

## **New Library Officially Opened in Meru County by Dr. Hassan Wario**

Gatimbi library was officially opened on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at a function hosted by the knls Board of Directors led by the Chairman, Hon. Katana Ngala and the CEO Mr. Richard Atuti. The launch was presided over by Dr. Hassan Wario, CS Ministry of Sports, Culture and The Arts. The function was also graced by Amb. (Dr.) Francis Muthaura, Chairman LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority, Director Worldreader, East Africa, Joan Mwachi, County Administration and community members. Heads of departments from headquarters and librarians from Meru and Isiolo Counties were also in attendance. Leaders and community members appreciated the establishment of the library in the area by the Board and requested that more be established in order to raise the level of education in the community.



**Chief Guest Hon Dr Hassan Wario unveils the Plaque during the official opening of knls Gatimbi Branch**



**Hon Katana Ngala, Dr Hassan Wario, Amb Francis Muthaura and knls Director Richard Atuti sampling the collection of books during the Launch of knls Gatimbi Branch**

In his remarks, the CS emphasized on the importance of reading and appreciated that the three enemies of development (i.e. poverty, ignorance and disease) identified at independence were still being fought today. He encouraged the youth to optimally utilize the library saying that this would give them an opportunity to discover and advance themselves. The CS, who attributed his success and professional growth to his avid use of the knls library from his childhood days, also reiterated his personal commitment to the establishment and promotion of library services in the country. The new library

is now the fourth in Meru County and an addition to the Community Library Initiative where Kenya National Library Service works with communities in the establishment of libraries.

The construction of this library was funded to a tune of 33 million inclusive of construction and equipping. This is a reaffirmation of the government's commitment in ensuring library and information facilities are established in as many parts of the country as possible. Regrettably, 14 counties knls has not been able to establish public libraries.

Present at the event also was Director Worldreader East Africa, Joan Mwachi who committed to supporting the new library with atleast 50 e-reader devices. Equally the Board also announced a 200-

book donation for each of the four schools namely: Kathirange and Gaitu Secondary Schools; Mariene and Makandune Primary Schools. The donation would assist the schools to start school libraries.