

ESARBICA NEWSLETTER

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"DESIGNING THE ARCHIVES IN THE 21st CENTURY"



ESARBICA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES DAY



INSIDE ISSUE

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The 25th ESARBICA conference in Gaborone, Botswana is just around the corner. Let us all seize the opportunity to be part of the event and interact with archivists from all corners of the world. Everything is ready for the big event and we appeal to you to grace the occasion with your presence. Despite the looming Golden jubilee ESARBICA biennial conference to be held on the 9th-13th September 2019, we are still struggling to get contributions to the newsletter from the members. Nonetheless, in this issue we have managed to solicit articles celebrations of international archives and records day from Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mr Donald Rakemane Assistant Records Manager Office of the District Commissioner Botswana reflect to a question once posed by Professor Mpho Ngoepe "is archives and records management in South Africa cursed"? -a closer look at Botswana.

To sustain ESARBICA newsletter, we need your active participation through submission of articles, case studies in archives, records management and oral history. Future contributions to the newsletter can be forwarded to the editors. The editors would like to thank the contributors for this issue.

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ESARBICA PRESIDENT



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

DR PAUL LIHOMA

I am delighted to welcome all of you our esteemed readers to the special edition of the ESARBICA Newsletter. This edition is special in at least two ways. While the mood within the archival fraternity world-wide is still fresh in celebrating the International Archives Day, this edition highlights exciting activities, which some of our members have undertaken to mark celebrations of the International Archives Week. Also, as our branch celebrates its Golden Jubilee in Gaborone, Botswana on 9-13 September this year, we thought of coming up with this edition in order to

extend a warm invitation to as many people as possible to come to beautiful Gaborone and join us in our grand celebration of 25 years of spearheading good records management, promoting archival preservation and access, archival training and development and fostering greater collaboration in our region. I am profoundly proud of our vibrant Editorial Team for initiating and working tirelessly to publish this special edition.

Enjoy this special edition of the ESARBICA Newsletter

BOTSWANA



Hon Dikgang Phillip Makgalemele
Assistant Minister of Youth Sports and Culture Development

The 2019 International Archives Day celebrations in Francistown Botswana

Like all the archives community across the world, the Botswana National Archives and Records Services (BNARS) celebrated the 2019 International Archives Day this June at Francistown Records Centre under the theme “**Designing Archives in the 21st Century**”. This theme as assigned by the International Council on Archives is a wakeup call for archivists and records challenges the traditional ways in the archives. The event was officially opened by the Assistant Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development, Honourable Dikgang Phillip Makgalemele, which is the Ministry responsible for archives and records management in Botswana through BNARS. In his speech, the Assistant Minister cautioned that today’s archivists are challenged more than yesteryear’s professionals

because of the fluid communications space. He also highlighted that manager’s to move with the times as the digital age profession. The International archives day is celebrated across the world by archival institutions and professional associations in the field in order to publicise archives and raise awareness of the archives profession. As a result, BNARS invited government officials, stakeholders, archivists, records managers as well as the general public to grace the day. BNARS was implementing the national archives and the public sector records management process, efficiency and provide archives services the RIAB representative underscored the importance of archives and the need to preserve the digital heritage that is increasingly generated in the 21st Century



The Deputy Dean from the Faculty of Humanities, University of Botswana, Dr Peter Sebina in his speech, spoke about skills and training of the archivist and records manager of the 21st century. He informed the attendants that in response to the need for acknowledge based economy, the Department of Library and Information has a new programme,

the Bachelor of Information and Knowledge Management. He encouraged interested parties to enrol for the new programme to be relevant for the market. As a way to mark the day, the Assistant Minister launched collections of archives acquired by BNARS in the year 2018-2019. He indicated that during the year under review, BNARS managed to acquire more than 30 archival collections from various sources in and around the Francistown area which will be open for public access for the first time. In the same, breath, the Minister thanked Private Archive's donors, researchers and the media for great support they have and continue to render to BNARS in carrying out its mandate.



By Dr Tshepho Mosweu Lecturer Department of Library and Information Studies University of Botswana

SOUTH AFRICA



arts & culture
Department:
Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's National Archives and Records Service of South Africa (NARSSA) joins the international archives community during the international Archives Week from June 3- 9 2019, #IAW2019. The theme of this year's campaign is "Designing the Archives in the 21st Century". Designing the Archive is about putting people at the centre of what we do. The campaign theme will focus on how in the 21st Century our profession -data and information managers, records managers and archivists - can provide opportunities for human-centred design approaches to ensure we deliver benefits to citizens, customers, stakeholders and communities. The week long campaign will culminate into

the International Archives Day on the 09 June 2019.

During the International Congress of Archives in Vienna in 2004, the 2000 participants adopted a resolution calling on the United Nations to create an International Archives Day. At its General Assembly in November 2007, the ICA formalized the International Archives Day on June 9. This date was obvious: on the 9th of June 1948 the International





Council on Archives was created under the auspices of UNESCO. This choice was immediately approved and adopted by the archives community as a whole. Since its creation in 2008, the International Archives Day aims to raise awareness among the public, of the importance of archives. Archives are the memory of nations and societies; they provide the foundation for their identities and are a key element of the information society.

Archives constitute a cultural heritage and a leading source of information. The archival heritage is an important testimony to the economic, political, social and cultural development of the public, regarding the notion of archive" David Leitch, Secretary General of the ICA. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's National Archives and Records Service of South Africa (NARSSA) will participate on the International Archives Week by visit the Tembisa Old Age Home in Tembisa Township, Ekurhuleni in Gauteng. The 2019 International Archives Week takes place during Youth Month in South Africa which is informed by the 1976 June 16 students uprising in Soweto and various Townships in South Africa, and 40 Years

mankind. "Everyone keeps archives, in a private or professional setting. Through this universal day, we wish to democratize the professiarchivist and improve the perception of the general after the death of Solomon Mahlangu and Umkhonto Wesizwe Operatives. During the visit at Tembisa Old Age Home the National Archives and Records Services of South Africa will screen Kalushi the Movie on Solomon Mahlangu. Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu was hanged on the 6th of April 1979 and refused to be hanged with his hands handcuffed. Solomon Mahlangu's last words before his death: "My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them. **"They must continue the fight."**

NEW GAUTENG ARCHIVES REPOSITORY KEY FOR PRESERVATION AND RECORDING OF CRUCIAL SOCIAL MEMORY

by Godfrey Pitje

Gauteng residents and institutions including schools, hospitals, municipalities, police, the courts, heritage and historical entities amongst others can finally make use of the Gauteng Provincial Archives Repository in Kagiso to store and access important records and information.

During the official opening of the state-of-the-art R350 million building on Wednesday, 24 October 2018 in Kagiso, Gauteng Premier David Makhura spoke about how the facility would serve as a memory bank for Gauteng.

"The facility will help us preserve societal memory of historical value of Gauteng and its people. It will store official public documents that are 20 years or older from various entities including government, parastatals, NGOs, learning and research institutions. This will eliminate cases of distorted history told by different people from different angles," said Makhura.



Since its operation in 2017, the centre has received records and information from various entities and departments including Sedibeng District Municipality, Emfuleni Municipality, City of Johannesburg, and from the following departments Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Transport, as well as Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation.

After 20 years of a record being preserved at the facility the public can access these for reference purposes in case they are not available anywhere else.

Records not older than 20 years can still be accessed at the relevant entities.

Premier Makhura said: "Records on the known and unknown history of our liberation and the stories of our people will be stored and archived here.

These entail files including audio and video records on occurrences such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Rivonia Trial, CODESA, records from municipalities, departments medical records and any other of intrinsic value".

The facility will serve as a treasure house of information held on behalf of society. These include school registers; court records including deeds; building plans; births; marriages and divorce certificates; wills and land claims records.

Despite Gauteng being the last province to build the Archives Repository it is among the few currently in operation.



It has been assessed by the National Archives of South Africa as one of the best in the country and when in full operation will be a leading archival service facility.

"Gauteng is investing rigorously in infrastructure and in transforming townships with about R40 billion already spent in building and upgrading schools, libraries, clinics, roads and the very same Archives Centre", said Makhura.

The Centre has 26 staff members, 14 of them come from Kagiso. When it is fully operational, the centre will have over 40 staff members including archivists, administrators and technologists. It will operate weekdays from 8am to 5pm. It will also offer free wifi and will be fully digitalised.



EXCITING NEW SPORTS FACILITIES FOR KHUTSONG AND KAGISO COMMUNITIES

by GPC News



Through its mass participation programme, the department wants to promote healthy and active lifestyles in communities and at the same time work towards the transformation of sport.

To achieve this, the department is on a drive to address shortage of sporting and recreation facilities and ensuring that everyone including previously disadvantaged communities have access to well-equipped facilities with a variety of sporting codes.

The landscape of Gauteng's recreation and sporting facilities within the West Rand is fast improving.

This is as two more state of the art multipurpose sporting facilities, also known as combi-courts were handed over to communities of Khutsong and Kagiso on Friday, 26 October 2018.

The facilities boasting soccer fields, netball, basketball and tennis courts among others are located at Khutsong Ward 3 and Kagiso Ext:12.

The initiative is made possible by the partnership involving the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Merafong Municipality, Mogale City Municipality and Sports Trust.



ZIMBABWE



2019 marked the genesis of archives decentralisation. This year's International Archives Day celebration was unique as it coincided with the official opening of the first community archives—Arcturus Community Archive. National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ) in partnership with Arcturus High School in Goromonzi district, Mashonaland East Province, successfully launched the community archive initiative which was officially opened by the acting Permanent Secretary, Mr Chisoko, representing the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, on 28 June 2019 during the belated celebrations of the International Archives Day (IAD.) The event was graced by Government officials, community leaders and the general public. This initiative was born out of the need to create and preserve

memory spaces within communities since the communities are generators of history. The idea of community archives was brought up during the 2018 International Archives day celebrations with the objective of helping communities establish their own archives. NAZ realised that heritage was being lost in several communities and institutions hence the mission to identify communities to assist in setting up their own archives. Among all the schools that NAZ had for consideration, Arcturus High School became the popular choice due to its strategic position within a community that has vast and diverse history. Arcturus is a mining community that comprises various ethnic groups. Archivists from NAZ worked closely with students from the school to process mostly administrative records of the school and set up a repository for processed records. There

were also oral interviews which were conducted to help tell the story of the community and preserve it. The school's pictorial collection was also processed and digitized with the help of NAZ officers.

The community archives are part of global trends that help communities set up institutional memory spaces. It is also part of the Government of Zimbabwe's effort to set up more community information centres, promote heritage studies in line with the new education curricular and promote archiving culture amongst learners. The project was launched in line with 2019 International Archives Day's theme: *Designing the Archives in the 21st Century*. With such a ground breaking success, the other up-coming projects of launching other community archives are guaranteed to be a success.

Pictures of the Arcturus Community Archive Launch in Zimbabwe



NAMIBIA



MOZAMBIQUE



KENYA



REFLECTION

PROFESSOR M. NGOEPE'S QUESTION: "IS ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA CURSED"? -A CLOSER LOOK AT BOTSWANA

Introduction

In 2011, Mpho Ngoepe who was a PhD candidate in the Department of Information Science at the University of South Africa and currently a Professor and Chair of the same department asked an interesting question on whether archives and records management profession in South African was cursed. The same author further questioned how long it would take to break the curse if indeed the profession was cursed.

After reading and interrogating the article published on Eastern and Southern Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) newsletter, I looked at my country Botswana and came to a conclusion that similarly to the situation in South Africa, the profession might also have cursed in Botswana. I looked at several efforts that have been undertaken in the country in order to take records management

to another level, but there are several roadblocks that have hindered progress. After assessing the state of records management in Botswana and the slow growth and under-rated of the profession, I came to an agreement with Prof Ngoepe that if the archives and records management profession was cursed in South Africa, the curse might have spread to some ESARBICA member states such as Botswana.

Snapshot overview of records management profession in Botswana

The management of public sector records in Botswana is coordinated by Botswana National Archives and Records Services (BNARS). The mandate of BNARS involves managing all public records throughout their life cycle from creation to disposition. This is achieved through Records

Management and Archives Administration functions. The Records Management division of BNARS coordinates records management functions through Records Management Units (RMU) and Records centers by ensuring systematic storage and timely retrieval of information as and when

needed for any government business activity. Records management in Botswana is still disjointed in approach because of lack of a national records management policy, which is currently a burning issue (Keakopa, 2018). However, the establishment of national policy will facilitate

standardization in the presentation of procedures and practices in the

management of records in the country. Arguably, the management of records in

public and private sectors organizations in Botswana still remain a paradox.

Reflection to Professor M. Ngoepe's Question

During my visit and engagement with several public and private sector organization in Botswana as a records officer, assistant records consultant, instructor in records management and my current work as an assistant records manager, I want to contend that I was shocked by the status of records management in some public and private sector organizations in Botswana. Many organizations in Botswana do not have functional classification scheme for grouping records together, some do not have records management policies and procedures, others do not legislation need to be revised such as clarification of terms, functions and responsibilities, management of private archives, electronic records, access to archives and penalties were left unchanged in many areas which may be a roadblock to the progression of archives and records management in Botswana (Mosweu and Simon, 2018). Keakopa (2018) also complained about lack

have retention and disposition schedules, some operate without qualified personnel while others do not have proper storage facilities. Arguably, it is difficult to encounter an organization with a complete records management program and/or strategy. In addition, many organizations in Botswana are suffering from backlog of unprocessed records. Ngoepe (2011) underscored that if records are not managed correctly and adequately from creating agencies; the product transferred to the archival repositories will also be poor; thus proper of a national records management policy, which is currently a burning issue. Several authors complained about poor management of both paper and electronic records and little attention and less priority that the profession is given in Botswana such as Motsaathebe and Mnjama, 2009; Moloi and Mutula, 2008); Rakemane and Serema, 2018; Keakopa, 2018; Ngoepe and Keakopa, 2007; Keakopa,

management of records in creating agencies is an important element. Mnjama (2006) also complained that archival institutions in ESARBICA are faced with a major challenge of unprocessed records. The same author further stressed that massive of records are still found in creating agencies such as government ministries and departments in terrible conditions while others are in archival repositories awaiting archivists. Mosweu and Simon (2018) complained about weak archival legislation in Botswana. Many important areas in the archival 2007; Tshotlo and Mnjama, 2010. While the Records and Information Association was established to bring together records and information management professionals in Botswana together in one icon, the profession seems to failing due to some reasons including low membership and lack of participation from records and information management professionals. Chida (2011)

stressed that since the establishment of RIAB in 1999 the association has been faced with several paradoxes which have forced it to idle until to this date. The Records and Information Association in

Botswana (RIAB) was established back in 1999 when it was registered with Societies Registrar's office but the association has been idling all this way (Chida, 2011). After, observing all these challenges, I came to

an agreement with Prof Ngoepe that the records management profession might also be cursed in Botswana similarly to South Africa

Conclusion

In conclusion, the author argues that, if the records management profession in South Africa might be cursed, the cursed might have spread to other ESARBICA member state such as Botswana. The author further contends that, if indeed the profession might be cursed in the context of Botswana, it is not too late to break it. Records management

professionals should come together in one icon to revive their profession and eradicate challenges facing the profession. Collaboration among archives and records management professionals can also be another way of breaking the curse. The author further suggests benchmarking in the west is another platform for breaking the curse. Records

management Professional should also advocate for their profession in order to improve status of records management in Botswana. The author still believes that the walls of Jerico surrounding the records management profession can be broken only if archivists and records management professionals can work together in one icon.

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BOTSWANA HOSTS ESARBICA CONFERENCE 2019



**EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
ON ARCHIVES**

THEME

**ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW:
CELEBRATION OF ESARBICA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE**



DATED: 9th-13 September 2019

VENUE: Boipuso Hall, Fairground, Gaborone, Botswana

Esarbica Members states



www.esarbica.org



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