

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

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Kenya celebrates first ever National Reading Day with a campaign for young readers

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Partnership with Arc Ride Kenya to drive sustainable urban mobility

In a landmark move to promote eco-friendly transportation, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Arc Ride Kenya to establish swapping stations and facilitate the acquisition of electric motorcycles. The partnership, formalized on July 8th, is part of KNLS's broader strategy to support sustainable urban mobility and environmental conservation in Kenya.

The collaboration will see the rollout of electric motorcycle swapping stations across key KNLS library branches, enabling riders to seamlessly swap battery packs, reducing downtime and operational costs. This initiative is aimed at encouraging the adoption of electric motorcycles, which are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly, contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions in urban centers.

Additionally, KNLS will implement a check-off system, making it easier for staff and library users to purchase electric motorcycles through a convenient and affordable payment plan. This arrangement ensures that more Kenyans can access sustainable modes of transport, supporting the government's green energy agenda. KNLS CEO, Dr. Charles Nzivo, emphasized the importance of this partnership in advancing KNLS's mission of serving communities not only through knowledge dissemination but also by spearheading initiatives that support sustainable development. "This partnership with Arc Ride Kenya is a significant step toward promoting cleaner, greener transportation solutions in our cities," Dr. Nzivo remarked.

The initiative aligns with global efforts to combat climate change and reinforces Kenya's commitment to a more sustainable, eco-conscious future for its urban populations.



Kenya Celebrates First-Ever National Reading Day with a New Campaign for Young Readers

On July 12th, Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) marked a historic milestone by hosting the inaugural National Reading Day at Maktaba Kuu, in collaboration with Worldreader and other esteemed partners. The event was a celebration of literacy and a commitment to fostering a reading culture among children across the country.

A highlight of the day was the launch of the Mashujaa wa Kusoma Campaign, which challenges children aged 3-12 to read 25 books within a month. This ambitious initiative aims to cultivate a lifelong love for reading and inspire young minds to explore the world through books.

The campaign encourages children from all walks of life to participate, with the best readers set to be crowned as “Reading Heroes” on October 20th, coinciding with Mashujaa Day. These young champions of literacy will not only gain national recognition but will also win exciting prizes as a reward for their dedication.

KNLS CEO, Dr. Charles Nzivo, emphasized the significance of the campaign, stating, “By fostering a strong reading culture, we are empowering the next generation to become leaders, innovators, and critical thinkers.”

The launch of National Reading Day and the Mashujaa wa Kusoma Campaign reinforces KNLS’s mission to promote literacy and ensure that every child in Kenya has access to quality reading materials. It’s a call to action for parents, teachers, and communities to support their children in becoming Kenya’s next generation of reading heroes.



Launching the Bula Mpya School Library: A Milestone in Promoting Literacy



On July 24th, 2024, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in collaboration with Book Aid International, launched the Bula Mpya Primary School Library in Isiolo. This significant initiative is part of the ongoing Explorer Library Project, which aims to improve access to books and foster a reading culture among young learners across Kenya.

The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including KNLS Chairman Bishop Robert Theuri Maina and CEO Dr. Charles Nzivo, who emphasized the critical role libraries play in shaping future generations. In his speech, Dr. Nzivo highlighted the importance of early access to books in fostering creativity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning among children. He expressed gratitude to Book Aid International for its unwavering support in making the project a reality.

Since its inception in 2020, the Explorer Library Project has benefited seven schools, providing much-needed resources to areas with limited access to reading materials. The new library at Bula Mpya is expected to significantly impact literacy levels in the region, offering students access to a wide range of books and learning materials.

The launch marks yet another milestone in KNLS's mission to promote literacy and education nationwide. By bringing libraries closer to marginalized communities, KNLS continues to empower young learners and inspire a lifelong love for reading.

Unveiling a New Library and ICT Hub in Kiambu County



On July 30th, 2024, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in partnership with the Nation Media Foundation (NMF), convened a public participation forum to unveil a pilot project for a state-of-the-art library and ICT Hub in Ngewa Ward, Kiambu County. This project, with a KES 40 million investment, is designed to accommodate up to 500 users daily, significantly boosting access to educational and literacy resources in the region.

During the event, KNLS CEO Dr. Charles Nzivo and interim Nation Media Group CEO Richard Tobiko signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kiambu County Government, which has allocated land for the project. In addition to the land, the county government will provide staff, while KNLS will manage the library system and furnish the facility with books.

“This library will serve the entire county and address the high demand for library services from the numerous schools, colleges, and universities here. It will undoubtedly be a very busy place,” said Charles Kang’ethe, a Member of the County Assembly from Ngewa, during the MOU signing ceremony on August 31st.

The library will also feature an e-resource centre, supported by a global tech company, and will integrate KNLS’s virtual library to enhance access to materials. The project is part of NMF’s broader public libraries initiative, which aims to impact five million learners across Kenya within five years.

“We are excited to collaborate on this project, and it will become a centre of excellence for education and literacy,” added Mr. Tobiko. The program was a remarkable success, with participants expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to learn and grow. The collaborative effort between KNLS and Ajira Digital highlighted the importance of such initiatives in preparing the next generation for the challenges and opportunities of the modern workforce.

As the training concluded, many participants felt equipped and inspired to apply their newfound skills in real-world scenarios, potentially transforming their career trajectories. The event underscored KNLS’s ongoing commitment to fostering educational growth and Ajira Digital’s dedication to bridging the digital skills gap among Kenyan youth.



KNLS and Nation Media Foundation Support Flood-Affected Schools in Kisumu County



In response to the devastating floods in Kisumu County, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in collaboration with the Nation Media Foundation (NMF), extended critical support to three primary schools in Nyando Sub-county. These schools, which had been severely impacted by the floods, received much-needed donations of educational materials and reading resources aimed at ensuring that the education of displaced students continues with minimal disruption.

The floods, which displaced many families and disrupted the learning environment, left the schools in urgent need of support. Recognizing this, KNLS and NMF acted swiftly to provide assistance. The donations included textbooks, reading materials, and other educational resources to help students keep up with their studies despite the challenges posed by the disaster.

The initiative not only focused on immediate relief but also emphasized the importance of sustaining educational development in the affected areas. By providing reading resources, the partnership aims to encourage a continuous learning culture among students, even in the face of adversity.

“We understand how critical it is for students to continue their education, even during difficult times. Our goal is to ensure that these children have the resources they need to keep learning and to stay motivated,” said Dr. Charles Nzivo, CEO of KNLS.

The support from KNLS and NMF comes as part of their broader commitment to improving literacy and access to education across Kenya, particularly in marginalized and disaster-affected communities. Their efforts are aimed at ensuring that no child's education is left behind, even in times of crisis.

Excel Data Analysis Workshop Empowers 32 Participants with Essential Skills



From August 14th to 16th, 2024, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in collaboration with Ajira Digital, hosted a successful “Data Analysis with Excel” training that attracted 32 eager learners. The hands-on workshop focused on equipping participants with essential data analysis and visualization skills using Microsoft Excel, emphasizing KNLS’s commitment to fostering professional development.

Over the course of three days, participants engaged in practical exercises, mastering skills such as data organization, creating charts, using pivot tables, and applying complex formulas to analyze data effectively. The interactive sessions allowed attendees to gain a deep understanding of Excel’s powerful tools, ensuring they could immediately apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

KNLS Shines at the 2024 Nairobi ASK Show, Secures Second Place in Government Stand

The Kenya National Library Service has once again demonstrated its unwavering dedication to promoting knowledge and learning, emerging as the second-best government stand in the education and research category at the 2024 Nairobi Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show. This year’s event, themed “Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Economic Growth,” provided a platform for KNLS to showcase its role in advancing education, research, and innovation in Kenya.

Through an interactive display, KNLS highlighted its comprehensive range of services, including digitization, mobile libraries, and its cutting-edge virtual library platform. Visitors learned about KNLS’s efforts to support sustainable development by equipping communities with essential knowledge in climate-smart agriculture, trade, and entrepreneurship.

The recognition of KNLS at the prestigious ASK Show reflects the organization’s continued commitment to empowering Kenyans through access to information and education, aligning with the show’s broader objective of fostering sustainable economic growth.



Empowering Counties Without Libraries: Capacity-Building Workshop Held by KNLS

On August 29-30, 2024, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) conducted a two-day capacity-building workshop in Buruburu, Nairobi, designed to empower 14 County Governments that currently lack public libraries. The workshop aimed to provide key representatives from these counties with essential knowledge and tools to establish and effectively manage their own libraries.

During the sessions, participants engaged in discussions focused on modern library operations, design, and best practices. The workshop featured expert presentations and interactive sessions, enabling representatives to share insights and collaborate on strategies to enhance library services within their communities. KNLS emphasized the importance of public libraries as vital resources for education, information access, and community engagement. By equipping these counties with the necessary skills and understanding, KNLS aims to bridge the gap in library services across the country and promote literacy and knowledge-sharing.

Establishing libraries in these counties will significantly contribute to the development of a reading culture and improve access to information,” stated Dr. Charles Nzivo, CEO of KNLS. “We believe that every community deserves access to library services, and this workshop is a crucial step toward making that a reality.” The capacity-building initiative reflects KNLS’s commitment to fostering equitable access to information and resources, ensuring that no county is left behind in the journey toward enhancing education and literacy in Kenya.



Celebrating International Literacy Day: A Focus on Multilingual Education

KNLS September 6th, 2024, in partnership with Book Aid International, the Narok County Library served as the venue for this year's International Literacy Day celebration, themed "Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace." The event attracted participation from various local schools and highlighted the vital role community leaders' play in advocating for literacy.

The celebration featured engaging activities, including readings and discussions aimed at raising awareness about the importance of multilingual education in fostering understanding and harmony among diverse communities. Community leaders and students took center stage, sharing their insights on how promoting literacy can empower individuals and strengthen societal bonds.

Just a few days later, on September 9th, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in partnership with the YALI RLC EA - Alumni Chapter of Kenya, continued the celebration with a series of thought-provoking panel discussions. These sessions were also centered on the theme of promoting multilingual education, providing a platform for distinguished experts to engage in meaningful dialogue.

The panel discussions aimed to explore innovative strategies for enhancing literacy through multilingual approaches, emphasizing the need for inclusive education that recognizes and values diverse languages. Participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and collaborate on ways to improve literacy initiatives across the country.

Together, these events underscore the importance of multilingual education in fostering mutual understanding and peace within communities, reinforcing the commitment of KNLS and its partners to champion literacy in Kenya.



KREATE VIBE NA CULTURE: A Workshop for Young Creatives



Exciting news for aspiring young creatives! The Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in collaboration with the Creatives Foundation, is thrilled to announce the launch of Cohort 2: KREATE VIBE NA CULTURE, taking place from September 30th to October 4th, 2024. This dynamic workshop is specifically designed for young creatives aged 17 to 27, providing them with hands-on training, skill-building opportunities, and valuable networking experiences.

Participants will engage in a series of interactive sessions led by industry experts, covering a wide range of topics, including creative design, digital media, and entrepreneurial skills. The workshop aims to equip attendees with practical tools and insights to help them excel in their creative endeavours.

Donation of Medical Books to Navakholo KMTC Campus

On September 23rd, 2024, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in partnership with Book Aid International, made a significant contribution to the Navakholo KMTC campus by donating medical books valued at Kshs. 2.5 million. This generous donation aims to enhance medical education and promote literacy among students pursuing careers in healthcare.

The event was attended by key stakeholders, including educators and representatives from KNLS and Book Aid International, who underscored the importance of access to quality educational resources in shaping the future of healthcare professionals. The donated medical books will provide students with essential knowledge and insights into various medical fields, equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in their studies. Dr. Charles Nzivo, CEO of KNLS, expressed the organization's commitment to supporting educational institutions and improving access to resources that foster learning. "This donation is part of our ongoing effort to promote literacy and enhance the quality of education in Kenya. By providing these resources to Navakholo KMTC, we are investing in the future of our healthcare system," he stated.

The collaboration between KNLS and Book Aid International highlights the impact of partnerships in addressing educational needs. This donation not only supports the students at Navakholo KMTC but also reflects a broader commitment to improving literacy and education across the country, particularly in specialized fields like medicine.





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