

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Celebration of 60 years of Supporting Libraries

Book Aid International (BAI) to commemorate their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary through a conference to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at Safari Park Hotel, bring together Key Guests and Librarians from Africa and Europe.

The conference will be officially opened 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 5:00pm by the **Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, Dr. Hassan Wario Arero**. The conference will also be graced by the presence of **Lord Boateng**, the Chairman of BAI who also sits in the **House of Lords** which is the upper house of the United Kingdom Parliament.

This conference celebrates 60 years of partnership with national library services and NGOs in Africa. The conference brings together representatives from partner organisations in nine countries in Africa to share ideas, initiatives and experiences. It will provide an opportunity for partners to share good practice and learning from their projects and countries, and a chance to showcase their achievements to each other and to other invited guests. Special emphasis will be given to good practice and innovative ideas for how Book Aid International and partners can continue to work together in new and creative ways.

Book Aid International (BAI) works in partnership with libraries in Africa providing books, resources and training to support an environment in which reading for pleasure, study and lifelong learning can flourish. Kenya National Library Service has had a long standing relationship with Book Aid International in the provision of books and information resources for over 38 years. BAI has sent more than 30 million books to partner libraries since 1954, thereby supporting and transforming thousands of libraries and reached millions of people.

The Partnership between BAI and Kenya National Library Service has benefited many Kenyans through access to information resources including the recently launched computer tablet program which is currently at pilot stage at knls Meru library. knls provides a wide range of library and information services to people of all walks from life. Availing accessible library and information services to the citizens, opens up for them windows to the world and inspires them to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving their quality of life.

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