

LIASA REP COUNCIL

06 February 2016

Report on NDP for LIASA

Purpose

The purpose of this Motion 1 of 2013 – is based on National Development Plan not reflecting the role of Library and Information Services.

The role of National Development Plan

The NDP sets out ambitious goals for poverty reduction, economic growth, economic transformation and job creation. The private sector has a major role to play in achieving these objectives. Long-term planning and investment in the future is just as important for the private as the public sector.

Government is clearly stating its commitment to the NDP, and it is important that the private sector does the same. Where the private sector faces obstacles, sectoral dialogues will take place to identify how these obstacles can be addressed within the parameters laid out by the NDP.

NDP helps South Africans to chart a new course. It focuses on putting in place the things that people need to grasp opportunities such as education and public transport and to broaden the opportunities through economic growth and the availability of jobs. Everything in the plan is aimed at reducing poverty and inequality. Key success factors for the NDP include the ability of each South African to make a contribution towards the realization of this vision and for communities to mobilise to take charge of their future.

Background

During the LIASA conference of 2012/3 - comments were noted from Ms C Walker and it was decided that the current LIASA committee appointed by the Representative Council, under the leadership of Ms Phindile Bekwa, has to continue working with the key national bodies (NLSA, NLSA Board, NCLIS and DAC) on the role of the LIS sector for the realisation of the National Development Plan. They need to report back on discussions, submit reports to the Representative Council and table a final report with concrete steps taken at the next AGM.

Ms Phindile Bekwa reported that the committee was managing to achieve what was mandated to do. Exco decided to delegate the finalization of this report to Anele Moko, Dannie Malan and Mandla Ntombela.

Status quo of NDP and Libraries

Public and community Libraries, School Libraries, Academic Libraries and Special Libraries continue to support education, training and innovation which falls within Chapter 9 of the NDP. Early childhood development is critical for fostering literacy and numeracy skills. Public libraries and librarians have the opportunity to influence the early childhood development of children through age appropriate activities, access to reading material in indigenous languages, use of the play method to inculcate values and

hygiene, interactive toys for developing vocabulary and language skills and general enquiry. The fact that the majority of households do not have books means that the first interaction a child has with a book is at a library or school. The same is applicable to technology – many children encounter computers, audio-visual material and computer gaming for the very first time in a public library. Hence the critical need for products and services that address the developmental needs of children.

SLYSIG has written to the Minister of Basic Education in relation to the development of school libraries infrastructure.

Public libraries have ECD programs and also support ABET.

LDC, Academic and Special Libraries do provide facilities and material for research

NLSA

It has managed to participate in Nation Building and Social Cohesion as it is spelt out in Chapter 15 of the NDP that is about broadening social cohesion and unity while redressing the inequities of the past. The inequities of the past were based on the withholding of information and education from the majority of black citizens.

The National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS), in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture and the National Library of South Africa, commissioned in 2008 the Library Transformation Charter “to align the LIS sector with the spirit and values enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa and its Bill of Rights” and to address national imperatives such as:

- ❖ social and economic development
- ❖ poverty eradication
- ❖ social cohesion and inclusion
- ❖ nation building
- ❖ diversity and responsiveness
- ❖ entrenching a culture of reading
- ❖ developing a national literature in South Africa’s indigenous languages

It has also supported Economic Infrastructure that is Chapter 4 of NDP by providing ICT connectivity in public libraries. For many communities, the only place that provides access to computers and the internet for free is a public library.

Current initiatives in public libraries include the provision for internet connectivity on a very limited scale. There is an increased demand from users for ICT services which are inadequately met due to limited ICT skills of staff and library ICT resources; and on the other hand there is a huge need to create an awareness of and the skilling in the use of ICTs for access to information amongst communities.

Mzansi online project has assisted in expanding internet connectivity and technology resources to through government and private partnership hence the biggest target is rural communities. This project has an opportunity for users and library staff to become familiar with and the use of emerging technologies.

Recommendation

LIS sector should strive to strengthen youth service programmes and introduce new, community-based programmes to offer young people life-skills training, entrepreneurship training and opportunities to participate in community development programmes.

LIASA should develop a blue print to guide the LIS sector on direct implementation of the NDP