

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK ~ 2007

On 23 March 2007 the **Free State Department of Education's Sub-Directorate ELITS** had presented a big function in Bloemfontein to celebrate the South African Library Week. Among the people that were invited, were the MEC of Education in the province, the Head of Department of Education, the Senior Management Team of the Department of Education, representatives from the higher institutions in the city, the Mangaung City Library Services and City Council, Provincial Library and Information Services and LIASA members.

The activity that had preceded this event was library display competitions at schools in the five districts in the weeks before Library Week. The purpose of the display competition was to encourage teachers to understand the importance of marketing their school libraries to relevant school communities.

The displays should have promoted the Library Week's message of "*Libraries: your key to the future*". In each district three winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd places) were chosen, but the winner in each district was invited to compete against each other in the final stage of the display competition in Bloemfontein. The first prize winners in the districts were:

- Motheo District = Nkhothatsey Intermediate School
- Fezile Dabi District = Seisoville Primary School
- Lejweleputswa District = Reitzpark Primary School
- Thabo Mofutsanyana District = Pulamadiboho Primary School
- Xhariep District = Zastron Public School

The winning displays were set up in the hall of the Motheo ERC in Bloemfontein where the overall winner was **Pulamadiboho Primary School!** Their prize package included: Sponsorship to attend the School Library and Resource Centres satellite meeting and the LIASA AGM on 17 and 18 August, prior to the IFLA Conference, in Durban; one year membership subscription to LIASA; a computer and program for the school library; package of reading books for the school library and for the teacher a voucher for books for personal development.

The second prize was given to **Seisoville Primary School** and the third prize to **Reitzpark Primary School**.

Another activity that formed part of the day's celebration was the launch of the **Education Library's promotional video** by Mr W Mokuena, Director of e-Education. The video was produced to market the services of the Education Library to all the officials of the FS Department of Education. The Education Library also had a display at the function to show the kind of material available at the Library.

The **Chairperson of LIASA Free State**, Ms Dora Ackerman, explained to all the representatives what LIASA is, what it stands for, the background of South African Library Week, highlights of previous years' celebrations and ended of with these words:

"As South African Library Week 2007 draw to a close I would like to challenge everyone present today to take ownership of the proverbial keys to your library to ensure that come South African Library Week 2008 all the libraries in the Free State will still be in existence with perhaps a few new ones added".

The highlight of the day was the speech by the **MEC for Education, Ms MA Tsopo**. In her keynote address she emphasised the importance of the role of libraries in laying the foundation for independent and lifelong learning. She congratulated LIASA for the initiative of Library Week to make all South African communities aware of the importance of libraries, reading and information services for nation building and highlighting the role that libraries play to advance democracy and literacy, and to make the basic human right of access to information a reality.

Ms Tsopo acknowledged the stakeholders from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, CUT FS, University of the Free State and representatives from public libraries who had come to join hands with the Department of Education, as all are faced with the common challenge of fighting illiteracy in all its forms and at all levels of our communities in the province.

Erna Mostert
Principal Librarian
FS Education Library

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