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KNLS in partnership with Book Aid International Celebrated International Literacy Day at the Gilgil Sub-County Library in Nakuru County on 8th September 2023



To commemorate this year's International Literacy Day, KNLS partnered with BAI to facilitate the celebration the 2023 International Literacy Day at Gilgil Sub-County Library in Nakuru County. The event revolved around the theme, "Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies." The celebrations attracted a diverse crowd of literature enthusiasts, community members, and local dignitaries.

The Chief Guest, i.e. the County Chief Officer, was represented by Mr. Eric Kinyua, who delivered an impassioned address that resonated with the audience. He encouraged all present to tap into the wealth of knowledge within the library's diverse collection of information resources. Mr. Kinyua stressed the transformative power of reading, highlighting how the words we choose to immerse ourselves in have a lasting impact on our lives. His message underscored the profound influence of literacy in shaping the future of individuals and communities alike. He also emphasized that access to books and educational resources is a cornerstone in the quest for sustainable and harmonious societies, echoing the theme of the occasion.

This collaboration between Book Aid International, KNLS, and the Nakuru County Government exemplified a shared commitment to advancing literacy and education. Celebrating the International Literacy Day at the Gilgil Sub-County Library, heightened the vital role that libraries play in fostering a love for reading and knowledge in a world that is constantly evolving. The event served as a powerful reminder of the significance of literacy as a force for positive change in a rapidly changing global environment.



KNLS Panoramas Blazoned at the ASK Nairobi International Trade Fair (NITF) at the Jamhuri Show Grounds



The Nairobi International Trade Fair (NITF) 2023 was held from September 25th to October 1st. The event was conducted under the overarching theme of “Advancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Progress.” At this influential affair, KNLS’ panoramas were attentively blazoned, resultantly scaling the organization to 5th position for the “Most Interpretive Display of the Current Theme (Education/Research),” and the 6th position for the “Outstanding Utilization of ICT Systems.”

These accolades highlight KNLS’ unwavering dedication to fostering sustainable development in Kenya through the integration of knowledge and cutting-edge technology. KNLS’ participation at NITF 2023 provided a unique opportunity for staff members to engage the showgoers in discussions surrounding literacy and education. The participation also presented an affirmation of KNLS’ commitment to addressing vital issues related to climate-smart agriculture and sustainable economic growth, aligning seamlessly with the event’s overarching theme.



KNLS at The 24th Nairobi International Book Fair 2023 at Sarit Centre

KNLS being a pivotal player in the book industry, has actively been participating in the annual Nairobi International Book Fair (NIBF) over the years. The 24th NIBF 2023, was hosted by the Kenya Publishers Association (KPA), at their accustomed venue i.e. Sarit Centre in Nairobi, from September 27th to 1st October. Among the numerous participating organizations in this literary extravaganza, KNLS staged the Board's mandate of preserving the national documentary heritage, a subject that should be of concern to all the local publishers and authors. The KNLS' roles of Issuance of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and the collection of legal deposits, took center stage in the detailed conversations between the KNLS staff and the participating publishers and authors. As a result, some authors and publishers promptly submitted their legal deposits at the KNLS Booth, while others expressed their commitment to following up on this matter to ensure compliance.

The event offered a crucial platform to reaffirm KNLS' significance in the realm of literature, education, knowledge exchange, and dissemination. Further, the collective effort between KNLS and the literary community at NIBF underscores the enduring importance of the library's role in preserving Kenya's cultural and intellectual heritage.



Chinese Officials donate shelves for the Chinese Corner at KNLS Makataba Kuu



In a remarkable demonstration of international cooperation and cultural exchange, KNLS played host to a delegation of Chinese officials on 21st September 2023. The officials were on a mission to present a donation of shelves for the dedicated “Chinese Corner” within the library. This significant initiative not only fosters a deeper connection between China and Kenya but also highlights KNLS’ commitment to promoting cross-cultural understanding and knowledge-sharing. This also encourages mutual learning and appreciation of both Kenyan and Chinese cultures.

The “Chinese Corner” serves as a cultural bridge, offering the opportunity to explore China’s rich history, language, and traditions. The collection therein comprises Chinese literature, language resources, historical texts, and various other educational materials. The visit showcases China’s commitment to support educational and cultural initiatives in Kenya, further enhancing the already robust partnership between the two countries. It also underscores the importance of international collaboration in promoting literacy, education, and cultural enrichment, ultimately strengthening the bonds of friendship and understanding between China and Kenya.

KNLS values collaborations and fruitful cultural exchanges that will benefit the local community and foster a global goodwill.



Jerusha Kananu Marete, an esteemed Kenyan writer and a recognized authority in the realm of theatre pays a courtesy visit to KNLS



Jerusha Kananu Marete, a distinguished Kenyan author and a recognized luminary in the world of theater, paid a special visit to KNLS, Maktaba Kuu on 11th September. Her visit had a specific focus, revolving around discussions pertaining to the accessibility of her literary works through the vtabu virtual library platform. Notably, her book titled “Echoes of Military Souls” garnered significant recognition in 2022, securing the prestigious Afrika Redefined Indie Book Prize. This remarkable accomplishment was further emphasized by an impressive 81.84% of the overall votes cast during the award process. It’s important to highlight that “Echoes of Military Souls” initially hit the literary scene in 2019. The book delves into the intricate interplay between warfare and the experiences of women, shedding light on the profound trauma endured by families fractured by the loss of their loved ones due to conflicts.

Jerusha Kananu Marete’s visit served as an opportunity to discuss how her literary works could be made more readily available through the KNLS digital library platform. This would offer readers a more accessible and convenient means of exploring her thought-provoking narratives. Her outstanding literary achievement and dedication to shedding light on poignant issues through her writing continue to resonate and inspire



Courtesy visit by the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) Team

A delegation representing the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) paid a visit to the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) on 6th September 2023 to explore potential partnerships in the realm of mind education. The KNLS CEO, Dr. Nzivo, extended a warm welcome to the visiting team. IYF, a global youth organization with Christian foundations, is dedicated to nurturing and empowering the leaders of the future generation, enabling them to conquer challenges and transcend limitations. Their primary mission centers on not only cultivating leadership qualities but also equipping emerging leaders with intellectual acumen, humility, and a broad global perspective.

These collaborative endeavors in international exchanges play a vital role in fostering mutual understanding and harmony among nations and their people, a goal that aligns seamlessly with the mission of both KNLS and IYF. Such partnerships hold the promise of providing valuable resources and opportunities for personal growth, learning, and cross-cultural enrichment. The IYF delegation's visit to KNLS characterizes a significant step in promoting these shared ideals and strengthening the global network of organizations dedicated to nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. Such exchanges have the potential for positive collaboration in the sphere of mind education and the broader pursuit of promoting peace and understanding across the globe.

