Motivation for nominating Mercia Sias as Librarian of the Year (Western Cape)

The role of LIASA in the LIS sector

The role of LIASA is to lead the profession as a Professional Association/Governing Body. The association must speak as one voice for the Profession. LIASA is a non-profit organization uniting and representing all institutions and people working in the library and information services in South Africa. It strives to unit, develop and empower all people working in the Library and Information field.

The Role of LIASA

I believe this is the future role LIASA should play

- To equip leaders of LIASA with Leadership skills, which will make the association (LIASA) overcome financial and professional hardship
- To share knowledge with various associations in Africa to see how they have confronted and solve their problems.
- LIASA should take firm stand as soon as possible as to introduce our Professionals to the RDP (Re-Development Plan) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Librarians have daily challenges and without realizing we serve the community/public to the best of our ability to address many of the MDGs.
- To become a statutory body.
- LIASA should also have a plan in place to re-introduce the LIS sector to the greater public beyond the profession. This is important because LIS professionals have changed and Librarians are now information specialists with new technological capabilities.
- LIASA must adapt research as one of its important points for LIS to have an impact on National Level.
- To do market research to determine clients/user needs, because a profession grows with knowledge building, acquisition and sharing.

As prestigious award winner, what would the projects/issue be that you would like to see?
• As a prestigious award winner I would like to see that all individual and organizational members should play a more active role within LIASA.
• Projects I would like to see more in community/public libraries should be projects which contribute to social development and well-being of our community/people. We should learn them new skills, empower them through sustainable library programs.
• I would encourage Academic Librarians to focus more on our first year students on how to use the library resources (induction courses).
• I will also encourage more networking between the Public libraries, Academic libraries and Special libraries, to work towards a collaborative goal.
• I will continuously empower people of all spheres of society through education and learning them new skills.