

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter Newsletter (April-June 2025) Issue No: 016



***Celebrating National Sovereignty and
Children's Day at Maktaba Kuu***

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Celebrating National Sovereignty and Children's Day at Maktaba Kuu

On 24th April, Kenya National Library Service joyfully commemorated National Sovereignty and Children's Day at the vibrant Maktaba Kuu Children's Section. This special day carried added significance as it coincided with World Book Day, creating a unique opportunity to celebrate the power of stories and the promise of young readers.

The event was graced by esteemed guests, including Madam Tessie Mudavadi, who served as Guest of Honor, and His Excellency Subutay Yüksel, the Ambassador of Türkiye. Their presence underscored the importance of nurturing bonds of friendship between nations while championing literacy and cultural understanding.

Throughout the day, children were treated to storytelling sessions, films, and engaging activities designed to spark their curiosity and imagination. Laughter and excitement filled the library as young readers immersed themselves in worlds of adventure and discovery. Each story shared was a reminder that books have the unique power to inspire dreams, encourage empathy, and foster lifelong learning.

The event was made possible through the generous support of TIKKA, whose partnership continues to help KNLS create inclusive, welcoming spaces where every child feels valued and inspired. From the decorations to the thoughtful program, every detail contributed to an atmosphere of joy and celebration.



A Cultural Symphony at Hekima Auditorium

On 20th June, the Hekima Auditorium was transformed into a vibrant stage of cultural exchange as the Kenya National Library Service proudly hosted the Chinese Orchestra. This remarkable musical ensemble captivated the audience with performances that showcased the rich heritage of traditional Chinese instruments. The evening was more than a concert; it was an immersive experience that bridged cultures and connected hearts through the universal language of music.

Special appreciation goes to Dr. Wei Fanjian, Dean of Music at Shandong University, whose leadership and passion were evident in every note played. Alongside him were the directors of arts, lecturers, and the talented undergraduate and postgraduate students from SDNU, all of whom brought their expertise and artistry to the performance. Their dedication to cultural preservation and artistic excellence was truly inspiring.

A standout highlight of the evening was the inclusion of instrumental martial artists whose dynamic display added a powerful flair to the program. Their performance blended discipline, movement, and melody in a way that left the audience in awe.

This collaboration underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy and the role of libraries as spaces for learning, exchange, and celebration. It was a beautiful reminder that music and culture have the power to transcend borders and create lasting connections.



Reading Extravaganza Ignites Young Imaginations at Buruburu Library

On 17th June, the Kenya National Library Service Buruburu Library hosted an unforgettable Reading Extravaganza that brought together students, teachers, and literacy advocates under the theme “Unlocking Imaginations through Books.” The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as young readers gathered to celebrate stories and the power of the written word.

Throughout the day, participants enjoyed lively read-aloud sessions where voices rose in unison to give life to beloved characters and tales. These shared moments of storytelling ignited curiosity and sparked conversations that extended far beyond the library walls. The event also featured engaging discussions that highlighted the importance of nurturing a reading culture, particularly among the youth who hold the future in their hands.

The Reading Extravaganza offered a welcoming space for students to connect over shared interests, exchange ideas, and explore new literary worlds. It was inspiring to see so many young people embrace books as tools for discovery, creativity, and personal growth. Each story read and every idea shared strengthened the belief that literacy remains a cornerstone of empowerment and lifelong learning.



Unlocking Worlds through Reading at Maktaba Kuu

On 13th June, Maktaba Kuu came alive with energy and excitement as students gathered under the theme “Unlocking Worlds through Reading.” This inspiring Reading Extravaganza was a celebration of books, imagination, and the transformative power of storytelling. The day served as a vibrant reminder that reading is a gateway to discovery, empathy, and personal growth.

The program featured captivating read-aloud sessions that held everyone’s attention and brought stories to life in new and unexpected ways. Interactive discussions encouraged students to share their thoughts and connect over their favourite books. The atmosphere was electric as young readers explored the endless possibilities that literacy offers.

What made the event particularly special was the enthusiasm and curiosity of the participants. Their willingness to engage, ask questions, and express ideas showcased the powerful impact of creating spaces where reading is celebrated. Each moment underscored the essential role of libraries in fostering a culture of learning and creativity.



Digital Literacy Program Cohort 6 Graduates at Buruburu



On 11th June, the Kenya National Library Service celebrated the graduation of Cohort 6 from the Digital Literacy Program at Buruburu Library. What began as a group of strangers evolved into a close-knit community of learners who, over eight weeks, built confidence, acquired essential skills, and discovered a shared purpose in the digital age.

Fifteen determined participants embarked on this journey with the goal of mastering basic and intermediate digital tools that would empower them in their personal and professional lives. Under the guidance of dedicated instructors, they explored topics ranging from online safety and productivity software to social media and digital communication.

By the end of the program, each graduate had not only acquired practical knowledge but also developed the confidence to navigate the digital world with greater independence. The camaraderie among the cohort was evident as participants shared their experiences and reflected on how the program had transformed their perspectives on technology.

This milestone underscores KNLS's commitment to equipping communities with the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving information landscape. As digital literacy becomes ever more critical, initiatives like this one ensure that no one is left behind.

Congratulations to all the graduates of Cohort 6. Your dedication, curiosity, and resilience are an inspiration to us all. We wish you continued success as you put your new skills into practice and help build a digitally inclusive society.



Building Capacity through RDA Training at Maktaba Kuu

On 10th June, Kenya National Library Service reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening library services by hosting an intensive Resource Description and Access (RDA) training at the Maktaba Kuu Sanaa Centre Auditorium. This specialized program was designed to equip participants with the expertise needed to catalogue and manage resources in a modern, globally connected information environment.

The training attracted librarians and information professionals from across the country who gathered to deepen their understanding of international bibliographic standards. RDA represents a progressive approach to cataloguing that supports seamless data sharing, interoperability, and improved user experience in libraries of all sizes. Participants engaged in detailed sessions covering the principles and practical applications of RDA, exploring how consistent metadata can enhance resource discovery for library users.

The event provided not only technical knowledge but also a platform for participants to share insights and discuss the challenges of transitioning to new cataloguing frameworks. As libraries continue to evolve in the digital era, such capacity-building efforts ensure that information professionals remain prepared to deliver high-quality services aligned with global best practices.



Honoring the Legacy of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o in Nakuru

On 4th June, the Kenya National Library Service Nakuru Branch hosted a special commemorative event dedicated to celebrating the literary legacy of Prof. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. This gathering paid tribute to one of Africa's most influential authors, whose work has inspired generations and sparked critical conversations about language, culture, and identity.

The event created a reflective atmosphere where attendees revisited Prof. Ngũgĩ's powerful narratives that have shaped African literature. Excerpts from *The River Between*, *Decolonising the Mind*, and other notable works were shared to remind everyone of the depth and relevance of his storytelling. His commitment to writing in indigenous languages has had a lasting impact on cultural preservation and education, reminding us all that language is both a tool of expression and a vessel of heritage.

Speakers underscored the importance of continuing to share Ngũgĩ's work with new generations. His stories serve as a mirror that reflects our struggles, triumphs, and dreams. They challenge readers to think critically about identity and to embrace the richness of African culture.

The commemorative event was more than a celebration; it was a call to action to preserve and promote literature that speaks to our shared history. KNLS is proud to make Prof. Ngũgĩ's books accessible in our libraries, where readers can discover and reflect on the transformative power of his words.

As we honor his legacy, we reaffirm our commitment to nurturing a reading culture rooted in pride, knowledge, and the pursuit of justice.



Celebrating the Life and Work of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o at Maktaba Kuu

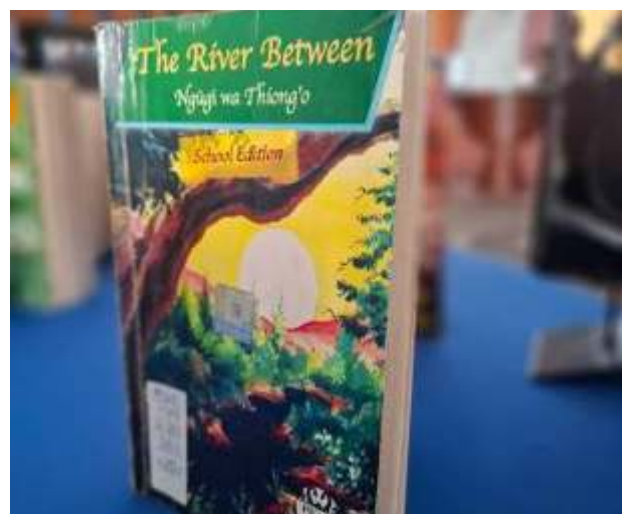
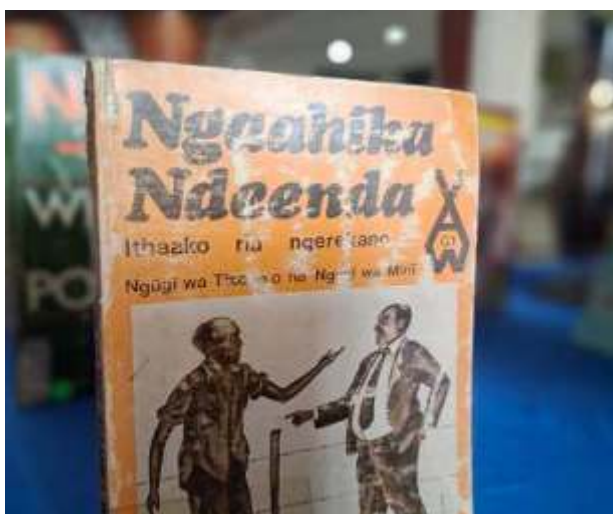
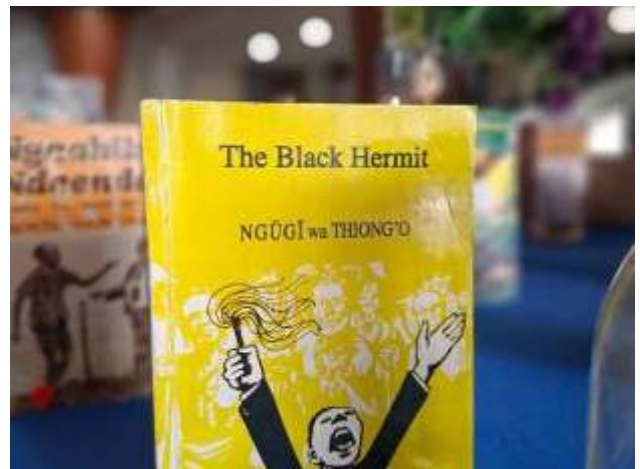
On 2nd May, the Kenya National Library Service came together to honour the enduring literary legacy of Prof. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o at Maktaba Kuu. This special event was a tribute to a fearless advocate of decolonization, cultural identity, and the transformative power of storytelling.

Throughout the commemoration, participants reflected on Ngũgĩ's courageous journey as a writer who dared to challenge the status quo. His commitment to using language as an instrument of liberation has left an indelible mark not only on Kenyan literature but also on global thought. As attendees explored his influential works, the message was clear; great minds never die. They live on in every page, every character, and every idea that continues to inspire readers across generations.

The event featured readings, discussions, and exhibitions that showcased the depth of Ngũgĩ's storytelling. His books, available in all KNLS branches, remain an essential resource for those who seek to understand the complexities of African identity and the fight for self-determination.

In honoring Prof. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, KNLS reaffirmed its role as a custodian of knowledge and cultural heritage. Libraries play a vital part in preserving the voices that shape our collective consciousness and ensuring they remain accessible to all.

We invite readers to visit their nearest KNLS library to explore Ngũgĩ's works and discover the stories that have ignited thought, pride, and purpose across the continent.



KNLS Marks Internal Audit Awareness Month



By fostering a strategic partnership with the internal audit function, managers can unlock valuable insights that drive improvement and safeguard institutional integrity.

On 27th May, Kenya National Library Service commemorated Internal Audit Awareness Month with a special breakfast meeting dedicated to recognizing the role of internal auditors in driving accountability and excellence. The event brought together senior management, audit professionals, and representatives from the Institute of Internal Auditors Kenya for an engaging session of learning and reflection.

During the meeting, the Head of Internal Audit led a discussion on Domain III of the Global Internal Audit Standards, which focuses on the governance of the internal audit function. Participants also explored Domain I, which defines the purpose of internal audit and its role in strengthening organizational effectiveness. The Head of Internal Audit emphasized that senior leadership bears significant responsibility for supporting the audit process and ensuring its independence.

Strengthening Governance with New Audit Charters at KNLS

On 9th May, the Kenya National Library Service marked a major milestone in its journey toward enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance. During a full board meeting held at Maktaba Kuu, the Board officially launched the Audit Committee Charter and the Internal Audit Charter.

This momentous occasion underscored the institution's commitment to strengthening internal controls and reinforcing a culture of integrity across all operations.





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