



**International Braille Chess Association**

**Congress**

**Hotel “Rzeszow” (\*\*\*\*) J. Pilsudskiego 44, Rzeszow, Poland**

**August 23, 2025, 10:00**

**REPORT ON BRAILLE CHESS DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

Date: Saturday, 9 August 2025

The development of Braille chess in Africa is progressing steadily, with increasing participation from various African nations. Kenya has recently joined the International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) as its newest member, marking a significant step forward in expanding the reach of Braille chess across the continent.

Unfortunately, a setback occurred when Serbia rejected visa applications from the Kenyan team, preventing their participation in the 17th IBCA Olympiad. This was a significant disappointment for the African Braille chess community.

A dedicated Africa WhatsApp group, comprising representatives from Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, and South Africa, has been established to facilitate communication and coordination. The group is actively working on plans to acquire Braille chess sets from India for distribution to several African countries, enhancing access to the game for blind and visually impaired players.

In 2024, Poland generously donated Braille chess sets to South Africa and Zimbabwe. Additionally, an order for more sets has been placed with the All India Braille Chess Association, and we are currently awaiting shipping confirmation to further support the growth of the game.

Looking ahead, plans are underway to organize an African IBCA tournament in 2026 or 2027, potentially in conjunction with a South African BCA national tournament. This event aims to foster greater participation and competition among African players.

We are excited about the prospect of welcoming more players from African countries to our online playing platforms. Efforts are also being made to develop and roll out chess training materials specifically designed for blind and visually impaired players, ensuring greater inclusivity and skill development.

With kind regards

Johannes Grib

Africa Representative (IBCA) )