



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES OF
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (APLESA)**

**MAY 12 – 16, 2003
WHITESANDS HOTEL,
MOMBASA, KENYA**

**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI
KENYA**

MAY, 2003

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 9th Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) took place at the Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa from May 12 – 16, 2003, and was hosted by the Kenya Parliament in partnership with State University of New York (SUNY/IDG KENYA)

A total of 16 Librarians from 10 countries attended the conference. The APLESA member countries that were represented in the conference were Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana (Observer), Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Before the official opening, the Chairperson welcomed delegates to the 9th APLESA Conference and called upon them to introduce themselves. Thereafter, she called upon the Deputy Clerk of the Kenya National Assembly, Mr. P.C. Omolo, who welcomed the participants and introduced the invited guests. The Deputy Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly and Chairman of the Library Committee, Hon. David Musila, MP, officially opened the conference. The occasion was also graced by the presence of the Director of SUNY/IDG KENYA, Dr. Jesse Biddle.

2.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening of the 9th APLESA conference took place on Monday May 12, 2003 and was officiated by the Deputy Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Hon. David Musila, MP.

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Speaker acknowledged the presence of delegates and invited guests. He commended the Kenya National Assembly and the State University of New York (SUNY/IDG-KENYA) for hosting the APLESA Conference.

In his speech, he emphasized the importance of Parliament libraries, not only in the life of a Member of Parliament, but also in the life of a country. He told the participants that Parliaments all over the world were under pressure from the people to ensure good governance. He noted that Parliamentary libraries were crucial in empowering Members of Parliament to effectively discharge their legislative mandate, hence his support for the training of librarians in modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

He also acknowledged the fact that individual Parliamentary libraries did not have all the resources that they need in order to deliver efficient and effective information services to their clients hence the need for APLESA to network and share resources. He challenged librarians to be proactive in their work in order to meet the information needs of their clients in an accurate and timely manner

The Deputy Speaker wished the delegates fruitful deliberations

3.0 REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION OF PROGRAMME

Before the proceedings of the 9th APLESA Conference commenced, the Chairperson asked delegates to observe a minute of silence in honour of Mr Claude Shonhwa of Zimbabwe Parliament, who had passed away earlier in the year.

Thereafter, delegates went through the proposed conference programme and effected a few changes, which were unanimously agreed upon and adopted

4.0 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

4.1 SESSION I – COUNTRY REPORTS

Each country that was represented in the conference presented a ten- (10) minute country report. The reports basically consisted of activities and events that had been undertaken by individual Parliamentary Libraries during the year 2002/03

It was noted during the presentations that most libraries had undertaken similar activities namely exchange programs, attachment programs and staff training. However, it came to light that some libraries lagged behind in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Such libraries were challenged to put more effort in that regard in order to improve communication, networking and resource sharing among APLESA member countries.

4.2 SESSION II – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON THE NEED FOR INFORMATION SHARING AND NETWORKING IN A GLOBALIZED ENVIRONMENT – BY CHARLES BROWN, PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIAN (GHANA)

The delegate from Ghana, Mr. Charles Brown, introduced his presentation by giving a brief overview of the set-up of Parliaments, their composition and the diverse roles played by both elected and non-elected (nominated) Members of Parliament

He stated that all Parliaments had set up information facilities to meet the information needs of Members of Parliaments and Parliamentary officers. He said that the use of credible information in the legislative environment provided for better decision-making. Legislative information providers, therefore, play a key role in the collection, organization, interpretation and dissemination of information for Parliaments. They anticipate trends and developments of issues and collect information on them and avail it to their clients for use at appropriate time.

He cited stagnant and/or dwindling library budgets as the major problem facing Parliamentary information facilities, which have resulted to inadequate information resources. He said that in order to overcome this problem, Parliamentary libraries world-wide had established networks that enable them exchange or share information, not only to enhance the legislative process, but also on the international best practices in information capture, processing, storage and dissemination. He cited a few examples of Parliamentary Information Networks/Regional Associations such as -

- Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australia (APLA)
- Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC)
- Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) and the
- Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA)

He noted that networking enabled Parliamentary Libraries to share information and resources in support for the business of their Parliaments for the promotion of democracy and cited the following as advantages of networking to Parliamentary information providers: -

- Availability of a wide range of resource/vast amount of information.
- Improved speed and accuracy of the information transmission process
- Creation of tools that would enable them to take joint action in implementing information plans for their legislatures

- Enables them to supplement and deploy resources in a way that enables them to achieve economy of scale for better results

He went on to say that recent developments in ICTs had removed all geographical barriers and also lessened the time it took to access the vast and unimaginable amount of information

He ended his presentation by challenging Parliamentary libraries to use model ICTs to link up with colleagues in and out of their environment in a network and share information

4.3 SESSION III – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON THE INTRICACIES IN THE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO THE NATURE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE CLIENTELE BY INNOCENT RUGAMBWA, LEGISLATIVE LIBRARIAN (UGANDA)

The presenter from Uganda Legislative Library, Mr Innocent Rugambwa, began his presentation by emphasizing on information as an important tool in the legislative function

He then gave a brief overview of Parliamentary libraries and their clients: major Parliamentary information sources and acquisition of Parliamentary information resources or collection development

The presenter listed the following as objectives of collection development of a library -

- (a) To own and make available such books, periodicals, and other information resources as are required by potential users in the performance of their individual research work.
- (b) To own and make available such books and other materials as are related to the research programs of the parent institution,
- (c) To own and make available those parts of the past and present graphic records of those cultures and people whose experience is related in any way to educational and research programs of the institution, and
- (d) To own all materials relating to the historical development and character of the institution

The Presenter cited factors which affect collection development of information resources for Parliaments as being -

- a) National information policy – to facilitate research capacity building through the provision of information for research and dissemination of research results
- b) Financial support – to ensure the success of a library's acquisition program,
- c) Political stability – to ensure continuity in implementation of set plans and record of progress.
- d) Collection Development policy – as a guiding tool in the acquisition of library information resource that meet the purpose of the library.
- e) Manpower - good, competent and effective information professionals.
- f) Information infrastructure

The Presenter also went on to discuss the above-named factors and made the following recommendations -

- Development of comprehensive, operational and result-oriented national information policies to facilitate research capacity building through the provision of information research and dissemination of research results,
- Development of collection development policies as a guiding principle to determine the size, nature and the content of the collection.
- Adequate financial support.
- Establishment of linkages between the legislature and outside sources (e.g. academic institution, other legislative libraries, NGO's etc) to enhance efficiency in the provision of timely and relevant information to clients:
- Acquisition of skilled manpower and the training of existing staff to enable them keep up with developments in the library and information profession and emerging technologies.
- Sensitization of decision makers on the role of information as an instrument that can promote an independent, integrated and self- national identity and culture.
- Standardization of information infrastructure to support the indigenous scientific and technology activities that will enable developing countries to interact with information networks in developed countries

In conclusion, the Presenter said that the development of Parliamentary libraries and information services was a concerted effort that involved the information professionals, management and the entire user community

4 5 **SESSION IV – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON THE VALUE OF INFORMATION TO PARLIAMENT: THE SPECIFIC ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STAFF AND THE LIBRARY BY MURUMBA WERUNGA – DEPUTY CLERK (KENYA)**

In his presentation, Mr Murumba Werunga, emphasized on the need and importance of Parliaments and Parliamentarians to have both quantitative and qualitative information at their disposal on a continuous basis to enable them fulfill specified aspects of their role, function and mandate

He gave a general overview on the nature of Parliaments and Parliamentarians, nature of work and the operational mechanism of Parliaments

He cited information as a key resource for Parliaments, which must be availed at all costs. Parliaments should, therefore, provide sufficient budgetary allocation for Parliamentary libraries, recruit and train Librarians/Information professionals to synthesize and repackage the available information to suit the information needs of Parliaments and Parliamentarians. He advised Librarians to adopt new Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in order to harness the vast amount of information being generated worldwide

He concluded his presentation by asking the question, “Should the Library be under Research or the Research under the Library, which one supersedes the other?”

4.5 SESSION V - REPORT OF THE APLESA CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the Association, Ms Grace Mwakio, presented the report in accordance with Article IX, section 1 of the APLESA constitution

In her report, she gave a line up of the new Executive and informed the delegates that she had been elected to her current position through a postal ballot after the outgoing Chairperson, Ms Florence Butale, had been transferred from the Botswana Parliamentary Service. She reiterated that the purpose of the conference was to assess the annual progress of the Association. She listed the following as notable achievements of the year 2002/03 -

- Formation of APLESA Secretariat in Kampala
- Amendment of the constitution to include payment of membership fees
- APLESA performance project proposal.

She also took the opportunity to welcome Ethiopia into the Association

4.6 SESSION VI - ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR PERSON

Mr Sebastiao Muzumbi of Angola Parliament was unanimously elected the Vice-Chair person of APLESA. The post fell vacant after Ms Grace Mwakio was elected to the post of Chairperson

4.7 APLESA RESOLUTIONS

During the plenary discussions of the 9th APLESA Conference, Members made the following resolutions -

- “APLESA members to come up with respective Collection Development Policies before the next APLESA Conference”
- APLESA Conference proceedings to be made ready and be distributed to members before the next conference

APPENDIX I

PROGRAMME OF 9TH APLESA CONFERENCE 12TH – 16TH MAY 2003, MOMBASA -KENYA

DAY

TOPICS

MONDAY, 12TH MAY 2002

0900 – 0930hrs:	Registration Introductions
1000 – 1130hrs:	Official Opening – Hon David Musila, MP, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Library Committee Official Photograph
1130 – 1300hrs:	TEA BREAK Review and confirmation of the Programme Country reports – (Ten minutes each) Reactions to the presentations
1300 – 1400hrs:	LUNCH BREAK
1400 – 1800hrs:	Tour of Mombasa Island

TUESDAY, 13TH MAY 2003

0900 – 1030hrs:	Paper presentation A need for Parliamentary Information sharing and Networking in a globalized environment -Mr. Charles Brown-Librarian, Ghana Parliament.
	Plenary discussion and reactions to the Presentation
1030 – 1100hrs:	TEA BREAK
1100 – 1300hrs:	Continuation of Plenary discussion and reactions to the presentation
1300 – 1400hrs:	LUNCH BREAK

1400 – 1530hrs: Paper presentation **Intricacies in the Collection Development, in relation to the nature of the Parliamentary Library and Information Service Clientele – Mr. Innocent Rugambwa – Librarian.**

1530 – 1600hrs: Plenary discussion and reactions to the presentation.

TEA BREAK

1600 – 1730hrs: Continuation of Plenary discussion and reactions to the presentation

WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2003

0900 – 1030hrs: Presentation of Annual Report by the APLESA Chairman in respect to article IX, section 1 of the APLESA Constitution

1030 – 1130hrs: **TEA BREAK**

1100 – 1300hrs: Discussion and Matters arising

1300 – 1400hrs: Election of the Vice Chairperson

1530 – 1600hrs: **TEA BREAK**

1600 – 1730hrs: APLESA Executive to hold an Exclusive Meeting

THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2003

0900 – 1700hrs: Visit to Shimba Hills Game Reserve

FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2003

0900 – 1030hrs: APLESA Programme to strengthen Parliaments

1030 – 1100hrs: **TEA BREAK**

1100 – 1230hrs: Discussions and activity areas

Closing ceremony

1230 – 1300hrs: Delegates have a free afternoon to enable preparation to travel back

SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2003

Departures

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

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APPENDIX III

REPORT OF THE APLESA CHAIRPERSON

Officials of API FSA. Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to article xi of the APLESA Constitution, I would like to present my report for the year 2002/2003

Those of you who attended the 8th APLESA Conference are aware that the APLESA Executive Committee elections were held according to the constitutional provisions. In the elections, the following people were elected to the various posts of the Executive -

- Chairperson – Florence Butale of Botswana
- Vice Chairperson – Grace Mwakio of Kenya
- Secretary – Simon Engitu of Uganda
- Treasury – Innocent Rugambwa of Uganda
- Member – Tembi Mtine of Zambia

Around September 2002, the Chairperson was transferred from the Botswana Parliamentary Service hardly having served in the position for four months. And because membership to the Association is for member Parliaments, there was no way Florence could continue to be the Chairperson, as she will have been representing an organization other than the member Parliament.

Article V (4) could not allow waiting until today when the 9th APLESA Conference is on. The article provides for the filling of vacant position of the Executive within 30 days through a postal ballot. We used e-mail to fill the post, all of you are aware of this because all the correspondence on this subject was posted to the APLESA list serve.

The new Executive line up then changed to: -

- Chairperson – Grace Mwakio
- Vice Chairperson – Vacant
- Secretary – Simon Engitu
- Treasurer – Innocent Rugambwa
- Member – Tembi Mtine

Thank you very much for your trust in my Executive and me

Secondly, the APLESA Constitution was amended. copies of which were sent through e-mail to all members. What I would like you to note are the following -

- a) APLESA secretariat was formed and the Kampala Conference decided it be located in Kampala
- b) To show that we are serious about APLESA, we amended the Constitution to include payment of fees. Donors were always doubtful about our ability to run affairs of the Association without any mechanism of internal generation of funds. We also wanted to get money to pay for the hosting of our website as South Africa failed to pay for the hosting of our website as South Africa failed to honor her promise on this.

I also want to inform you that the Executive managed to come up with the "APLESA Performance project". It was hard to compile this project, as information from the APLESA Committee was not easily flowing, for example. We used this project to convince a partner to fund this APLESA Conference. We have also contacted Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany, Parliamentary Center, Canada, AWEPA of Netherlands and others, some of who have promised to incorporate our programme into their as soon as their take off.

I have also noted that we have missed many opportunities because we have no information on the various current mandates of our partners as they change every time. It is because of this that I want members to discuss this in this Conference. We want to come up with another project proposal, which is in line with the mandates of some of our partners.

APLESA Secretary has been in contact with some officials of our stakeholders and has some ideas of the mandates of those partners.

I once again, call upon the APLESA Committees to be very concerned about this issue so as to help provide information on what their committees intend to carry out so that this new programme takes off.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ethiopia as APLESA member and hope that Ethiopia Parliamentary Secretariat will continue to sustain its support for the Association.

I hope to contact Eritrea, Djibouti and Egypt to join the Association.

Thank you very much.

Grace Mwakio

APPENDIX IV

ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

MEETING OF APLESA EXECUTIVE HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2003 HELD IN WHITESANDS HOTEL, MOMBASA-KENYA

Members Present

1. Grace Mwakio/APLESA Chairperson (Kenya)
2. Sebastiao Muzumbi /Vice Chairperson (Angola)
3. Simon J. Engitu/APLESA Secretary (Uganda)
4. Innocent Rugambwa/APLESA Treasurer (Uganda)
5. T C Mtine/Member (Zambia)

Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Communication from the Chair
3. Confirmation of previous minutes
4. APLESA Programme to strengthen parliaments
5. APLESA website
6. Hosting of 10th APLESA Conference
7. APLESA account
8. A.O.B

Minute 1: Prayer

- a) The meeting was called to order with a prayer led by Innocent Rugambwa

Minute 2: Communication from the chair

- a) The chairperson welcomed members thanking them for their dedication to APLESA. She called upon members to uphold this dedication
- b) She informed members that there were two crucial issues to solve, namely, the APLESA website hosting and the opening of the APLESA account

- c) The chairperson thanked all the members who paid their membership fees and called upon those who did not pay to do so

Minute 3: Confirmation of previous minutes.

- a) The minutes of the Meeting of APLESA Executive held on Thursday 16th May 2002 held in Hotel Africana, Kampala-Uganda were read and confirmed

Minute 4: APLESA Programme to Strengthen Parliaments

- a) The secretary was asked to submit his position on the implementation of the APLESA projects
- b) It was discovered that APLESA development partners had shifted their interest areas and therefore required APLESA project proposals to be redrafted to suit the interests of the development partners as may be deemed necessary
- c) The following areas were identified as requiring redress.
 - i) Finding out which interest areas link up with the parliamentary committee activities and the proposed APLESA activity
 - ii) Interest areas that relate to education, training in universities and other institutions of higher learning and the proposed appropriate APLESA activities
- c) Members also concluded that they should wait for the outcome of contacts that had already been established and were yet to be responded to
- d) Members re-affirmed their commitment to move quite fast to come up with an appropriate project proposal

Minute 5: APLESA Website

- a) The secretary informed members of the demand by SANGONet to be paid for hosting of the APLESA website which expired on 31st March 2002 and that he asked SANGONet to be patient as a solution is being sought
- b) After a serious debate and analysis of the financial position of APLESA, members were in agreement that APLESA is not able to pay for the hosting of its website
- c) A member promised to contact an IFLA official for Africa region on this matter
- d) Members agreed to wait for the outcome of this contact before taking a decision on this matter

Minute 6: Hosting of 10th APLESA Conference

- a) Arising from the plenary discussions and resolutions during the course of the APLESA conference, members confirmed that Angola hosts the 10th APLESA Conference
- b) They resolved that since it was Swaziland that was scheduled to host the 10th APLESA conference, and that they were not represented in this 9th APLESA conference, they still be on standby should there be any complications

Minute 7: APLESA Account

- a) APLESA Treasurer presented his position on how far he has moved to open the APLESA account and that the minimum for the opening was US\$2000
- b) He reported a total collection from membership fees from members, as US\$ 1350 which he said was still inadequate to open the account
- c) Members resolved that the Treasurer contacts other banks like Barclays to find out their terms for a foreign account for an Association and report back to the Chairperson within a week

Minute 8: A.O.B

- a) Members took note of the APLESA resolutions that were made in the plenary discussions of the 9th APLESA Conference:
 - “APLESA members to come up with the respective Collection Development Policies before the next APLESA Conference”
 - APLESA Conference proceedings to be made ready and be distributed to members before the next conference

Minute 9: Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting until the next APLESA Conference.

CHAIRPERSON: 

SECRETARY:
2/3

DATE: 22/05/09