

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBABWE

## NEWSLETTER

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### NAZ SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS ESARBICA GENERAL CONFERENCE 2015

*A Great Occasion for a Great Network!*

**By Livingstone Muchefa**



The 9<sup>th</sup> of June every year is a day marked to celebrate International Archives Day across the globe. This year's celebrations were unique because the date coincided with the ESARBICA 2015 General Conference. Officiating celebrations during a cocktail organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs for all delegates at the General Conference, Cde M. Matshiya ended his remarks with the following words:

*"Let me end by proposing a toast, A Great Occasion for a Great Network!"*

A Great Occasion *ipso facto* Great Network! Yes great indeed. 18 – 25 May had witnessed celebrations of the cultural week which also included events of the Museums Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> being dedicated to the achievements of founding fathers of the AU. This explains why there was an exhibition dedicated to the founding fathers from both east and southern Africa.

#### **The Network**

The success of the Conference could have been utopian and illusionary without well organized and strategic partnership between the host institution and key stakeholders. It was not only about deliverables expected of nominated committee members. Appointing an Immigration Officer to protocol and logistical issues demanded that the person appreciates basic archival principles. In essence all committee members became *ad hoc* archivists or records managers. The success of the conference boosted confidence in the role of NAZ by the clients. NAZ is standing tall connected to all heritage institutions, records creators and all serviced organizations. Congratulatory messages trickled in just after the event. The great occasion is now a great network whose centre of power in the region is located in Gunhill, Hiller Road in the office of the President of ESARBICA. Get connected! Stay connected.

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## ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE NEW ESARBICA PRESIDENT MR I.M. MURAMBIWA

ESARBICA Immediate Past President, Mr Francis Mwangi  
Members of the ESARBICA Executive Board  
ESARBICA Membership here present  
ESARBICA 2015 Conference Convener Mr Peter Mazikana  
Conference Coordinator Mr Dunmore Maboreke  
Conference participants  
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends

I wish to humbly accept the mandate I have been given by the voting members of ESARBICA to serve a two year term in the office of ESARBICA President.

The feedback so far received from participants to the ESARBICA 2015 General Conference point to us having hosted a memorable conference. I am glad that you have enjoyed the intellectual and leisure offerings we have laid out for you. This success attests to the hard work and enthusiasm of the local organizing committee. Our efforts would have been futile had it not been for the financial and moral support from our Permanent Secretary, Mr Melusi Matshiya and our Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, Comrade KCD Mohadi and their team at the Ministry.

As your newly elected President my promise to you is very simple; finding space for ESARBICA's Strategic Plan within the ICA's Africa Strategy and negotiating for a constitutional coexistence platform for ESARBICA and ICA that takes into account regional realities.

ESARBICA, as the most active and focused regional branch of the ICA in Africa, naturally expects to have a bigger say in formulation and implementation of ICA's Africa Strategy. We have been at the forefront of this since 2003 and we remain committed to these ideals. The Strategic Plan that you have just adopted at this General Meeting will be our guiding light beginning today. However to walk the lit way we shall require substantial financial resources.

The 2015 General Conference has provided us with an opportunity to test the conferencing business model and I am quite encouraged by the signs so far. During the 2013 Conference in Nairobi, Kenya we became aware of the attraction of the ESARBICA brand in the pre-conference seminar and are glad that lessons drawn from there have partly contributed to our success this year. I expect a better pre-conference set up in South Africa in 2017. Your Board is actively pursuing a membership drive blitz and review of Category A and B subscriptions, actions I hope will be successful and will result in increased financial inflows to our Treasury.

The above initiatives will however largely depend on outcome of our Constitutional discussions with ICA. We are a branch of ICA and remain proud of that ancestry. One of the provisions of the ICA constitution requires that for one to become a regional branch member they must first become an ICA member. We understand the logic behind this but also realize that strict compliance with it could also spell doom to our organization. My task is to negotiate a coexistence platform that takes into account regional realities.

Throughout my reign I shall be faithful to consultative processes with the membership so that our product offering meets their expectations and delights them. At this conference we have already started receiving helpful feedback; two days is not enough for the preconference, ESARBICA should collaborate with National Archives to offer national training courses,

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regional training should be held annually and with practical bias, we need to embrace Trusted Digital repositories and Electronic Records Management solutions. This together with the conference resolutions and recommendations, and within the parameters of our Strategic Plan, offers us a full plate for the next two years.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear members, it is not my intention to make a speech. Thank you for coming. Safe trips back home

and  
see  
you in  
South  
Africa  
in  
2017!



Former Home Affairs minister Kembo Mohadi is flanked by his permanent secretary Melusi Matshiya and ESARBICA president and director of the National Archives of Zimbabwe Mr I.M. Murambiwa as he addresses the media on the ESARBICA 23rd General Conference in Victoria Falls.

## LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

**Young** Tatenda came from school one afternoon and his mother asks him "What did you learn today son"?

Tatenda "Nothing much that's why I have to go back again tomorrow."

What's the difference between a smart man and a stupid man? Nothing. They both think they know everything."

## STAFF NEWS

- Ms B. Dzoriwa is the new Human Resources Officer who took over from Ms Muzenda who transferred to Head Office.
- Mr Mutenha and Miss Makuwaza were regarded from being Dark Room Operator and Commissionaire to Reprographers respectively.
- Ms Sibindi transferred from the department to Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education Bulawayo Polytechnic.
- Mr Masungu retired from the service.
- Mr Sabvure from the Ministry of Youth joined the department as a general hand.



## The day ESARBICA came to our door. By Blessing Chikukwa.

Let's take an example, for many years you are invited to parties, weddings and various ceremonies and never have you been the host for such an event. What happens when finally you are the one inviting!? It is that feeling that you feel that was felt, by us. We were used to seating among the congregation and being the spectators but now, for once, we were the host of a major conference in the archival fraternity. Yes ESARBICA came knocking on our door and gratefully we opened.

The feeling of adrenaline was running high here at the National Archives. For many, the prospect of hosting the ESARBICA Conference seemed like an insurmountable thing to do. But with the right heads in place, all was made possible. For the past few months before the conference, the national archives were a hub of activity as people prepared for the forthcoming event. Nearly everyone anticipated to be part of the delegation off to the mighty Falls. And again nearly everyone came to work every day for fear of being left out. Unfortunately, it was not possible for us all to make it to the conference, and the leftovers did an awesome job in house keeping the Archives!

The National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ) was the proud host of the 23rd bi-annual ESARBICA conference. The conference meant to educate, train and equip both archivists and records managers on issues of records and archives management. The conference started on the 8th and ended on the 12th of June. It was comprised of a two day pre conference workshop and the main conference in which individuals presented their papers for knowledge sharing and discussion. The conference was graced by 15 countries among them our neighbours Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique. The latter had the highest delegates of up to 80 Mozambicans. Ladies and Gentlemen it was a wonder to be among these fellow Africans. This opportunity enabled the staff of the NAZ and stakeholders to mingle and interact with other Africans working in the archival and records field. It personally moulded me into appreciating the concepts and principles of archiving. However, I can safely say I learnt so many things from the comrade ESARBICA.

Allow me to say this in my mother's tongue "hamuna chamakaona, kwange kusingadanwi anonzwa!" different personalities and cultures historically intermixed and exchanged information within a few days. It was an exhilarating, thrilling and adventurous experience. Visiting the mighty Victoria Falls was the icing on the cake that concluded the whole episode in a fairly overwhelming fashion. We surely hope that when this ESARBICA do comes back again, we...

