

Kenya National Library Service (KNLS)

Monthly News Bulletins

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Thanks to all who sent their reports that enabled the publication of this Issue. We continue to encourage branches to share information on activities they are undertaking in their areas of jurisdiction.

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports, Hon. Ababu Namwamba presides over the Official Opening of Teresa Oyiolo Community Library in Busia



Hon. Ababu Namwamba (2nd Left) and Dr. Nzivo (far right) together with other dignitaries jointly cut the tape to signify the official opening of Teresa Oyiolo Library

On 16th February 2023, the Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports Hon. Ababu Namwamba presided over the official opening of Teresa Oyiolo Library in Busia County. The facility was built for the community by the grand children of Teresa Oyiolo in her memory.

This is a significant milestone for KNLS as it aligns with the Board's mission of promoting library and information services to the Kenyan public. Dr. Charles Nzivo, who represented KNLS, donated 1000 curriculum books to boost the new facility and improve the education standards. He urged the local community and learners to utilize the library and the services available to enhance their scope of knowledge and academic performance.

The CS reiterated the importance of educating the community through library services, adding that the government is committed to ensuring that quality education is offered upto the grass root level. He underscored that this was in line with the government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which he termed as a key catalyst to education and uplifting of people's livelihood.

The CS hoped that amidst the devolution of the public library service function to the County governments, KNLS would continue to offer technical support and link the libraries to digital space under the virtual library, once it is officially launched. Also present was area MP Hon. Raphael Wanjala, among other guests.



Board Chairman Handover Event



Outgoing KNLS Board Chair Mr. Jibril Mohammed (right) presenting the hand over report to the new Board Chairman Bishop Robert Theuri (middle) with the CEO Dr. Nzivo (left)

A handover ceremony was held at the KNLS Boardroom, Maktaba Kuu on February 20th, 2023. The ceremony was occasioned by the appointment of Bishop Robert Theuri Maina as the Chairman of KNLS Board with effect from 10th February 2023, as per the Kenya Gazette Vol. CXXV – No. 30, 10-2.23. Bishop Theuri took over from Omar Jibril Mohammed who had served the Board from August 2022. KNLS appreciated Mr. Omar for his notable leadership during his tenure. A warm welcome was similarly extended to Bishop Robert Theuri Maina as he took over his new role. The event was witnessed by Board members, CEO, Dr. Charles Nzivo, and other top Management staff.



Some KNLS HODs in the company of KNLS CEO (4th from left) Dr. Nzivo presenting a farewell gift to the outgoing KNLS Board chairman Mr. Jibril Mohammed (4th from right)

Staff Breakfast Meeting

On 3rd March 2023, the new KNLS Board Chairman, Bishop Robert Theuri Maina, joined the KNLS Staff drawn from Nairobi Area, Kibera and Buruburu libraries for a breakfast meeting at Sanaa Center, Maktaba Kuu. The meeting was one of the intentions embraced by the CEO to provide a platform for the staff to know each other and bond for better execution of duties. During such meetings, the HODs and HOBs are given a chance to explain what happens in their respective departments/branches. Staff are also enlightened on what is expected of them in order to guarantee seamless library operations and effective service delivery to the public.

The CEO also takes time to bring staff to speed on the Board's vision and the activities that the Board and Management are undertaking not only to address the challenges but to realize sustainable organizational growth.

The "3rd March 2023 breakfast meeting was a good place for him to start assimilating himself to KNLS. The Chairman submitted that during his tenure, he would be guided by godliness through integrity, transparency, involvement (hands-on), diligence and positive change.



KNLS Board Chairman, Bishop Robert Theuri Maina, addressing staff during the breakfast meeting

Safaricom Foundation donates computers to the KNLS Buruburu branch

KNLS Buruburu branch on Friday 24th February 2023, received 15 computers from Safaricom Foundation under the initiative "NdotoZetuUwezoWetu." This was a major boost toward the promotion of digital literacy and easy access to information among the library's clientele. The donation was presented to the library by Stella Syombua Walya, Customer Experience Executive, Safaricom PLC.

Access to information by community members is a crucial component of development in the digital economy, and libraries are central to this process. With modern equipment at their disposal, library clients will be better equipped to pursue their interests, conduct research, gain innovative and creative ideas, and improve their livelihoods. As more and more services move online, it is essential that all members of society have the skills and tools to access and use digital resources. Indeed, KNLS, as can be said of all public libraries, is an essential institution that provides critical resources and support to people of all ages and backgrounds.



Stella Syombua (left) from Safaricom Foundation handing over the plaque to Ms. Kaltuma Sama, Librarian in charge of Buruburu Library in the middle is Mr. Timothy Maheha, Head of Marketing.

Hon. Mary Emaase Otucho pays a courtesy visit to KNLS Maktaba Kuu



Hon. Otucho (right) hosted by the Deputy Director, Technical Services, Philomena Mwirigi in her office together with Ms. Mary Kinyanjui, Head of Research Department

Hon. Mary Emaase Otucho, the Member of Parliament for Teso South Constituency, paid a courtesy visit to Maktaba Kuu on 16th February 2023. The aim of the visit was to appreciate KNLS' role in encouraging positive reading culture among Kenyans and discuss ways of establishing a library that would benefit the Teso South constituents.

Hon. Otucho emphasized the importance of education and the role that libraries play in promoting a reading culture and providing access to information. She pointed out that a library is a vital resource for any community and can serve as a hub for learning, research, and community engagement. The establishment of a library in Teso South Constituency will thus, be a significant step towards the acquisition of knowledge and information by the constituents.

Hon. Otucho also highlighted the need for more resources to be allocated toward promoting a reading culture and improving literacy levels in Kenya. Her visit to the library heightened the important duty that elected Leaders can undertake in promoting education and knowledge acquisition among their constituents.

Karatina Library partners with Ajira Digital to train women on digital marketing skills

A promotional poster for a digital marketing training program. At the top left is the Kenyan coat of arms. Next to it is the 'AJIRA' logo with the website 'ajiradigital.go.ke'. The main text reads 'DIGITAL MARKETING' in large, bold letters. Below that, it says 'Free Women Only Training' and 'Monday 27th & 28th Feb 2023 Time 8.30 Am-1 Pm'. A red box contains the text '-SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING TIPS. -NEW BUSINESS IDEAS ETC.'. Below this, it lists 'Training Requirements: -18 Years + -A Notebook & A Pen'. The venue is 'KARATINA KNLS LIBRARY'. At the bottom, it says 'Free Wifi Available'. There is a photo of a woman using a laptop. Logos for 'Young Africa Works', 'eMobias', 'KEPSA', and 'KNLS' are at the bottom left. The slogan 'The Future Works Online' is at the bottom right.

The Ajira Digital training programme was launched at Karatina library to equip women with digital marketing skills. The program, which is free of charge, provides participants with practical skills in social media marketing, digital marketing, social media management, search engine optimization, email marketing, and content creation. Through this program, participants acquire marketable skills that can help them secure online work opportunities or start their own digital marketing businesses. Additionally, the program aims to promote gender equality by providing women with equal access to digital education and employment opportunities. The training was conducted on 22nd February 2023 and Tuesday 23rd February 2023. A total of 32 benefited from the programme.

The initiative has received widespread support from the community, with many lauding the efforts of the KNLS and Ajira Digital in promoting digital skills among women. Catherine, one of the participants in the program remarked, "I never thought I could learn digital marketing skills, but thanks to this program, I am now able to market my products online and reach a wider market."

Equity Bank partners with KNLS Eldama Ravine and Muranga Libraries to train people on financial management



Participants keenly following the presentation at Eldama Ravine Library

Eldama Ravine Library partnered with Equity Bank to promote financial literacy among residents in Eldama Ravine Town and its environs. Training to promote Financial Literacy was sponsored by Equity Bank for over 50 small business owners comprising farmers, boda boda riders, and small eatery joint owners. The training which was facilitated by Mr. Daniel Kipkorir from the Mwachon Ajira Digital Center was conducted at the Library on Wednesday 22nd February 2023. The training covered general good business practices including record keeping, business risks, insurance, and online business practices. The participants were also given insights on how to market their products and services online. They were however warned against mobile phone fraudsters that may jeopardize their businesses. The facilitator encouraged the participants to visit Mwachon Ajira Centre for free in-depth training on online businesses and other ICT skills.

The Eldama Ravine Librarian, Mrs. Grace Locheria, urged participants to make good use of the library together with their other family members. Through this, they would be able to improve their knowledge and access diverse opportunities online, which could help to improve their living standards. The partnership with Equity Bank and Ajira Digital is expected to improve the residents' financial literacy in businesses and draw more people to use the library facility.

Murang'a Library also partnered with Equity Bank to conduct a training on Financial Management and Entrepreneurship skills on the 21st and 22nd of March 2023. The programme was designed to equip the youth with skills in savings and investments. They were trained on various ways to invest such as in bonds, savings accounts, and money markets. They also learned about the available loan opportunities and the repercussions of defaulting on loan repayment. About 26 youths benefited from the training. During the training, the participants were also introduced to diverse information resources in the library including e-resources where they could gain deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Kibera Library trains youth on basic computer skills to prepare them for the world of work



Students posing for a group photo with their trainer during the graduation ceremony

The Kibera Library provides a remarkable opportunity for young people from the slum by offering them free computer lessons that equip them with practical skills that are vital in today's job market. The program enables the youths to use various computer applications such as word processors, spreadsheet software, and graphic design tools.


The First Cohort of 2023 completed the training in the first week of March 2023. The participants were awarded certificates, to serve as proof of their newly acquired computer skills.

Overall, the program is an excellent opportunity for young people from the slum to gain valuable computer skills that will increase their chances of finding gainful employment in the future.



Basic ICT skills trainees displaying their certificates during the graduation ceremony

Nyeri Library introduces free coding classes to equip the junior library clients with digital skills



FREE INTRODUCTORY CODING CLASS



EQUIP YOUR CHILD WITH FUTURE SKILLS?

Coding is the new way to communicate. We see this through websites, apps and gadgets we use every day. Technology will no doubt play a huge role in the future, and it is best to equip our children with these skills. Our goal is to raise future coders that will create and influence the future, both locally and globally.

We will hold **FREE** introductory sessions on **Saturday, 4th March 2023**.

Call/WhatsApp us today and register your child for an introductory session.

AGE? 10 years and above.

Limited spaces available.

WHY LEARN CODING?

- ✓ BUILDS PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS
- ✓ DEVELOPS CREATIVITY
- ✓ DEVELOPS ANALYTICAL THINKING
- ✓ SIMPLIFIES COMPLEX MATH CONCEPTS
- ✓ DEVELOPS RESILIENCE
- ✓ IT IS FUN!

WhatsApp to register for the **FREE** introductory class
0763 987023

4th March 2023
@ the Kenya National Library- Nyeri

9AM - 4PM

In a bid to equip the junior library clients with digital skills, the Nyeri Library has introduced free coding classes aimed at providing them with the necessary skills to navigate the digital world. The initiative comes at a time when there is a growing demand for coding knowledge in the job market. About 23 participants received the training on 4th March 2023. The classes covered a wide range of topics, from basic coding concepts to more advanced programming languages. Participants also had access to online resources and support from experienced instructors.

Through this initiative, the library hopes to inspire young people to become active contributors in the digital economy.



Junior library clients during the coding training sessions with their trainer at Nyeri Library

Kinyambu Library hosts a team from Canada



Kinyambu Library had the honor of hosting a team from Canada on 13th February 2023. This provided an opportunity for the library staff to showcase the available services and resources. During the visit, the Canadian team also had a chance to interact with members of the community. They appreciated the essential role that the library plays in promoting literacy and education in the area. The team expressed their admiration for the library staff's dedication and hard work, which has contributed to the growth of the library over the years.



Canadian team posing for a group photo together with the team from Kinyambu Library

Mombasa Library in a Reading Promotion program to encourage a positive attitude towards reading



Mombasa Library played a key role in promoting reading for schools in Kaloleni on 20th February 2023. The program's main objective was to encourage a positive attitude toward reading among school-going children and enhance their information-seeking habits. The program involved a range of activities aimed at creating awareness about the library and different ways to promote reading. The Library staff conducted reading and storytelling sessions for children, and organized book clubs and reading competitions to encourage children to read more.

In addition, the library collaborated with schools' Management to set up reading corners and establish school libraries. The library staff also provided training for teachers on effective reading instruction techniques to ensure that they were better equipped to support their students' reading efforts.

Book Aid International on a Partnership Development Programme in Nairobi



Team from Book Aid International Dr. Alice Prochaska, BAI Chairman (far left), Alison Tweed BAI Director (next to her) during a courtesy visit to KNLS Director, Dr. Nzivo (right) who was accompanied by Deputy Director Technical Services, Ms. Philomena Mwirigi (top right) and Ms. Juliana Muchai (middle)

In an effort to enhance their impact and reach, BAI conducted a Partnership Development Programme in Nairobi from 14th March to 16th March 2023. The initiative brought together representatives from Ghana, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Uganda. The main focus was on building the capacity of BAI partners, addressing challenges faced in implementing BAI's programmes, and charting a path for future collaboration. The programme was intended to strengthen BAI's partnerships and ensure effectiveness in the delivery of sustainable programmes. Topics covered included partnership building, fundraising, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy. Participants were able to share their experiences, exchange ideas and best practices, and learn from each other's successes and challenges.

One of the highlights of the programme was a visit to KNLS, Maktaba Kuu on 15th March 2023, where the team had the opportunity to learn about KNLS library operations. The visit proved to be an inspiring experience for the team, enabling them to gain new insights and perspectives on the promotion of literacy and education. BAI Partnership Development Programme underscores the organization's commitment to enhancing its impact and reach. Through the BAI's programmes local communities are empowered to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to build a better future.

Nakuru Library conducts a Mentorship Program for High School Students



Afade Sammy Ondimu talking to students. Standing behind is a Nakuru Library staff

The Nakuru Library, in partnership with Afade Sammy Ondimu (from Bahati Police Station) and Atesh Graphics, conducts mentorship programs monthly for high school students in the region. The programs focus on key areas such as drug and substance abuse, responsible sexual behavior, and academic excellence. During the programs, talented students who show potential are identified and supported in their respective fields. Three schools were visited and taken through the mentorship programme.

These included Nakuru Central Secondary School with a student population of 850, Flamingo Secondary School with 350 students, and Kimathi Secondary School with 450 students. This is an ongoing program where one school is earmarked per month. The students receive guidance and support from experienced mentors who are well-versed in the relevant subject areas. The participants are engaged in a range of activities including workshops, seminars, and interactive discussions. The design of the program is informed by specific needs and challenges faced by high school students in Nakuru.



Nakuru Library partners with 'So They Can' to Promote Reading



Different schools participating in the reading competition at the Nakuru Library

Nakuru in partnership with “So They Can” which is a non-profit organization, conducted a competition programme aimed at improving the spelling, vocabulary, and grammar abilities of students from six local schools. The competition, which took place on 16th February 2023, was designed to provide an engaging and interactive learning experience for students while also boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

The participating schools were Milimani, Aberdares, Kibowen Komen, Akiusi, and Miriricua. Students from each school participated in a series of reading, writing, and spelling exercises designed to test their skills and enhance their understanding of the English language.

Throughout the competition, students had the opportunity to showcase their abilities and compete against their peers in a fun and supportive environment.

The competition was intentionally aligned with the curriculum requirements of the participating schools, ensuring that students received valuable learning opportunities that complemented their studies. The event received positive feedback from both students and teachers, who expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in such an engaging and rewarding learning experience. Participants also reported an increased sense of confidence and self-esteem, which is a crucial component of academic success and personal development.

Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting and Library on a familiarization tour of KNLS, Maktaba Kuu



KNLS had the honour of hosting the Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting and Library on 14th March 2023. The committee, led by the Chairman Hon. Daniel Nanok, MP, Turkana West, visited KNLS to learn about the library's operations and services. The committee members were warmly received by the library Management team, led by the CEO, Dr. Charles Nzivo, who took them on a comprehensive tour of the library. The members were impressed by the wide range of services offered by KNLS.



The committee members commended KNLS Board and Management for their commitment to promoting literacy and education in Kenya, and expressed their appreciation for the library's efforts in supporting communities across the country. The visit enabled the Committee to gain insights into how to improve library services in Kenya.

KNLS hopes to continue to work closely with the committee to promote literacy and education in Kenya and contribute to the country's socio-economic development.



Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting and Library accompanied by the CEO KNLS, Dr. Charles Nzivo touring the library

Promoting Literacy and Providing Access to Information for all members of our community, including Persons With Disabilities (PWD)



Some KNLS HQ staff following the proceedings during the training

KNLS is committed to promoting literacy and providing access to information for all members of the public, including persons with disabilities (PWDs). In support of this commitment, KNLS Nairobi Area Library received a donation of 2 desktop computers loaded with PWD software and 2 Kibo reading packs on 12th January 2023 from Hope Tech Plus Limited. This is a company that develops assistive technology products for Visually Impaired Persons. The devices were handed over to KNLS by the company Director Mr. Brain Mwiti Mwenda.

To ensure maximum usage of the donated equipment, a total of 30 staff (17 from NAL, 3 from Digitization Lab, 2 from the Data Centre, 4 from ICT, 2 from CDBD, and 2 NLD) were trained on how to use the devices. The software can translate the content in many languages giving the VIP a chance to read whichever book they want in any language.

We appreciate that through collaboration and partnerships, we can achieve our goal of creating a society that is well-informed and empowered to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.



KNLS staff interacting with the software during the training

Youth training on Digital Marketing at Nairobi Area Library



Participants posing for a group photo with their trainers after the two day training on digital marketing

Nairobi Area Library in partnership with Ajira Digital conducted a two day training on digital marketing and e-commerce for the youth on 15th and 16th of March 2023. The participants totaling 87, comprised Small Medium Entrepreneurs, form four leavers, members of Community Based Organizations and the general library clients. Nine (9) KNLS staff also benefited from the training. The key speakers included graduates from JKUAT IT department, Mr. Charles and Mr. Peter Kuria.



Participants following the session

Turning Containers into libraries



Nation Media Group Team together with KNLS staff on a site visit to KNLS plot in Ngong to assess the viability of setting up a container library

“Books don’t belong only in fancy buildings, they belong in the hands of those who seek knowledge.” KNLS in partnership with Nation Media Group, is set to launch an innovative project that will see the conversion of empty metal containers into libraries in all constituencies across the country. This move comes as a stop-gap measure to serve sub-counties and constituencies that are not currently served by KNLS.

According to the KNLS CEO Dr. Charles Nzivo, the initiative will involve partnering with primary and secondary schools to identify spaces where prefabricated containers will be placed. The containers will be fitted with shelves and other necessary equipment to serve the reading needs of both young and adult learners in rural areas.

The project aims to take libraries closer to Kenyans in a cost-effective manner, with the hope of making reading accessible to everyone regardless of their location. The converted containers will provide an ideal space for those who do not have access to libraries and will offer a variety of books for all age groups.

This initiative is the brain child of Nation Media Group and is a significant step towards promoting education and literacy in the country, especially in rural areas where access to books and learning materials is limited. This partnership is geared towards encouraging a culture of reading among young learners and promote lifelong learning among adults.

Knls Kibera branch visit Kenyatta Hospital



Kibera staff interacting with children at the Kenya National Hospital Childrens ward

On 16th March 2023 Kibera branch library had an opportunity to visit Kenyatta Hospital Children's ward. During the visit, the library staff conducted various learning through play activities for the children with the aim of encouraging them and making them smile despite their unfortunate circumstances. The gesture was also a way of paying back to the less fortunate in society. The targeted group included children suffering from cancer, those with optical problems, and accident victims among others. They numbered about sixty (60) in total aged between 2 to 10 years old. Learning through play helps to enhance life skills such as creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, playing roles, leadership, improving communication skills, confidence, making new friends, and relaxing the mind.



KNLS Donates 10,000 Books to Turkana County

KNLS donated 10,000 books to Turkana County in line with the Board's mandate of promoting a reading culture in Kenya. The donation was handed over to the Turkana County Executive for Education, Sports, and Social Protection, Ms. Leah Audan, and flagged off by Philomena Mwirigi, KNLS Deputy Director (Technical Services) in the company of other staff.

Turkana is one of the most remote regions in Kenya and has experienced a myriad of problems since independence. Further, KNLS Board has not been able to establish a library in this county. The County Government of Turkana has now established a library and this is expected to be a game-changer, especially in the education sector in the area. KNLS is glad to be associated with this milestone and looks forward to partnering with the County Government of Turkana to ensure the success of the library. Out of the 10,000 books donated, 8,000 were earmarked for the library while 2,000 were for distribution to needy schools within the County. The books, which covered various subjects, were sourced by KNLS from Book Aid International – UK, Spotlight Publishers, and Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International – Kenya.



Turkana County Executive for Education, Sports, and Social Protection, Ms. Leah Audan (right), together with Ms. Philomena Mwirigi, KNLS Deputy Director (Technical Services) (right) in the company of other staff flagging off the books.

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