



**NAROK LIBRARY**  
**Officially Open**

**Library of the Year  
Award (LOYA)**



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## Vision

*The hub of information and knowledge for empowerment*

## Mission

*To enable access to information for knowledge and transformation of livelihoods*

## Core Values

- Passion
- Innovation
- Customer Centered
- Knowledge Driven

*Thanks to all who sent their contributions towards the publication of this (15<sup>th</sup>) issue. We continue to encourage branches to share about the activities they are undertaking to enhance a positive reading culture in their areas of jurisdiction. Kindly send in your articles for the 16<sup>th</sup> Issue by or before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014.*

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**COVER:** *Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Hassan Wario demonstrates his Masai dance skills.*



# Message from the CEO

*Libraries a key resource that form the knowledge pillar in a community*

Public libraries are key focal points of information within communities and should live up to the aspirations of the society. As I toured some of the rural libraries within our knls network early this year, I noted the improvement that we have achieved in creating conducive work and study environment in our libraries. In deed this has been one of the great interests for the knls Board and Management. This has been achieved by developing and implementing an improvement program aimed at transforming libraries into attractive, exciting and friendly spaces for the library patrons. In some regions, it involved the installation of air conditioners and repainting, while in others it included improving the surrounding environment through planting of grass and trees within the library compound. The program has been a great success and libraries in different regions have indeed changed the landscape of different places within their areas of operation. Key success in environmental conservation has been registered in Werugha, Munyu and Mutyambua.

Notable collaborations between knls and communities through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) have been on-going since a library is appreciated as one of the key resource centres that form the knowledge pillar in a community. It is also a resource that draws people together irrespective of their background. In Kangema Constituency in Murang'a County lies a beautiful library building which will soon open its doors to the communities living within the

area. This project has fully been funded by funds from Kangema Constituency CDF. The former Member of Parliament (MP), the late Hon. John Michuki was the brain behind the establishment of this library. The current MP Hon. Ngahu has also taken the mantle and supported it to completion. Through the CDF the government has demonstrated commitment in empowering communities in providing them with the much desired services at the grassroots. The commitment of the government to supporting libraries is clearly demonstrated through the recent opening of Nakuru Library Complex which was built at a cost of 250 million. Since the new library was opened, the patronage per month has risen from around 5,000 patrons per month to around 30,000 per month which is attributed to the reading environment and the available resource materials. Given the fact that Nakuru is one of the fastest growing town in Kenya and indeed in Africa, the scramble for resources is always increasing. Availability of information will play a key role in the optimal exploitation of the business opportunities that come with growth. Information services will no doubt play a catalytic role in all spheres of development initiatives in the counties.

Establishment of libraries has enabled knls to take library services closer to the citizens. In the month of May a new community library in Muhoroni Constituency was officially opened at Koru. Dr Robert Ouko Memorial Library, established by Ouko family in partnership with



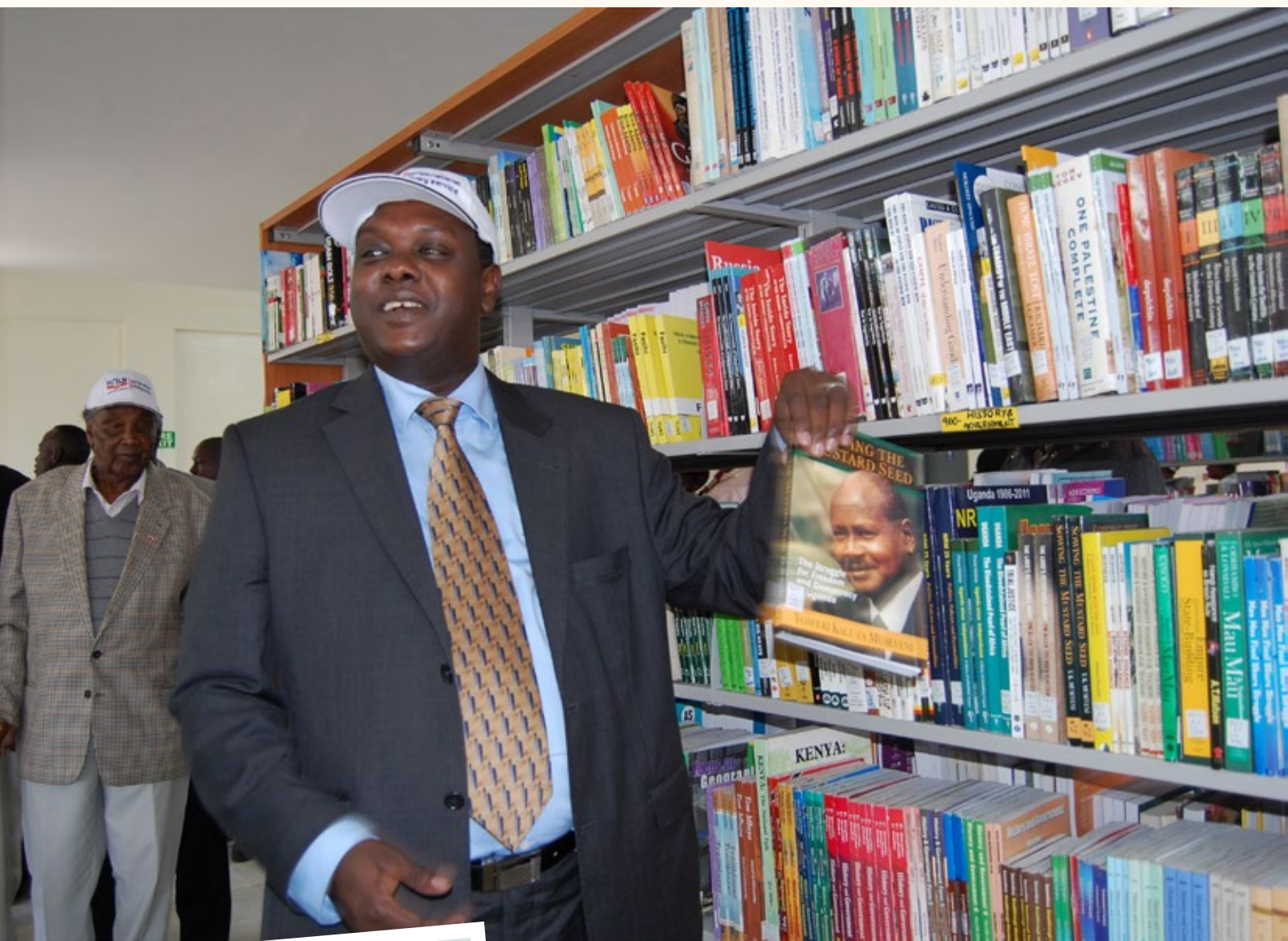
**Richard Atuti, knls Director**

knls is a project that exemplifies family ethos and contributions to the development of this country. The library also benefited from a program by World Reader where they received over 300 e-readers which have the capacity of being loaded with at least 300 e-books. Library users from the surrounding community can now access information from the digital platform which is instrumental in promotion of a reading culture among the community members.

The journey to transform this country through reading promotion still continues as new libraries are established in order to make the service available and accessible to all. Currently, there is a new initiative in the making where plans are underway to establish a library facility at Eldama Ravine. Once again, the Eldama Ravine CDF is playing a lead role flanked by other partners like Karen Roses, Waitrose Foundation, Eldama Ravine Education Foundation and knls Board. The Eldama Ravine MP Hon. Moses Lesonet is quite enthusiastic about the project and looking forward to its implementation. The initiative will greatly assist in the improvement of education performance and by extension the lives of the communities within the region.



# DR. HASSAN WARIO officially Opens the **NAROK LIBRARY**



*Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Hassan Wario having a tour of the Adult section – Narok Library.*



**Narok Library**

It was color and glamour at the newly constructed Narok Library as over 1000 people gathered to witness the official launching of the library by Dr. Hassan Wario, Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts. The event, which was hosted by the knls Board and Management was also graced by the Narok County Governor Mr. Samuel Kuntai Ole Tunai, Narok County Commissioner Mr. Hassan Kassim Farah, former Member of Parliament for Narok North Constituency Hon. William Ole Ntimama, Narok County Assembly Speaker Hon. Nabulu Ole Kamuaro, among other leaders from the County. The Cabinet



secretary was also accompanied by a team from Ministry Headquarters.

Speaker after speaker praised the knls Board for considering the Narok Community for such incredible investment, which they were convinced, would transform the lives of the communities in Narok and its environs. The CS challenged the youth to make use of the library to learn about their culture and also to enrich their minds. While stressing that education does not rot and has no loss, the CS called on the community to maximally utilize the library facility to raise the education standards in the area.

He underscored that pastoralists must change their way of life saying "it is possible to rise to be called a Doctor or Professor and yet retain your culture." He also urged the county leaders to work together to promote the reading culture within the county. He commended the knls Board for considering the Narok community as the first to get a public library in the Maa region.

Hon William Ole Ntimama who donated books and DVDs for the Culture Corner, urged the Narok people to facilitate their children to acquire education to enable them be at the same level with children in other parts of the country. He said that education is such an important asset, without which "you are like somebody locked in a house without lights."

Hon. Ntimama commended Dr. Wario saying he was one of the lucky young Cabinet Secretaries to be given a very laudable Ministry that deals with culture – which is a very important aspect in all spheres of life.

Leaders also paid tribute to Hon. Ntimama for his vision of establishing a library for the Narok Community, a cause that he initiated during his tenure as the Minister in the then Ministry of State for National Heritage and Culture.



*From left Narok Governor Tunai, Hon. William Ole Ntimama, Madam Evalyn Aruasa, Narok Deputy Governor, CS Dr. Wario & former knls Board Chairman, Mr. Kobia.*



*Narok County Governor (Centre) defies the law of gravity.*



# Change of **GUARD**

*Former knls Board Chairman Mr. Silas Kobia hands over to the incoming Chairman Mr. Samwel Nyangeso*



*Former Board chairman Mr. Silas Kobia (left) receiving a certificate of appreciation from his predecessor on behalf of knls Board.*

**by Nancy Ngugi**

**A**fter successfully serving as the knls Board Chairman for 4 consecutive years, Mr. Silas Kobia presented a handing over report in February 2014 to Mr. Samwel

Nyangeso, who had been appointed to take over from him effective 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. In his report, Mr. Kobia outlined the major strides that the Board had achieved during his tenure and also proposed



some strategies that the Board could undertake in order to enhance service delivery to the public. The event was witnessed by the knls Board members and Management. The participants passionately praised Mr. Kobia for his transformative leadership and excellent performance in guiding the Board in implementing its mandate.

Mr. Kobia was also commended for spearheading new initiatives that had significantly improved the management of Board affairs. These included the development of the knls Board Charter which helped in instilling individual discipline and commitment among the members while handling Board matters.

Mr. Kobia also championed the first ever Board self evaluation to enable the Board gauge its performance on the implementation of its mandate. Board's achievements during Mr. Kobia's tenure had resulted

to significant increase in the usage of library facilities and resources and also improvement in the organization's overall performance. Members acknowledged that the conduct of Board meetings had very much improved as a result of the outgoing Chairman's firm and visionary character.

Kobia and assured him that the initiatives and the gains already realized were some of the best practices that the knls Board would continue to embrace. He termed himself lucky since the vision and the implementation plan had already been developed. He commended Mr. Kobia for putting up the necessary

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*Mr. Kobia also championed the first ever Board self evaluation to enable the Board gauge its performance on the implementation of its mandate.*

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Mr. Kobia was also categorical in ensuring various joint retreats for the Board members and senior management staff for them to bond and understand each other's expectation in service delivery. This cultivated a culture of teamwork among the Board and Management. At the center of his focus also was the development of the knls Transformation Strategy that he had passionately initiated with the hope that it would bring out the strategic positioning of knls as a key driver of national development.

One key aspect that characterised Mr. Kobia's style of leadership was "good governance" which he acknowledged should be entrenched in all leadership and management practices.

While receiving the handing over report, Mr. Nyangeso thanked Mr.

structures and recognized that he had left a legacy that would take the organization to greater heights. Mr. Nyangeso also challenged the Board and Management to ensure that they both individually and collectively follow the footsteps of Mr. Kobia and work towards leaving a legacy that would stand the test of time. Mr. Kobia on his part said he was humbled by the commendations showered upon him the members.

He acknowledged the happy moments he had shared with the Board members during his term and the cooperation and support he had received from them and the Management team. He congratulated Mr. Nyangeso on his appointment as the new Chairman of the knls Board and wished him well.

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One key  
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*Children keenly navigating through the tablets at Kibera Library.*

# BAI launches use of Tablets by Children in Meru Library

by Caroline Kayoro

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is fundamentally changing the way in which organizations' deliver services. Customers expect that the ways in which ICT supports activities in their private and working lives is also present in their dealings with public services. In a public library setting ICT must be embraced, valued and recognized as a fundamental tool for delivery of information services. Children, who find themselves growing up in the digital age that requires

digital solutions, are not left out of the quest for ICT services. Knls is therefore keen to provide opportunities for children to use technology. This has become a reality through the BAI supported "Children Books and eLearning project" that is being piloted in Meru library. The project was inspired by the successful implementation of the Tablet programme in Kibera library funded by Electronic Information For Libraries/Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL/PLIP).

Through support from BAI, knls acquired the tablets and conducted a three day training session in Meru to equip the librarians and children with skills on use of Tablets. The training was conducted in collaboration with eLimu eLearning Company who were instrumental in the Kibera knls Tablet programme. The company comprises a group of young ICT experts who have developed the eLimu Tablet application containing educational programmes, and is currently being piloted in selected



schools. The Meru training covered the following areas:

- Children's requirements for digital devices and use of e-books
- Specific ICT needs of girls, children with disability and disadvantaged children
- Basic care of Tablets and handling
- Tablet applications and navigation
- Introduction to internet
- Email, search, google play and security
- eLimu application and navigation
- Lessons from Kibera Tablet program
- M & E of eLearning service

A presentation by Mary, the librarian in charge of Kibera library on the lessons learnt helped to allay the fears that had been held by participants initially. She gave them a practical approach on how they implemented the project in Kibera, the challenges faced - how they addressed them and the achievements gained.

The children were over excited about the use of tablets in the library and they embraced the training easily. They were arranged according to their age groups ranging from 6 to 13 years, with three children sharing a Tablet. After 30 minutes of introductions to the Tablet and basic ways of navigating, the children were comfortable and navigating their way around the various pre-loaded applications.

The joy on the children's faces as they handled the Tablets was breathtaking.

Out of the 29 children, 24 were touching a Tablet for the very first time and they could not hide their joy.

**Below are some quotes from the children:**

*"I am so excited. I feel like a fish swimming in the Ocean" pupil from CCM Township primary, class 6*

*"I am very happy, it is my first time to touch a Tablet, I will teach my friends how to use the Tablet, I thank God for this opportunity" Shirlene from Meru Primary school, class 7*

*"It is my first time to touch a Tablet, I am very happy, I feel like a bird in the air" pupil from Meru Primary school.*

*"I am very happy, I feel Wow" Pupil from Meru primary school.*

At the end of the session the children were asked to say what they enjoyed most and their responses were very inspiring. They explained that they loved the eLimu application because it contained school work and would be useful to them for revision since it covers school curriculum subjects. One child said she loved the Mathematics workout application because

she believes it will make her cleverer as she tests herself with the quizzes. Others mentioned the games, word search, iStories, English grammar, national flags, Kids paint, camera and video. It was amazing that they could remember almost all the applications they had been introduced to that day.

Mr. Ngaruni, Nanyuki librarian honored the occasion by issuing certificates to the workshop participants. He surprised many when he flashed out a Touch Pad that he had received from Microsoft and emphasized the importance of embracing technology in the library service provision.

This proved that Mr. Ngaruni, who had in the past fondly referred to himself as a "village librarian," had actually migrated from analogue to digital. He remarked that the Meru tablet pilot project must by all means be a success story to facilitate replication in other libraries.

*"One child said she loved the Mathematics workout application because she believes it will make her cleverer as she tests herself with the quizzes."*





*From left; Mary Kiaria - Librarian Kibera, Grace Makasa - Regional Director Practical Action, Jean Berkley, Barrie Berkley, R. Atuti - knls CEO(behind), and Pauline Kamau - then knls Board member.*

# *Berkley Family* sponsors Kibera Community Library

*Berkley Family in UK sponsors the establishment of Kibera Community Library in honour of their late son, David Alistair*

by Nancy Ngugi

**T**he knls Kibera library was established in 2012 through the kind support of The Berkley family from UK. This was done in honour of their late son Alistair David Berkley who was killed in a Pan Am Flight 103 crash that was involved in the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1988 terrorist Lockerbie bombing. All the 243 passengers together with the 16 crews died in the

aircraft crash that also killed 11 more people on the ground. Investigations revealed that the terrorists were Libyan nationals and in 2003 the families of the victims were compensated by the Libyan Government.

The Berkley family decided that the best way to honour and remember their 29 year old son, who was a professor of law at

the time of his death, was to utilize the funds by sponsoring projects that directly benefit the less fortunate members of the community. Their decision was motivated by their son Alistair's determination to strong fight against injustices in the society. In addition to other projects in various African countries, the family funded the establishment of the Kibera Community Library





*Side view of Kibera Library.*

that is under the management of the knls Board. They also funded construction of a community ablution block next to the library that provides the residents with sanitation services and clean water. The family spent about Ksh. 40 Million for the construction and equipping of the library.

During their visit to the library in January 2014, the family expressed their satisfaction and were amazed by the various programmes that the library

through the leadership of the Librarian Mary Kiarie had organized to enhance a positive reading culture and therefore empower the community members. They were particularly touched by testimonies from students and teachers from the surrounding schools on how the library had transformed their lives and significantly improved their education standards. Some of the students acknowledged that Kibera Library was their only source of information materials and also the only place that provided space for them to do their studies.

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*The library is a clear illustration of the Berkley family's values”*

During the visit, the Berkley family was accompanied by Grace Alice Mukasa, the Practical Action Regional Director for East Africa. Practical Action had been charged with the responsibility of managing and coordinating the Kibera Library project's funds. A knowledge node that provides practical answers to the community members had been established by Practical Action in the library. While appreciating the family's commitment to empower communities, Grace noted that the library was very significant and strategically rooted within the community. She described the Berkley family's act of mercy as a huge legacy.

Knls Director, Mr. Atuti explained that the library is a clear illustration of the Berkley family's values saying that it will be a living memory and a constant reminder of Alistair David, whom the library beneficiaries never had a chance to meet physically.

Mr. Atuti also termed Barrie and Jean Berkley's visit and support as a sacrifice. Barrie and Jean Berkley, the parents of Alistair David and well advanced in their age had travelled all the way from UK to come and evaluate progress of the library project and also understand the impact it was making to the community members. Mr. Atuti termed the knls partnership with the family as priceless and a big privilege.



*Some of the library beneficiaries of Kibera Library.*



# knls *Transformation Strategy*



*CS, Dr. Wario addressing knls Board members at the official closing of knls Transformation strategy Board retreat in February 2014.*

**A** two-day Board retreat held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in Nairobi culminated to the adoption of proposed Transformation Strategy (TS). The participants included the members of the Board and the staff who were championing the development of the Transformation Strategy under nine Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). Three questions were cited as the motivation behind the development of the TS.

These included:

- a. What is wrong with knls and what is the worst case scenario?**
- b. Are we comfortable with the status quo?**
- c. What is the best case scenario?**

Members emphasized that the TS would facilitate the changes that the Board had been desirous of implementing in order to move knls from a state of dependency to independency.

The Board also observed that the TS, which provides the new focus for re-engineering knls, is majorly geared towards fulfilling the Board's mandate and transformation of knls as an organization.

The two-day retreat was officially closed by Dr. Hassan Wario, Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of Sport, Culture and the Arts. The CS said that he was impressed by the idea of sustainability noting that this was in line with government's thoughts to have all government agencies sustain themselves. He challenged the Board and Management to come up with initiatives that would attractively sell the TS.



*knls Board & mgt staff who participated in the initial devt. of the knls Transformation Strategy, with the CS Dr Wario in Feb. 2014.*



# Boost for knls Naivasha Library

*Finlays Horticultural Fairtrade Association Boosts knls Naivasha Library's ICT Section*



*School Children testing the internet services at the newly refurbished ICT Section at Naivasha library.*

**by Timothy Mahea**

**F**or a long time, knls Naivasha Library ICT section had faced a lot of challenges as a result of use of old ICT equipment and slow internet speed that hindered efficient delivery of services to the library clients. The Finlays Horticultural Fair Trade Investments have however transformed the section by donating 13 new desktop computers with UPS backups, laptop, D-Link Connection Switch, furniture with a sitting capacity of 14 people and a multipurpose printer.

Knls Naivasha library may be small in size but it registers very high level of usage with

clients coming from as far as 50KM away. It is located within Naivasha town along Mbaria Kaniu road. Naivasha is one of the most vibrant towns within the country due to tourism and agricultural activities. It also happens to be a major stop-over for transporters traveling to the western part of Kenya through the Nairobi-Nakuru highway. As a result, it is one of the fastest growing with an estimated urban population of about 300,000. In addition, it is home to the largest maximum prison in East and Central Africa – the Naivasha Maximum Prison. The prison is a “member” of the Naivasha knls library under the institutional

membership category. The library serves the prison through the Naivasha Inmates Education Centre that has over 2,600 students taking primary, secondary and college level education. The Ksh. 1.8M support by Finlays Horticulture Fairtrade Association, Naivasha was drawn from Fairtrade premiums earned through Fairtrade certification. The premiums are supposed to be utilized in projects that benefit the workers and their wider communities.

The Library in Naivasha was therefore identified by the workers as a key resource in their pursuit for further studies. Workers from the Finlays flower farms in Naivasha have been using the library together with their children to access information materials. The donations have indeed revolutionized the ICT services at Naivasha Library and the clients have expressed satisfaction, as they are able to access diverse online resources with ease. This has also raised the usage of the library and helped to improve the ICTs skills of the library clients.

The refurbished section was officially launched on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014, by the Company Human Resource Manager Mr. Vaslas Odhiambo who was the guest of honor. The knls fraternity sincerely appreciates the Finlays Horticultural Fair Trade Association for their kind gesture and commitment in empowering the community.





# Getting ready for the laptop project

*knls Libraries prepare school children ahead of the government's school laptop project*

by Nancy Ngugi

**W**hen the subject of school laptop was introduced as one of the Jubilee Government's deliverables upon election to office, knls had already started an e-learning tablets project dubbed "Kids on the Tab" at Kibera branch library. The project which started in 2012 was funded by Electronic Information For Libraries (EIFL) through their Public Library Innovation Programme (PLIP).

This was done in appreciation of the many difficulties faced by children in the slums in accessing ICTs.

The project has evidently transformed the lives of the children who use Kibera library. Through the use of the tablets they are able to access the digital educational materials including curriculum content, timed exams, games, puzzles and stories. Children are taught

relevant computer skills to enable them navigate the digital and online content available on the tablets. The project has translated to significant progress in the education standards of pupils. It has also build confidence in the use of technology among the children.

Some of the children who sat for standard eight national examinations in 2013 had very high regard for the introduction of tablets at Kibera library. We talked to three former students of Anajali Primary School in Kibera, who were also avid users of the library tablets. They attributed their success in the national examinations to the educational information that they and their fellow students were accessing through the use of the tablets and other books available in the





*Children keenly navigating through a tablet*

library. The three were Albert Omwenga who scored 404; Millicent Wambui 358 marks and Samuel Andaje who scored 397 out of 500.

As the children narrated their stories, they explained that before the tablets were introduced to them at the library, they would hear people talking about tablets and they thought it was medicine. But they were so excited that they had not only understood what they are but they are able to use them effectively. Their exposure to these electronic gadgets has enhanced their appreciation of innovation and technology development, as most of them had not used a computer before. The digital information loaded in the tablets and space in the library had enabled the kibera children to sufficiently do their homework. They also said they had greatly improved in English language because they were able to access a lot of digital story books. For example Samuel said that before the use of the tablets he used to score around 60% in English language, but after constantly using the digital educational materials, he attained

*To implement the project, knls teamed up with an educational agency, eLimu, which creates attractive and interactive local educational content that is related to the school curriculum, and loads it onto tablet computers. eLimu also provided training on basic computer skills and navigating the digital educational and extra-curricular content to the students.*

grade A in the standard eight national final examinations.

This is a clear testimony that with proper management, it is possible that children will be able to improve their education standards through the use of the proposed school laptop project.

The kibera project is unique in that it serves children from the slum whose parents are not able to afford the required books for their studies. Their schools also have very limited or no information materials for the students. It is however satisfying to see how technology can be used to equalize all the children. The knls Kibera staff organized with teachers from the surrounding schools to have the children utilize the library lessons at the library using the tablets. The children have formed Tablet clubs comprising ten members each. The club members undergo training on Saturdays. Other activities in the clubs through use of Tablets include, quiz competitions, spelling bees and educational games.

Teachers from the surrounding schools in Kibera also have a lot of praise for the tablets projects. One of the teachers from Anajali Primary School, Madam Valencia Otweche explained that both the teachers and the 359 pupils from Anajali have benefit a lot from the library and education standards had greatly improved. She confessed that before the establishment of the library performance in the national exams was not very good for example in 2006 only one student managed to score 400 marks. However in 2013 three students had over 400 marks with the first one scoring 414 marks. All the others had over 300 marks and the school's mean score was 337. She said that the library had really sharpened the children in many ways.

Teacher Lawrence of Truth Academy said the library had made his work very easy especially as an English teacher and that most of the teachers from the surrounding schools were doing their research in the library.



by Caroline Kayoro

The most successful children's libraries are those where excellent, up to date books and resources are available and supported by librarians who are trained to work with children and are able to encourage them to enjoy reading and learning.

Knls through the support of BAI successfully implemented a two year project between 2010 and 2012 titled "Children's books and teenagers corners" in twelve branches. The project had three main components: local book purchase, refurbishment of children spaces and training for children librarians. This project greatly transformed the children's spaces as well as the librarians involved in the children sections. This has been evident through increased membership and attendance and better staff attitude towards the junior library members. BAI is currently supporting phase two of the project titled "children's books and eLearning pilot project" from July 2013 to June 2015. The project targets the 12 libraries



*BAI Chairman Lord Boateng, Madam Jacque Scott of BAI and John Tanui - Buruburu Librarian.*

## BAI supports children in public libraries

*BAI supporting knls in creating friendly exciting spaces for children in public libraries*



*BAI Chairman Lord Boateng (2nd left) when he visited knls during the BAI 60th Anniversary Conference in May 2014. With him is Madam Jacque Scott of BAI and Njoroge of knls Braille section (left) and Chitti (far behind).*

that were in the first phase and an additional 10 new libraries. Two workshops for the 35 children librarians were conducted from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The workshop for the librarians from the 10 new libraries focused on: Putting the child at the centre of the library; children developmental stages and application in public libraries; the changing role of the libraries and librarians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; overview of the Ministry of Education (MOE) Early childhood Development (ECD) syllabus and its application in

the library setting; positioning the library as a key ECD literacy provider; bringing books to life; using available materials to create exciting spaces for children; among other topics. The participants appreciated that the 21<sup>st</sup> century librarian needs to be multi skilled in diverse areas including: project planning and management, public relations, marketing, fundraising and resource mobilization, ICT skills, creative design and repackaging of information. It became very clear to the participants that the environment and circumstances in which libraries pursue their



mission is dramatically different from the environment and circumstances of the past.

The other 12 librarians who were involved in phase one of the project were trained at an advanced level. The training was designed to address some needs that had been identified during the implementation of the phase 1. Main issues addressed included child protection and child rights, dealing with disadvantaged children, gender issues, digital literacy, Innovation and partnerships and collaborations.

Kisumu and Meru libraries also shared inspiring experiences of how they were working with disadvantaged children in their communities. Kisumu works with mentally challenged children and Meru works with children homes/orphanages and children living with HIV AIDS. This brought out the topic on programming for children with special needs very clearly and the other participants got a clearer picture on how they could include and serve the disadvantaged children both inside and outside the library.



*From left R. Atuti knls CEO; Moses Librarian Kisumu and Lord Boateng BAI Chairman at BAI 60th Anniversary Conference in Nairobi - May 2014.*

# Kakamega Librarians in a Team Building Workshop

by Ruth Jemo

**S**taff of Kakamega Library held a team-building workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 aimed at enhancing performance. The lead facilitator was Dr. Pamela Abuya; a consultant and motivational speaker.

Specifically, the workshop was geared towards building a strong team that would result to positive change in performance; and cordial relationship with one another both at work and outside work.

The facilitator emphasized on the importance of collective energy that should make knls Kakamega a model library. This was to be done through soul search, self-analysis and building confidence through image building. Dr. Abuya reminded the participants that for them to achieve the organizational objectives as a team members must:

- Identify with the organization
- Be goal oriented
- Work smart
- Manage time
- Get organized
- Have respect for one another

- Have good harmonious working relations
- Communicate
- Have joint activities

Participants were also cautioned on the challenges of teamwork and team building arising from different team players who will often exhibit certain characteristics elaborated through animal characteristics such as:

- **The Monkey:** Jumpy and often with careless jokes even on serious issues
- **A Rat:** very Destructive
- **The Owl:** looks like an animal and sometimes like a bird.
- **Chameleon:** Full of pretence and changes to suit selfish interests
- **Tortoise:** Too slow and hiding head when sensing danger and not willing to discuss
- **Ostrich:** Always burying head in sand and not noticing and getting what is going on
- **Rabbit:** Sly
- **Lion:** King of the jungle, does not allow criticism
- **Donkey:** beast of burden but can be dangerous when pushed to the limit
- **Elephant:** Stubborn and uses size to abuse





*Dr. Marisella Ouma Executive Director of Kenya Copyright Board during their Awareness Day at KICC in Nov. 2013.*

# READING Promotion Activities

## Kibera Library

by Mary Kiarie, Kibera

**K**ibera branch has been organizing reading campaigns that involve pupils and teachers from the surrounding schools. The events are marked with storytelling, tongue twisters, singing, composition writing, abstract drawing, question and answer sessions, poetry, choral verses and short skits. Children have had an opportunity to showcase their public speaking skills, build their confidence, explore their talent and learn new things. The events have been made possible through support from Catholic University Library, Practical Action, Kenya Library Association and Cooperative University. The Reading Campaigns have been aimed at: promoting reading culture; creating awareness on the importance and values of library to the community; improving grades

in school; and promoting use of library. Members of the public from the surrounding also attend the reading campaigns.

The campaigns also focus on creating fun and excitement in books among the children. One such campaign is dubbed "bringing books to life" where schools are invited to take part in the various competitions such as spelling, composition writing, dictation, ICT, drawing and coloring. They usually focus on learning through various entertaining activities. Emphasis is also made on creativity, discipline, and teamwork through various skits and performances. In such forums, participants are given talks on drugs and substance abuse as giant obstacles to success and the need to avoid them. Life lessons around health, conflict resolution, personal hygiene and overall confidence are also included in the programmes.

## Kisumu library

by Moses Imbayi, Kisumu

**F**unds received by Kisumu Library from the U.S. Embassy, Nairobi for the sustenance of the American Corner programmes have enabled Kisumu Library to raise its profile within the Western Region. The library has been able to organize diverse activities geared towards promotion of a positive reading culture and community empowerment through accessible information. To achieve their goal, Kisumu Library has managed to bring other stakeholders on board to ensure wider coverage. These activities include:

### KLA Conference

In conjunction with Kenya Association of Libraries and Information Professionals (KLA), Kisumu Library organized a one-day conference for librarians and information professionals from Nyanza region on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to re-launch the KLA Nyanza chapter and to elect new officials. Librarians from 13 institutions which included Maseno University, Migori TTC, KCA University, Lions high school, Great lakes University, Kisii University, Muslim secondary, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University, Knls, Mount Kenya University, Friends college Kaimosi, Kisumu girls high school, Manyatta Arab School, and KLA National officials. The conference facilitators were Professor Constantine Nyamboga who is the



current KLA National chairman and the conference chairman, Dr. William Munandi from Mount Kenya University and Edward Oswe who is KLA Chief Executive Officer. A total of 34 participants attended including library prefects from Muslim secondary.

Professor Nyamboga gave the history of KLA, its functionalities, mandate and strategic plan regarding the information profession in Kenya. He noted that the Swedish Library Association is now working with KLA and has given a grant to strengthen KLA operations in Kenya. He urged librarians and information professionals to embrace ICT in their respective organizations and in all their activities. He lauded Kisumu American corner for their efforts in using ICT in programming and urged other professionals to emulate this example to improve information services in the region. Elections were conducted for the posts of chairman and deputy; secretary and deputy; and treasurer. Mr. Moses Imbayi from knls Kisumu was elected to the post of Deputy Chairman KLA Nyanza Chapter among other officials.

## Book Club Workshop

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013, American corner organized a one-day book club workshop for teachers at Discovery International Academy for 29 schools along the border of Gem and Emuhaya constituencies. The workshop was aimed at



*Youth training at Kisumu Library.*

strategizing and introducing new schools to the SLOP (School Libraries Outreach Program). Each school was represented by one teacher librarian while other guests who attended included Professor Jack Green who gave a keynote speech. He encouraged schools to seriously embrace libraries in their academic issues. He stressed the need for schools to enroll as library members as this would help them access a wide range of information resources offered by knls.

## Kisumu's Tinga Tinga Reading Tent Finals

*by Moses Imbayi, Kisumu*

CAN YOU READ? This was the big question that dominated the tinga tinga reading tent competitions organized by knls/ American corner in collaboration with Millennium Village Project (MVP) at Ulumbi Primary School in Gem District, Siaya County on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2013. The event was graced by the MVP Project Manager Mrs.

Jessica Masira, County Director of Education Mrs. Emily Isiye, several school heads, teachers, the surrounding community and pupils from 12 primary schools. The competitors were drawn from standard one to six. However, it was rib-breaking when teachers attempted to read a tongue twister paragraph in Kiswahili with the pupils playing the role of judges.

Majority of the teachers tried though others complained that "*Kiswahili siyo mdomo chetu*". In their remarks, the pupils commended their teachers for trying but advised them to learn how to twist their tongue instead of twisting the mouth when reading a tongue twister. Some village elders were also given an opportunity to read and they requested to be considered for a full-fledged reading and writing competition in the next reading tent. There were also book reviews and public speaking competitions for pupils in the upper primary. The pupils were able to narrate what they had read from the storybooks they were given two weeks earlier followed by questions from the audience.



# LIBRARY SUPPORT

*Country Director of Goethe Institut Nairobi Dr. Nina (2nd left) on her visit to Buruburu library. With her is Dr. Norbert Spitz, Director South Africa & Sub-Saharan Africa (far right), Irene Bibi - Head of language courses at Goethe Institut (centre), John Tanui - Librarian Buruburu.*



**K** nls Librarians have continued to cordially work with stakeholders and have consequently gained their support for various library projects that are geared towards improving service delivery to the public. These include:

.....  
KASNEB donated 623 accounting and management books and 7 shelves all worth Kshs. 1,968,540 to Mombasa, Embu, Nyeri, Kericho, Kisumu, Kakamega and Eldoret knls libraries. The books are on high demand across the library network and feedback has been received from customers expressing their appreciation of the improved library collection.

.....  
The US Embassy, Nairobi has funded the upgrading of internet

services in Kisumu and Nakuru Libraries valued at a cost of Kshs. 1,246,720 and Kshs. 835,200 respectively from Sept. 2013 to Aug 2014. This will increase the Internet speed in the two libraries. Through the American Corner, the Embassy has also funded reading promotion activities & community outreach programmes.

.....  
The Berkeley Family through Practical Action has funded the construction of an additional floor and cabling of Kibera library at an estimated cost of Kshs. 5,934,600. This is in addition to the earlier funding for the construction of the Kibera library at a cost of about Ksh. 20M.

.....  
Finlay's Horticultural Fair Trade Association funded the

installation of information communication technologies (ICTs) in Naivasha library worth Kshs. 1.8M. This has raised the usage of the library and helped to improve the ICTs skills of the library clients.

.....  
Silibwet library received Kshs. 700,000 from Bomet CDF for construction of a conference Hall.

The knls family acknowledges the well thought out support by all our partners and friends in our efforts to empower communities and facilitate transformation of livelihoods through enabling access to information resources.

To you all we say **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!**



# Maktaba Library of the Year Award (LOYA)



*Buruburu Library staff receive a Trophy, Tablet, Certificate & cash award of Kshs. 50,000 for emerging the Winner.*



*Nairobi Area Library staff receive a certificate and cash award of Kshs. 30,000 for being the 1st Runner Up.*

by **Millicent Mlangi**

**K**ns participated in this year's LOYA on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at the Nairobi National Museum. The chief guest, the then Director General of Vision 2030, Mugo Kibati, challenged the librarians to be more innovative and make the library a place where everyone yearns to be, in order to build their knowledge, which he acknowledged is an important ingredient towards the achievement of vision 2030.

During the awards, Buruburu library emerged the winner in the public library category with Nairobi Area library as the 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in that category and Kakamega library as the 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up. Buruburu was taking the first position for the third year running.

The annual award, which aims to recognize excellence in the provision of library and information services, was introduced in Kenya in 2010 in recognition of the key role that information plays in the modern world.

The event provides a forum where libraries compete (under different categories) in excellence, innovation and creativity. Librarians and information managers must therefore take a central role in providing information services and knowledge that will in turn accelerate national development. It is important to put in place modern, well-equipped and user-friendly libraries manned by well-trained librarians and information professionals. Geothe Institut Nairobi coordinates the organization of the LOYA among

other sponsors. **Kudos to the winning libraries!!!**

This year, the participating libraries will be assessed in the following areas among others:

- Currency, diversity and relevance of the library collection
- Innovation and creativity in service provision
- Application of modern technologies in service provision
- Efforts towards collection, preservation and dissemination of local content and indigenous knowledge
- Membership of the Kenya Library Association and participation in the Association's activities.

*(For more information see <http://www.goethe.de/ins/ke/nai/ver/en12918069v.htm>)*





# TAMU MEDICAL CAMP

by Moses Imbayi

**E**-health unit and American corner partnered with a number of Health sector players and social welfare agencies working with the Muhoroni District Medical Office to hold a free medical camp at Tamu Health Center in Muhoroni on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The objective was to address unmet health needs of Muhoroni residents by providing high impact healthcare and information. The camp was attended by 43 doctors from different health institutions/hospitals/agencies and Church leaders from various churches within the region.

Tamu community is economically underprivileged and the members

therefore greatly benefited from the wide range of health care and information services that were provided during this free medical camp. This initiative presented a wonderful opportunity for knls to promote a culture of reading among school children and other community members.

Doctors and health workers had an opportunity to access health information from the e-health resources provided by knls Kisumu. While addressing other doctors and health workers, Dr. June Odoyo lauded knls for providing updated and current health information. He encouraged health workers to enroll as members of the library in order to access and utilize the

unique services offered at the e-health unit at the knls Kisumu library.

Services that were offered at the medical camp included; VMMC (Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision), Eye screening and treatment, Dental treatment and extraction, Jigger treatment and donation of shoes and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing.

In deed this was an all round collaboration: while the Doctors and Pastors dealt with body and soul, knls came in handy in feeding the mind with a vast of information resources.



# Community Health Worker (CHW) Training at Kibera Library

by Mary Kinyanjui

Kibera library provided the venue for community health training that was facilitated by S. Chandi Wairiuko and T. Kibe from Ministry of Health. The training which was held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and attended by community members covered the following subjects:

- Definition of TB and Types of TB
- Mode of transmission and risk factors and Signs/symptoms
- Diagnosis of TB both in children and adult
- Sputum collection and Factors affecting early diagnosis of TB
- TB treatment plus treatment guidelines, Side effects and adherence to treatment
- Follow up and support to ensure adherence

FPPS/AMREF and GF provided tremendous financial support to ensure success of the training.

## Librarians Workshop and Story Telling Session at Thika Library

by Miriam Mureithi

In the endeavor to promote reading and provision of information services to the residents of Thika and its environs, Thika library organized a one-day workshop in collaboration with American Friends of Kenya (AFK) on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013. The participants mainly drawn from institutions in Thika West and East Districts, comprised librarians from public, academic and school libraries, teachers and library customers with diverse professions.

Steve Butzel (MLS), Assistant Director at Portsmouth Public Library in USA, facilitated the workshop. Some of the subjects covered during the workshop included:

### 1. Internet Use

- Finding information in the internet – use of browsers, search engines
- Searching the web
- Evaluating information
- Useful websites – websites for different types of information; health, instructional, lesson plans, e-books, tutorials and

reference materials.

- Managing Internet Information – collections development, book marking and Firefox.

### 2. Networking and resource sharing

Formation of a consortium was regarded as the most viable means for library cooperation and information sharing. Networking was termed as a way to gain access to a greater range of expertise and other resources and avoid duplication of efforts by making use of the already available resources.

Thus, libraries and other information resource centres should develop national and international linkages with numerous agencies both governmental and non-governmental working in related fields.

### 3. Story telling

Children and teachers were taken through stories by a professional librarian.





# MISCELLANEOUS?

by Francis Mutiso, Nakuru

**M**ore often than not, you hear certain organizations being categorized as 'miscellaneous'. Charles Handy (1985) in his book "understanding of organizations," based the grading of organizations on power and influence. He identified four types of culture that are reflected in organizations as follows:

## 1 Power Culture

Organizations are likely to have a power culture centered on the founder. In this case the founder is often the voice of the organization and will at least in its early days, take control of the organization. In the case of Kenya most government agencies such as parastatals are founded on Acts of Parliament. These Acts define what the organization is and how and what it is expected to engage in. Thus, when an organization that is founded by an Act of Parliament is categorized as "miscellaneous" does it mean that the Act that establishes it is also "miscellaneous?"

## 2 Role Culture

The role of an organization places it high or low in the Society's ladder of recognition. An organization gains its credibility based on how it has played and amplified its role in the execution of its mandate.

Large Organizations will have the economies of scale to be able to invest in time and resources to ensure their objectives and missions are constantly and consistently achieved. They are more likely to invest in multiple media to achieve their goals since there are often multiple routes to get things done.

## 3 Person Culture

In an organization can reside yet another culture which can thrive quite happily within but have little affiliation to the whole. Handy cites the people within the organization whereby they are likely to be more focused on their individual professions and will look outside the wider organization for their personal growth and fulfillment. A deeper understanding of the allegiances

these individuals hold will assist in defining the path of the organization.

Thus, as employees of an organization, a good question to ask is; Where is our allegiance as far as our service delivery is concerned? Are we proud to be associated with our organization and its ideals? Do we value what we do and our standing in society? Then, are we miscellaneous?

## 4 Task Culture

This is focused on the job at hand or the project. It is also likely to be a feature in organizations with dispersed operations. All organizations' operations are interrelated and in most cases share similar characteristics. It then means the organizations' task and focus should be clear to everyone from the word go. Every organization has a 'Task Culture'. So a question to ask ourselves would be; Is our task culture clear to everyone and how have we amplified it in our society? Is what we do miscellaneous?

**NB:** It is said and I quote 'attitude is everything. How you see yourself is more important than how others see you.' So my dear colleagues in knls, let us stand tall in society and champion the ideals of our organization especially because we live in the 'Information World' and we very well know that provision of information can never be miscellaneous.





*School girls in a teen-age workshop at Kibera library.*

# Kibera Library Holds Teenage Girls Workshop

by Mary Kiarie - Kibera

**K**ibera Community Library held a teenage girls workshop on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 for the library's five (5) girls clubs from five different schools. The clubs were formed in January 2014. The librarian thought of forming these clubs after realizing that many girls were approaching her for advice as well as the teachers on how to deal with the many challenges they were facing. Through the support of Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Kibera library was able to organize the girls' workshop. CUEA provided financial support and also brought some students to talk to and encourage the girls.

The ceremony was presided over by Stella who is a motivational speaker, a lecturer from Kampala University and a cultural attaché of nurturing girls as well as encouraging them to read in order to improve their living status. The theme of the workshop

was **"Transforming girls' lives through reading and building a stable nation."** The event also aimed at celebrating girls' talents and informing them the reason why they should be thirsty for knowledge through performing different activities around books and listening to real life experiences. Organized activities like group discussions, talent show, lectures, reading, motivational speeches and entertainment marked the event.

The training provided an opportunity for the girls to interact with their peers from different schools and hence understand themselves, speak out the challenges they face as well as have a moment of enjoying their girlhood. A total of 135 girls participated together with their teachers. For the girls, it was an important day to show their talents and learn from each other through constructive discussions. For the teachers, it was a day for

them to witness the girls speaking out the challenges they face as well as feel appreciated through the special speeches.

Stella, the lecturer from Kampala University pointed some signs of successful people which she encouraged the girls to embrace. These included:

- a) Making the best use of time
- b) Knowing how to motivate / encourage themselves
- c) Resist Distractions

Stella reminded the girls that rushed decisions will always become poor decisions. A student from Catholic University cautioned the girls to avoid bad company that leads to engaging in mischievous activities. She also encouraged the girls that disobedience in school and at home may ruin good character. They were advised to be visiting the library often so as to widen their knowledge.



# World Reader Partners with knls to Launch E-Reader



*Children exploring e-readers at Kakamega library.*

**by Caroline Kayoro, Projects Office**

In deed use of the ICT platform is a critical success factor in making information and knowledge accessible to all communities in Kenya. Public libraries provide spaces for people of all walks of life to access technology; and should therefore take up their role in tackling digital exclusion and support digital participation among those at risk of exclusion from online services. For example children from rural and disadvantaged communities should be supported to access affordable library and ICT services that is fundamental for delivery of learning materials. Knls provides a platform where

people from all walks of life can easily access online information by use of e-books and e-readers in order to promote reading and keep up with customers' needs.

To achieve this knls has partnered with various stakeholders who have supported incorporation of ICT in service delivery. The U.S.-based nonprofit organization Worldreader partnered with knls to launch Project LEAP (Libraries, E-Reading, Activities, Partnership) on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014 in Kakamega, Kisumu and Nyilima libraries respectively. LEAP, which is run by Worldreader and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is

a collaborative project with eight selected libraries in the Western region of Kenya. Three of these are Kakamega, Kisumu and Nyilima (knls branches). The other five libraries namely Busia, Sigalagala satellite, Saida, Community satellite library and Konditi satellite are community libraries run by individuals and the local community in the region. Librarians from the eight libraries underwent a training conducted by Worldreader in Kisumu from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

According to Ms Joan Mwachi Amollo, Worldreader Manager, Programmes & Operations, these librarians were privileged to be the first librarians in Africa to handle the touch design e-readers under the Worldreader project. Worldreader has been working mainly with schools in Kenya and other countries in Africa. The launch in western Kenya libraries was a milestone because it was the first pilot for libraries in Kenya. Using e-readers and mobile phones, Worldreader enables children and families to read thousands of local African stories together with great international books that have been selected into a culturally relevant library of e-books.

Worldreader is currently working with sixteen publishers. Each of the three knls libraries received 25 Kindles preloaded with educational content including books and curricular materials in both English and Kiswahili to



improve reading skills among children and adults. The e-readers will greatly benefit the children and allow them access to numerous sources of information. One e-reader is preloaded with 200 different titles and can hold up to 1500 books. This is a great advantage for the library in terms of storage space and wear and tear. The shelf life of a popular children's book is only 6 months. The books in the e-reader will last longer as long as the gadget itself is handled well.

Children with disabilities will find the e-readers even more useful. Using the e-readers enables the children to change font sizes, making the print easier to access, especially for visually handicapped and children with other learning disabilities. The larger print means changing the page faster, thus giving the children the feel of reading more quickly than in a traditional print book. Most e-readers also have the ability to convert text to speech, thus providing built-in audio book for children with

visual impairment. E-readers don't show titles while reading so a child with disability can read a lower level title without worry of teasing from other children.

The three launches in Kakamega, Kisumu and Nyilima were well attended by both children and adults. The chief guest in Kakamega library, the Director of Education, Busia County Mrs. Beatrice Lukalo urged emphasized that the good news about the transformational technological apparatus should be spread widely. Mr. Henry Mendelson, Regional Library Officer, Us Embassy officiated the launch in Kisumu library and was glad to have been instrumental in facilitating the shipment of the e-readers to Kenya. He encouraged the audience to fully utilize the resources donated by Worldreader.

Mr. Arthur Odhiambo, Chairman of Nyilima library Development Committee and author of books titled **"DholuoMit 1 & 2"** informed the community in

Nyilima that there was no limit in learning new things. He challenged both the young and old to learn how to use the e-readers. He was very excited to learn that his books **"DholuoMit 1 & 2"** were already digitized by Moran publishers and available in the e-readers. Mr. Augustine Omondi representing the Great Lakes

University coined a slogan to promote reading in Dholuo **"Ber Bed But Book Ber Biro Bange"**. The 7 Bs simply mean that it is good to be near books because one will reap good things later. This slogan resounded well with both the children and adults in Nyilima. Great Lakes University is keen to partner with knls to promote reading in Nyilima region. knls appreciates World reader for making e-readers a reality in Kisumu, Kakamega and Nyilima knls libraries. The 25 e-readers in each library will greatly motivate the children to read. We urge the schools and parents to encourage children to visit the libraries in order to benefit from this project. Access to the preloaded local books in the e-readers will boost their English language skills. Children generally like playing with gadgets. An e-reader helps to satisfy that gadget lust and helps the child to enjoy reading.

According to Ms. Joan Mwachi, World reader representative, research has shown that when children read using the e-readers there is considerable improvement in their academic performance within two to three months. The e-readers will not only benefit the children but will serve the needs of adults too. The content in the devices has been sorted for children from pre unit to class 8, secondary school and adults. There are also several books for adults including reference books.



*Readers familiarize themselves with the e-readers during the launch at Nyilima.*





*From left; Ramune - Program Manager PLIP at EIFL, Geoge Gathenya - EIFL-PLIP Project Coordinator Africa, James Kimani BAI East Africa Regional Rep., & Laula Agosta - Program Officer IREX chart with readers at the Buruburu Library's e-resource center.*

# American Corner Youth Cultural Program

by Moses Imbayi

A sense of belonging is quite fulfilling not just to the youth but to all mankind. However for a long time, the youth have struggled to find their identity in the deep cultural diversity of our nation. In appreciation of these facts, the American corner in Kisumu has provided a platform for the cultural program that will help in trying to discover the intricacies that characterize the process of identifying a sense of belonging among the youth.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014, youth from across the Western region had an opportunity to express themselves through the wide range of activities displayed by Kisumu library. Distinguished guests who graced the occasion included: Hon. Farida Salim who is a member of Kisumu County

Assembly, Collins and the entire marketing team from post bank and various representatives from corporate organizations in the region. Other notable attendees included Mr. William Zang from China and representatives from Make Me Smile Organization which deals with vulnerable children.

A total of 267 people attended the function. Farida Salim advised the youth to uphold their culture, protect it jealously and guard it from extinction. She also cautioned them of copying foreign cultures which have no backing within our traditional setup but only pick those that can add value to their growth and development. She urged the youth to come up with films and plays to educate the community and the world about

“our” heritage. She reiterated that it is time for youth to participate actively in the affairs of the county and stand up to be counted on their deeds. She also advised them to contest for positions in the county whenever they arise and also participate in budget discussions to ensure their agenda is fully addressed by the county government.

Collins; the regional marketing officer from post bank urged the youth to be very vigilant and avoid engaging in activities that may jeopardize their aspirations. He commended youth for being creative and promised that post bank would continue working with them through knls. Several activities were performed during the event which included plays, dance and public speaking.





*Dignitaries sign the visitors book at the knls stand at KU during disability function.*

## Kenyatta University Disability Awareness Day

by James Njoroge

The NAL Braille section participated at the Kenyatta University's fifth disability day which took place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 2014. The theme for the day being "Breaking Barriers: an inclusive University." The commemoration of the day was to provide an opportunity to raise

awareness of disability and accessibility and to realize the full and equal participation of students with disabilities in all activities. James Njoroge and Esther Odanga both from knls Nairobi Area Library attended the event. They had an opportunity to showcase Braille material and equipment used by the visually impaired persons at the Nairobi Area Library.

The equipment included the *TOPAZ* Desktop Video *Magnifier*, *Perkins Brailier* and the *Proclaimer talking Bible*. Among the guests who visited the stand were the Vice Chancellor of Kenyatta University Prof. Olive Mugenda and the guest of honor Kristina Kenyatta Pratt, EBS.

## TEACHER-LIBRARIAN SEMINAR HELD AT MERU LIBRARY

by Richard Wanjohi, Meru

Meru library in conjunction with Kenya Library Association (KLA) Eastern Chapter organised a teacher-librarian seminar at the library on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The purpose of the seminar was to train the teacher-librarians on how to set-up school libraries and ensure efficient usage of the library services. The event brought together 22 teachers from 19 primary schools, 1 secondary school, 1 children's home and a teacher from the

autistic unit for the children with autism. Also present was the KLA executive officers - Eastern Chapter, Dr Lucy Kirima, Director of Africa Nazarene University, Meru Campus who was the chief guest and the MP of Imenti North constituency Hon Rahim Dawood. KLA National Office, who was the main sponsor of the seminar, was represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Edward Oswe.

While giving her Key note address, Dr Lucy Kirima highlighted the importance

of libraries and the need for developing school libraries. She underlined that passion in one's job as a librarian will win the day.

Hon. Rahim Dawood emphasized on the need to ensure available and accessible avenues for acquiring information materials especially books. He challenged the organizers to come up with a programme to set in motion a **BOOKS DONATION WEEK** which could involve institutions of learning, supermarkets, libraries and other selected centres.



# BASIC ICT SKILLS AT knls - MURANG'A BRANCH



*Graduands receiving certificates of participation from the knls CEO Mr. Richard Atuti after the two and a half months training.*

by Caroline Ngacaku

**K**nls Murang'a branch has been utilizing the CCK-Sponsored eResource centre to provide free basic ICT training to the community around Murang'a since April 2013. The two-months training is facilitated by Murang'a library staff and it covers Microsoft Packages such

as: Introduction to computers; Ms Windows; Ms Word; Ms Excel; Keyboarding; PowerPoint; Publisher; and Networking/ internet/ Email. At the end of the course the candidates are awarded certificates of participation. This program has been a success and more people are willing to register for the course. These include the senior

citizens who want to equip themselves with digital skills and persons who want to gain the basic ICT skills before they can join computer colleges for advanced training. Between April 2013 and May 2014 a total of 166 participants had successfully completed the course and the demand is on the increase.



# Official Opening of **Dr. Robert Ouko Memorial Library**



*Mrs. Christabel Ouko is all smiles after seeing her family's dream of establishing a library in honor of her late husband come true.*



*Children entertaining guest during the launch of Dr. Robert Ouko Memorial Library.*

**by Caroline Kayoro, Projects Office**

**D**r. Robert Ouko Memorial library was officially opened on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. The library marks the 60<sup>th</sup> library in the knls network. The journey began way back in April 2010 when the ground breaking took place. The library has been established in honour and memory of the late Dr. Robert John Ouko who had a passion for reading and championed values like excellence, self-determination and service to community. The library is an impressive way to keep the memories of one of the great sons of this nation and to cherish the values he advocated for.

The library project was a collaborative effort between the

knls Board and Dr. Robert Ouko family and friends. Mr. Patrick Omutia, The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Sports and the Arts presided by the official opening of the library. He was accompanied by Mr. Samwel Nyangeso, knls Board chairman, Mr Richard Atuti, knls Director and staff. Other dignitaries included Mrs. Christabel Ouko, wife of the Late Dr. Robert Ouko and her family, Ambassador Bethuel Kiplangat, Hon. David Musila, Senator, Kitui County, Hon. Otieno Onyango Oyoo, MP, Muhoroni constituency, among others. All the speakers emphasized the need to honour heroes and the importance of reading. The family through Mr. Ken Ouko (Late Ouko's son) expressed how his father built up a large collection of books in his

lifetime as reading was indeed his passion. Ambassador Bethuel Kiplangat referred to the new library as a collection of valuable memories. He further explained his personal love for books by expressing how he never goes on a journey alone but always carries a book or two.

The knls Board Chairman, Mr. Samwel Nyangeso thanked Mrs. Christabel Ouko and the family for the sacrifice they made by providing the land and financial support to set up the library. A representative of the Ominde clan which the Late Ouko came from expressed their desire to have a similar library at Nyahera where most of the members of the clan reside. In his remarks Mr. Omutia emphasized that provision of information for development through the library will indeed transform lives in the region. He further explained that rural communities like any other, are better able to tackle their problems and introduce social change if they have access to relevant information that meet their needs and interests. He called upon the county governments to include establishment of library services on their developmental priority lists so as to guarantee equal opportunities for county citizens. He also urged more families and organizations to emulate what the Ouko family had done.



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