT era dictates that information creation, acquisition, processing and access should be done through modern information systems, and this status compels BNLS to conform its information infrastructure to modern technology with a wider coverage in terms of real access
- The National ICT Policy Maitlamo (1997) lays out a clear and compelling national ICT strategy that addresses key issues with the potential to make the country more proactive in approaching and embracing the information age in readiness for effective participation in the global ICT industry
- The Maitlamo Policy aims at developing a communications network of high international standards and ensure that the country has the technological skills to achieve among others:
  - \* Provision of universal service and access to information and communication facilities in the country; and
  - \* Making Botswana a regional information and communication technology hub... to make the country's technology sector globally competitive
- These frameworks envisage one thing in common, that is, Botswana aspires to be a Knowledge Society, and that all people (citizens and other residents) of Botswana will have easy access to information to improve their lives at home and work
- Information about all aspects of the economy, such as education, health, environment and business, will be available through the different information dissemination channels, which include telecommunication, electronic and print media
- Libraries have always been recognised as an important platform for advancing the development ideals of societies
- They are a basic institution of learning, where a community finds opportunity to transform itself into an educated and innovative society
- Library provides to all members of the society free access to a diversity of scientific and artistic information using available or tailor-made technologies for a wider reach-out



- Libraries provide a link for the past, present and future and they are places where communities connect with their cultural past and current affairs and re-position themselves with new skills to cope with the future
- Contributed significantly to the knowledge production process all aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Libraries see themselves as valuable platforms made to achieve these aspirations for development

### **Landscape of libraries**

- Botswana Public Libraries are generally funded by Government and they fall under the Botswana National Library Service (BNLS)
- Department in the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development operating under the National Library Service Act No. 29 of 1967, with a mandate to provide library service to the nation and to preserve the country's literary heritage
- Executes its mandate through a network of public libraries (42) and Village Reading Rooms (61) which are positioned in all districts in the country
- BNLS also manages the National Reference Library (NRL) -where the country's memory is safely housed and managed. It also operates the Library Service for People with Disabilities (LSPD)

### **Historical Landscape of Libraries**

- National Library services was responsible for the public libraries, the educational and the special libraries until 2010 when the specialised libraries were decentralised – a huge configuration
- The decentralisation of specialised libraries meant that National Library only focuses among others on national bibliographic control and legal depositary, also to support the special libraries through policy direction and promotion to standard adherence
- The library service is relatively at infancy stage but definitely on track to becoming the preferred places when it comes to satisfying information needs in support of leisure, research, communication, and education
- There were no libraries before independence which was obtained in 1966
- The first public library is the Gaborone Public Library opened in 1968
- By 1979 a few libraries were already set up through the Swedish Foreign Aid

- In 1985 the concept of Village Reading Rooms (VRR) was conceived and actualised in 1986 with 20 VRRs piloted in the Kgatleng District
- By 2006 there were about 23 public libraries 72 VRRs across the country

### **Library transformation**

- The public library service evolved rapidly over the last 7 years through government's commitment to transform them into a robust system that responds to the increased customer demands in line with the Sustainable Development Goals
- The transformation of libraries was achieved through collaboration efforts with strategic partners to increase access to library services and providing technological equipment to minimise the digital divide and facilitate participation in the cyber space

### **Status before transformation**

- In 2008 a perception study was conducted and revealed the following among others:
  - Public Libraries are seen as store houses for books,
  - A place where one goes to loan out a book or
  - A place where one goes to read newspapers for free
  - Libraries are for children, especially school going youths particularly when preparing for exams
  - A place where there is no access to ICTs
  - Libraries not maintained (physically unattractive)

### **Collaboration Efforts**

- A partnership effort with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – Global Libraries Initiative, in a project to provide free access to computers and internet in all public libraries
- The benefits of the project were envisaged beyond installation of computers and internet:
  - regular family communication over long distance at no cost
  - access local content information; government programme interventions
  - Empowerment of library staff to be champions in the provision of multi-media information

- Another partnership effort was on a project with Robert and Sara Rothschild Family Foundation to build two libraries per year in selected villages for ten years starting in 2007
- The goal of the project is to provide information service to the rural communities and afford them the opportunity to equally participate in matters of social economic development
- To date this partnership has successfully completed a total of 15 libraries and are fully functional
- The other partnership effort is with Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) in a project to create accessible versions of books and other copyrighted works for visually impaired persons
- The project ended in December 2017 having converted 30 books and 40 Acts and pamphlets for use by the virtually impaired in Botswana

#### **Achievements...current status**

- The general public perception that libraries were custodians of books, and were an extension of schools has changed. Libraries are perceived as the preferred intermediaries
- Libraries now operate as communities centres or innovative spaces for non traditional library programmes that aim to empower communities to improve their lives
- Public libraries now offer a diversified base of information resources which includes kindles, tablets and computer with access to on-line databases, e-books and full text journals
- A total of 74 out of 105 public libraries offer public access to computers and internet and
- Over 69,000 members of the public have been trained on basic ICT skills
- All connected sites provide a 24/7 Wi-Fi access within radius of 300meters from the library
- There is a lot of enthusiasm towards the newly packaged Library programmes and are categorized into six broad areas of education, capacity/skills transfer, cultural, special needs and ICT
- Development goals in health, agriculture, employment have significantly been supported through public libraries

#### **Challenges**

- Low bandwidth stifles easy access to electronic resources
- Lack of network infrastructure at some of the rural places compromise universal access to information
- The single personnel operations in the Village Reading Rooms experience challenges when it comes to providing public training on ICTs adequately aggravated by low literacy level
- The little participation in professional associations although librarians consider professional development and collaboration to be important

### **Interventions**

- Continuous engagement with the Department Information Technology for alternative network/connectivity solutions in order to ease free public internet access offered in public libraries
- There is significant dialogue and collaboration among the BNLS, Botswana Library Association and Botswana Library Consortium to raise participation the professional profile
- The Basic ICT training is still very popular in all public Libraries. On average a total of 1005 people participate in basic ICT training every month in all libraries and followed by graduation ceremonies thereafter
- By the year 2017 the BNLS had trained over 69,000 people as per the 2017/2018 state of the nation address

### **Conclusion**

- Libraries have demonstrated the potential to transform the local economies in provision of the necessary information and knowledge transfer
- Through their widely accepted programmes, Libraries contributes significantly towards keeping some people especially the youth meaningfully engaged with the view to improving community livelihoods
- Linking libraries to the broader national policies, the national Vision and the Sustainable Development Goals and committing the necessary resources will set the country on course towards improved livelihoods

## **PRESENTATION BY MS L. JIBRIL - THE VICE PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (BLA)**

**Topic:** “The Role of Parliamentary Librarians towards achieving the Sustainable Developmental Goals – The Botswana Library Association Perspective”

### **Introduction**

Botswana Library Association is a national body representing all libraries and information related bodies. It was formed in 1978. The membership comprises of individual librarians and information service providers as well as institutions that maintain or are interested in libraries and information services.

### **BLA Vision**

- To provide leadership for the development and improvement of the library and information service profession. The BLA vision is to be a dynamic innovative leading voice in representing the interests of the library and information service in Botswana.

### **BLA Objectives**

- To improve the status of the Library and information profession
- Advocate for an improved library and information service
- To promote and encourage research
- To monitor legislation affecting library and information workers
- To publish journals and newsletters on regular basis

### **BLA Role**

- To assist Botswana Library and information professionals and their organizations to be part of this international drive for greater social equality, improved economic prosperity and a more sustainable environmental approach.
- Instrumental in ensuring that libraries have a strong role in the national development plan.
- Capacity building; advocacy

### **BLA and IFLA Role**

BLA is an affiliation of IFLA and IFLA played an active role in the development of the SDGs and it has been actively involved in the reaction of the UN 2030 Agenda advocating for the inclusion of; access to information, safe guarding of cultural heritage and universal literacy and access to Information Communication Technology.

## BLA Focus in 2017-2018

BLA SDG focus over the next 12 months will be on four activities

1. Organising and delivering a successful Botswana Sustainable Development Goals Summit for Library and information professionals in November 2018.
2. Present a report for the Government about how libraries are helping Botswana meet the objectives and indicators for the SDG goals and targets.
3. Embedding the SDGs in our own Constitution, Strategic Plan, Policies and guidelines.
4. Providing the awareness, encouragement and resources to enable Botswana libraries to incorporate the SDGs in their own strategic plans and policy statements.

### The Role of Parliamentary Librarians

- Advocacy agents for programs that are SDG inclusive, those that underscore the importance of libraries.
- To identify champions that can turn tables around; advocating for the library in Parliament, in Parliamentary committees, peer to peer advocacy, and in schools and the curricula, using information to empower communities for development.
- Documenting good stories on libraries contribution to SDGs achievement.
- Collect data for advocacy of the SDG
- Measure impact of program

### Questions and Answer Session

- ✓ **Are there professionals in the library who train people when it comes to issues of business in Kasane?** – The Libraries do this. They were upskilled...and they concentrate on areas they are passionate with. They do this in conjunction with LEA. Basically LEA has a space in the Library.
- ✓ **How do you reach out to Members of Parliament and Staff?** MPs are the gate keepers, so it starts with their buy in through different presentations with MPs were carried out to enable them to get info to share with the constituents.
- ✓ **Has there been a study carried out to find the impact of these community development projects on the socio-economy** – There has been an impact study 2010, 11, 13, 15 ... two years after the project had lapsed. These studies were consistent in revealing the positive impacts of these...

- ✓ **MALAWI – Do you have a problem with the reading culture in Botswana?** – In Botswana we have a challenge. We need to start doing something about this. We have programmes that cultivate early childhood reading. For instance, there is “Book Night” – an initiative geared towards encouraging people to read; showing them that it is possible to stay up all night and read.
- ✓ **Digitalization** – How have you considered this in terms of moving ahead? – Digitization is not happening as fast as we want.
- ✓ **Have these programmes taken on board the physically challenged?** Yes. All our libraries have ramps for those using wheel chairs. Computer keyboards are friendly to the disabled.
- ✓ **PAP – Infrastructure challenge in the rural areas.** Connection to the fibre-optic network has started. The Wi-Fi connection will also be upgraded.

### Questions and Answers

**Zambia** – Intends to have libraries in constituency offices. They have an officer attached to Parliamentary reforms unit.

**Kenya** – Congratulated Botswana for having done well. Is there any possibility of partnering with the National Library?

**Botswana-** We have a project called Botswana Speaks. It is an ICT driven project which tries to bring MPs closer to their constituents. Parliament is considering partnership with Botswana National Library Services.

**Zimbabwe** – They also have a library association (ZLA) which operates almost like the BLA.

**Namibia-** Schools conduct tours to Parliament during vacations. They also have a system of emailing Parliamentary proceedings to schools.

**Zimbabwe** – How is BLA able to fund other libraries? There is no funding as funds are sourced through Member subscriptions.

**Have MDGs and SDGs been domesticated to Botswana?**

### MEMBER PARLIAMENTS PRESENTATIONS

- **Angola** – No new project
- **eSwatini** – Provide library services to MPs and senior management. Extends services to the public.

- **Malawi** – Financial challenges delay progress of projects.
- **Mozambique**- They are pushing SDG 16, also in line with their strategic plan. Indexing of documents.
- **Namibia** – There is one single data base; unable to manage it properly due to financial constraints. They have increased library books.
- **Pan African Parliament** -operates with six languages: Arabic, Kiswahili, Spanish, French, Portuguese, English. They have accomplished workflow management. **Challenges;** managing their documents, infrastructure
- **Seychelles** – Digitization of reports. Access to information, maintain database of policies and projects.
- **South Africa** – moving from information provision to access to information. They have a Parliament Information Centre. They are in the process of changing nomenclature from librarians to Information Specialists. Access to electronic and print information.
- **Uganda** – came into existent in 1992 with one employee. The library was commissioned in 1997 and the actualization of the modern parliament library was done in 1999. They are working on SDG 16.

**Projects;** establishment of e-library, digitization of reports, review of records management policy and establishment of current museum.

- **Zambia** – they are on the 7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan, automation of functions to reach out to users, MPs, establishment of the digital depository, content generating departments, library is the steering committee, establishment of constituency centre – 156, six constituency information centres will be furnished with the necessary materials. They have a challenge of reaching to all constituencies because not all of them have internet connection.
- **Zimbabwe** – portfolio committee on SDGs.

**Activities:** attended workshops, acquired latest documents and reports for MPs, trained MPs, trained staff on current information. Information sharing – display documents in the library, they have the budget for the library, assist MPs when they do their research.

- **Botswana** – educate and provide weekly media alerts, library column in the parliament bulletin, newspaper clips and information packs, library automation, teach NYD members ICT skills, support to the National Assembly by WFD.



**Future initiatives:** Indexing of parliamentary documents, funding is a challenge, library automation, training Members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi how to use computers.

## **PRESENTATION BY DR COMMA SEREMA (UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA)**

### **TOPIC: Towards a Model for Information for Policy Making in Botswana**

**Effective Decision** - a timely decision that meets a desired objective and is acceptable to those individuals affected by it.

#### **Models of decision making**

- (i) Rational Model;
- (ii) Incremental Model;
- (iii) Mixed Scanning; and
- (iv) Information Provider Dilemma

#### **Public Policy**

- **Information** – a production factor which has its place in every system of creation, an element to be taken into account in all decision making processes.
- **Public Policy** – basic principles or assumption on which the programme of action is based

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

#### **Parliamentary Committees**

- If Parliament is to perform its work of scrutinizing government policies effectively, it is important that committees are well equipped

#### **Parliamentary Library and SDGs**

- Parliamentary libraries should also be seeking to address the needed information on SDGs because MPs at the end of the day have to address all the SDGs
- Research Officers with postgraduate must be placed under the Parliamentary library

#### **Ministerial and Departmental**

- Arrangements should be made to ensure materials are relevant to departments and ministries
- There is also great need to establish digital libraries

### **Registries**

- Effective overall leadership and directions
- Sound policy and operational guidelines
- Training to increase commitment and motivation
- Electronic management systems

### **Government Communications and Information Technology**

- Improve government communication and IT
- Government message
- Communication strategy
- Corporate image

### **Policy Advisors**

- Consider use of policy advisers
- Presidency
- Ministries
- Departments
- Parliament and
- Districts

### **Questions and comments**

**Botswana (Librarian at BIUST)** – where does the library fits in that model? What is the relationship from lower level to the higher level?

- **At parliamentary library the library cannot be dealt away with. Members of Parliament do interact with their constituents, media and with different people sometimes to the exclusion of the library. It is important that the library should find a space within which it can operate in that jigsaw. Interactions are there, they even interact with their constituents at the constituency level.**

**Zimbabwe** - Should the Parliament library have it all in the library?

- Is it not duplication if we have information officers in all ministries?

- Is there an information policy in Botswana? What are the challenges within the existing information policy that Botswana is using?
- **Parliamentary library cannot have it all.**
- **Duplication should be avoided because it is a waste of resources.**
- **The information policy is there in Botswana but it does not address some of the things I was talking about. It is lacking in many ways.**

**Mozambique** – What can be done for MPs to utilise the library?

- **Libraries should go digital because MPs are always busy.**

**Uganda** – commented that all models are foreign and imported. It is time to come up with African models.

**Malawi** – libraries in parliament should link up with other libraries. It is not the size of the library that matters but what is important is to resource the library with relevant information and to know where the other information can be sourced from.

**Botswana** – the usage of parliamentary library is low as is the case with other libraries.

**Namibia** – congratulated Botswana for having two digital libraries, one being a research library and advised on the implementation of the model.

**South Africa** – commented that information model will differ from country to country depending on the level of development. In their case they have information specialists that look at various subject areas. These information specialists have websites where they currently develop information, populate the websites with information. The audience for these websites is parliament, judiciary and government.

## **PRESENTATION BY DR N. MOOKO AND DR C. SEREMA (UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA)**

**TOPIC: Rethinking the Role of Botswana Parliamentary Library in the Flow of Information to Constituency Offices**

### **OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION**

#### **What motivated the Presentation?**

- The United Nations regards democracy as a universal value that is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives.

- Technological development globally e.g e-parliament and e-democracy [accessibility, transparency, accountability through the use of ICTs]. Increase in the presence of Parliaments on social media was noted
- Participatory democracy: the participation of citizens in political decisions and policies that affect their lives
- For the citizens to participate meaningfully and effectively, information must be accessible. It should be available to them
- What are the efforts of the Botswana Parliament library in ensuring that Botswana access information relating to parliamentary activities?

### **Overview of the National Assembly**

- Consists of the President, Speaker, 57 constituency representatives and 6 specially elected Members
- Features of Botswana's parliamentary democracy include representation, participation, consultation and accountability.
- Responsible for passing laws; scrutinise government policy and administration; and to monitor government expenditure

### **Constituency Offices**

- Most of the offices established in the 2000
- Introduced in each constituency as a structure meant to enhance the representative role of the parliament
- Serve as a point of access for valuable literature of the parliament such as committee reports, Hansard, order paper, report from Ntlo ya Dikgosi and government policies
- meant to be used by Members to inform the constituents about the programs and activities of the Parliament

### **Parliamentary Library**

- establishes democracy and the rule of law in creating, managing and disseminating reliable, relevant and authoritative information for Parliament, (Serema, 2003)

- Provider of information sources in the service of very specific clients, such as individual parliamentarians, parliamentary committees and parliament staff (Mosert, 2007).
- It is not open to the public
- In the House of Commons (UK) there is Public Information Office for the public to access parliamentary information.
- Such facility is lacking in Botswana

#### **Use of electronic devices and social media platforms by legislators and citizenry**

- Generally, these devices are used for communication purposes such as to check and write emails, carry out research, read the news, circulate text and video, engage and receive feedback.
- In Botswana, the presence of legislators on Facebook and Twitter and other platforms cannot be overlooked when deliberating on issues of representation, engagement of the citizens, issues of political importance, expectations and opinions of the electorates.

#### **Observation**

- Contrary to the signage in front of the offices, there are no reading rooms inside the constituency offices
- No information professional/No arrangements made to enlist the services of an information professional
- PR office has a presence but not Parliamentary library
- Application forms from the Ministry of Youth development, sports and Culture e.g. Constituency tournaments
- The Youth request to be assisted with completing application forms for Youth Development Fund

#### **Some of the questions we wish to raise**

- How does the Parliamentary facilitate constituency offices in order for them to achieve the set mandate?
- With the advent of the establishment of the constituency offices, who is the clientele for the Parliamentary library?

- Were the envisaged reading rooms meant to extend the services of the Parliamentary Library to all the constituencies since it is not open to the public?
- Gradual evolution to one-stop-shop?

### **Information needs of Parliamentarians**

- Attracted interest of researchers locally and internationally
- The literature suggests the need for accessible, current and authoritative information for decision-making
- Effectively participate in parliamentary sessions such as during debates, Bill deliberations, making of speeches, committee meetings, communicating with constituents, and performing administrative obligations

### **Preferred Sources of information**

- The most popular sources were unofficial, informal contacts and their own files, as opposed to the official EU databases (Marcella, 1999)
- In RSA, printed sources (78%), the use of electronic sources (24%) in a study undertaken by Mosert in 2005
- Parliamentarians are dependent on non- documentary sources of information, (Prakesh, 2012)

### **What are their complaints?**

- Not fully satisfied with the system of information gathering, where they have to devote more time and energy
- Low usage of the library on their part was among others due to lack of library orientation and busy work schedule (Thapisa, 1999)
- Botswana Parliament library lack information resources and expressed the need for access to information in a networked environment, (Thapisa,1999)

### **Conclusion**

There is a need to examine how constituency offices relate to the parliamentary library.

What is the role of the Parliamentary Library in ensuring that parliamentary documents reach constituency, MPs and Constituents?

Is Parliament of the view that by establishing reading rooms they are extending the Parliamentary Library?

Who are the clients of the Parliamentary library?

How far can Parliament go in extending Parliamentary library service to the public?

### **Questions and comments**

**Namibia** – They had village reading rooms way back in the 1990s to promote reading culture in remote villages. It ended up not being effective as the generations changed over time. The Parliamentary IT Department donated used computers to village libraries.

**Botswana** – commented that the presentation came handy because as Parliament library they face challenges with constituency offices. The project of establishing reading rooms in constituency offices is in the pipeline.

**Zambia** – have a guideline for establishing parliamentary constituency offices which is managed by the parliamentary reforms department. In that brochure there is a specific clause which says each and every constituency office should have an information centre.

### **PRESENTATION BY DR. A LEBELE – DIRECTOR LIBRARY SERVICES (BOTSWANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)**

**TOPIC: Botswana Academic Libraries as strategic Partners in the National Vision 2036**

Significance of this paper:

To create awareness of some AL functions so as to:

- Motivate parliamentary librarians to align their SDG contributions to AL services (be aware- be with us)
- Call for Library collaborative advocacy to especially primary clientele @Parliament (policy makers)

### **Collective Dev frameworks in Botswana**

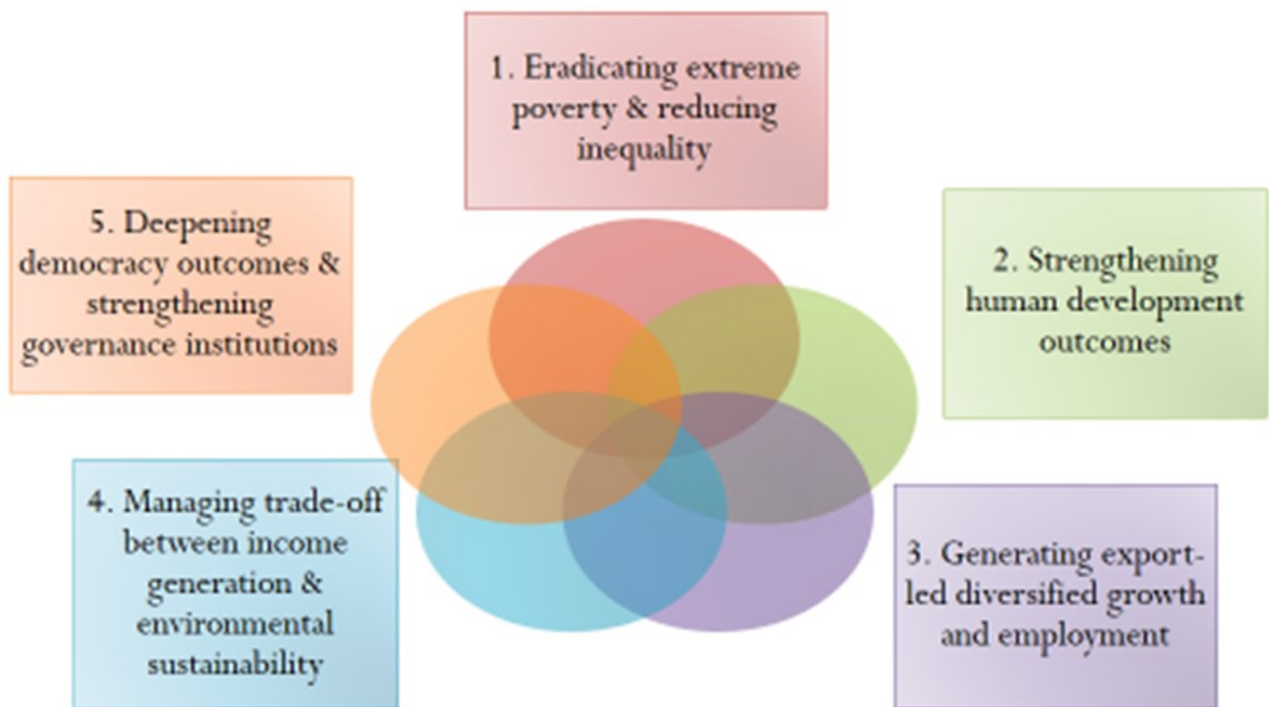
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Africa Agenda 2063- OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT
- NDP11 - a 6-year national development plan

- Vision 2036
- The Revised National Policy on Education (RNPE) (Government Paper No. 2 of April 1994)
- Priorities for each framework mirror each other
- Collectively address People; Planet; prosperity; peace & Partnerships

## MORAPEDI (2015) NATIONAL STRATEGY OFFICE

3

### Five Priority Issues



## NDP 11- (2017 – 2023)

- Theme: “Inclusive Growth for the Realization of Sustainable Employment Creation and Poverty Eradication”.



- 1st NDP post the Vision 2016

### **Vision 2036 (Post 2016)**

Theme: “Prosperity for All”

Prosperity contextualized as:

- “Achievement and fulfilment of our individual, community and national goals”.
- collective attainment of long term and short term goals

(Vision 2016: intro)

### **Vision 2036 Pillars**

**PILLAR 1 - SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Priority includes development of a knowledge based economy

**PILLAR 2 - HUMAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT-** core areas-education & skills Dev; holistic dev of a person to operate in global economic society (culture, inclusive)

### **PILLAR 3 - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

Natural resources for economic and livelihoods (water security, energy security, sustainable land use, etc.)

### **PILLAR 4: GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY**

Include governance (including Bogosi/ Dikgosi; rights; institutional frameworks,

### **Monitoring priorities**

- As stated frameworks are interrelated and mirror each other
- National Strategy Office (NSO) systematically monitors and reports on country level progress in broad thematic
- Collective & Individual progress

NB: UN country strategy (2017-2021) observes, challenges in data to design, prioritize and track progress.

### **There is a national commitment to:**

- To turn research into knowledge products
- Implementing policies to strengthen human resource development towards sustainability
- Have more people becoming entrepreneurs and creating jobs. (Phole, 2017 @) IST-Africa Partner Countries conference)

- Echoed in all other frameworks

### **Academic Libraries in Botswana**

Broadly referring to Institutions of higher learning & research institutions

- 4 universities;
- 7 Institutes of Health Sciences;
- 9 private Higher Education institutions
- Over 14 Colleges
- 4 Research Institutions
- (Phole, 2017 @)IST-Africa Partner Countries conference)

### **Academic libraries role**

- have academic, economic & social responsibilities towards the goals
- Reducing the digital divide and supporting the Information Society
- provide shared information access point to user communities
- Contribute towards development of productive scholars in the knowledge economy
- Skill Development

\_ Teaching information literacy skills

\_ Developing teaching librarians influences DLIS

- organize lectures, dialogue forums, & and online networks on different aspects of the socio-economic agenda...thus prone to being politically tainted
- Advocate for digital scholarship

### **Academic Libraries forge partnerships**

- Libraries in Botswana are engaged in international & local collaborations (IFLA; AFLIA; SCECSAL; SCANUL-ECS; BLA; BLC; SDGL 17): Partnerships & Vision Pillar 2 & 3; NDP 11 theme on governance monitoring
- Botswana Academic libraries operate through BLC as a cost effective resource mobilization forum – negotiates with publishers / E-resource providers thus saving
- Botswana Library Consortium has more than 50 members from diverse libraries (Maphakwane 2015), with the main public Universities as key partners in directional development

## **Academic libraries in research data management**

### **ADVOCACY FOR ACCESS TO DATA**

- Call for data as resource in Knowledge economy – Access is key
- Advocate for Open Science/Open Data Movement / calling
- BLC pivotal on Open access, OA Unit housed @ IDM
- Recommend data repositories for researchers to re-use existing datasets;
- Managerial and curation role in research data sets;

IR: UB and Botho University (advance stage); BOU, BUAN & BITRI (developed but locally accessible)

### **INTERRELATED CHALLENGES**

- Restricted resource Constraints: funding, manpower & Space
- New roles, need new skills (continued Professional Dev Challenges)
- Stakeholders awareness, information & Education on new roles
- Odd & Risky hours of operations
- Access to information advocacy & lecture/ seminars may have political “painting”

### **Conclusion**

Let us join hands.

### **Questions and comments**

**Botswana** – what efforts are you as Academic Librarians engaging in to get attentions of policy makers to invest more on resources for research which Dr Serema referred to that we are investing very little on in Botswana?

- **We need collective working on that one. There is a lot of talk on bringing our policy makers onto issues of libraries. AfLIA, Capetown Declaration - policy makers engaged in that and there would be another meeting. The tendency is that when we go for this IFLA meetings you will find the Parliamentary Librarians on their own not being part of the Academic Librarians are doing.**

**Zimbabwe** - was impressed with issues to do with knowledge management. Parliament of Zimbabwe is in the process of drafting knowledge management framework. What can you

recommend, any model or any process you have come across regarding knowledge management framework for any public institution?

- **There are theories out there and there are efforts towards developing knowledge management strategies locally. The generic framework exists in the literature. We have a newly launched programme at the University of Botswana whereby we now offer a programme that integrates librarianship, records, archives together and give you a beautiful graduate that is versatile to work in the knowledge economy.**

#### **PERSPECTIVE FROM A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - HONOURABLE H. G. NKAIGWA**

In his deliberation the Honourable Member mentioned that there is need for us to adopt a digital system for the free flow of information, for easy access of information, for timely access of information because nowadays Members of Parliament or everyone is always busy, always on social media. He said that it would be good for them to access information just using their cell phone gadgets without necessarily having to physically visit the libraries and that it would be good for them even during Parliament debates to just access information from where they are.

Honourable Nkaigwa appreciated a system in other countries whereby when a Member of Parliament is using the library services, there would be a big screen in the library that shows the proceeding of Parliament.

He also mentioned that in other countries they have set times for voting. All motions will be debated but there will be no voting until the set time for decision making / voting has arrives. He said it is something that can be adopted by Botswana Parliament; that all decision pertaining to motions and private member's bills will be voted for at that given point in time so that all members will be able to participate in the decision making or voting that concerns the future democracy of their country.

The Member of Parliament said it is interesting to learn that some constituencies have reading rooms and that it is a very interesting development and very helpful. He emphasised that these reading rooms should be manned by qualified librarians because it would be good for the communities.

Honourable Nkaigwa said there is a problem all of the world of Members of Parliament just wanting to debate without informing themselves. He also said that Members tend to be political and assassinate each other's characters without necessarily having to be dig for information before they can deliberate on issues.

In his conclusion he believes that librarians are doing their work, but Members of Parliament are failing the librarians and not only librarians but also the nation. The nation wants members to debate at an informed position. They also want members to be informed and to be knowledgeable and debate issues of national interest within their Parliaments.

## **EXCURSION**

On the fourth day of the conference the delegates had an opportunity to visit the beautiful Goo- Moremi Gorge which is located about 200km from Gaborone.

## **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

### **Matters arising**

- **Minute 3**

(f) the report was not referred back to the host parliament for final editing. The minutes will be re-circulated.

- **Minute 5**

(b) never met to discuss the financial policy

(e) a dollar account was opened at Barclays Bank

- **Minute 6**

(i) strategic plan has been postponed until other policy documents are put in place.

(ii) the discussion on the constitution was very short and the executive will meet and discuss this issue.

(vii) official communication has not been sent to Zimbabwe to host the 2020 APLESA conference.

(viii) Member Parliaments with subscription arrears have been able to pay.

## PRESENTATION OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

In presenting the report, the Treasurer, Mr Innocent Rugambwa stated the status of the APLESA Account as of the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. He outlined the expenditures expected annually and also outlined the annual subscription fees for member parliaments as of 2017 & 2018. Uganda paid till 2020.

## APLESA BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2018-2019

STRATEGY	ACTIVITY	COST ESTIMATES/ COMMENTS	TOTALS	REMARKS
<b>1: Promote Administration and governance to facilitate effective management.</b>	Consult all APLESA members		0	
	Finalize on the APLESA Constitution and Policy documents	Which shall take care of; a) Professional advice 150 b) Drafting the amended constitution 350 c) Formulation and drafting of policy guidelines 350 d) Finalization after input by the General Assembly and ExCom 150	\$1000	On time off
	Expert Assistance on Communication Strategy	Which shall take care of; a) Professional advice 150 b) Formulation and drafting of policy guidelines 350 c) Finalization after input by the General Assembly and ExCom 150	\$650	One time off
	Expert Assistance on Strategic Plan	Which shall take care of; a) Professional advice 150 b) Formulation and drafting of policy guidelines 350 c) Finalization after input by the General Assembly and ExCom 150	\$650	
	APLESA Secretariat Administrative Expenditure	a) Binding for memory 50 b) APLESA Banner 1 X 97.22= 97.22 c) IFLA membership \$350 d) SCECSAL membership \$200 e) AFLIA membership \$200 f) Membership Certificates \$5 g) Local Staff Travels \$75 h) Postage/ Courier Services \$20	\$997.22	Annually
	Secretariat Visits	a) Official dinner 4 X \$14 56 b) Excursion 4 X \$14 56 c) Airport Pickup 4 X \$28 \$112	\$224	Anticipated
<b>2: Promote</b>	Hold Annual		0	

<b>accountability and transparency</b>	General Meeting			
	Conduct timely financial audits		\$750	Annually
<b>3: Promote professionalism and communication among members</b>	Compile a professional register		0	
	Reward & Recognition Awards and certificates	Annual Reward and Recognition for (i) Certificate F/President 1 X 14= 14 (ii) Plaque F/ President= 150	\$164	Anticipated
	Benchmark best practices from similar associations		0	
<b>4: Promote continuous professional development</b>	Positioning APLESA to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Training programme	(iii) Training Hall \$300 X 4= 1,200 (iv) Training Facilitators \$200X2X4=1,600 (v) Certificates \$5 X 15X4= 300 (vi) Break Tea and Bites \$5 X 15X4= 300 (vii)Lunch /Soft Drink \$10X 15\$4 600 (viii) Drinking Water \$0.5X15X4 30 (ix) Reams paper 4 X 5.6= \$22.4 (x) Pens 2boxes X 1.4= 2.8 (xi) Box /spring files 15X1.66= 24.9	\$4300	Donor funds
	Conduct training workshops during APLESA conference	(xii) Training Hall 0 (xiii) Training Facilitators \$200X2X1= 400 (xiv) Certificates \$5 X 15= 75 (xv) Break Tea and Bites 0 (xvi) Lunch /Soft Drink 0 (xvii) Drinking Water 0 (xviii) Reams paper 4 X 5.6= 22.4 (xix) Pens 2boxes X 1.4= 2.8 (xx) Box /spring files 15X1.66= 24.9	\$525.1	Donor funds
	Maintain and the rebrand APLESA Website	a. Website domain 1 X 70= \$50 b. Website System Admn Honorarium \$100 c. Website Rebranding \$150	\$300	a) and b) Both annual then c) is one time off
	Procure equipment and furniture		0	
<b>6: Promoting strategic partnerships</b>	APLESA membership to SCECSAL		\$350	Annually
	APLESA membership to IFLA		\$200	Annually
	APLESA membership to AFLIA		\$200	Annually

<b>7: <i>Spearhead Awareness activities that promote the achievement of the SDGs and APLESA Membership</i></b>	Develop and implement advocacy plan to sensitize Member Parliaments on the role of APLESA		0	Donor funds
	Securing funding for Presidential visit to sensitize member parliaments on achievement of SDGs		0	Donor funds
<b>8: GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>10,310.32</b>	
<b>9. GRAND TOTAL less Donor funded projects (10309.32- 4875.1</b>			<b>5,435.22</b>	

## APLESA WORK PLAN

- To come up with strategic plan
- Finalise the constitution and policy document
- Opening a Dollar Account at Barclays Bank
- Strategic issues to be handled

## AMENDMENT OF THE APLESA CONSTITUTION

### Article 2

- (a) AfLIA – means African and Library and Information Association
- (c) APLESA – to insert “and regional bodies within APLESA Region”
- (d) Replace national with “regional”
- (n) Replace appointed with “selected”
- (o) To insert “...Southern African Libraries...”

### Article 4

Replace “shall” with “may” and it should read as follows;

The membership of APLESA may consist of:



- i. National Parliaments in the region
- ii. Regional Parliaments in the region
- iii. Associate Members

Regarding the PAP, it was resolved that they should decide on their membership status and be discussed in the next conference

#### **Article 5**

(c) and (d) were deleted since they appear at Article 8

#### **Article 6**

Should read;

The General Assembly shall;

- i. Consist of all registered members of the Association
- ii. Be the supreme decision making body of the Association
- iii. Be presided over by the President or Vice President in the absence of the President or any committee member in the absence of both the President and the Vice President
- iv. Meet annually at such place and time as may be determined

#### **Article 7**

(d) To read “elect all office bearers of the Ex-Com”

#### **Article 8**

(3) ...to insert, “except for the position of Treasurer...”

#### **Article 13**

(1) to read, “be appointed by the Ex-com and serve for four years and shall be legible for re-election.”

#### **Article 14**

The Immediate Past President shall;

- (a) Serve as a member of the Ex-Com for one term

**Articles 17-24** (correct the numbering)

#### **Article 17**

(b) To delete ... “and Researchers.” (to read as, “Meetings shall be attended by Parliamentary Librarians”)

#### **Article 19**

To insert (c) The host country shall provide for translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation in all official languages

- a) Frequency of meetings
  - i. General Assembly Meeting shall be held annually between March and June
  - iii. Meetings of Ex-Com shall be held at least twice every year during APLESA and during IFLA
- b) Notification of meetings
  - v. The notices for all other meetings of the Association shall be distributed to the members at least one month prior to the meeting.

### **RESOLUTIONS OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> APLESA CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY GENERAL**

- Plan pre-APLESA training session before the main APLESA Conference
- Consider increasing subscription fees for APLESA but the final decision to be made by our parent Parliaments which are to be consulted.
- Institute a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating activities of APLESA
- Timeframe for communicating strategic decisions for Parliaments should be put in place to enable member Parliaments to plan because they fail to attend as a result of eleventh hour communication
- Put in consideration the issues raised concerning the budget
- Uganda Parliament to host the 19<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference (2019)

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

The President Mr Geraldo Cambiete thanked all for their contributions and commended the Parliament of Botswana for their hospitality extended to the delegates and for hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference successfully.

### **OFFICIAL CLOSING**

The conference was officially closed by Honourable Kagiso Patrick Molatlhegi, Deputy Speaker of Botswana Parliament. He appreciated the good spirit in which the conference took place with useful and fruitful debates and conclusions and that the conference was energizing and inspiring.

He said he believes that all participants will leave the conference with new insights and beautiful memories of Botswana and hoped that the presentations, discussions and exchange of ideas had been beneficial to the participants.

Mr Molatlhegi urged participants to move forward with efforts to improve parliamentary library and information services in the region and to put new ideas learnt from each other during the conference to good use. He thanked the staff of Botswana Parliament for organising the event and ensuring that it ran smoothly.

He concluded his remarks by accentuating to member countries to continue with the spirit of regional cooperation. He thanked all the delegates for their excellent contributions and wished them a safe journey back to their respective countries.

## **CONCLUSION**

At the end of the conference, the Botswana Parliament Librarian Ms Pearl Lowani thanked the management of the National Assembly of Botswana and their staff for their support in making the conference a success. She also thanked the delegation for their attendance and wished them a pleasant journey back to their countries.

## **ANNEX**

### **18<sup>TH</sup> APLESA CONFERENCE, 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 2018**

#### **GICC, GABORONE**

#### **INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES**

Mr. Geraldo Cambiete	Angola
Mr. Elias Miguel	Angola
Ms. Esther Kamau	Kenya
Mr. Andrew Mankone	Kenya
Ms. Alice Mweru Mungai	Kenya
Mr. Wilson Nkambule	eSwatini
Ms. Charlotte Kyomuhungi	EALA
Ms. Zodi Pisira	Zimbabwe
Mr Maxwell Banda	Malawi

Ms. Rina da Cruz	Namibia
Ms. Paulina Dumeni	Namibia
Ms. Chama Mfula	Zambia
Mr. Moono Leslie Chikuta	Zambia
Ms. Mundi Njekwa	Zambia
Ms. Thelma Julie	Seychelles
Mr. Albert Ntunja	South Africa
Mr. Figueiredo Sengo	Mozambique
Ms. Angelica Mondlane	Mozambique
Mr. Simon Engitu	Uganda
Mr. Innocent Rugambwa	Uganda
Dr I. Munyoro	Zimbabwe
Mr. Nguvulu Khoji Jean	DRC
Mr. Nondo Pongo Oscar	DRC

## LOCAL DELEGATES

Ms Pearl Lowani	Botswana Parliament
Ms Gasekgalo Mooki	Botswana Parliament
Mr Galeo Dineo	Botswana Parliament
Mr Keorileng P. Moatswi	Botswana Parliament
Mr Titus M. Lengwadibe	Botswana Parliament
Mr. Mogogi Thabakgolo	University of Botswana Library
Ms. Shelter Ngoni	University of Botswana Library

## RAPPORTEURS

1. Ompelege Nkatswe (Hansard Editor)
2. Victoria Nkwane (Hansard Translator)
3. Mpho Sekao (Hansard Translator)
4. Nkgabe Selebogo (Hansard Reporter)
5. Agnes Ramadi (Hansard Reporter)

## INTERPRETERS

1. Mr. Antonio Paolo-Junior- Portuguese

2. Mr. Benjamin Mabuaaeme- French
3. Mr. Kealeboga Naphtali- French
4. Mr. Ricardo Branco- Portuguese