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## Distance Education Association of Southern Africa

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### **DEASA Executive Secretary's report**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

The DEASA Secretariat presents the 2022/23 report on activities undertaken in the year. Activities reported on cover the period from the last conference held in Windhoek, in November 2022. The 2023 conference will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe from September 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. The 2022 conference in Namibia was moved to November due to PCF10 which was held in September.

#### **2.0 Summary update on Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA) 2022/23 activities**

##### **2.1 Developments around the SADC-CDE DEASA Journal**

The Editorial Board for the Journal has been appointed and they immediately started work following the 2022 conference. The Secretariat forwarded 14 manuscripts to him for review, with hope of being published. However, 11 manuscripts were considered ideal for publication by June 2023. It was hoped that they would be published online by end of August 2023. However, this has not happened as the ME was still looking for possible assistance on how this could be done. The Chairperson had promised to check how UNISA Press could assist and is yet to revert to the ME.

##### **2.2 DEASA 2022 Conference and Annual General Meeting preparation**

The Secretariat continued to hold DEASA 2023 conference preparatory meetings with the ZOU Local Organising Committee (LOC), which were diligently done, considering the late start of the preparations. The conference calls were sent out on time, with extensions at the request of some members so not to close any one out. The LOC was able to identify the

different speakers for the plenary sessions. In preparation for the ExCo meeting, the Secretariat sent out a request to country reps to submit their country reports. Invitation letters were also sent out to ExCo members and their principals, inviting them to attend the meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Regarding the conference venue, the LOC settled for Manna Safari Resorts as ZOU, being an ODL institution, does not have facilities to host conferences of this magnitude. Once again, the Secretariat wishes to congratulate Zimbabwe for the great work they did in preparing for the conference, under a very short space of time.

## **2.3 Membership Matters**

The Secretariat has received information regarding Mozambique representation, which is yet to be concluded. The Secretariat further received report on financial challenges regarding the travel of country reps to conferences. This is an issue that needs to be discussed by the ExCo so that members can have a common understanding of how best this can be dealt with.

### **2.3.1 DEASA 2022 Membership Applications**

Two inquiries were submitted about joining DEASA, an individual and an institution. The details are shared below:

<b>No</b>	<b>Institution / Individual</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
1.	Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences	Dr. Annie T. Chizengo-Thawani	
2.	Dr. Annie T. Chizengo-Thawani	Dr. Annie T. Chizengo-Thawani	

## **3.0 Capacity Building by SADC-CDE**

### **3.1 The conversation Seminar Series**

The Conversation series continues to draw interest from various DEASA member states, and there is clear evidence of collaboration by the institutions.

### **4.0 Directory of ODL Institutions and their programmes in SADC**

The SADC-CDE will be approaching all ODL institutions in the region to establish the programmes they offer. This will help establish a Directory of ODL institutions, the programmes they offer and the level of such programmes. This exercise will be funded by COL and will help citizens know where to access programmes they may need.

## **5.0 Pan Commonwealth Forum 11 (PCF11)**

The Secretariat wishes to share with DEASA members that PCF11 will be held in Gaborone, Botswana, in September 2025. This follows the 2022 PCF10 which was held in Calgary, Canada. Botswana will be hosting PCF as the 3<sup>rd</sup> African country following South Africa and Nigeria.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

The report presented covers activities for the 2022/23 review period. Further details are expected to come from both the Chairperson's report, and those of the country reps.