
Namibia Information Workers Association

P.O. Box 308 Windhoek*

NIWA CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2017

REPORT FOR THE NAMIBIA INFORMATION WORKERS ASSOCIATION (NIWA) FOR 2016/2017, WINDHOEK: NAMIBIA.



Reading to children is the First Lady of Namibia Madam (Monica Geingos), Far left is Deputy Minister of Education Arts and Culture (Ester Anna Nghipondoka), Second last is Minister of Education Arts and Culture (Katrina Hanse-Himarwa) and far right is the Senior Education Officer (Mazinza Ndala) at the official launch of ReadNamibia in 2016 at Rossing Community Library, Katutura, Windhoek.

COMPILED BY: Venomuinjo Kauaria (NIWA Chairperson), 2017

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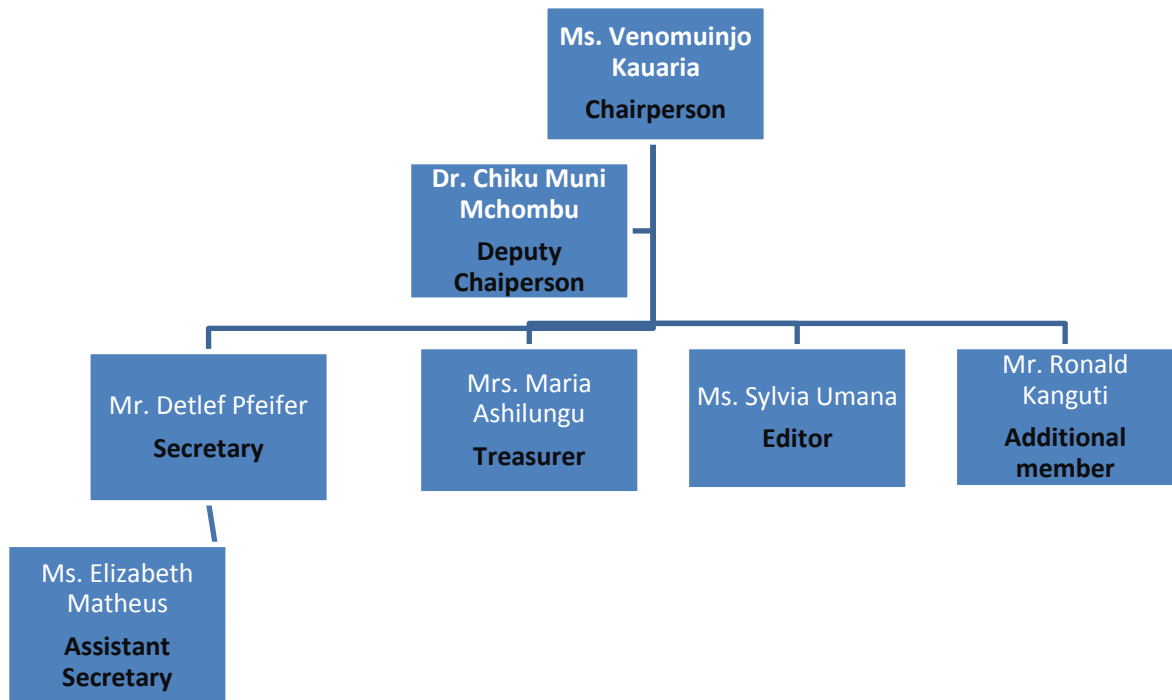
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1. Leadership Structure for 2016/2017



2. Members' Achievements

NIWA would like to congratulate the following members for their achievements:

- Prof Kingo Mchombu was appointed as Acting Vice-Chancellor for The International University of Management (IUM) in 2017.
- Ms. Venomuinjo Kauaria was appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary in The Ministry of Education Arts and Culture.
- Mrs. Hertha Iipinge was appointed as Head of Archives at The University of Namibia (UNAM).
- Ms. Namutenya Hamwaala was appointed as Deputy Director for the Directorate of Namibia Library and Archives Services (NLAS) in the Ministry of Education.
- Dr. Chiku Mchombu was appointed as the coordinator for The Human Rights and Documentation Centre at UNAM.

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- Mr. Werner Hillebrecht has retired.

3. Membership Activities

3.1 Membership Drives

During 2015, we had 144 members. The first membership drive was carried out in August 2016 whereby Ms. Elizabeth Matheus spoke to the 1st, 3rd and 4th year students studying towards Library and Information Science and Records and Archives Management at the University of Namibia.

Another drive was done by Ms. Ashilungu at UNAM with the diploma students of Library Science and Records and Archives Management, in January 2017.

3.2 Northern Branch

In 2016, NIWA managed to start up the Northern branch which is currently being piloted. The branch is having Mr. Sam Kasurua as the interim chairperson and Ms. Selma Enkono as the interim secretary.



The EXCOM pictured with the Northern Branch Interim leaders (Selma Enkono) second from left and (Sam Kasurua) 3rd from right.

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3.3 Membership Status

NIWA is a paid up member of the following:

- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- The Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL)
- Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA)
- Africa Library and Information Association and Institution (AFLIA)

3.4 Meetings

After the hand-over meeting on the 16th November 2015, NIWA had 16 meetings inclusive of the EXCOM meetings, general meetings and Annual General Meetings (AGM).



The EXCOM pictured with the members at one of the meetings

3.5 Financial Status

The current financial status for NIWA is N\$70,418.87 (see financial statement attached).

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4. Strategic plan

For the very first time, we managed to come up with a Strategic Plan for 5 years 2017-2021. The workshop took place on the 02nd and 09th of December 2016 at the University of Namibia which was facilitated by Prof. Kingo Mchombu. (See strategic objectives attached).



Prof. Kingo Mchombu facilitating on the 02nd December 2016



Members at the workshop, 09th December 2016

5. Information Conference

NIWA was one of the partner institutions at the Information Professional conference that was hosted by the University of Namibia (UNAM) on the 30th and 31st of August 2017. The association was represented by Mrs. Maria Ashilungu from the organising committee. The conference was well attended by the members from different regions in Namibia who also got the opportunity to present their papers. It was an honour to have

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such an important conference where librarians and information officer were able to share experiences, tackle challenges and also come up with resolutions on how we can move the profession forward.



Presenters captured during the conference at UNAM PK1Hall

6. Read Namibia

Read Namibia is a coalition of librarians, teachers, diplomats, booksellers and academics. The program is working hard with different reading activities every month at different public places including malls for children and parents to foster the culture of reading in Namibia. The EXCOM have been representing NIWA in preparation of different events.

The Read Namibia campaign was launched in September 2016 during the READ-ATHON annual event of the Ministry of Education Arts and culture which was officiated

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by the First Lady of Namibia Madam Monica Geingos. This is a continuous project that will continue in supporting the Namibian child.



First lady of Namibia Madam Monica Geingos at the launch of Read Namibia in September 2016



Learners from different schools in Khomas Region holding the Read Namibia banner

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Dr. C. Mchombu and Ms. E. Matheus pictured with volunteers at Wernill Park Mall after a reading session

Many NIWA members were trained as volunteers to read out to children and empower parents with the reading skills.



Training of new volunteers for read Namibia at the American Embassy residence

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7. Information Bill



EXCOM discussing the information bill

Since 2016, the association have been trying to reach out to the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) in order to have a workshop to discuss and give inputs on the information bill. NIWA managed to have a workshop on the information bill on the 20th October 2017 whereby Mr. Frans Nghitila- Deputy Director in the Ministry of Information and Communication; Mr. Reagan Malumo Editor and Mr. Herman Kangootui; Media Monitoring representatives from MICT attended to facilitate the workshop.

It was however concluded that NIWA will be invited to make their contributions by 2018 with other stakeholder to the consultation workshop that the ministry will be organising. By then the document was not in their hands and they indicated that other items might have been removed or added in the bill.

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*Members in attendance pictured with representatives from MICT
at the Information bill discussion at Goethe Institute*

8. SCECSAL 2020

Uganda will be hosting SCECSAL 2018. We urge you all to make an effort to go represent Namibia and welcome the announcement for hosting SCECSAL 2020 in Namibia. NIWA is ready to host SCECSAL 2020; the National Organising Committee was formed by representatives from different member institutions as follows:

Chairperson:	Dr. Chiku Mchombu- UNAM HRDC
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Wilhelm Uutoni- UNAM- Department of Information and Communication studies
Secretary:	Ms. Foibe Shaambeni- NUST Library
Deputy Secretary:	Ms. Paulina Hamukwaya- Goethe Institute
Treasurer:	Ms. Ritva Niskara- UNAM Library
Deputy Treasurer:	Mrs. Sabina Negumbo- NLAS
Publicity:	Ms. Sylvia Umana- NUST Library

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Member:	Ms. Elizabeth Matheus- IUM Library
Member:	Ms. Helena Nambili- UNAM Library
Member:	Mr. Bertold Kalipi- City of Windhoek
Member:	Mrs. Aletta Dunn- NLAS
Member:	Ms. Zanjinganja Ndjarakana- Ministry of Agriculture
Member:	Mrs. Sylvia Katjepunda- NIPAM
Member:	Ms. Hilya P. Robert – Parliament Library

The committee have opened a bank account for SCECSAL Namibia, the webpage is also underway and the team is trying its best to make sure that all the members in the committee attends SCECSAL 2018 in Uganda to learn best practices in preparation for SCECSAL 2020.



SCECSAL committee members at a meeting held at Bank of Namibia

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9. Advocacy Committee

As per the strategic plan, NIWA had to come up with the advocacy committee in order to spearhead the advocacy activities for the association.

The Advocacy committee was formed and consists of the following members:

Ms. Elizabeth Matheus:	IUM Library
Ms. Aletta Dunn:	NLAS, Library Community Services
Ms. Nomusa Senzanje:	National Library
Ms. Ritva Niskara:	UNAM Library
Mrs. Sabina Negumbo:	NLAS
Mrs. Victoria Isacks:	NLAS, Library Community Services
Ms. Melba Mabuku-Siwala:	NLAS
Ms. Kathleen Gauises:	NLAS
Ms. Uetujama Kazavanga:	NLAS, National Archive
Ms. Helen Spargo:	NLAS, Education Library

The committee is busy looking for partners and sponsors in order to materialize the advocacy project based on a documentary. The documentary will outline how libraries contribute to Sustainable Development Goals. The committee has started with collecting success stories and calling upon anyone based at public libraries to share their success stories. The committee is also busy assisting different existing projects that are contributing to the SDGs in the country, including the Read Namibia project and ICT training.

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Advocacy committee pictured with the Deputy Director (Namutenya Hamwalwa) first on the right in the second row after a briefing meeting at the National Library of Namibia.

10. IFLA Activities

10.1 International Advocacy Programme (IAP)



Namibian representatives in attendance with other participants at the IFLA International Advocacy Regional Workshop in Pretoria, South Africa.

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Two of our members Ms. Elizabeth Matheus and Mrs. Aletta Dunn attended the workshop in Pretoria, South Africa from the 23rd – 24th November 2016 which was fully sponsored by IFLA. The workshop was under the theme *“Libraries, development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda”*.

10.2 IFLA Global Vision

One of the members (Maria Ashilungu) was sponsored by IFLA with air tickets and accommodation to attend the IFLA Global Vision in Cameroon, May 2017. The workshop aimed at the global vision of all libraries whereby all countries were expected to meet up with their members and send a report to IFLA. However UNAM and NIWA paid the member's overnight in Addis Ababa. Two meetings were held in Namibia; first one on the 18th August 2017 in Windhoek and the second on the 24th August 2017 in Ongwediva whereby Goethe institute paid for Ms. Ashilungu travelling expenses, the report was compiled and sent to IFLA in September 2017.



Ms. Ashilungu meeting the northern members, Ongwediva

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Ms. Ashilungu pictured with members in Khomas region, Windhoek

10.3 The Initiative for Young African Library Innovators (IYALI) workshop



*Ms. Ezze Elise Shekupe Peneyambeko Shipo –
Senior Librarian (Okalongo community library,
Omusati Region)*

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Ms. Shipo was selected as one of the 19 young African innovators by The Initiative for Young African Library Innovators.

It aims to expose emerging African public library innovators under 35 years old to experiences and ideas from other developing and transition economy countries, and to provide opportunities to connect their peers from Africa and global library community. IYALI is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She was exposed to different libraries in Vilnius, Lithuania 15-19 August 2017 and she joined other librarians at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress held in Wrocław, Poland (19-24 August 2017).

11. Marketing

The association is working hard to make sure that awareness is created for the association. This includes the daily WhatsApp group for discussions, the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/niwa.namibia>, Website: <http://www.niwa-namibia.org>, brochures and membership forms are distributed at all events including the conferences and EXPO.

NIWA had a stand at the UNAM Career EXPO in August 2017. The marketing of the association was done to high school learners who also had the opportunity to engage and ask about the career opportunities within the profession. Ms. Elizabeth Matheus and Dr. Chiku Mchombu spearheaded the event with the assistance of NIWA students.

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A NIWA student member (Ms. Monika Shilongo) at UNAM EXPO explaining NIWA to the learners



Dr. Chicu Mchombu pictured with Martin Shikoha and Monika Shingo at the career EXPO at UNAM

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12. Challenges

Apart from the successful story, NIWA is faced by challenges as all its committee members are fulltime employees. It makes it difficult to conduct a lot of activities due to limited time. Additionally, the association does not have office space to host meetings and keep the association equipment and members' annual subscription is always a challenge.

13. Recommendations

1. We recommend that the incoming committee sponsor the chairperson to attend SCECSAL 2018 in Uganda.
2. Incoming EXCOM to get auditors to audit the NIWA finances.
3. To look at the NIWA name change, as many people thing it is a union.

Arbitrary- The association lost Mrs Sonja Philander in 2017 who was one of the active members. May her soul continue resting in peace.

-END OF REPORT-