



SALB INSIGHT

Number 6 of 2020

Monthly news clips from the South African Library for the Blind

SALB CALL FOR THE YOUTH: “MASIFUNDE SONKE”

June is the month dedicated to the youth of South Africa. SALB joined forces with PRAESA Publishers to produce rhymes in IsiXhosa for all our young readers. The drive aims at increasing availability of reading material in all official languages. It is well timed for youth month and will be ready for National Children’s day on 2 November 2020. To have access to SALB tactile books we advise that parents of children enrolled at schools for the blind ensure that they are members of SALB. To join as a member contact at SALB’s Circulation Department. For Tactile Books enquiries please contact: Pasha.Alden@salb.org.za or 046 622 7226.

UPDATE ON SALB OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

National Lockdown levels were downgraded to level 3 as announced by President Ramaphosa with effect from 1 June 2020. In terms of Table 2 of the Regulations to the Disaster Management Act, 2002 as amended on 28 May 2020, the SA Library for the Blind is not listed as an entity/service organisation that should be excluded from operating under alert level 3. SALB Management is therefore implementing measures to ensure the gradual re-opening of services. Return to work strategies are being set in place to gradually increase the number of working hours at the office for staff members, whilst ensuring sound and appropriate health and safety measures.

Management is in communication with the Post Office to establish which Post Offices are not yet fully operational which may impact our services, we also understand that there may be backlog of services from the Post Office, due to the lockdown levels previously. Management will continue to do all we can to provide services to our members during this uncertain period and operating under the “new normal”.

When sending out material from the Library we will take all the necessary precautions, however because the material will be going through the Post Office, members are advised to take precautions such as sanitizing when the packages are delivered, and letting the

package sit for a minimum of 3 days, as guidelines indicate that the COVID-19 virus lives for 24 hours on cardboard and 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel.

We wish to thank you our members for your patience and cooperation during this time to ensure the flattening of the curve of Covid-19 infections.

SALB MINI LIBRARY UPDATE

All Mini Libraries remain closed and all our mini library members will be informed in due course on the opening of public libraries as directed by Government. SALB continues to engage provinces on the readiness to reopen in due time.

SALB WEBSITE UPDATE

The newly designed website is almost here. The website is set to be launched on the 30th of June 2020, should no unexpected delays occur. We hope that our members will find it useful and more user-friendly, and we encourage our members to interact with us once launched so that we may continuously make enhancements to it.

SALB STAFF CHANGES

Ms Khanyisa Nohe was appointed as ICT and General Support Technician at the SALB with effect from 1 May 2020. She hit the road running as one of the essential service staff members during lockdown level 4 to attend to setting up of laptop computers and server access from as early as 4 May, to enable some staff members to work from home. We welcome Ms Nohe and look forward to the valuable contribution she will be making at the SALB in line with her IT related skills. On the Minilibraries front, we welcome Mr Lebogang Oliphant and Mr Lucas Matlala as new Project Coordinators. Mr Oliphant was appointed during March 2020 for the North West Region and Mr Matlala was appointed with effect from 1 June 2020 for the Gauteng Province.

We also regret that due to deteriorating health conditions, Ms Noluvuyo Yona our Head: Braille Production is placed on temporary leave of absence with effect from 26 May 2020. We wish her well on her road to recovery.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (AFS) AND AUDIT PREPARATIONS

As a result of the Coronavirus national pandemic and the subsequent lockdown restrictions on work activities effective from end of March 2020, National Treasury directed that the due date for submission of the AFS be postponed from 31 May to 31 July 2020. Preparations are well underway to meet this deadline and to prepare for the annual audit which will follow shortly after the submission of the AFS.

LATEST TITLES ADDED ON OVERDRIVE

31 new titles have been recently added on Overdrive and members are encouraged to register on overdrive to be able to download two titles for a period of 14 days. If a member is interested in joining please contact Luke Adriaan on audiolib@salb.org.za / 046 622 7226.

Some of the titles added are:

Lean on me by Pat Simmons; The other Mrs by Mary Kubica; You're not broke, you're pre-rich by Mapalo Makhu; Bassie: My journey of hope by Basetsana Kumalo; Sewe-en-veertig by Irma Venter and Living coloured by Yusuf Daniels.

QUOTE INSPIRATION

"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood." — Helen Keller