

PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
LIBRARY



**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES OF EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA (APLESA)**

**MAY 25 – 29, 2009
HOTEL AFRICANA,
KAMPALA, UGANDA**

**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI
KENYA**

MAY, 2009

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION..... 1

2.0 OFFICIAL OPENING..... 1

3.0 REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION OF PROGRAMME 2

4.0 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS 2

4.1 SESSION I – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF APLESA – BY SIMON ENGITU (UGANDA)..... 2

4.2 SESSION II – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON leadership, COMMUNICATION, CONFIDENCE AND SELF ESTEEM – BY ETHAN MUSOLINI (UGANDA)..... 5

4.3 SESSION III – DEFINITION OF INFORMATION LITERACY (IL) – BY DR. SOPHIA KAANE (KENYA)..... 5

4.4 SESSION IV – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON UNION CATALOGUE: AN INFORMATION RESOURCE SHARING TOOL – BY ANSELM OLWENY (UGANDA) 6

4.5 SESSION V: A PAPER PRESENTATION ON APLESA: UNLOCKING THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL – BY PROF. IKOJA ODONGO (UGANDA) 8

4.7 SESSION VII - REPORT OF THE APLESA CHAIRPERSON 10

4.8 SESSION VI II - ELECTION OF THE APLESA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE..... 11

4.9 SESSION IX - APLESA RESOLUTIONS..... 11

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 10th Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA) took place at the Hotel Africana, Kampala from May 25 – 29, 2009, and was hosted by the Parliament of Uganda in partnership with Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, UK and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP).

A total of 19 Librarians from 9 countries attended the conference. The APLESA member Parliament libraries that were represented in the conference were: Angola, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The Kenya National assembly was represented by the following delegates

Esther Kamau – Chief Librarian (Leader of Delegation)

Grace Mwakio - Senior librarian

Eunice Kakitya – Librarian II

Before the official opening, the out-going Chairperson welcomed delegates to the 10th APLESA Conference and called upon them to introduce themselves. Thereafter, the Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of Uganda also welcomed the participants and introduced the invited guests. The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, the Rt. Hon. Edward Ssekandi, MP, officially opened the conference.

2.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening of the 10th APLESA conference took place on Monday May 25, 2009 and was officiated by the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Edward Ssekandi, MP.

In his opening remarks, the Speaker acknowledged the presence of delegates and invited guests. He commended the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, UK and the International Network for the

Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) for hosting the APLESA Conference.

In his speech, he emphasized on the importance of Parliament libraries, not only in the life of a Member of Parliament, but also in the life of a country. He told the participants that Parliaments all over the world were under pressure from the people to ensure good governance. He noted that Parliamentary libraries were crucial in empowering Members of Parliament to effectively discharge their legislative mandate. He challenged librarians to be proactive in their work in order to meet the information needs of their clients in an accurate and timely manner.

The Speaker wished the delegates a happy stay in Kampala and fruitful deliberations.

3.0 REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION OF PROGRAMME

Before the proceedings of the 10th APLESA Conference commenced, the out-going Chairperson asked delegates to observe a minute of silence in honour of Mr. Nelson Masawi of Zimbabwe Parliament, who had passed on last year.

Thereafter, delegates went through the proposed conference programme and effected a few changes, which were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

4.0 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

4.1 SESSION I – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF APLESA – BY SIMON ENGITU (UGANDA)

The presenter, Mr. Simon Engitu, introduced his presentation by giving a brief overview on the current state of APLESA: achievements; the challenges currently facing the association and the way forward:-

Current state of APLESA:

The presenter informed the participants that:-

- APLESA membership has reached 14 countries including Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, Namibia, Swaziland, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Angola and the East African Community;
- Other eligible member countries are Rwanda , Pan African Parliament and those in the horn of Africa Egypt, Djibouti and Eritrea had expressed interest in joining the association. The islands of Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Reunion have also been invited to join the Association.

APLESA Achievements since its inception in 1994:

The presenter cited the following as APLESA achievements:-

- Held two training workshops on strategic planning in 1999 (Namibia) and 2001 (Uganda) to enable participants draw up realistic strategic plans for APLESA and for their respective libraries;
- Secured funding for design of the APLESA logo and website (www.aplesa.org) though the website challenges, the website had to close down;
- Held annual conferences as follows: In 1994 (Zimbabwe), 1995 (Tanzania), 1996 (South Africa), 1997 (Malawi), 1998 (Zambia), 1999 (Namibia), 2000 (Lesotho), 2001 (Botswana), 2002 (Uganda), 2003 (Kenya);
- Held last elections for new APLESA Executive in 2003 in which Ms. Grace Mwakio (Kenya) was elected Chairperson.

Challenges facing APLESA:

According to the presenter, the following are the challenges which APLESA is facing:-

- Inadequate funding – the association has no other sources of fund besides the membership fee paid;
- Poor communications – lack of commitment for members to share information among themselves through email, web based discussion groups, letter writing, etc., due to the divergence in ICT infrastructure in different Member countries;

- Attitudes of top management regarding libraries – some managers look at APLESA as a small institution not worth taking ones time;
- Lack of staff development programmes for librarians hence making it hard for librarians to argue their case before the management;
- Capacity Building –Some staff working in Parliamentary libraries lack certain skills and knowledge necessary for information management;
- Lack of formalized information network/resource sharing mechanisms – this has led to leaving information exchange to personal initiative hence there is no efficient, effective and rapid information retrieval;
- Lack of hosting of APLESA forums – Conferences and meetings from where issues affecting the association can be addressed have not been convened because Members who are scheduled to host the conferences have defaulted;
- Reluctance of Committees to perform work mandated to them and therefore they exist by name but they are not active;
- Election of new APLESA Executive Committee – The term of office of the current APLESA Executive Committee ended in 2004, however no election has been done because the annual conferences have not been taking place.

Way Forward:

The presenter also came up with a way forward for the association as given below:-

- Rejuvenation of APLESA Committees;
- Election of new executive committee that is willing to address the above issue;
- Come up with clear schedule for Members to host APLESA meetings;
- Organize attachment for members within APLESA region to share experience and understand each other well.
- Communication among executive committee members and meeting before APLESA conferences and workshops.
- APLESA members to honor their membership fees and also identification of other sources of funding for APLESA to perform its mandate.

4.2 SESSION II – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, CONFIDENCE AND SELF ESTEEM – BY ETHAN MUSOLINI (UGANDA)

The presenter, Mr. Ethan Musolini took the participants through a motivational talk and training . The motivational talk focused on improving confidence and esteem at a personal level, developing excellent communication skills and concluded with developing great leadership skills.

On confidence and self esteem, the participants were taken through the definition of confidence and self esteem, sources of self esteem, signs of low self esteem, how to improve self esteem, how to access personal confidence, behaviors of confident people, history of shyness, overcoming cultural and environmental conditioning, and turning around mistakes with confidence.

On communication, the participants were taken through what public speaking is, cardinal rules before speaking, some truths about communication and three fundamental keys of communication, how to be credible and likeable when communicating, writing a winning speech, how to captivate an audience and arouse people to action, and the fool proof tips to effective delivery of messages/communication.

Lastly, the participants were also taken through what is leadership, the eight assumptions of appreciative inquiry, secrets of great leaders, and how to take leadership to the next level.

4.3 SESSION III – DEFINITION OF INFORMATION LITERACY (IL) – BY DR. SOPHIA KAANE (KENYA)

In her presentation , Dr. Sophia Kaane gave a brief history of information literacy and the need for information literacy. She informed the participants that the need for information literacy was as a result of proliferation of information and information sources, users who are overwhelmed by abundant information, rapid

technological changes and hence need for special skills to access and use information.

The participants were given a brief history of the definition of information literacy as from 1974 – **idea phase** where IL was defined as ability to solve information problems using relevant sources and applying relevant technology - and later refinements of definition of IL in the 1990s – **differentiation phase** where there were debates to distinguish IL, library skills, and information skills. In 2000s IL has been used to refer to abilities requiring individuals to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and effectively use the needed information.” IL is thus seen as a prerequisite for participating effectively in the information society and as part of the basic human right of lifelong learning.

According to the presenter, for one to be information literate, he/she has to be empowered through knowledge. She cited the library as one of the information source needed to promote information literacy since libraries have the advantage of being organized and accessible. To this effect librarians have changing roles but they are at the forefront and their value addition is in knowledge of sources, approachability, understanding of individuals and experience of searching, caution as to quality of resources and ability to think round a problem.

4.4 SESSION IV – A PAPER PRESENTATION ON UNION CATALOGUE: AN INFORMATION RESOURCE SHARING TOOL – BY ANSELM OLWENY (UGANDA)

The presentation by Mr. Anselm Olweny pointed out the reasons why APLESA needs a union catalogue; a way forward regarding the development of a union catalogue and finally it suggested the adoption of KOHA integrated library system as a shared library system by the association.

The participants were given several definitions of a union catalogue. He adopted a working definition which defined a union catalogue as a catalogue that presents the

bibliographic records of the holdings of two or more libraries which indicates locations (libraries) where the items it presents can be found.

The participants were informed that the primary objective of a union catalogue was to support resource identification and sharing through interlibrary lending and that it targeted distant users. They were also shown the main models by which union catalogues may be built – the centralized or physical and distributed or virtual union catalogues.

The presenter gave the following justification for APLESA to have a union catalogue:

- It will enable users of parliamentary libraries that subscribe to APLESA identify more information resources and if supported with effective document delivery service and provision of electronic services, as a result APLESA's mission will be fulfilled
- It will provide the association an opportunity to supply other libraries worldwide with cataloguing records of their quality unique collections and hence raise the status of APLESA at international stage.
- It will result to stronger ties among members of the association as participating libraries will cooperate in developing a collection on shared basis as they use one system. This will ensure survival of the association.
- Depending on the model implemented it will help the participating libraries reduce duplication of cataloguing records and effort since they will share a common bibliographic database.

The presenter also gave a way forward for APLESA regarding a union catalogue as follows:

- APLESA needs to develop a union catalogue in order to provide access to the entire library collection of its members at one place.
- APLESA considers creating a committee to spearhead development and later maintenance of the union catalogue. The mandate of the committee should be clearly spelt out.
- APLESA considers adopting a shared library system, in this case KOHA integrated library system, which should be implemented by all its members.

Why KOHA Integrated Library Management System?

The presenter gave reasons as to why APLESA member Parliaments should adopt KOHA:-

- It is open source (free) and capable of supporting the functions of wide range of library types, from small special collections to large state-wide library catalogues.
- All participating libraries can capture and store bibliographic records in one database eliminating duplication of records.
- Has a circulation module which will enable each participating library perform all tasks related to the circulation of items in the library independently and have better control of the management of their patrons.
- Has an acquisition and serial management module which will enable individual member libraries as well as APLESA have better control in management of acquisition and serials.

4.5 SESSION V: A PAPER PRESENTATION ON APLESA: UNLOCKING THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL – BY PROF. IKOJA ODONGO (UGANDA)

In his presentation, Prof. Ikoja Odongo highlighted external challenges facing APLESA, opportunities available for the association, and the existing untapped potential and how to tap it.

The presenter cited the following as external challenges facing APLESA:

- the lukewarm reception by organizations abroad;
- uneven developments in member countries leading to disparities in commitment and support to APLESA;
- absence of uniform standards in managing information resources hence poor networking; and
- uneven ICT developments in the region.

He also highlighted the opportunities available to APLESA as:

- need for networking as already suggested by political developments such as IGAD, SADC, EAC etc., and other partnerships that can be developed;
- e-parliament project;

- multiple media technologies that are rapidly diffusing on Africa continent; and
- democracy and globalization.

He also brought to the attention of the participants the untapped potential available to APLESA:

- need to develop an effective marketing system;
- need to work towards harmonized ICT system to enable information sharing on a similar bus standard system;
- need to show and practice commitment to the association – active leadership and management of the association; and
- need to understand the role of research, information service, and parliament and parliamentary library.

The presenter also pointed out the following areas that need to be tapped to make the association strong:

- advantage of operating and expanding as a block;
- peace prevailing in the region;
- local and international media;
- internet connectivity and other ICTs;
- trained human resources running the parliamentary library and services;
- goodwill from the political leadership and donors; and
- the availability of parliamentary library in each member country.

4.6 SESSION VI: COUNTRY REPORTS

Each country that was represented in the conference presented a ten- (10) minute country report. The reports basically consisted of activities and events that had been undertaken by individual Parliamentary Libraries during the year 2004/09.

It was noted during the presentations that most libraries had undertaken similar activities namely: exchange programs, attachment programs and staff training. However, it came to light that some libraries lagged behind in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Such libraries

were challenged to put more effort in that regard in order to improve communication, networking and resource sharing among APLESA member countries.

4.7 SESSION VII - REPORT OF THE APLESA CHAIRPERSON

The outgoing Chairperson of the Association, Ms. Grace Mwakio, presented a report in accordance with Article IX, section 1 of the APLESA constitution.

In her report, she pointed out that the most serious challenge faced by APLESA has been its inability to convene its annual conferences which serve as a forum for sharing experiences and addressing issues affecting the association. Member countries who had been scheduled to host APLESA conferences defaulted, hence the leadership crisis APLESA has been experiencing. Section 2 of Article V of the APLESA Constitution stipulates two years as the term of office of the Executive Committee. She noted that the outgoing Executive Committee term of office would have expired in 2004 had the association managed to convene then. However, failure by the association to convene its annual conferences in the past years has led to a constitutional crisis, which she hoped would be remedied in the forum during the elections of the new Executive Committee.

The outgoing Chairperson urged members to be more committed to the association to ensure its continuity and advancement. She noted that many resolutions have been passed in previous annual conferences but are yet to be implemented by individual member countries due to lack of commitment to the association. She also noted that for APLESA to be a vibrant association, all members must focus on the salient issues facing the association and also implement all the resolutions made in annual conferences. In so doing, the association will be able to market itself and also attract new members and development partners.

She also took the opportunity to welcome East African Legislative Assembly into the Association.

4.8 SESSION VI II - ELECTION OF THE APLESA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 2 of Article V of the APLESA Constitution stipulates two years as the term of office of the Executive Committee. The outgoing Executive Committee term of office would have expired in 2004 had the association managed to convene then. However, failure by the association to convene its annual conferences in the past years led to a constitutional crisis.

Consequently, elections were held during the conference and a new APLESA Executive committee was elected as follows:-

1. Mr. Simon Engitu – Chairperson (Uganda Parliament)
2. Mrs. Esther Kamau – Vice-Chair (Kenya Parliament)
3. Mr. Innocent Rugambwa – Treasurer (Uganda Parliament)
4. Mr. Fanuel Banda – Secretary (Zambia Parliament)
5. Ms. Marianne Gei-Khobes – Committee Member (Namibia Parliament)
6. Mr. Maxwel Banda – Committee Member (Malawi Parliament)

4.9 SESSION IX - APLESA RESOLUTIONS

During the plenary discussions of the 10th APLESA Conference, Members made the following resolutions: -

- APLESA Members to come up with respective Collection Development Policies before the next conference.
- APLESA conference proceedings to be made ready and distributed to members before the next conference.