

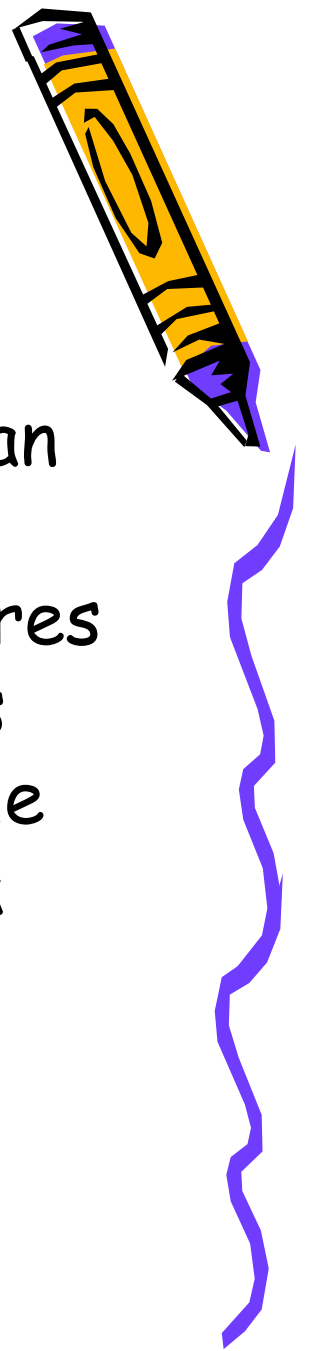


Swaziland Parliament Library country Paper

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Country Background

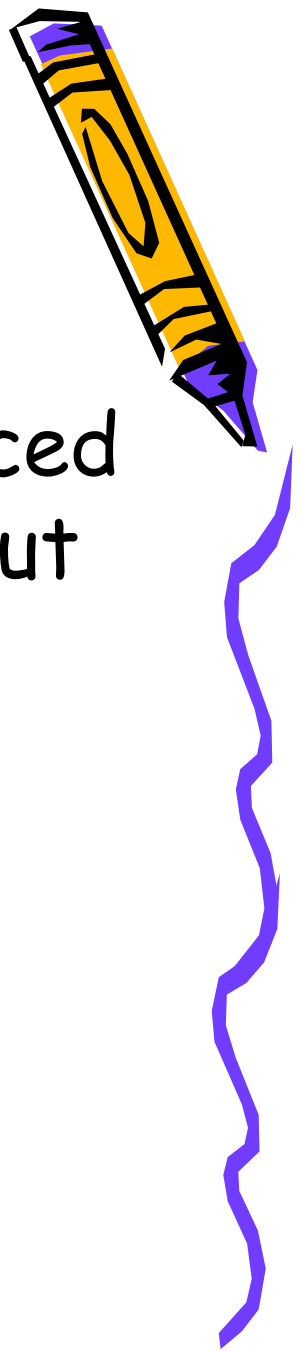


- Swaziland is a landlocked country with an area of about 17 300 square kilometres and extends approximately 193 kilometres from north to south and 145 kilometres from east to west . It is bordered in the North, South and west by South Africa and in the east by Mozambique .



Population

- The Central Statistical Office placed the population of Swaziland at about one million (1000 000) ,2007 population census.



Swaziland Parliament

- Swaziland Parliament is Bicameral. There is the House of assembly and the Senate. The House of Assembly has about sixty five (65) Members of which fifty five (55) are directly elected. The Senate has thirty (30) members.





- The Senate is headed by the President and the Deputy President. The House of Assembly is headed by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.
- The Senate is considered as the upper chamber and the Assembly as the lower house.



Swaziland Parliament Library and Research



- The Parliament Library and Research section serves both Chambers unlike in other countries where each chamber has its own library and research for example the Westminster Parliament where there is the house of Commons and the House of Lords libraries .



- The Swaziland Parliament library is very small and has about ten thousand (10 000) titles.
- The Library is not a recipient of legal deposit documents. Documents are obtained through purchase or through negotiations or as complimentary documents from donors and other organizations. The main supporters of the Parliament Library is the British council and the American Embassy through the American cultural centre
- Other documents are the tabled documents from Ministries and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



BUDGET



- There is no sectional budget allocation . The Clerk's Office is responsible for the budget of all the sections. It is not easy for one to say how much how much he/she has that particular financial year.

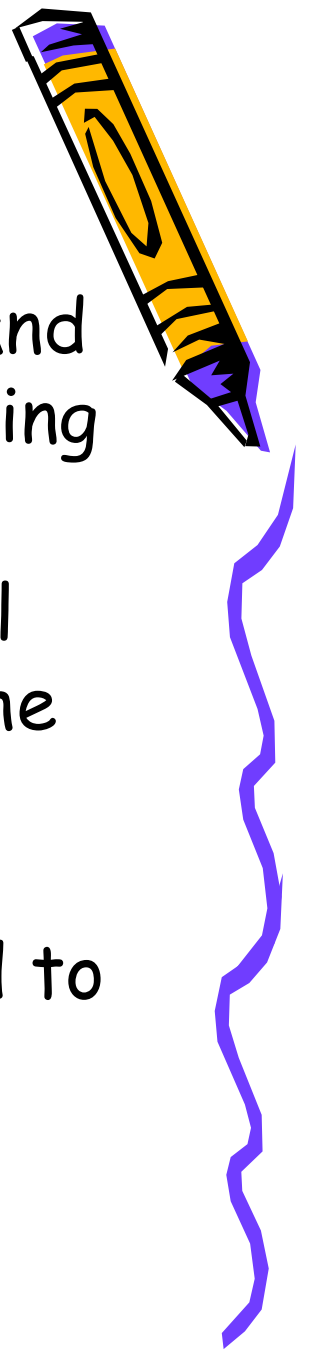


Budgeting process

- The budgeting process is done by all the section heads and then submitted to the Clerk's office who then submits it to the Planning and budgeting Committee comprising of the Ministry of Finance.



CHALLENGES



- Not given enough time for orientation and thus means I am handicapped in marketing the Library and Research Services;
- Still fighting to be included in the Legal Deposit Act. I have already met with the Attorney General and also lobbied the Parliamentarians especially the Library Committee Members and they promised to do so;



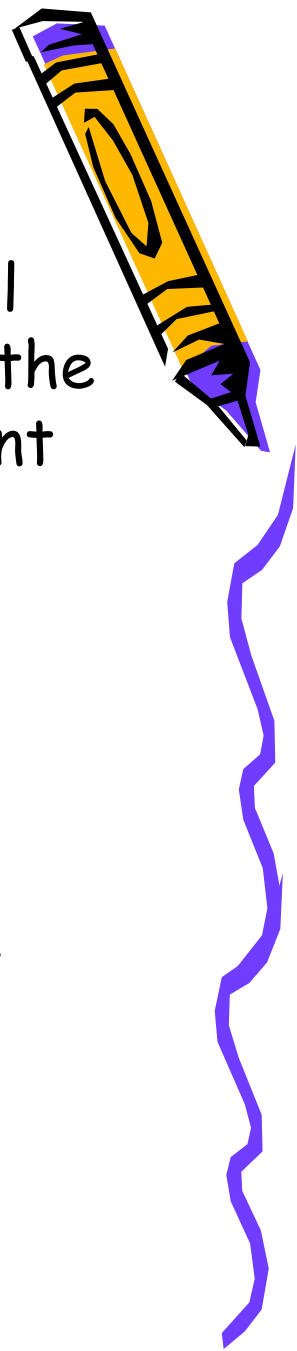
CHALLENGES cont.....



- Space is still a problem as we are still waiting for the construction of the new Parliament building which is due to start in 2010 funds permitting;
- Shortage of staff: This has been a challenge for a long time and still is. The library is manned by two staff. This is due to the appreciation of the zero growth in the civil service.



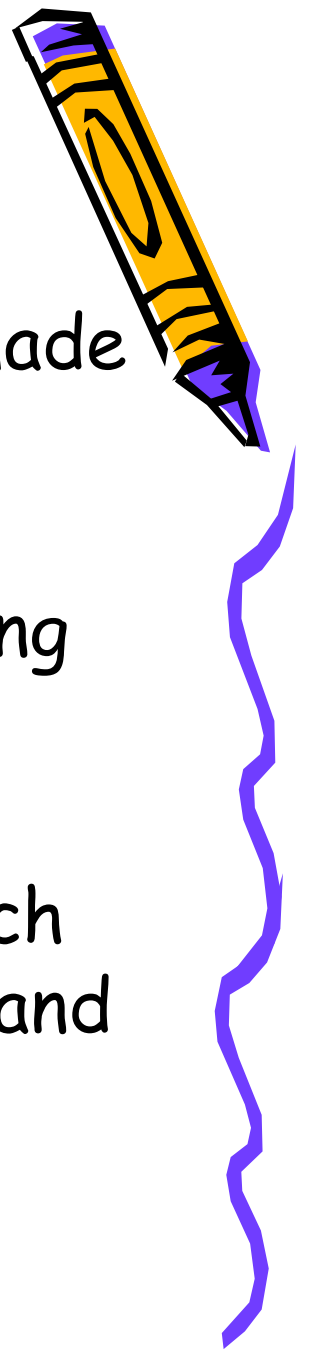
CHALLENGES cont.....



- Since Parliament staff is recruited by the civil service. I hope this will be addressed soon as the Parliament is now moving out of the Government structures and will soon be autonomous;
- Not hosting APLESA as agreed during the 8th APLESA Annual General Conference. This was because of the high turnover of clerks;
- Financial constraints: not enough funds are allocated to the Library and Research section.

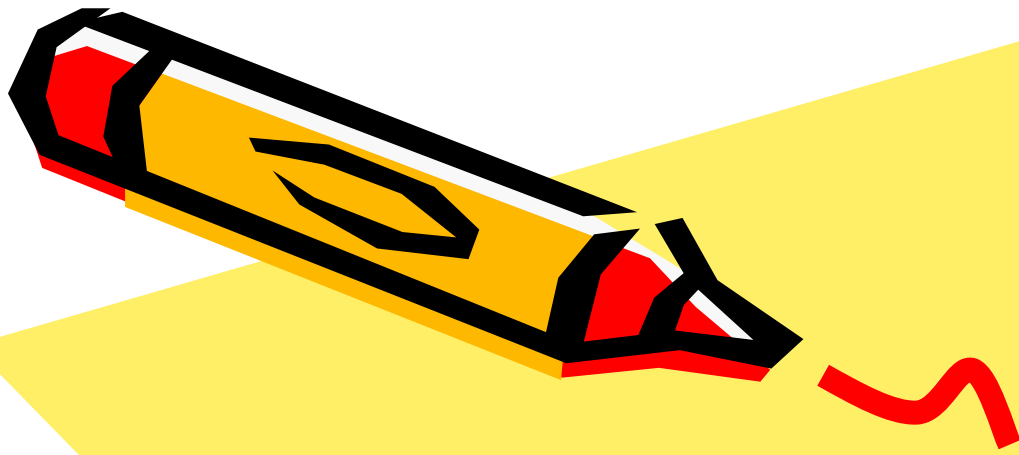


ACHIEVEMENTS



- Introduction of a Library Committee made of 3 Members of Parliament and 3 Senators makes it easy to work;
- Recruitment of one member as for a long time I was alone;
- Internet connectivity having 10 workstations in the library. For research purposes we use the committee clerks and they are about 12.





THANK YOU

END

