

NEWSLETTER

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ICONIC VIEW OF THE MAKTABA KUU BUILDING

In this issue;

1. League of Arab States' Head of Mission, Dr. Khalid Al-Kathiri, Visits Nairobi Library to Establish the Arab Section
2. NMG and KNLS Join Forces to Launch Ngong Library in Three Months
3. Menstrual Hygiene Day: Promoting Equality and Empowerment
4. Team Kibera and British Aid International (BAI) Collaborate to Support Lang'ata Women Prison
5. Isiolo Community Library Hosts a Thrilling Children's Activities Fun Day
6. Gilgil Library Hosts Highly Anticipated Plug and Play Fun Day
7. ICT Students Shine at the 14th Graduation Ceremony at KNLS, Meru
8. Life Care Hospitals Meru and Kenya National Library Service Foster Health and Education Partnership
9. Senior Citizens Section
10. KNLS Embarks on a Technological Journey with Cloud Services and Cutting-Edge Data Center

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League of Arab States' Head of Mission, Dr. Khalid Al-Kathiri, Visits Nairobi Library to Establish the Arab Section



From the left, KNLS CEO, Dr. Charles Nzivo, Dr. Khalid Al-Kathiri, the Head of Mission at the League of Arab States- Nairobi, Chairman, Bishop Robert Theuri, Amira Moheddin, League of Arab States, Julliana Muchai, Head Projects Management)

Dr. Khalid Al-Kathiri, the Head of Mission at the League of Arab States- Nairobi, paid a courtesy visit to the library, accompanied by his colleague, Amira Moheddin. The visit revolved around the creation of an Arab Section within the library, in response to the increasing demand from Arab students pursuing their education in Kenya.

During the visit, the team explored various sections of the library, to familiarize themselves with the library's diverse offerings and understand its potential for accommodating the proposed Arab Section.

Dr. Al-Kathiri's visit generated immense anticipation among the Arab community in Kenya, as they await the actualization of a dedicated Arab space where they can access resources, engage in research, and immerse themselves in their rich cultural heritage. The creation of the Arab Section signifies a major step in enhancing cross-cultural understanding and promoting educational opportunities for Arab students in Kenya.

The visit by Dr. Khalid Al-Kathiri and his colleague to the library marks the beginning of an exciting chapter in the institution's history. It serves as a testament to the library's commitment to fostering inclusivity, diversity, and knowledge exchange. As the Arab Section takes shape, it holds the promise of becoming a vibrant hub for academic and cultural exploration, enabling students to thrive and contribute to the broader intellectual fabric of Kenya.

Dr. Khalid Al-Kathiri, the Head of Mission at the League of Arab States- Nairobi together with Amira Moheddin, browsing through our collection of books



Nation Media Group and KNLS Join Forces to Launch Ngong Library in Three Months



Deputy Director Technical Services, Madam Philomena Mwirigi being interviewed by Nation Media in relation to Ngong library establishment

Ngong, Kajiado County, is set to witness the establishment of its inaugural container library by the Nation Media Group Foundation (NMG) and KNLS. Following a successful baraza meeting with the local community, the project is ready to commence and is expected to be completed within three months.

This collaborative effort between NMG and KNLS is driven by a shared objective of promoting education and literacy. The primary goal is to enhance public access to information resources by establishing community libraries in 14 Counties that currently lack such facilities.

The partnership between NMG and KNLS aims to establish a strong framework for collaboration in education and literacy programs. Its central mission is to improve public access to information resources by establishing libraries in 14 counties that currently do not have public libraries. The upcoming Ngong library marks a significant stride towards achieving these objectives. It will serve as a crucial resource center for the local community, providing opportunities for learning, reading, and accessing valuable information. As the Ngong library project takes shape, excitement builds within the community. The forthcoming library will not only provide a sanctuary for reading enthusiasts but also serve as a hub for educational activities, community events, and workshops. With the joint efforts of NMG and KNLS, Ngong is poised to gain a valuable asset that will positively impact the lives of its residents for years to come.



Menstrual Hygiene Day: Promoting Equality and Empowerment

KNLS Nairobi Area Library at Maktaba Kuu, in partnership with other stakeholders marked this year's World Menstrual Hygiene on 27th April 2023. The theme of the Day was "making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030." The event aimed at dismantling cultural barriers, dispel misconceptions, and foster societal inclusivity. The event was graced by Awesewe Development and Awareness Foundation (ADAF), Haki Group Kenya, and girls from Soweto Academy Kibera.

During the event, inspirational speakers shared their expertise and shed light on essential topics that empower young girls in their journey toward a healthy and confident life. Mesmerizing dance performances and entertaining expressions created a safe and empowering space for girls to learn, grow, and embrace their femininity.

Cultural discrimination against women during menstruation was addressed as speakers called for a more inclusive and supportive environment for women. A generous donation comprising a range of sanitary items was presented to the girls.

The Menstrual Hygiene Day event at Maktaba Kuu marked a significant milestone in promoting gender equality and breaking the silence around menstruation. It addressed cultural discrimination, challenged beliefs about menstruation in African societies, provided practical demonstrations, emphasized general menstrual hygiene practices, and highlighted the importance of involving men in menstrual hygiene discussions. Through fostering dialogue and raising awareness, we can create a society that embraces



Students during the menstrual hygiene day

KNLS Kibera and British Aid International (BAI) Collaborate to Support Lang'ata Women Prison

In a heartwarming community initiative, KNLS Kibera partnered with British Aid International (BAI) to extend a helping hand to Lang'ata Women Prison. This collaborative effort brought together various stakeholders, including Haki Africa, the Awesewe Development and Awareness Foundation (ADAF), Equity Afia Foundation - Ngong Road, Savor the World, and Friends of the library from America and Canada. Together, they donated essential supplies including food, detergents, toys, books, diapers, and tissue papers to the prison.

The beneficiaries of this gesture were the children whose mothers are incarcerated, the inmates, and a few children from the surrounding community. The donations aimed to comfort and support these individuals who find themselves in challenging circumstances.

The prison management warmly received the contributions and expressed their gratitude for the initiative. They also extended a challenge to the digitalization department, urging them to initiate digital classes within the facility. This suggestion highlights the prison's commitment to providing educational opportunities and equipping inmates with valuable skills for their future.

This community reading initiative exemplifies the power of collaboration and empathy. It showcases the collective efforts of KNLS Kibera, BAI, and other stakeholders in positively impacting the lives of incarcerated mothers, their children, and the wider prison community. By providing essential supplies and fostering educational opportunities, this initiative aims to instill hope and support the rehabilitation process within the prison.



Kibera library staff together with local and foreign partners handing over books, toys, diapers, pieces of tissue papers, Pampers, foodstuffs and detergent to Madam Jackline Onyango who represented the in charge Lang'ata Women's Prison



Nancy Awour a staff at Kibera branch having good time with young readers



One of the friends of Kibera library from Diana Husanu America and Donna Philip (in brown top) from Peninsula taking part in the Let's Play and Learn program

Isiolo Community Library Hosts a Thrilling Children's Activities Fun Day



Participants actively engage in tag of war game

Isiolo Community Library in partnership with the LEGO Foundation, organized a remarkable event for children on May 5, 2023. Under the theme "PLUG & PLAY," the library staff engaged with enthusiastic kids, pupils, and their parents, in witnessing a day filled with exciting activities.

The event showcased the talents and skills of the young participants through a range of competitions and activities. From a drawing competition to sack racing, individual and group reading competitions to tug of war, skipping rope to egg racing, and even word spelling and chess, the children eagerly showcased their abilities in each endeavor.

The participants exhibited tremendous enthusiasm and dedication, fully embracing the opportunity to express their talents and skills. As a token of appreciation, the winners of each activity were rewarded with well-deserved presents, acknowledging their outstanding performances.

The event attracted esteemed visitors, including the Deputy County Commissioner, community representatives, parents, and members of the media .

Participants during drawing session



Gilgil Library Hosts Plug and Play Fun Day



Participants during the plug and play programme

The eagerly awaited Children's Fun Day at Gilgil Library was conducted on 5th May 2023 in partnership with the LEGO Foundation. This exciting event garnered significant attention, including coverage by NTV media house, and drew the participation of approximately 200 children from various schools in Gilgil.

The primary objective of the event was to foster a reading culture among children by incorporating play into the learning process. Various activities were organized, including indoor games such as Scrabble, spelling bees, storytelling, debates, reading sessions, and outdoor activities like sack racing, potato racing, tug of war, and numerous other games. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement, creating an unforgettable experience for all.

One of the notable outcomes of the occasion was the remarkable interaction between the library staff and the children. The free and open exchange fostered a strong bond that may not have existed initially. Moving forward, this newfound relationship between our dedicated staff and the children will serve as the foundation for serving and supporting them in their future endeavors.

Gilgil Community Library remains committed to building a future where learning is infused with play. By empowering children through play, we believe they become more creative, engaged, and enthusiastic lifelong learners. The concept of "reading with fun" aims to redefine the notion of play and reimagine the learning process. Our World of Play campaign seeks to transform librarians, parents, and caregivers into advocates for play, highlighting its crucial role in nurturing children's imagination, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

The event also attracted the presence of parents and distinguished guests who came to witness this memorable occasion. Adding to the inspiring atmosphere, Mr. Samuel Ndungu, a retired County Director of Early Childhood Development and a passionate advocate for encouraging children to read, learn, and play, delivered a motivating talk.

In conclusion, the Plug and Play Fun Day exemplified the library's commitment to creating an environment where children can develop a love for reading while enjoying the benefits of play. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to KNLS Board and the LEGO Foundation for their invaluable sponsorship and support.

Medical Clinic at KNLS Meru by Life Care Hospitals Meru on May 5, 2023

With a view to improve community well-being, Life Care Hospitals (LCH) conducted a free medical camp at the Meru library hall. A health talk and an educational session centered around nutrition was a key focus point. Event attendance included 28 students, staff, and library users.

The facilitators were Mr. Benard Macharia, responsible for development and planning at Life Care Hospital in Meru, and a nutritionist Mr. Dickson Karani. In his welcoming remarks, the Librarian in charge, Mr. Wanjohi highlighted key aspects of the library's operations, underscoring its commitment to empowering the community through various initiatives. Topics covered included the importance of nutrition, maintaining a healthy diet, different categories of a nutritious diet, and health-related diseases.

The culminating moment of the day was the medical check-up offered by Life Care Hospital, where all the 28 participants availed themselves for screening.



Nutritionist from Life care Mr. Dickson Karani giving out his speech on healthy living based on nutrition

ICT Students Shine at the 14th Graduation Ceremony at KNLS, Meru

KNLS Meru branch organized a graduation ceremony for 49 students after their remarkable achievement attained during their basic ICT skill course. The event, which was held on 12th May 2023, Marked the 14th graduation ceremony at the branch.

The graduation ceremony followed the successful completion of the students' comprehensive basic computer skills program course which they undertook for one and a half months. Topics covered included Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Publisher, Gmail and online tools, and Microsoft Access.

The students were issued with graduation certificates in recognition of their accomplishments. Valuable advice and insights, including a talk on mental health, were also shared with the students.

The Librarian in charge, Mr. Richard Wanjohi, took the stage to commend the students on their outstanding performance. He acknowledged the best-performing students and expressed his appreciation to the esteemed guest of honor, Mrs. Rose Kinga, Deputy Head Teacher of Meru Primary.

The graduation ceremony concluded on a high note, highlighting the exceptional achievements of the class of 2023 March intake. The students' dedication and hard work paid off as they acquired vital skills in ICT, paving the way for a promising future. With their well-deserved certificates in hand, these graduates are ready to make significant contributions in the ever-evolving world of information and technology.



The librarian in charge Mr. Richard Wanjohi presenting a certificate to the best ICT student

Senior Citizens Section



Senior citizens during a discussion

KNLS has taken a commendable step towards providing dedicated support to senior citizens through establishment of a Senior Citizens Club, whose aim is to foster a sense of community and facilitate meaningful engagement. The club members, numbering 26 in total, convene fortnightly on Fridays within their designated section to exchange views on national and global affairs, share their life experiences, socialize, and collaborate with the library in utilizing their skills and wisdom to contribute to society.

The senior citizens' section within the National Library Division offers a range of specialized services tailored to their unique needs. These esteemed individuals have access to a curated collection of informative materials that cater for topics such as Health and Old Age, Reflection on Retirement, and Who Moved My Cheese, ensuring that they stay abreast of relevant information.

Additionally, a dedicated desktop computer enables them to browse the internet in their section, further expanding their knowledge horizons. At their request, the club members also receive current local newspapers to stay updated on current events.

To promote mental agility and foster social interaction, indoor games such as Cash Flow, Monopoly, and chess are made available to the senior citizens. Recognizing the significance of adapting to the digital age, the National Library Division organizes training sessions on basic ICT skills, conducted by a trained senior citizen. Furthermore, the club members are empowered with the know-how to utilize mobile and smart phones as a means to access information, ensuring they remain connected in an increasingly digital world.

Continuing its commitment to enriching the lives of senior citizens, the National Library Division offers a comprehensive training program on various topics of interest. With the assistance of a dedicated volunteer trainer, the club members receive virtual training during their fortnightly meetings at the library. Topics covered so far include change management, stress management in retirement, and retirement and family relationships. The National Library Division endeavors to prioritize and provide further relevant training sessions, tailored to the specific needs and preferences of the senior citizens.

In collaboration with the library, the Senior Citizens Club members have embarked on a notable project on environmental conservation. Their first undertaking involves the planting of 2000 trees across different counties, with Kajiado County as the initial focus. Land has already been identified, and negotiations with stakeholders are underway to facilitate the successful execution of this endeavor.

The senior citizens express their utmost gratitude to the Kenya National Library Service Board and Management for their unwavering commitment to their well-being. The provision of a dedicated section within the library and the implementation of specialized services has reaffirmed their value and significance within society.

KNLS Embarks on a Technological Journey with Cloud Services and Cutting-Edge Data Center



Public Financial Management Reforms Secretariat (PFMRS) touring the data centre

KNLS has set sail on an exciting technological journey with the establishment of Uvumbuzi Center, its state-of-the-art data center. This significant milestone marks KNLS' entry into the realm of cloud services, positioning them as a key player in the digital landscape.

To ensure seamless operations and maximize the potential of Uvumbuzi Center, KNLS organized a comprehensive five-day training program for its data center officers. Guided by industry experts from Konza, the officers delved into essential topics in modern data center management. Through this transformative training program, the data center officers gained valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies and infrastructure, enabling the expansion of their data center services offerings.

Armed with the knowledge gained from the training, KNLS is poised to offer comprehensive data center solutions and drive digital transformation across various sectors. Through Uvumbuzi Center, KNLS is committed to empowering individuals, businesses, and communities with reliable and efficient cloud services, paving the way for a future of technological excellence. This strategic expansion not only addresses the growing demand for robust data center services in Kenya but also contributes to the nation's overall digital growth. By harnessing the power of advanced infrastructure and leveraging their expertise, KNLS is well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of users, foster innovation, and propel Kenya into a digitally advanced era.

