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MEDIA ADVISORY:

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIANS' DAY - 10 JULY 2018

The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) has declared 10 July as a significant day for librarians in South Africa. It is on this day in 1997 that the Association was formed through the amalgamation of several associations including SALA (1930), CLA (1960), ALASA (1972), SAILIS (1980) and LIWO (1991). LIASA, like our country, is a product of the dedication of a group of leaders with a vision and belief in unity and equality, working behind the scenes to bring about change for the benefit of all South Africans.

Librarianship contributes to the intrinsic requirement of building an informed and knowledgeable nation through the provision of equitable access to information that aligns with national, continental and global sustainable development agendas. Librarians have an inherent responsibility to know their communities' information needs and to make these accessible. They are committed to bringing to life the fundamental rights of citizens to access to information as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa.

Regardless of new technological changes, e-books, etc. and despite many predictions of their demise, Librarians have not disappeared, and therefore we celebrate the unsung heroes working in libraries. Libraries provide access to information services to millions of users and potential users in South Africa. 2018 marks the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Public Libraries in South Africa.

Why celebrate SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIANS' DAY?

The LIS Sector observes South African Librarians' Day annually. LIASA will officially be 21 during this year's celebrations. All LIS practitioners are encouraged to celebrate the day through special events at Branches and in their Branch Newsletters. Librarians will be role models and ambassadors for the LIS profession through these activities.

Aims and objectives

- To create awareness of the critical role Librarians play in nation building
- To (re)align libraries with the NDP 2030, SDGs, UN 2030 and AU 2063 agendas
- To create programmes and partnerships that will support these developmental agendas and highlight the advocacy role of librarians
- To emphasise the role of Librarians in the IFLA Global Vision in which, through advocacy and promotion, libraries are viewed as the hub for accessing valuable information for general knowledge, education, development and recreation

ABOUT LIASA

LIASA is the Professional Body for Librarians and Information workers in South Africa. The Association was awarded Professional Body Status in accordance with the SAQA Professional Body recognition and registration criteria and the NQF Act 67 of 2008. This allows LIASA to strive for excellence in the practice of librarianship as a profession; and, to unite and to represent institutions and people working in libraries and information services. More information can be found at <http://www.liasa.org.za>.

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"Libraries: Heart of the Community"

Executive Committee Members:

Mr M Ntombela (President), Ms N Crowster (President-Elect),
Mr D Malan, Mr L Naicker, Ms s Welman, Ms T Denton, Mr T
Morajane, Ms M Seageng, Ms N Spondo

LIASA is a SAQA recognised Professional Body
in accordance with the NQF Act 67 of 2008

