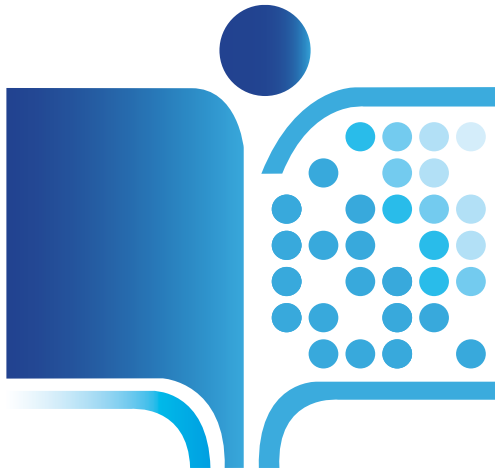


MAKWENZEKE

Edition 2, 2017

SALB celebrated Library Week in the Free State at Bartimea School and carried out re-activations of the MiniLibs during this last period.

SALB proudly celebrates the Oliver Tambo centenary!



SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

An agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

TOP DOT'S AT SALB

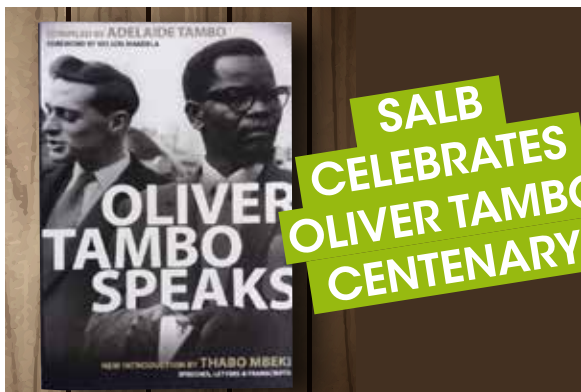


THE SA LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND started the Top Dot Award initiative to recognise success and positive contribution of staff on any level. Five staff members received a Top Dot Certificate for their contributions to the Library. Florence Jadi is from our Library Department and she successfully completed her B. Information Studies Degree at UNISA. Petro Taai was nominated for her positive work ethic in the Audio Production Department of the Library and for completing 41,278 page numberings of audio books. Johan Nel from our Technical Support Section received the Award for keeping the Library vehicle in an immaculate condition to such an extent that it was acknowledged by one of the Library's Board Members. Cornelia Ntengu from the Braille Production Department received the Award for resolving a software issue one of her colleagues had been experiencing over a long period of time. Vuyo Kampu is one of the Interns at the Library and he received the Award for successfully solving a PDF conversion problem we experienced during the scanning of the Library's Archival records.

We are proud of our Top Dots and their valuable contributions.



CELEBRATING
LIBRARY
WEEK
- PAGE 3



"SIGHT" SEEING IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

The ground-breaking entity that caters for a minority, has all its hands-on deck.

The South African Library for the Blind (SALB) has positioned its representatives throughout the country to ensure that their purposes are being carried out fully. In the Northern Cape, a fruitful partnership between SALB and the Northern Cape Library Services (NCLS) was established in August of 2016.

The partnership was key in identifying the areas that needed attending to. Seven sites were pinned down to give the representative a clear indication on where to carry out the purpose at hand. The first site that was visited was Retlameleng School for the Blind, a centre that was scarce on resources, but in turn has dedicated workers that cater for the blind and the visually impaired. The main need that SALB has catered for in this sense is making a library available to the centre. The Library will broaden members knowledge and their willingness to learn.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture thereafter identified the John Taolo District as one of the areas that needed attending to. Due to Kuruman being a scattered area, the representative suggested to have one

central hub that can cater for the entire area. The hub will be situated in Mothibistad. The reason for the decision taken is that the library is centrally situated to the informal settlements and the urban areas of the site.

"With great change comes great sacrifice"
- Premier Sylvia Lucas.

The programme went on in full force, as the initiative moved on to Upington (ZF Mgcawu District) and Nabebeep (Namakwa District). A strategic relationship was formed with the Association for People with Disabilities (APD), which has satellite offices in both districts. SALB had an engagement with some of the potential users. The crowd

was very interactive and managed to highlight their individual needs as blind and visually impaired persons.

For Pixley Ka Seme District, the library will be situated in De Aar, which will serve as a hub for other surrounding towns. Since De Aar had no facilities, nor organisations that cater for the blind/visually impaired, meetings with various associations in the district took place to identify the communities 'needs'.

The feasibility study identified Galeshewe and Jan Kemp Library as the most viable for the Mini-Library project. These two stations already have potential users from Ivy Kroos Workshop for the Blind (Kimberley), and Thusano Self Help Group (Jan Kempdorp).

The stakeholder key to making this road a victory is the Office of the Premier, who are eager to be partnered with SALB. Maphalane Disability Trust Fund is willing to assist with the contents of the library. A proposal for funding will be submitted in August 2017. The Northern Cape Province is honoured to be part of such a great initiative, which will have a vast impact in our community.

"With great change comes great sacrifice" - Premier Sylvia Lucas.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

THERE IS, as yet, no progress on the upgrading of the existing building contract for the new Library building.

The finalisation of the Site Clearance and Deed of Donation documents have not yet been signed off by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC).

The Department of Public Works (DPW) expects to receive the Planning Instruction document from DAC on the 29th of June 2017, which will allow the DPW to appoint Architects and Quantity Surveyors.

Please watch this space in the next Makwenzeke for more news regarding the Library building upgrade and extension.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

INTERACTIVE CELEBRATIONS



Group photo of Bartimea School Gr 11 and Gr 12 students with Principal Nthabiseng Nthuping and Patricia Magabie (SALB) on the left, and Vuyo Mandongana (SALB) on the right.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND (SALB) did it again this year when they put smiles on the faces of the grade 11 and 12 learners at Bartimea School for the Deaf and Blind in Thaba Nchu.

On Thursday 23 March 2017 SALB celebrated the South African Library Week at Bartimea School. This has become an annual event for the SALB, where one school from the 22 Schools for the Blind in the country is selected and visited for Library Week celebrations. Ms Patricia Magabie and Ms Vuyo Mandongana, the outreach staff who represented SALB at the school started the programme by emphasizing the importance of reading and using the library. They further explained services rendered by the SALB and benefits of being a library member.

The learners took part in various activities such as reading competitions, spelling and Braille games. In events of this nature SALB staff always make sure that the programme is casual so the learners may participate freely. The reading competition had two categories, Braille and Large Print. All the learners were eager to participate and enjoyed the events. The judges were all impressed with how the learners performed. In the partially sighted category Grade 12 learners Poloko Zola and Ponelelopele Molutsi excelled with an 86% tie.



Gr 12 student Poloko Zola reading in Large Print.



Seen enjoying the Library Week celebrations are, left to right: Principal Nthabiseng Nthuping, Gr 12 student Poloko Zola, Vuyo Mandongana (SALB) and Gr 12 student Ponelelopele Molutsi.

In Braille participants, Nyakallo Thaele received the first prize with 86% and Thabiso Mokose was a runner up with 80%.

The Deputy Principal Ms Nthabiseng Nthuping was very grateful for the programme and asserted that it really contributed to their learning programme. SALB is planning to continue with this programme and ensure that the importance of libraries is realised and the slogan "Blind people love reading" is brought to life across the South African Blind community.

SALB attend the Meeting of SA Braille Authority

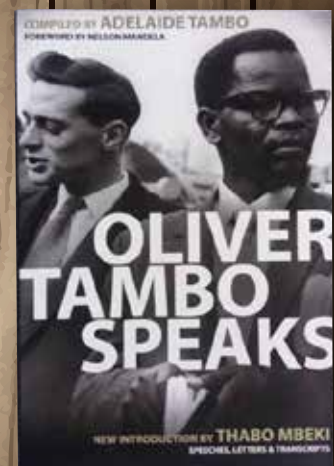
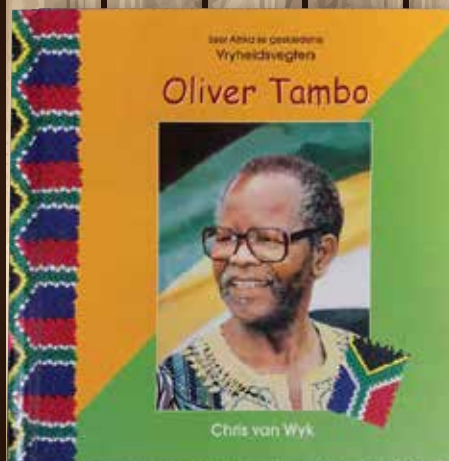
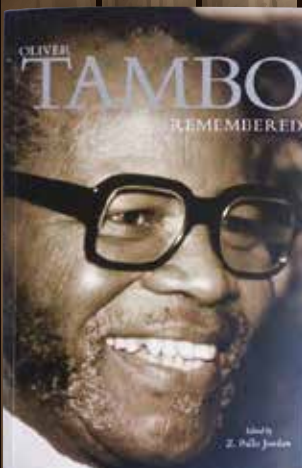
The Annual General Assembly of the South African Braille Authority took place on 25 and 26 May, 2017.

As a member of the Braille Authority, SALB attended the assembly.

Matters under discussion included Braille Code Maintenance, among which were the use of the Apostrophe, Diacritics in Afrikaans and Accreditation and Braille Standards.



CELEBRATING OLIVER TAMBO CENTENARY 1917 - 2017



BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE IN **BRaille** AND **Audio**
FORMAT FOR THE **BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

blind people  reading

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ALMOST HALF A MILLION SA YOUTHS HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THEIR VISION



At 4%, visual impairment is the biggest problem in the category of general health and functioning - compared with the second biggest categories which are at 1% and include problems with walking, communication, hearing, and self-care.

THE WORLD IS A BLURRY PLACE FOR ALMOST HALF A MILLION YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS.

This is according to a new Youth Explorer portal launched by the University of Cape Town on Youth Day.

It shares crucial data on issues affecting the youth of our country, and it reveals that around 450,000 South African youths are experiencing difficulty in seeing, even when using glasses.

At 4%, visual impairment is the biggest problem in the category of general health and functioning - compared with the second biggest categories which are at 1% and include problems with walking, communication, hearing, and self-care.

According to the portal, the country has around 10-million youth between the ages of 15 to 24.

Of those 10-million youths living around the country, 4% of youth in Mpumalanga, Western Cape, KZN and

Eastern Cape experience difficulty in seeing even when wearing glasses.

In Gauteng and the Northern Cape and North-West Province it is 5%, and in Limpopo, 3%.

The real outlier, with a staggering figure of 8%, is the Free State. According to Lene Øverland, CEO of Orbis Africa,

**AT 4%, VISUAL IMPAIRMENT
IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN
THE CATEGORY OF GENERAL
HEALTH AND FUNCTIONING**

which aims towards ensuring access to eye-health services for all in the region, visual impairment of youth affects families and communities, not just the individual.

"If the eyes are the window to the soul, they are also a window onto the enormous role that young people play in communities in Africa. That is why it is everybody's business – from the global community to the individual family

– to ensure that no young people, who are in the prime of their lives, are needlessly blind or visually impaired." Female youth are particularly vulnerable when compared with young men, she added.

In Africa, women are 1.4 times more likely to go blind than men and 57% of the vision-impaired in South Africa are women.

"Eye health conditions are a major setback for the youth, because of the lost potential in economic activity whether in the formal or informal sector. Not only does bad eye health curtail their ability to

be breadwinners, it sets them up as a burden to their families and they are also often ostracised. Many conditions are treatable and preventable, but there is a lack of awareness around this."

-TimesLIVE

Source: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2017-06-16-almost-half-a-million-sa-youths-have-problems-with-their-vision/>

EVENTS HELD IN 2017

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2017 it was decided that we would re-activate Mini-Library services at existing libraries where the services of the Mini-Library has been stagnant for a while due to challenges being experienced either with transport for members, faulty equipment or training of library staff. We held awareness events for the members to rekindle the excitement for the Mini-Library services and what it offers to blind people. These services include the facilitation of group meetings, creating support groups and access to electronic books and equipment for the blind.

We have had re-activation awareness events in the Humansdorp, Adelaide and Addo libraries.

RE-ACTIVATION EVENT - HUMANSDORP LIBRARY



RE-ACTIVATION EVENT - ADELAIDE LIBRARY



RE-ACTIVATION EVENT - ADDO LIBRARY



NEWLY ESTABLISHED MINILIB - PATENSIE LIBRARY



A Daisy Reader handover was done for new members at the MiniLib being established at the Patensie library in anticipation of the MiniLib equipment being installed shortly.

LIBRARY WEEK CELEBRATIONS AT NEW BRIGHTON LIBRARY

A BIG AWARENESS EVENT was held for National Library Week earlier this year at New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, and MiniLib members from Motherwell and Elukhanyisweni libraries attended.

The highly successful and interactive event was well attended. Our members discussed how Daisy Players and Audio Books have enriched their lives. Arts and crafts made by the blind members were on display. These beautiful works are being sold locally to provide additional income for blind members.



SALB IN KZN

RECENT ACTIVITIES

WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS WERE HELD AT NQUTHU ON THE 24TH TO THE 25TH APRIL 2017.

The National Library of SA (NLSA) through Center for the Book hosts World Book Day celebrations in different Provinces every year. KZN was identified as the host Province in 2017. The celebration was collaborated between NLSA and KZN Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) Library Services. The entire Nquthu community came in numbers to celebrate this day, including the KZN Arts and Culture MEC, Mrs Bongiwé Sithole-Moloi. SALB held demonstrations and provided information on the assistive reading devices for the MiniLib at the venue.



*Sithembile Mkhize, SALB KZN Project Ass
addressing Kzn Arts and Culture MEC,
Mrs Bongiwé Sithole-Moloi.*



*School teacher, Zodwa Sithole, looks on
happily as the children interact together with
the MiniLib equipment.*



*Sithembile Mkhize, SALB KZN Project Ass. clearly
appreciating this work of art.*

THE VISIT TO NKANDLA LIBRARY on the 26th May 2017 turned into an exciting educational session for the learners from Sithandiwe Special School. The learners were excited to use the computer device and they all exclaimed and marvelled that it could talk. SALB was present to offer monitoring and support at the library as well as to once again demonstrate and provide information on the assistive devices for the MiniLib to the patrons at the venue.

SALB VISITED MSINGA LIBRARY to discuss patron mobilisation strategies, new registrations as well as library programmes to increase community awareness. The visit was not limited to work only as SALB was treated to a tour of the beautiful premises thanks to the young librarian, Nompumelelo Majola, who came up with the idea of erecting a silver book structure. This huge book installation not only makes the library look stunning but also intrigues passersby with its beauty and encourages reading in the community.



*Nquthu community queuing to enter the mobile library
for loads of reading information.*