

Chairperson's report (AGM)

LIASA NATIONAL STRATEGIC THEMES	Key programs/ activities to support National Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership 	<p>In an attempt to provide innovative leadership in the branch, the BEC had its first meeting on the 8 November 2014 to draw 2015 year operational year plan.</p> <p>We had our second meeting on the 02 February 2015 in Mogalakwena municipality. During this meeting we also agreed on how are we going to celebrate our Provincial library week in Mopani District.</p> <p>There is a continual electronic conversation between all BEC members regarding branch activities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership 	<p>On the 02 February 2015 the BEC visited Mogalakwena Municipal library staff with the purpose of recruiting new members. The visit was blessed by the Mr Tsebe - the former CEO of the National Library who clearly indicated to Mogalakwena municipal staff that there is no profession older than Librarianship. They all depends on library for their survival. He presented Library and information services Transformation charter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and Advocacy 	<p>We agreed as the branch that our meetings and events should rotate. This is an excellent means of marketing the organisation and also to ensure LIASA's visibility. Our provincial library week was successfully celebrated at Prieska remote rural area Mopani District under Baphalaborwa municipality.</p> <p>We have successfully published the most comprehensive Special library week newsletter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and sector engagement 	<p>On the 21 May 2015 the Chairperson met with the Department of Education library Service Officials. The main purpose of the meeting was to establish the relationship with the Department as one of our key stakeholders and further to find out how to they operate.</p> <p>The meeting was so successful and now the branch will look at the best intervention strategy.</p> <p>On the same date the chairperson further visited TUT Polokwane campus library director with the same purpose. Engaging and building collaboration with key stakeholders.</p> <p>The branch has established a good working relationship with NGO like Takalani Children home, Room to read and Nalibali.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance 	<p>Each BEC member has a role to play in the branch.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIASA belief that beyond personal vision and positive thought, a leader need to be continually trained to maximize productivity. The chairperson was privileged to be amongst rep council members who attended the leadership weekend which was

	<p>scheduled from the 20 to 22 February 2015. That was the most rewarding training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the 26 May 2015 the branch has successfully organised a Story telling and reading for pleasure work shop by Nalibali • On the 27 May 2015 the branch had a very interactive roundtable discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financials and membership status 	<p>Finance: The branch has +-R53042 Membership: 83</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of challenges and major achievements 	<p>As with any organisation, our branch has also experienced the following challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The branch don't have a fundraisng model • Poor communication channels- Most public libraries in the province don't have access to Internet and we are basically using email to communicate with members. Part of the solution to the challenge can be the use of sms bundles. • We tried several times to secure a meeting with Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) Library management without any success. The branch has several questions which needs • Poor attendance of meetings and lack of interest from members. • Decreasing membership. • Inactive interest groups.

Conclusion

As LIASA, we recognise that we cannot work in isolation from other key stakeholders . We need to institutionalise our stakeholders engagement plan. We need to organise more platforms of engagement so that there is an on going collaboration between libraries in the Province, sharing of information, expertise and experience.