



**ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFIRCA**

**Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the**  
**Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Eastern and Southern Africa**  
**(APLESA)**  
**23- 27 May 2011**  
**Joaquin Cissano International Conference Centre, Maputo- MOZAMBIQUE**

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## **Introduction**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) took place at Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, Mozambique from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Prior to the main Conference, the APLESA Executive Committee held their executive meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2011 at the Parliament of Mozambique. The theme of the Conference was: “Strengthening Parliamentary and Research Services Capacity to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

APLESA was founded in 1994 with the aim of serving as a forum for professional networking and resource sharing amongst parliamentary Libraries in Eastern and Southern Africa Sub region. The main objectives of APLESA are to promote cooperation and resource sharing, communication and networking among member countries, and to establish an effective and efficient information delivery service for the benefit of APLESA stakeholders.

The 12<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference was officially opened by the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Mozambique, Honourable, Dr Viana Magalhaes.

The delegates to the conference comprised representatives from ten (10) member countries as follows:

- Angola
- Botswana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Swaziland
- Uganda
- Zambia

Rwanda is a new member and was attending the Conference for the first time.

## **Membership**

The APLESA membership has risen to 17 countries namely;

1. Angola
2. Botswana,
3. East African Legislative Assembly (EALA),
4. Ethiopia
5. Kenya,
6. Lesotho,
7. Malawi,
8. Mozambique.
9. Namibia,
10. Rwanda
11. Seychelles
12. South Africa,
13. Swaziland,
14. Tanzania,
15. Uganda,
16. Zambia,
17. Zimbabwe,

Of the above 17 members, there are a few which no longer participate actively in APLESA activities and it has become a concern to the active members. During the conference, members demanded explanation from the APLESA Executive. Out of the 17 Member parliaments, 10 sent delegates to participate in this conference whereas 7 members didn't. Of the 7 members who didn't participate, South Africa, Lesotho, and Ethiopia have not participated or communicated any challenges they may be facing despite the fact that we have used every means of communication to reach them. The other 4 members at least have indicated to us reasons for their inability to participate in this particular conference as official engagements.

## **Activities:**

The 12<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference was officially opened by the Second Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique, Hon. Dr Viana Magalhaes. The Deputy Speaker observed that the theme of the Conference had come at an appropriate time as most Parliaments

were going through the reforms. He said there was need for Parliaments to support Libraries to exploit new technologies in the provision of information to enhance democracy.

Activities carried out during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual APLESA conference included;

- Training on Research Communication
- Paper presentations.
- Excursions
- The 12<sup>th</sup> APLESA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Official Closing

#### **a) Training**

We are also grateful to the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) for funding this activity during the conference focussing on communication skills. This training sparked a debate of a need for training on Research methods requesting INASP to consider it in the future. INASP has been our long time partner funding training on Communication skills, Internet Searching and proactive Librarianship. It has also funded a number of activities for individual parliaments. In 2007, INASP funded a training on KOHA library System in Kampala in which the Kenya National Assembly participated. As APLESA, we are therefore very happy and do thank INASP for this valuable assistance.

The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) resource person, Dr Alex Ademukon conducted a practical training on communication skills. Dr Ademunkon demonstrated best practices in power point presentations in order to communicate effectively to the audience. He stressed that it was important to understand your audience before presentation, lest there would be no communication. The paper also outlined the role of INASP in research communication, AuthorAid, Journals online, Journal access, library support and evidence informed policy. It was concluded that INASP works hard to include stakeholder participation in their programmes. In addition, INASP also works to build capacity for sustainability by using different models including cascading training.

#### **b) Paper presentations**

A number of papers were presented by our own members and also from the academia that energised APLESA. Notable among them was the presentation from Dr Democritio Manyissa from

the University of Eduardo Mondlane who presented on *how to attract readers to the library*. Dr Manyissa shared his experiences on how best to serve political leaders, who were generally too busy to use the library. He noted that the type of services provided by the Library could influence the usage of the Library. Hence it was important to tailor the services to meet the information needs of the clients. He suggested some of the ways to attract readers to the Libraries as follows:

- Exhibitions or Book Fairs
- Workshops
- Booklets
- Postcards
- Bibliographic bulletins
- Information bulletins
- Oriented visits

He also indicated that the Politicians (MPs, etc.) should be encouraged to do presentations on certain country political life aspects listed below:

- Elections
- Governance
- Democracy
- Corruption

In this way the politicians would be attracted to use the libraries or documentation centres, which are focused on political issues.

Another notable paper presentation from the academia was from Dr Rosa Manuela Teixeira Pinto also from the University of Eduardo Mondlane who presented on *E-document management*. Dr Pinto discussed the new technologies used in the management of e-documents such as DVDs and CDs. She observed that e-document management is gaining ground because most of the publishers are shifting from publishing in print format to publishing through e-documents as it was cheaper and more convenient.

Presentations from the APLESA Members were as follows;

The presentation on **Research Methodology** was facilitated by Dr Manuel Uache Bembele from the Parliament of Mozambique. Dr Bembele discussed the role of the Library in providing research services to Members at the Parliament of Mozambique.

The paper on **Meeting the Changing Needs of Parliament** was presented by Mr Innocent Rugambwa from the Parliament of Uganda. The paper urged Parliaments to reposition their role in order to meet the changing needs of the society and highlighted the emerging trends on the African continent. It was noted that Parliaments are not static but growing Institutions. And that increasingly, Parliaments are becoming administered as autonomous bodies. The example of Parliamentary Commissions, to enhance service delivery was given. Secondly, it was pointed out that in the past Parliaments existed without substantial library and research services, but the trend had since changed. Fully fledged library and research services are being established in many Parliaments in a bid to enhance information support to Members of Parliament and other stakeholders.

The presentation on **Evolution of Parliament Websites- a Case for the Zambian Parliament Website** was presented by Mr F Banda. The paper outlined the historical background of the development of the Zambian Parliament website. It discussed critical factors in the efficient management of the website. These included management commitment, administrative framework, ICT infra-structure, and information literacy. The paper concluded that parliamentary websites enhance democracy by continuing to be competitive sources of information on parliamentary business. In addition, Parliaments were urged to adhere to the guidelines provided by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Global Network for ICTs in Parliaments on the management of their websites.

The paper on **Initiatives for the improvement of Library and Information Services of Uganda Parliamentary Library** was presented by Mr Simon Engitu from the Parliament of Uganda. It gave an account of the historical development of the Uganda Parliament Library saying that the Library was expanded in 1999 as a section in the department of Library, Research and Information Services. Four areas were indicated where initiatives were made, they include

- **Partnerships**
- **Application of Technology**
- **Collection Development and Management**

- **Capacity Development**

The technologies used include the application of KOHA and Dspace open source software in their Library, which was implemented with support from the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and AWEPA, He gave impetus for innovations in their services. In conclusion, he noted that the library of the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs to strengthen its services if it is to remain relevant. Sitting to wait for the user for services curtails our mandates as information intermediaries and that has long ceased. We need to have innovative approaches and any initiative that can be commenced will serve to change our status. Parliament of Uganda library has used Partnership and cooperation, IT applications and devised ways to build capacity to enable parliament deliver in the House.

- c) **Excursion**

In order to relax from the busy schedule and also to appreciate the cultural and traditional values of Mozambique, delegates were treated to an excursion to Gaza Province, which is the home of Nwadjahane Museum. The Nwadjahane Museum is basically the village of Dr Eduordo Mondlne, who is considered as the founder of Frelimo political party. At the site, there is a library stocked with the works on Dr Eduordo Mondlane, who died in 1969. The site is also the resting place of Dr Mondlane's parents and other family members. During the visit, it was noticed that the Government of Mozambique is building a state of the art monument in honour of Dr Mondlane.

The excursion was very educative as it gave an insight into the origin of the political history of Mozambique.

- d) **The 12<sup>th</sup> APLESA Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Agenda**

- i. Communication from the President of APLESA
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Presentation of the 11<sup>th</sup> APLESA Report and Matters Arising
- iv. Amendment of the APLESA Constitution
- v. Elections
- vi. A O B
- vii. Official Closing of the Conference

### **Communication from the President of APLESA**

The President of APLESA, Mr Simon Engitu from Ugandan Parliament, appreciated the support and cooperation from member parliaments, which has enabled APLESA to continue existing as an association of excellence, advancing inter-parliamentary library cooperation within Eastern and Southern Africa through networking and resource sharing. He highlighted major achievements scored by APLESA during the period under review. These included adoption of concrete plan for continuity of APLESA Conferences, implementation of new fees structure as alternative funding for APLESA, hosting of the APLESA website and strengthening of regional and continental networks. APLESA was represented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN) Council of Coordinators and World e-Parliament Conferences in 2010.

### **Treasurers' Report**

The Treasurer of APLESA, Mr Innocent Rugambwa presented a financial statement for the last financial year, which was adopted as a correct record. The Treasurer urged member Parliaments to settle their outstanding financial obligations, which are largely in form of annual subscriptions.

### **Review of the 11<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference Report**

The Secretary-General of APLESA, Mr F Banda presented the report on the 11<sup>th</sup> APLESA, which took place in Blantyre, Malawi in 2010 and the following were matters arising:

#### **I. Conference Bidding by Member Parliaments from 2012 to 2016**

The Parliament of Namibia formally, reaffirmed its position to host the 13<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference in 2012. However the bidders for the following years were identified. They are;

- i) 2013- Angola  
Botswana  
Swaziland
- ii) 2014- Zambia  
Rwanda  
Seychelles
- iii) 2015- Kenya  
Swaziland  
Uganda

- iv) 2016- Botswana  
Angola  
Uganda

## **II. Resolutions of 12<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference**

The Resolutions of the 11<sup>th</sup> APLESA were upheld with amendments to continue providing the roadmap for parliaments to achieve their desired goals. The AGM acknowledged that there was progress on the resolutions of the last Conference, though more needed to be done.

- **Capacity Building**

APLESA should continue to support capacity building programmes to improve service delivery among Parliamentary Libraries in the region. APLESA should also initiate training programmes in collaboration with cooperating partners to enhance capacity building among member parliaments.

- **Networking**

Realizing the information needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the fact that Parliaments do not have all the resources they need, APLESA shall continue to embrace networks and partnerships with regional and inter/continental networks.

- **Support**

In order to provide effective and efficient research and information services, APLESA shall encourage Parliaments to provide increased and focused support to Parliament Libraries.

- **Management of Parliament Websites**

In line with the guidelines issued by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Global Centre for ICTs in Parliaments on the management of Parliamentary websites, APLESA recommends that the Parliament libraries take a leading role in the content management of Parliamentary websites.

- **Harmonisation of Information Departments**

Library, Research and ICT departments need to find common ground on issues of convergence in delivering efficient information services.

### **III. Amendment of the APLESA Constitution**

The Chairperson of the Constitution Committee, Mr Innocent Rugambwa moved the motion, which was unanimously supported, to amend the Article VII of the Constitution of APLESA to change titles of office bearers from Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary to President, Vice President and Secretary-General, respectively. In addition, the AGM supported an amendment to increase the number of Committee Members from two to three.

### **IV. Elections of new APLESA committees**

The President of APLESA dissolved the Executive Committee to pave way for election of the new Executive Committee to serve for the next two years. Before the elections could be conducted, the Parliament of Swaziland moved the motion, which was seconded by Botswana, to retain the whole Executive Committee to continue for the next term and that a new Committee Member be elected. The motion was unanimously supported and adopted by members. Mrs Laurenciana Chdreque Bule from Mozambique was consequently, elected as a new Committee Member.

The following the following is therefore the new APLESA Executive Committee from 2011 to 2013.

i.	Mr Simon Engitu	President	Uganda
ii.	Mrs Esther Kamau	Vice- President	Kenya
iii.	Mr Fanwell Banda	Secretary-General	Zambia
iv.	Mr Innocent Rugambwa	Treasurer	Uganda
v.	Mr Maxwell Banda	Committee Member	Malawi
vi.	Mrs Marianne Gei-Khoibes	Committee Member	Namibia
vii.	Mrs Laurenciana C Bule	Committee Member	Mozambique

#### **e) Official Closing**

The Conference was officially closed by Mr Simon Engitu, President of APLESA. He thanked the Parliament of Mozambique for the warm reception accorded to the delegates throughout the Conference and excellent conference facilities, which made it possible to have a successful conference. He also paid tribute to INASP for their continued support to APLESA in providing

capacity building programmes. He said apart from APLESA, most Parliaments in the region have continued to benefit from INASP through training programmes.

**i. Farewell Dinner**

The Secretary-General of the Parliament of Mozambique, Dr Baptista Ismael Machaieie hosted a farewell dinner for the delegates at Zambi Hotel.

**Conclusion**

The Executive Committee and general membership of APLESA commends the Parliament of Mozambique, particularly the Speaker and the Secretary-General for the excellent hospitality accorded to delegates and hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> APLESA Conference and AGM successfully. The member Parliaments' continued support to enable delegates attend the Conference is also highly appreciated.

Simon Joseph Engitu  
**President**

Fanwell Banda  
**Secretary General**