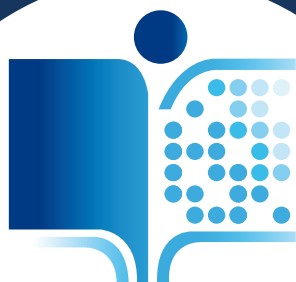


MAKWENZEKE

#1
2022



**SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND**

An agency of the
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

SALB Head Office gets a major over-hall, great strides made in Mini-Library 'roll-out' across the country, and a second satellite recording studio is launched to bolster our indigenous language audio catalogues.



**Dr Gcina
Mhlophe in
collaboration
with the SALB
launches two of
her books in
Braille**

Storyteller extraordinaire!

Storyteller extraordinaire and author, Dr Gcina Mhlophe launches two of her books in English Braille; Nozincwadi: Mother of Books and An African Mother Christmas.

This great achievement has been made possible through the partnership between her NGO Gcinamasiko Arts & Heritage Trust (GAHT) and the South African Library for the Blind (SALB) who so generously sponsored the translation and printing of these books. They came together in an inspirational event on the 11th of September 2021 under The Storytelling Tree at the Bluff Showgrounds, Durban to officially launch these publications, with the support of eThekweni Library Services. The Nozincwadi book in particular celebrated 20 years this year along with the Nozincwadi Literacy Campaign which was celebrated on World Book Day, April 2021 and this launch served as a continuation of this celebration.

The CEO of SALB, Mr Mandla Ntombela did the official handover of the books to Dr Mhlophe along with eThekweni Library Services, a special needs school and the KZN Society for the Blind. A reading from the Braille books was done by several people of the blind community in Durban. Amongst storytelling and poetry performances by Siyabonga Ndlela and Kwazi Ndlangisa, the talented blind musician Mr 'Chaos' Sizwe Nzimande performed and shared his story. Struggle Stalwart, Mr Sam Moodley honoured the event and author, Ms Deborah Ewing gave a talk about her most recent publication. GAHT officially handing over their newly self-published book Our Storytelling Tree: A South African Storytellers Directory to the representatives of SALB and eThekweni Library Services.



blindpeople  reading

3 Nov - 3 Dec

Commemorating National Disability Rights Awareness Month

Do you understand the realities of living without sight?

‘NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE’

South Africa commemorated National Disability Rights Awareness Month between 3 November and 3 December.

3 December is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and is also commemorated as National Disability Rights Awareness Day.

The month long campaign carried weekly sub-themes which are reflected in the

Medium Term Strategic Framework (2019-2024) of government. The following sub-themes were intended to focus conversations on priority areas identified by the disability sector, which also link to the seven priorities of government:

- **Week 1:** Children and young people with disabilities empowered to chart their own destiny through access to quality lifelong learning
- **Week 2:** A built environment accessible to all persons with disabilities

- **Week 3:** Persons with disabilities as equal players in building inclusive economies
- **Week 4:** Children and women with disabilities – feeling and being safe as equal citizens in their communities

Disability is the consequence of an impairment that may be physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental, or some combination of these. A disability may be present from birth, or occur during a person's lifetime.

PROMOTING MINI-LIBRARY SERVICES

in Mafikeng



THE SALB visited two high schools, Batswana Secondary and Boitsanape Technical, in Mafikeng to promote our Mini-Library services and to identify visually impaired learners who may



not have information about SALB.

This community outreach was in collaboration with Mafikeng Community Library where the SALB has a dedicated Mini-Library for blind and visually impaired readers, and was attended by the



SALB North West Coordinator Lebohlang Oliphant.

The person doing the presentation is MR LAVIOUS MOGOROSI, who is visually impaired and works in the Mafikeng Community Library.

NEW OFFICES AND UPGRADED FACILITIES A BREATH OF FRESH AIR!

“
SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS
HAS BEEN
MADE
”

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION!**


PROGRESS on the building updates is well underway and the staff at SALB are looking forward to the upgraded facilities once these have been completed.

Significant progress has been made, such as the old Audio building having been completely gutted, the old cottage in Hemming Street has also been gutted and once the old generator has been moved to the new generator plinth it will make the digging of the foundations for the new double story office block possible.

The plinth for the water storage tank which will feed the fire reels inside the building via a pressure pump has been cast and is ready for the installation of the modular steel tank.

The new double garage has its roof trusses in place and is waiting for the windows and doors. Once the final inspection has taken place the plastering of the garage walls can begin. The new diesel fuel store is at roof height, and a fire proof ceiling will be cast soon.

Further updates will be made available as the project moves along.

A photograph of two men standing in front of a purple sign that says 'MINI-LIBRARY'. The sign also features a white icon of a house with a book inside and a pair of headphones. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a dark jacket over a light shirt. The man on the right is wearing a checkered shirt and has glasses on his head.

Dream comes true -

SALB launches a dedicated recording studio within the community

Seen at the Mdantsane Mini-Library recording studio are left, Nkululeko Nteta and right, Melton Kivitts.

THE South African Library for the Blind (SALB) in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Department: Sport Recreation Arts and Culture (ECSRAC) launched a Mini-Library (Mini-Lib) in the community of Mdantsane Township in 2014 with the objective of providing library and information services for blind and visually impaired people in the surrounding areas. This is achieved through the provisioning of assistive devices and reading material.

SALB recently launched a **RECORDING STUDIO** at Mdantsane Mini-Library in conjunction with ECSRAC

The studio, which was launched on **Friday 19 March 2021**, works hand-in-hand with the SALB Audio Department based at the head office in Makhandla, benefitting members by creating reading material in their Eastern Cape mother-tongue languages.

The recording studio has 2 recording booths, and is aimed at giving local narrators access to studio time to record their book narration using the high-technology recording equipment.

Nkululeko Nteta, originally from Queenstown, **Studied Library and Information Sciences at Walter Sisulu University** at the campus in Alice but soon experienced the lack of job opportunities in his field in the Eastern Cape, and started his own farming project in Keiskamma Hoek. "I didn't want to depend on anyone for my 'bread and butter' and I was not in a position to just sit around, so I decided to start this project. I have two full-time and 2 casual people in my employ already".

Mr Nteta, who currently resides in Mdantsane, is responsible for the overseeing and daily functioning of the Mdantsane recording studio. "We depend on his valuable leadership and project management skills at this recording studio. SALB head office depends a lot on this new studio for increasing our number of books in indigenous language" said Melton Kivitts, head of Audio Production

at the SALB.

Principal Librarian at the Mdantsane Public Library Nontando Nyikana said that "this appointment is very important for the Library. The Mini-Library is vital for our area as we have a huge demand for books for our blind and visually impaired readers in indigenous languages. This recording studio will assist us in ensuring that the needs of the community who make use of these services will be taken care of".

"We have started to roll out similar projects in North West and Mpumalanga which we hope to complete this year. Our aim is to roll-out similar projects in all provinces. **Our focus is to advance literacy programmes for the blind and visually impaired in the communities and encourage our members to have a positive attitude towards reading**" said Mandla Ntombela, SALB CEO.



SALB & Oasis Casual Day event - UPINGTON

3rd September 2021 commemorated the 26th Annual Casual Day Celebrations. On this day, we celebrated persons with disabilities in Upington and raised awareness about services offered by SALB and Oasis Skills Development Centre.

Throughout the years society has strayed away from the original intention of **CASUAL DAY**. This initiative became part

of the South African calendar in 1995, because persons with disabilities have been victims of discriminatory actions since the beginning of time. This day signifies that South Africans finally have an opportunity to stand in solidarity with these previously disadvantaged persons and to acknowledge the challenges they face daily.

On this auspicious occasion we were joined by persons with different disabilities, namely individuals that are Physically Challenged: Cerebral Palsy, Deaf, Down Syndrome, Autism, Fetal Alcohol

Syndrome (FAS, as well as 9 registered SALB users.

Below are the activities that took place on that day:

- **Concert.**
- An open day at Oasis Centre starting at 09h00 showcasing products made by the visually impaired and physically challenged.
- Demonstrations by SALB visually impaired users on how to use the **DAISY Player and Document Reader**.
- Candle Ceremony and fashion show representing the different disabilities.

eSIKHALENI

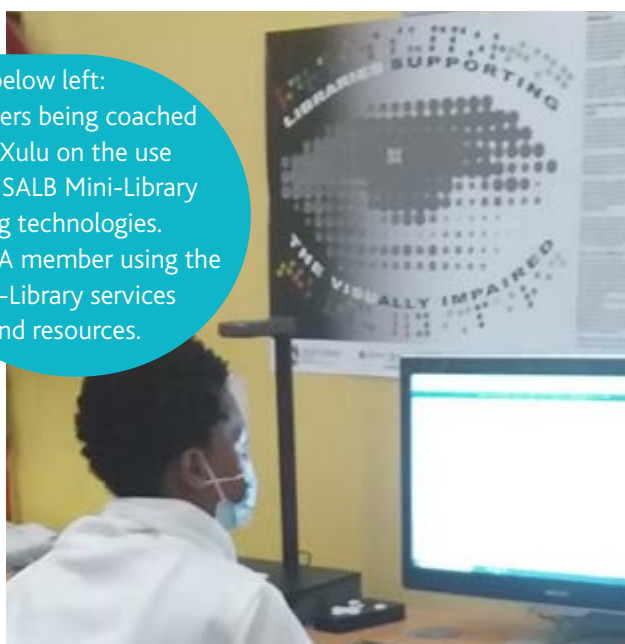
MINI-LIBRARY NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS



Seen below left:

Members being coached by Mr Xulu on the use of the SALB Mini-Library reading technologies.

Right: A member using the Mini-Library services and resources.



SALB KZN Mini-Library Coordinator visited the Esikhaleni Library recently which was fortunate to have employed the fulltime library assistant Mr Dingaan Xulu, who has a disability.

This forms part of the Governments overall National Department Plan to improve employment statistics from 13 million in 2010 to 24 million in 2030.

There is a burning desire from government to decrease poverty and inequality by raising employment, bolstering

productivity and incomes and broadening the social wage.

As the South African Library for the Blind we want to be a part of pushing this agenda for our members and people with disabilities world-wide. Mr Xulu offers his services as a champion for SALB at this Mini-Library.

Hooray, thank you Mr Xulu, we appreciate your passion and dedication to our library members!

LIMPOPO

MINI-LIBRARY NEWS

There are 10 Mini-Libraries in Limpopo province, 4 are active and 6 were implemented during 2021 and are yet to be launched/activated. We hope to implement 7 more libraries in 2022.

Covid-19 has unfortunately put a hold on many of the planned activities. Limpopo province Mini-Libraries are all newly established, having just opened to the public during the recent more relaxed level 1 lock-down in 2021. Lock-down restriction for the disabled and children have unfortunately kept many of our members away.

We are hoping to conduct induction training on Mini-Library devices and library orientation for our members in the coming months or early 2022.

Lethabo Dikgale conducted Librarian Training at the newly-established Mini-Library in **BABIRWA COMMUNITY**





SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

recently
celebrated in

**DRIEFONTEIN,
ZEERUST,**

was attended by the
SALB North West
coordinator
Lebohlang
Oliphant



BESSIE HEAD MINI-LIBRARY NEWS

KZN MINI-LIBRARY
COORDINATOR ATTENDS THE
LIBERATION OF DISABLED
PEOPLES ANNUAL EVENT



The **LIBERATION OF DISABLED PEOPLES ABILITIES** is a registered organisation that seeks to address the plight and frustration of persons with disabilities.

The foundation has an annual event to try and find ways to empower and capacitate disabled people.

SALB KZN Mini-Library Coordinator attended this event and supports this initiative.

HR UPDATE

TERMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & LONG SERVICE AWARDS

from 1 June 2021 to date

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

MR BONGILE MATINI was appointed on 01 June 2021 as Snr Projects and Mini-Libraries Coordinator. Mr Matini is a qualified Librarian with B Bbl Degree and BA Honours in Information Science. He adjusted very well leading a team of Project Coordinators and Assistants in Mini-Libraries across the Country.

MS ANGELICA ZASS joined SALB on 01 July 2021 as a Project Assistant for Western Cape. Ms Zass holds a Diploma in Accounting and Financial Computing and is highly skilled in Administration.

MS NOMSA MUKWEVHO joined SALB on 05 July 2021 as a Braille Quality Control Officer particularly in African Languages. Ms Mukwevho is in possession of Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science & Public Governance with Braille Proof Reading Experience.

MR NKULULEKO NTETA was appointed as Digital Library Technician on 1 November 2021. He is based at Mdantsane Public Library working closely with narrators. Mr Nteta has a Bachelor of Library Science and an Honours Degree in Information Science. He has adjusted very well in his new role.

KABELO IKANENG was appointed as Digital Library Technician on 1 November 2021. He is based in Rustenburg Recreation Centre working closely with narrators. Mr Ikaneng holds a Sound Engineering Certificate and has extensive experience in Sound Engineering.

Welcome aboard to all our new employees

DEATHS

XHANTI MZIZI was re-appointed in October 2021 as a Driver and General Assistant. He was an experienced driver in possession of a Valid Professional Driver Permit. He tragically passed away shortly after being reappointed and we extend sincere condolences to his family.

RESIGNATIONS

MR SIYABULELA MINI (Snr Manager: ITC) resigned during August 2021 to take up a Senior Position in another town. Mr Mini was with SALB for 5 years 2 months.

MRS NATASHA AGNEW (Executives' Office Assistant) resigned, and her last working

day was on 30 November. She has been with SALB for 10 years.

MR WISEMAN MPOSULA (Admin Assistant: Projects) resigned and his last working day was 26 November 2021. Mr Mposula served the library for 4 years 9 months.

LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION

Employees with 10 years long service at SALB

MS NOMFUNKEO MELITAFU and **MS FAITH WILLIAMS** were recognised and awarded in October 2021.

MR LIKHAYA JODWANA was recognised and awarded in November 2021.

MS UNATHI NGANGANI and **MRS NATASHA AGNEW** were recognised and awarded in December 2021.

Congratulations to these five employees on this achievement!

Left: Wiseman Mposula and Natasha Agnew seen at the staff farewell event.



The 189th SALB board meeting took place on the 11th of November 2021 at 9:00 am at the Beach Hotel, Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)

From left: Mandla Buthelezi, Yasheen Ramcharan, Linda Ngaleka, Acting Chairperson Xolisa Yekani, Dr Hamilton Mphidi, Dr Shirlene Neerputh, Pumla Mahanjana, Anil Salick from Synout and Mandla Ntombela.

'SETSWANA NARRATION PROJECT'

SETSWANA

AUDIO

PRODUCTION

TRAINING



MR KABELO IKANENG
UNDERGOING TRAINING
ON THE REQUIRED
SOFTWARE & TOOLS FOR
THE SETSWANA
NARRATION PROJECT

The North West Province of South Africa in collaboration with the South African Library for the Blind have successfully launched the 'Setswana Narration Project'.

This project works towards the SALB mandate to produce reading material in all the eleven languages of South Africa, thus ensuring that all blind and print-handicapped readers in South Africa have access to reading materials in their mother tongue. To ensure that the services rendered by the Library can be provided in all the South African languages the Library strives to produce audio recording of books in the different languages unique to South Africa. Volunteers are recorded reading books in their mother-tongue, in this instance Setswana, and these recordings are processed by the Library to create audio books. The SALB strives to provide and promote easy access to reading materials for all blind and print-handicapped readers as per our South African constitution.

Mr Kabelo Ikaneng, a sound engineer, was trained by Mr Melton Kivitts from the SALB on using the required software for the Setswana Narration Project. Although Mr Ikaneng initially was kindly volunteering his time, he has now been officially employed in this position. Welcome on board Mr Ikaneng!



COMMEMORATING NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS MONTH

ON 3 November 2021, the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) in partnership with the South African Library for the Blind (SALB), Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Iziko Museums of South Africa, Pan South African Language Board, Department of Correctional Services, Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Government Communication and Information Systems and George Municipality commemorated Disability Rights Awareness Month. Through the Community Publishing Grant, SALB long standing member Richard Albertse was empowered to self-publish his book **VISION: The Story of a Seeing Blind Man**.

The story is about a boy who loses his eyesight and his world is turned upside down. It takes us through the struggles and joys of growing up having lost one of your senses. It narrates how the little boy then struggles within his attempt to adapt to his changing world. Will this boy overcome? Will his darkness be

turned into light?

Various research suggests that for decades, persons with disabilities have been viewed as inferior and their lives seen as less valuable than those who are non-disabled. However, persons with disabilities are an important minority group in our communities. It is for this reason that the NLSA is committed to bringing about disability inclusion at every level of our operations. We will therefore host an event to create awareness about inclusivity and to promote social cohesion.

According to the World Health Organisation, persons with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population. Persons with disabilities experience exclusion, vulnerability to abuse and violence, lack of access and are more likely to experience multiple deprivations as compared to their peers. South Africa is among the signatories of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol on 30 March 2007, which are intended to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

typhlo & tactus Create a children's Tactile Illustrated Book **Competition**

WE are thrilled to announce the winners of the South African leg of the **Typhlo and Tactus** children's book manufacturers competition which was hosted by SALB in 2021. We received some really wonderful and creative entries, thanks go to all who took part in this exciting competition.

THE FIRST PLACE was very deservedly won by Mrs Christine Schutte with "*Fransina Vark Speel Wegkruipertjie*".

THE SECOND PLACE went to Robyn Fick with her delightful entry "*The five little speckled frogs*".

THIRD PLACE was scooped up by volunteer Mr A Mini with "*The giraffe with the short neck*".

FOURTH PLACE was won by Nkosinathi Foundation with "*Our South Africa: The Provinces*".

FIFTH PLACE was awarded to Khanyisa School for the Blind for a brave and enthusiastic effort completed during a school visit. The title: "*Izilwanyana zasefama*".

1ST



2ND



3RD



4TH



2021 was an amazing year and I am grateful for how passionate the SALB staff were in serving our members during trying times. It does not go unnoticed and we extend a word of gratitude to our staff.

Nangamso! (Let's do it again this year!)

Thanks to all our service providers who made it possible to serve our members as best we could during 2021 - without your support none of it would have been possible.

And most importantly, we wish our members a

Happy New Year!

We look forward to being of service to you this year.

Mandla Ntombela - CEO

EMAIL us on marketing@salb.org.za or admin@salb.org.za to obtain an electronic copy of the Makwenzeke. Like us, follow us: www.salb.org.za

