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Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports, Hon. Ababu Namwamba, officiates the Kenya National Library Service, Virtual Library launch



On 12th July 2023, we launched the virtual library dubbed vtabu which was officiated by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports, Hon. Ababu Namwamba. The launch of the virtual library, signifies a significant step forward in promoting knowledge-sharing and access to information. Spearheaded by the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) and supported by various government entities, this innovative initiative is expected to revolutionize the way people in Kenya and beyond access and engage with information.

VTabu offers a diverse and extensive collection of resources, including over 200,000 digitized books, periodicals, research papers, government publications, and more. This vast platform of knowledge can be accessed from any internet-enabled device, making it convenient for users to explore and learn from various sources. The inclusion of downloadable e-books for offline reading addresses the issue of limited internet connectivity in some areas, making information more accessible to a wider audience. At the launch event held at Maktaba Kuu in Nairobi, Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports, Cabinet Secretary Hon. Ababu Namwamba highlighted the importance of technology and innovation in promoting knowledge growth.

He expressed optimism that VTabu would not only enhance Kenya's global competitiveness but also contribute to economic growth by creating job opportunities related to content generation. The virtual library is expected to play a crucial role in supporting young learners through its Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) materials, helping them identify and nurture their talents for future career opportunities.



One noteworthy aspect of vtabu is the Talanta Hela initiative, which aims to promote youth creativity and talents. This initiative provides a platform for young writers to monetize their literary works, encouraging the growth of creative industries in Kenya. The virtual library's information materials cater to learners of all ages and interests, covering a wide range of subjects such as children's content, general information e-books, fiction, non-fiction, journals, storybooks, cartoons, photography, wildlife, tourism, culture, science, information technology, and CBC education materials.

Access to the virtual library (vtabu) requires a nominal daily membership fee of Sh20, which offers flexible subscription options to accommodate various

preferences and needs. During the launch, President William Ruto's speech read by the CS declared July 12 as the annual national reading day. This underscores the government's commitment to fostering reading habits and utilizing the vtabu platform to facilitate personal and academic growth.

Dr. Charles Nzivo, the CEO of KNLS, extended an invitation to state agencies and organizations to utilize KNLS's data facility for cloud storage services and the KNLS Digitization Hub for digitizing important documents, pictures, and maps. The KNLS digital platform also provides on-demand digital skills training in areas such as coding, digital marketing, graphic design, and ICT skills, empowering young Kenyans to explore online job opportunities.



Visit by Professor Clara M Chu from University of Illinois Library to discuss future collaborations and partnerships



Professor Clara M Chu from the University of Illinois Library recently paid a visit to discuss potential collaborations and partnerships with our organization. This visit was particularly significant as we prepare for the establishment of the Kenya School of Library and Information Science.

During the visit, Prof Clara M Chu and her accompanying team were greatly impressed by the remarkable work being undertaken at our Nairobi and Buru Buru libraries. Their positive feedback serves as a strong endorsement of our libraries' dedication to community service and the advancement of services throughout the nation.

This meeting also paved the way for exciting new opportunities, particularly in the realm of library science education in Kenya. The envisioned collaboration aims to emphasize the crucial role of knowledge preservation in promoting literacy and education.



Kenya National Library Service Devolves 61 branches to County Governments



TKenya National Library Service (KNLS) has successfully devolved its operations to county governments, marking a significant transition in the management of library services. Josephat Rotich, Uasin Gishu County's Director of Human Resources, highlighted the benefits of this transfer, emphasizing that it will enhance the county governments' roles. Rotich, who received records and files of KNLS staff in Eldoret, noted that this move would particularly bolster the implementation of Information Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives and programs aimed at empowering the youth.

This transition was formally approved by the Inter-Governmental Technical Relations Committee (IGTRC) through a Kenya Gazette notice dated August 9, 2019. The IGTRC decision involved the delineation of KNLS functions and the distribution of libraries between the National and County Governments. Rotich praised the county's commitment

to ICT and youth empowerment under Governor Jonathan Bii's leadership, highlighting how KNLS's involvement will be instrumental in launching ICT incubation programs for the local youth.

As of July 1, 2023, 18 KNLS staff members have been transferred to the County, and the library service will now operate as a section within the Department of ICT and e-Government. Silah Rono, Acting Secretary for the County Public Service Board, affirmed that the board will efficiently integrate the transferred personnel into the county's employment systems, adhering to established structures. Martin Kuelekho, a representative from IGTRC, indicated that the committee is in the final stages of devolving functions to counties as stipulated by the constitution. Currently the library has three branches Nairobi, Maktaba Kuu Building, Buruburu and Nakuru.

Kenya National Library Service Propels Global Library Transformation



As the world continues to embrace the digital age, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) has taken unprecedented strides to revolutionize the library landscape. With a vision to make knowledge accessible to all, KNLS has become a beacon of innovation, driving the digitization of libraries and preserving Kenya's cultural heritage for future generations. Under the leadership of a passionate team technologists, KNLS embarked on a remarkable journey to create a library without borders, Vtabu. Their dream was to ensure that anyone with an internet connection could explore the vast treasures of Kenyan literature and history. This audacious vision led to the birth of a digital transformation that would change the face of libraries worldwide.

Armed with cutting-edge technology, the team at KNLS began the meticulous process of digitization. Ancient manuscripts, faded photographs, and rare books were delicately preserved in digital formats, ensuring their longevity and accessibility. While the physical collections were carefully preserved, their digital counterparts found a new home within the secure confines of state-of-the-art data centers. A state-of-the-art data center emerged in the heart of Nairobi, serving as a symbol of the digital revolution taking place. Equipped with powerful servers, this technological marvel became the key to unlocking a wealth of knowledge.

With each passing day, the digital collection grew in size and diversity. KNLS opened its virtual doors to

the world, welcoming enthusiastic knowledge seekers from every corner of the globe. Through an inviting website, adorned with the vibrant colors of Knls, individuals from Mombasa to Montreal, Nairobi to New York, were able to embrace a world of possibilities at their fingertips.

In addition to its role as a digital library, KNLS also took on the responsibility of preserving Kenya's rich cultural heritage. Centuries-old stories, passed down through generations, now danced across screens, immortalizing Kenya's soul for generations to come. The diligent curation of folktales, songs, and oral histories formed a colorful tapestry of cultural richness, truly capturing the essence of Kenya's diverse heritage.

Recognizing the power of collaboration, KNLS can now reach out to libraries across continents, transcending borders and forging meaningful partnerships. Through the sharing of digital resources, each library's collection expanded, creating a global community of knowledge stewards. This collaborative effort will ensure that the world's collective knowledge will no longer be confined by physical boundaries, fostering a sense of global interconnectedness. While KNLS digital initiatives have had a profound impact on knowledge dissemination, they have also played a critical role in empowering communities, particularly in remote villages. The digital library has become a source of inspiration for young minds, providing educational opportunities that were once beyond their reach. As education flourishes and dreams take flight, KNLS proves that a well-equipped library, be it physical or digital, can uplift and transform lives.

The Kenya National Library Service has become a trailblazer in the global library landscape and the Digital transformation that is included in the manifesto of the current government, leading the way in the digital revolution. With its unwavering commitment to accessibility, preservation, collaboration, and empowerment, KNLS serves as a shining example for libraries worldwide. As the digital Renaissance continues, the impact of KNLS visionary approach will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on the future of libraries around the world.

*By, Girma
Attachee Marketing Department*

NOTICES.

Subscription for the Virtual Library

vtabu.knls.ac.ke

Join v.tabu today and choose a membership plan that suits you!

Kshs. 20 per day	Kshs. 100 per week	Kshs. 500 per month
Kshs. 1500 for 6 months	Kshs. 2500 per year	

v.tabu
access anywhere anytime
— knls virtual library —

Onboarding of knls services on e-citizen

KNLS | kenya national library service
Read Know Empower

Kenya National Library Service

NOTICE ON CLOSURE OF KNLS PAYBILL NUMBER AND ONBOARDING SERVICES ON ECITIZEN PLATFORM

KNLS wishes to inform all clients and stakeholders on closure of the knls paybill number and the ongoing process of onboarding the following services on ecitizen platform; Institutional annual subscription, Daily library access, book loan, overdue charges, ISBN, Vtabu and Kenya National Bibliography (print edition)

For remittance of fees, customers are urged to use the following bank details:

Acc Name: Kenya National Library Service
Bank: KCB
Branch: Milimani
Acc No: 1103249614

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition period.

Upcoming Events

1. *Whisper in the Jungle* - Book Tour

Date & Time

Fri Aug 11 2023 at 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm

Location

Alliance Francaise de Nairobi ,loita/Monrovia Street Nairobi, Kenya Nairobi

2. African Book Fair by SomaNami Books

Date & Time

Sat Aug 05 2023 at 11:00 am to 07:00 pm

arLocation

Mcmillian Memorial Library, Nairobi, kenya

3. Book Club

Date and time

Saturday, August 5 • 4 - 7pm

Location

Big Square Moi Avenue Nairobi County 00200

4. Award Ceremony - 2022 Afrika Redefined Indie Book Prize

Date & Time

Thu Aug 24 2023 at 02:00 pm to 06:00 pm

Location

Alliance Francaise de Nairobi, loita/Monrovia Street Nairobi, Kenya Nairobi

5 Nairobi lit fest

Date & Time

24th -27th August 2023

Kenya National Theaters

6. Kajiado Education

Evolution

Date 2nd September at Kitengela Stadium

