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**KNLS proudly hosts the IFLA Workshop on “Cultivating a Strong and Sustainable Library Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. KNLS proudly hosts the IFLA Workshop on “Cultivating a Strong and Sustainable Library Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa.**



**I**n October 2023, KNLS had the honor of hosting the IFLA Workshop on “Fostering a Robust and Sustainable Library Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa” at the Sanaa Centre in Maktaba Kuu. IFLA, the global advocate for libraries, traces its origin back to 1927 and has maintained a strong bond with UNESCO since 1947. This partnership was founded on a shared commitment to “foster peace in the minds of men and women” and to promote the public library as a catalyst for education, culture, and equitable access to information. Fast forward almost eight decades, and these shared values and connections were reaffirmed during the IFLA’s Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Workshop, which took place from October 16th to 19th 2023, at KNLS. Themed “Towards a Resilient and Sustainable Regional Library Field,” this three-day event brought together over 60 librarians from across the continent.

The workshop featured engaging discussions led by IFLA’s leadership, including President Vicki McDonald, Secretary-General Sharon Memis, Regional Chair Alejandro Santa, and Director of Policy and Advocacy, Stephen Wyber. Sessions were dedicated to topics such as strengthening library institutions in Africa, aligning libraries with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and expanding on libraries’ foundational roles in heritage preservation and information accessibility for local communities.

KNLS was delighted to host the IFLA Workshop and had the privilege of officially inaugurating the event with a representative from the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Arts, and Sports, Mr. Raymond Ochieng. The workshop served as an invaluable platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and reflections on the factors that sustain a vibrant and healthy library sector. It was a unique opportunity to actively participate in the sustainable development of libraries in Sub-Saharan Africa, thereby contributing to a thriving community of libraries and information institutions.

The impact of this workshop on KNLS was profound. It allowed KNLS to showcase its commitment to the growth of the library sector in Sub-Saharan Africa and its capacity to host an international event of this magnitude. The connections made and knowledge shared during the workshop have undoubtedly strengthened KNLS’ role in the region, and its ability to continue contributing to the development of libraries and information services in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## KNLS inks an MOU with the US Embassy to establish American Space Mtaani, a dynamic center where Kenyan youth can engage STEM Programs

**O**n 28th October 2023, KNLS officially inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi marking the inception of the American Space Mtaani, situated at the Maktaba Kuu Building. This collaborative endeavor is on the horizon, and it promises to establish a dynamic center where Kenyan youth will soon access a diverse spectrum of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs.

The American Space Mtaani initiative is thoughtfully designed to nurture the entrepreneurial aspirations of young Kenyans and provide them with a gateway to remarkable study opportunities in the United States. It is set to serve as a valuable resource, granting Kenya's youth access to mentorship, resources, and a supportive environment that fosters their personal and professional growth.

Anticipating the future, the American Space Mtaani is poised to become a wellspring of inspiration, knowledge, and aspiration for the brilliant minds of Kenya. We are eagerly looking forward to the positive impact this forthcoming partnership will bring, as it empowers our youth to embark on careers in STEM fields and entrepreneurship.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi for their unwavering commitment to this exciting venture, one that is destined to shape a brighter future for Kenya's emerging STEM leaders.



## Empowering Girls in Kamulu: A Celebration on International Day of the Girl Child

In a heartwarming and impactful celebration, KNLS the Kamulu Community in the far eastern part of Nairobi to mark the International Day of the Girl Child on October 28, 2023. This annual event is dedicated to championing the rights of girls and addressing the unique challenges they encounter, and KNLS recognized the profound significance of this day. The event was organized in partnership with VIJANA AMANI PAMOJA and aimed at empowering girls in the local community.

The program presented a vibrant hub of activities, which encompassed a series of engaging and informative educational workshops designed to equip them with knowledge pertaining to their rights, health, and personal development. These workshops delved into pivotal subjects, including gender equality, menstrual hygiene, and fostering self-esteem. Notably, the occasion was graced by esteemed speakers, particularly accomplished women leaders, who generously shared their personal life journeys, providing the girls with words of encouragement and inspiration. The event also encouraged the girls to channel their creativity through storytelling sessions and artistic endeavors, granting them a platform to explore their dreams, aspirations, and the challenges they may face.

Beyond the participants, the celebration extended its reach to involve the wider community, engaging parents, teachers, and local leaders in enlightening conversations about the importance of supporting and empowering girls.

A diverse range of participants came together to ensure the success of the event in Kamulu. The primary participants included 121 girls in different age groups, from various schools/learning institutions such as Rose Homes, Made in the Streets, Bridge International, and Highway. The event also drew the presence of educators and school representatives, who were eager to learn effective strategies for promoting gender equality and empowering girls within educational settings. Local leadership was not left out, as the Area Chief joined the celebration, contributing insights and resources to support this cause.

The celebration in Kamulu yielded numerous positive outcomes. Girls left the event with heightened self-confidence, knowledge about their basic human rights, and aspirations for a brighter future. Furthermore, the celebration enhanced the awareness of the significance of gender equality, girls' education, and the unique challenges faced by girls in Kenya; effectively engaging the parents, teachers, and community leaders, in a united effort to support this cause.

Adding to the spirited atmosphere, the day featured an exciting and competitive football competition involving various schools. The event recognized talent and teamwork, with the winning teams receiving medals and footballs as tokens of acknowledgment.

This event emphasized KNLS' dedication to serving as a center for education, empowerment, and community engagement, with a specific focus on advancing the cause of girls in Kenya. It was a day filled with inspiration, learning, and hope for a brighter future for the girls in Kenya.



## Offering Invaluable Peer Insights through Informative Interview Skills Learning Circle



**T**he learning circle, a collective learning approach characterized by equal participation and shared wisdom, recently took center stage at the Buruburu Library. This gathering aimed to enhance interview skills, making it an ideal platform for students on industrial attachment and volunteers. The overarching goal was to equip participants with the skills necessary for successful interviews.

The sessions commenced with a thought-provoking exploration of what an interview truly is, with the participants giving diverse definitions of what an interview means. Aisha succinctly described it as “a session where you face a panel and answer their questions,” while Joan offered her perspective, explaining that interviews are interactions involving questions between an interviewer and interviewee. Ultimately, a consensus emerged, defining interviews as opportunities for academically qualified individuals to showcase their innovative side.

Over six days of engaging discussions, various essential skills for interview success were covered, including: Mastering Emotions, Logistic Planning, Research, and Self-Preparation. During mock interviews, participants delved into vital aspects of the process, such as effective communication, self-intro-

duction, presenting qualifications, active listening, and asking pertinent questions.

In conclusion, the learning circle unequivocally achieved its objective. Participants expressed newfound knowledge and skills, with comments like “Now I know better” from Susan and “I’ve learned to control my emotions” from Gertrude. The platform also encouraged members to openly address life challenges, exceeding its initial purpose in a positive manner. The enthusiasm generated suggests the potential for future sessions, aligning with the interests of the participants.



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## Senior Citizens' Club Empowers Members to Serve the Society



**T**he Senior Citizens' Club based at Maktaba Kuu has embarked on a mission to harness the collective wisdom, experiences, skills, and knowledge of its members to give back to society. Through a series of virtual and in-person training sessions, qualified volunteer trainers have been guiding the members in various aspects of life in retirement. These topics, covered between April and October 2023, included change management, stress management, retirement and family relationships, and teamwork.

The club's members, consisting of retired professionals such as lecturers, bankers, finance experts, and ICT specialists, are actively engaged in this initiative. The aim is to equip them with the tools and insights needed to make a meaningful impact in their post-retirement lives, benefiting both the club members and society at large.



## **Empowering Academic Futures: KNLS Nakuru Facility Conducts Successful Outreach at Kisii University**

**I**n a recent endeavor, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) Nakuru Branch illuminated educational avenues for Kisii University students. The event, hosted on October 25th, 2023, engaged 120 participants from diverse fields such as Information Technology (IT), Library Science, Media Studies, and Records Management.

The program kicked off with an impactful career talk, unveiling potential pathways in information science, library services, media, and records management. Underscoring the value of lifelong learning, KNLS representatives detailed the institution's pivotal role in fostering career development across these domains. KNLS seamlessly introduced students to its state-of-the-art virtual library, showcasing an extensive array of e-books, e-journals, and online courses. The eager participants were guided on leveraging these digital resources to enhance their academic and research pursuits.

A comprehensive presentation delved into the spectrum of services offered by KNLS Nakuru Branch, spanning physical books, e-resources, internet services, and information literacy training. Students were enticed to embrace KNLS membership for full access to these services. Furthermore, a dedicated session shed light on the vibrant offerings of the American Corner, urging students to engage and broaden their horizons through diverse programs.

The outreach initiative received a resoundingly positive response from participants, who expressed a keen interest in KNLS membership, virtual library utilization, and the myriad opportunities presented by American Corner activities. The event effectively elevated awareness of KNLS services, solidifying its crucial role in shaping academic and career trajectories.