

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 5TH CONFERENCE
OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY
LIBRARIANS
OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (APLESA)**

PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
LIBRARY

HELD

**IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
18TH TO 23RD JULY 1999.**

COMPILED BY APLESA, KENYA DELEGATION.

FOREWORD

This report is a summary of proceedings and resolutions of the 5th Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) held in Windhoek, Namibia from 18th to 23rd July, 1999.

Sir, the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) is a Professional Association which was formed in 1994 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The objectives of the Association are summarised as follows:

- (i) to establish an information exchange;**
- (ii) to create a forum for networking and resource-sharing in the sub-region.**

APLESA is also committed to identifying training needs (formal and informal) of its member libraries and the means which such needs may be addressed. This is necessary to ensure that Parliamentary libraries in the sub-region are managed and administered professionally for the effective delivery of information to Parliamentarians and their support staff. Since its inception in 1994, APLESA has held five meetings:

| YEAR | COUNTRY |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1994 | HARARE, ZIMBABWE |
| 1995 | DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA |
| 1996 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA |
| 1997 | BLANTYRE, MALAWI |
| 1998 | LUSAKA, ZAMBIA |
| 1999 | WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA |

Sir, through this forum, members of representative institutions are enabled to acquire a thorough knowledge of the problems facing Parliament libraries within the sub-region, many of which bear common characteristics and striking similarities on all member libraries.

As you know, Sir, the impact of the resolutions adopted by APLESA on various library issues and, ultimately, the effectiveness of the Association itself, depends essentially on the efforts made by individual member Parliaments to bring about the implementation of these resolutions.

We, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to bring these resolutions to the notice of our Parliament so that it may consider the measures required for their implementation.

In conclusion, Sir, on behalf of APLESA, we wish to sincerely recognise your continued support of the efforts and ideals of APLESA in promoting efficient library and research services in Parliament libraries in the region.

Mrs Esther Kamau

**Ms Grace Mwakio.
Librarians**

INTRODUCTION

Sir,

The following Librarians were privileged to be nominated by the Executive Committee of the Kenya National Assembly to represent our Parliament during the 5th APLESA Conference held in Windhoek, Namibia, from the 18th to 23rd July, 1999:-

1. Mrs Esther Kamau
2. Ms Grace Mwakio

We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to APLESA, Namibian Parliament, Government of the Republic of Namibia and its People for the warm hospitality extended to us during our stay in their country.

Sir, delegations from the Parliaments of the following twelve countries took part in the work of the conference:

Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Present at this conference were also librarians from Ghana, Finland and United Kingdom on an observer status.

2000 - 2004 CALENDAR OF APLESA CONFERENCE VENUES

The Conference considered the host of APLESA Conference in 2000. The meeting agreed to the following suggestions of the coming years:-

| | | |
|------|---|--------------|
| 2000 | - | Kenya |
| 2001 | - | Botswana |
| 2002 | - | Lesotho |
| 2003 | - | Swaziland |
| 2004 | - | South Africa |

It was further suggested that the conference dates should in future be fixed to take place at a time when the host Parliament is on recess in order to lessen the Host's load.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The conference was inaugurated at a ceremony held on the 18th July at C1 Parliament Conference Room by His Excellency the Ambassador of Finland to Namibia, Mr Kari Karanko. Among other notable personalities who addressed the conference included:-

1. Ms. Stephanie - The Secretary (Clerk) to the National Assembly.
2. Mr. Justin Chisenga - Lecturer, Department of Information and Communication Studies, University of Namibia.
3. Mrs Helena Theron - SABINET

Sir, the 5th APLESA conference began its work at the Hotel Safari Conference Room in Windhoek on the 18th of July, with the Chair-person reading a letter of encouragement and well-wishing from the Chair-person of the IFLA Parliamentary Library Section, Jennifer Tanfield; self introduction by participants and presentation of country reports.

Delegations from 12 countries took part in the work of the conference. There was a total of 26 delegates including two resource persons and 3 delegates attending as observers and translator respectively.

During the general debate of the conference, we discussed problems related to the implementation of the resolutions taken in Lusaka in 1998, with many participants devoting much of their statements to the situation of the dwindling library budgets which all participants unanimously agreed that was the cause of inefficiency in the provision of information services to Members of Parliament.

The issue of computerisation of Parliamentary libraries in order to facilitate resource-sharing among member libraries was once again brought up. It was sad to note that only two member libraries, that is, the Kenya National Assembly Library and the Parliament Library of Swaziland, which were not connected to the Internet. An urgent call was therefore made to the two libraries to take urgent measures to get internet connection so as to enable fulfil their Client's information needs and also to facilitate Parliamentary resource-sharing and resource-sharing within the sub-region.

The following topics were presented and discussed during the conference:-

Parliamentary Information resources, networking and resource-sharing;

SABINET Presentation;

Management principles and practices;

Strategic planning;

Marketing and promotion of parliamentary information services;

Introduction to Information Technology;

Library Information Technology;

Introduction to information management;

Information and research needs of Parliamentarians;

Information use behaviour of Parliamentarians;

**Latest developments in Information Communication Technologies;
Support and cooperation possibilities: APLESA vs Finnish Parliament
Library;**

Acquisition and processing of information sources;

Strategic management of information sources;

Information services for Parliamentarians;

Parliamentary electronic information sources (House of Commons);

**Practical on using electronic mail and discussion groups: New dimensions
in information communication management;**

Web-based information sources;

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions on the major issues of discussion were adopted by the 5th conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA):-

- 1. To rigorously market APLESA by coming up with a directory of each member library which would be placed on the APLESA website before the year 2000 conference and to promote networking within APLESA member countries;**
- 2. To facilitate capacity building through attachments and study visits and to promote exchange between member countries;**
- 3. To ensure that all knowledge produced in the country made accessible to Parliamentarians. Each Parliament should be given Legal Deposit Status.**