



**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FROM 24TH NOVEMBER 2023 TO 22ND MARCH 2024
FOR SCECSAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AT SCECSAL HELD AT PRIDEINN MOMBSA KENYA
MAKATLEHO AMELIA MAFUBE/MRS. (CHAIRPERSON)**

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26 April, 2024

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Lesotho Library Association Executive Committee (LLA-EC), it is indeed a great honour for me to have this opportunity to present the Chairperson's Report from 24th November 2023 to date. This report is going to reflect the achievements, challenges and the future plans for the association from last year, 2023 to date.

2.0 SCECSAL ACTIVITIES

- (i) The member Library Associations are required to present Biennial country reports at the General Assembly of the Standing Conference. In general, the reports highlight various activities in relation to Library and Information profession in the country and the implementation of the SCECSAL General Assembly resolutions and decisions adopted at the previous SCECSAL Conference.
- (ii) To populate the SCECSAL BLOG with the activities done by member Library Associations.
 - LLA did not manage to fulfill the mandate due to various challenges e.g our website was not operation for a long time.
- (iii) To bid for hosting SCECSAL as stipulated by the General Assembly
 - LLA missed the chance to bid for SCECSAL 2028 due to other commitments.

3.0 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:

1. For this reporting period, the association was not able to hold training workshops. However, the association in collaboration with national University of Lesotho, faculty of Humanities managed to do some developments in relation to LIS Programme.
 - First group, in 2023, eleven (11) students acquired Bachelor Degree in Library and Information Science (BLIS);
 - The second group, in 2022, fourteen (14) students acquired BLIS;
 - Another group in 2023; and
 - The current (2024) number of BLIS students is ten (10).
2. In 2023, there was no award winning trophy for the best performer. We encourage the students to work harder than they do.

4.0 NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

1. During this reporting year, the Association held the following meetings. The dates of the meetings and resolutions reached are outlined on the template below. (Reflected on the LLA SG Report). The dates and resolutions were indicated.
2. LLA membership is expected to take part in the forthcoming International Conference to be held in August 2024 at Thaba-Bosiu Cultural village as per the formal invitation we got from NUL Library.

5.0 PUBLICATIONS

LLA Face book Page and LLA Website URL is www.lla.org.ls was resuscitated. As a result, members are encouraged to populate this website and continue to use the LLA Facebook in order to advocate for our profession.

6.0 PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Academic Libraries for establishment of inter lending scheme is completed and circulating amongst member libraries for endorsement. The Association decided to pilot it with Academic Libraries and the plan is to expand the service to other libraries in the country (the updates of the MoU will be elaborated by one of EC members)

6.1 IFLA, AFLIA SCECSAL partnership with LLA.

7.0 OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

7.1 Key activities carried out by the Association during this reporting period:

1. The Association is still pursuing the matter of the outstanding Library Bill
With The State Library and Archives for passing by the parliament of Lesotho,
2. The two Professional bodies, Lesotho Library Association (LLA) and Lesotho Library Consortium (LELICO) paid a courtesy call to the Ministries of Science, Technology and Communication as well as Minister of Education and Training,
3. Completed the construction of Toilets at the LLA site and it is now operational;
4. Purchased the office furniture(table and eleven (11) chairs for the Boardroom;
5. Donated books with 'Mantsopa Rotary Club at Maryland in Leribe District on the 4th March, 2023,
6. Managed to resuscitate LLA website. It is now operational. The URL is [website www.lla.org.ls](http://www.lla.org.ls)
7. Represented the Association of Civil society to Prime Ministers` address on his plans of the government for national development,
8. As a move to promote, safeguard and encourage the establishment and improvement of libraries and professional interests of librarians, the Association visited the following schools:
 - Lesia High School to assist them to set up the school Library in Maseru
 - St Agnes High School in Berea
 - Kolonyama High School in Leribe
 - Sechaba High School in Leribe
9. The Association as a civil society participated in the following:
 - a. National reforms,
 - b. LCN NGO week,
 - c. Sensitization of public on local Government national elections,
 - d. International Literacy day on the 14th September, 2023
 - e. Development of National University 2023/2028 Strategic plan.

10. Attended the Curriculum and assessment symposium program on the 28 to 29th March, 2023,
11. Coordinated with NSS officials on the 24th January, 2023 who collected the profession challenges for solutions
12. Attended the number of workshops for information sharing and capacity development.
13. In 2023 LLA uploaded the IFLA Library Map of the world for Lesotho.
 - IFLA Library Map of the world is a representative source of basic statistics and a robust tool providing country level data and a worldwide comparison of different library performance metrics by region.
 - Libraries are leading promoters and providers of free access to all types of information to all citizens. To show the potential of the global library field, the Library Map of the world features.
 - All types of libraries, including national, academic, public, community, school, and special libraries.
 - In addition, the Library Map of the world is also a platform providing access to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) stories demonstrating how libraries in different countries contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and serves as partners in meeting local development needs.

8.0 CHALLENGES

The Association has the following challenges:

1. Delay of the Lesotho Parliament to pass the National Library Act,
2. Lack of members enthusiasm in the profession.
3. Lack of Financial Capacity to achieve the Association's goals and objectives,
4. Didn't celebrate International Library week on the 22nd April, 2023 as originally planned because the office of CEO in Botha-Bothe district declined the venue on the 11th hour,

5. Lack of financial support (Subvention) from the government of Lesotho.
6. Unfulfilled mandate of Sub-committees due to financial constraints.

9.0 LLA's plans for the future

1. Strengthens internal seminars, workshops, Research and writing skills.
2. Continues soliciting funding for the development of the library profession,
3. Complete the process of financial policy,
4. Complete the process of registering the revised LLA constitution with relevant stakeholders,
5. Revise LLA subscription fees
6. Improve on observing some of the international professional events,
7. Participates actively in affiliated professional associations' activities (AfLIA, IFLA and SCECSAL etc.) and sends a reasonable number delegation to such organizations` conferences and seminars.
8. To encourage Library personnel to attend training whether (Full time or on distance learning).
9. Liaises with the Ministry of Education and Training and other related stakeholders to prioritize the establishment of school, public and community libraries in the country.

10.0 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Lesotho Library Association`s membership stands as follows:

Membership Category	Female	Male	Total
Professional members	1	1	2
Associate members/retired	35	60	95
Student members			
Totals	36	61	97

The number is gradually increasing from 74 to 97 from the past reporting period.

11.0 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is important to note that, the current outgoing Executive Committee of the Lesotho Library Association was elected on the 29th October 2021 on the Annual General Meeting held at Selibeng Conference Center, Ha Motlohelo in the district of Maseru, Lesotho..

The outgoing committee that took place for duration of two years stands as follows:

No	Designation	Names	Status
1	Chairperson	Mrs. 'Makatlho Mafube	
2	Vice Chairperson	Mr. Ts'oeu Thamae	
3	Secretary	Ms. Deliwe Thaanyane	
4	Vice Secretary	Ms. 'Mamoeletsi Monyane	
5	Treasurer	Mrs. Seeng Sefeane	
6	Editor	Mr. Chris Makhele	
7	Assistant Editor	Ms. Nteboheng Makhotla	On study leave
8	Public Relations Officer	Mr. Cletus Mathabathe	
9	Member	Prof. M. Moshoeshe-Chadzingwa	
10	Member	Ms. Puseletso Seutloali	

11.1 LLA sub-committees

According to the LLA constitution, the association has about four subcommittees in order to run the errands of the association jointly with the executive committee. Those committees were elected immediately after the elections of the executive committee. The subcommittees are as follows:

School Libraries	Regional Libraries	Fundraising	Editorial	Research & Development
Mrs. Mafube & Mr. Thamae	Mr. Thamae & Mrs. Mafube	Mrs. Sefeane & Ms. Seutloali	Mrs. Thaanyane Mr. Mathabathe Mr. Makhele Ms. Maichu	Pro. Moshoeshe-Chadzingwa Ms. Mamoeletsi Monyane
Sub-Members	Sub-members	Sub-members	Sub-members	Sub-members
Seobi Mapapane	Mr. Ntho Mota (South)	Mr.Ntala Mofoka	Ms. Mantsali Ntaote	Joalane Molantoa
Ms.Thato Ntili	Mr. Tankiso Rapoea (Central)	Ms. Mpho Likhang	Mrs. Mateboho Kubutu	Mampoetsi Makhoali
Ms. Senate Thuube	Matla Majela (North)		Ms. Relebohile P. Letuka	Nthahabiseng Marole

Mrs. Mantsetse Ramarothole			Mr. Tumisang Moloi	
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12.0 OFFICIAL CONTACT ADDRESS

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