

# THE Publisher

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**Kenya Literature Bureau**  
Supports Government's New Text Book Policy





## OUR VISION

To be the leading publisher and printer of quality knowledge materials.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To publish and print quality educational and knowledge materials at affordable prices, whilst promoting excellent authorship and creating customer and shareholder value.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- Superior Customer Service
- Transparency and Accountability
- Competency
- Integrity
- Innovation

## OUR QUALITY POLICY

Kenya Literature Bureau is committed to and shall always endeavour to reach the highest level of quality in publishing and printing educational and knowledge materials as stipulated by the ISO 9001 : 2008.

## WE WILL

- Comply with regulatory and statutory requirements.
- Continually improve the effectiveness of our Management Systems.
- Achieve and ensure that our customers receive the highest quality service.
- As a team, be guided by strict adherence to laid down procedures and strive to be competitive and independent; and will protect and uphold our customers' interests without compromising the quality standards set.

Our quality objectives shall be established and reviewed at the regular management review meetings.



## Inside this issue....

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**Cover photo:** Form one students at Menengai High School in Nakuru County display free Text books during book distribution exercise.

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**H**appy New Year and welcome to our new enriched issue. Much has happened in the publishing sector, more so at Kenya Literature Bureau. This issue is chock-full of the incredible stories of success, where we have realised big strides on the road to achievement. The Bureau has remained consistent in its operations and maintained standards across all the practices within our business.

The Bureau embarked on a book distribution exercise around the country in line with the Ministry of Education's plan to ensure equity and enhanced learning in the country. KLB also made a major headway to earn the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) certification.

We remain on the top of the game in the region through continued provision of quality and relevant learning materials. This issue highlights on growth through a new partnership deal signed with the China International Publishing Group which will see KLB co-publish an autobiography of China's president Xi Jinping in Kiswahili.

Corporate Social Responsibility is a virtue we pride ourselves in. Read on to find more information on our support of a primary school in Baringo County.

2018 promises to be a year full of exciting activities for us and our stakeholders.

We publish and print for you.

Welcome

Diana Olenja



We are continuously striving to enhance the quality of our Newsletter by providing information in a simplified manner for all our readers to enjoy. We welcome you to send your articles that can be considered for publication in the next edition. We also request that you send us your feedback on [klbpro@klb.co.ke](mailto:klbpro@klb.co.ke) on what you would like to read as well as comments on how we can improve our Newsletter.



## Building Bureau's Progress Towards Prosperity and Longevity

We have put our best foot forward and made remarkable achievements in the year 2017. We continue to focus on capturing the demand for growth, entering into new business partnerships, consolidating our presence in the market and increasing operational efficiency across printing, sales and supply of the learning materials.

We continue to exercise the "bottom-up" leadership style, promising to listen to all ideas and concerns from our staff and incorporate them during policy making. This will grow our spirit of resilience and hard work which has seen us acquire the much coveted ISO 9001:2015 for our Quality Management Systems.

Our main focus has been to provide products and services that meet our customers' demands. Our strong dedicated team, committed to create a success story saw us submit over 80 book titles to Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development for the new Competency Based Curriculum. All these are not mean achievements for an organization searching for greater heights.

The Bureau's commitment to integrity and quality has earned us the Government tender to publish and supply core books to public schools in Kenya. This was part of the reforms spearheaded by the Ministry of Education aimed at promoting equity and access to educational materials across the country.

Hot on the heels of the new Government book distribution policy, KLB has partnered with various counties to brand and distribute its *Skillgrow* and *Innovator* series books for early childhood and vocational training. This exercise will see counties benefit from competitive pricing and ownership of learning materials, while also checking against piracy and excessive spending from inflated costs by middlemen.

A partnership deal with China International Publishing Group (CIPG) in Beijing, China, saw us receive equipment donation. The milestone engagement will help boost our growth, and position us to take the lead in the next wave of digital innovation brought about by

new technologies in the publishing industry. This is a partnership in real terms and we will continue to strike partnership deals with companies we share a similar vision.

To accelerate the rate of our work impact and to help us achieve greater operational efficiencies where possible, the Bureau has settled on a new organisational structure already being implemented. We will continue to place the right team in the right positions as it is a critical step towards achieving the organisational goals and objectives.

Our strategic focus for 2018 will be about customer satisfaction; ensuring we retain our existing loyal customers and attracting more new customers. We plan to work with both our regional and international partners to improve the marketing experience and aftermarket support as well as deliver more training courses for our customers.

Mr. Victor Lomaria

**Managing Director**

# Top KLB Team takes Books to all corners of Kenya

By Joseph Ndegwa



*KLB Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah issuing text books to Form One students at Ramisi Girls Secondary School in Kwale County.*

Form One students received full-colour Chemistry, Biology and English textbooks from KLB early January under the book distribution scheme launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta this year.

Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) marshalled a strong team led by Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah, Board members and Managing Director, Victor Lomaria to execute the all-important exercise of delivering the learning materials within the government timelines.

Speaking in Nakuru, Mr Lomaria said the distribution, which started with Form One books will be extended to other classes in the coming months.

"We are awaiting government directive to supply textbooks for all other classes," he said when he presided over the distribution at Lamudiak Mixed Secondary School, Njoro Girls High School, Njoro Boys High School and Menengai High School.

According to the MD, KLB is committed to delivering high quality curriculum materials to learners at reasonable prices. "There is so much value to literacy that this new book distribution policy is generating," Mr Lomaria said. "It's unquantifiable because every child will have his or her own textbook and learning outcomes will improve."

KLB books are read everywhere: From Kinango Mixed

Secondary School in Kwale County to St. Cecilia Misikhu Girls Secondary School in Bungoma County, from Mithumweru Secondary School in Meru to Got Rateng' Mixed Secondary School in Homabay County. As instructional materials, the books create a firm foundation for children.

At Matuga Girls Secondary School, KLB Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah said KLB books "have good content written by top authors and editors in a language a learner can easily understand."

Speaking at Kapsabet Boys High School in Nandi County, Governor Stephen Sang while receiving his County's books, challenged students to take advantage of the new books to perform well in national exams. He thanked KLB for the books saying "education is a great equaliser."

Sammy Chepkwony, a Board member at the Bureau said "the books have been made student-friendly to ensure quality learning in class."

At Karundas Day Secondary School in Nyeri County, Martin Mburu, a member of the Board, lauded the Government policy, saying the books were "critical learning materials to students who would otherwise not have accessed the books."

Board members Elizabeth Mwongera, Abdallah Bii, Cheryl Majiwa, Josephine Maangi, Nicholas Mac'Botongore and John Kenduiwo took messages of hope to learners across the country. They used the opportunity to mentor students.

In Nakuru, the County Director of Education, Isaac Atebe asked head teachers to work with KLB to establish and expand libraries in their schools. "Thank you KLB for the textbooks. Your books have come at the right time when Form Ones are reporting," said Menengai High School Principal Richard Ngatia.

Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya who presided over textbook distribution in his region expressed his "great pleasure partnering with KLB in delivering curriculum materials to schools in my County."

Many schools promised to improve performance and thanked the National Government for the roll-out of free day secondary education and free textbooks.

KLB has a fully-fledged printing press, enabling it to deliver textbooks to schools within the timelines set by the curriculum regulator, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

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**"KLB books have good content written by top authors and editors in a language a learner can easily understand."**

**Amb Francis Bayah**

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*President Uhuru Kenyatta flags off the National Textbook distribution exercise at CEMASTE in Karen, Nairobi on January 5, 2018.*



*Textbook distribution at Menengai High School, Nakuru*



# The Bureau Ready to Compete on the World Stage

*"Strength and growth comes only through continuous effort and struggle."*

*—Napoleon Hill—*

By Ronald Kibaron

Kenya Literature Bureau officially earned the coveted ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Service (QMS) certification and also unveiled three Kiswahili Dictionary series (*Nasaha Kamusi*) on 13th December, 2017. The certificate was presented over by Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Managing Director, Mr. Charles Ongwae in a ceremony presided over by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Fred Matiang'i congratulated KLB for setting the pace by being among the first parastatals under the Ministry of Education to be awarded the 9001:2015 ISO Certification. He applauded the Board of Management for being work driven and for placing KLB on the global map. The Cabinet Secretary affirmed KLB's capability to turn around book printing in order to meet the Ministry's demands especially the supply of textbooks for Form one students reporting to school on 9th January, 2018.

Dr. Matiang'i also re-stated the Government's position to take up the role of distributing books, a task, which



*Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang'i (Centre) hands over the ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certification plaque to KLB Managing Director, Mr. Victor Lomaria (Left) and Board Chairman Amb. Francis Bayah (2nd Left) as Basic Education PS Dr. Belio Kipsang and KEBS MD, Mr. Charles Ongwae (Right) look on.*

was for long, done by the booksellers. Dr. Matiang'i added that by revising the book distribution model, the funds allocated for the purchase of textbooks would be put to proper use envisaging that the 1:1 book ratio policy will be attained.

The Education Cabinet Secretary also thanked the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for impacting positively on the quality of education in Kenya through establishing avenues for co-operation. Dr. Matiang'i further appreciated the donation made by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to KLB in form of equipment

adding that it will go a long way in strengthening the ties between the two countries.

Kenya Bureau of Standards Managing Director, Mr. Charles Ongwae, congratulated KLB for the remarkable achievement adding that the attainment of the ISO 9001:2015 has placed KLB among the customer-centric government agencies, which emphasise on quality standards in products and services. Mr. Ongwae assured KLB of their continued support in ensuring the high standards are maintained.

Basic Education Principal Secretary, Dr.



Belio Kipsang, commended KLB for the great achievement and noted that being certified signified credibility, adaptability and leadership, and confirmed that KLB is customer-centric. He applauded the launch of the three Nasaha Kamusi dictionaries saying that they would enhance the learning of Kiswahili in Kenya and beyond. He indicated that the Ministry was keen to make Kiswahili a pleasurable language because of the role it plays in making integration between states.

KLB's Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah, thanked the Board of Management, management team and all staff for their selfless efforts in making KLB the most sought after solutions provider in the area of printing, publishing and provision of learning materials. Amb. Bayah also recognised the role played by the certification body, Kenya Bureau of Standards, for the good job they are doing in helping government ministries, agencies and the private sector to put in place efficient systems in the quest to become world class in delivery of services.

The Board Chairman further added that the changing dynamics in the very competitive publishing industry has made KLB embrace new systems and technologies with the aim of improving business practices and customer service. He revealed that the changes in the market is what informed the decision to

go for ISO 9001:2015.

Speaking at the launch, KLB Managing Director, Mr. Victor Lomaria dedicated the award to all the staff members of KLB. He praised the former Managing Director and the current Member of Parliament for Kasipul Kabondo Constituency Hon. Eve Obara for initiating the process in mid-2016. Mr. Lomaria further recognised the dedicated team of internal auditors who were instrumental in the process and whose role will remain critical in the day to day implementation of the new system of quality management.

The Managing Director assured the Ministry of Education that by attaining the certification, KLB was ready to compete on the world stage. He added that the certification spoke of the commitment to support the Ministry's new policies on textbook distribution

and curriculum reforms. He stated that with the ISO 9001:2015 certification, KLB has now positioned itself to be the publisher and printer of choice aiming to serve the country and the region with pride.

Former KLB Managing Director and the current Member of Parliament for Kasipul Kabondo Constituency, Hon. Eve Obara, former KLB Board Member and the current Member of Parliament for Njoro Constituency, Hon. Charity Chepkwony, former KLB Chief Editor (eBooks) and the current County Executive Committee for Lands, Energy and Urban Development for Marsabit County Ms. Kulamo Bullo were among the dignitaries who attended the launch.

### **Nasaha Kamusi Launch**

KLB also took the opportunity to launch three Nasaha ya Kamusi publications; *Nasaha Kamusi ya Methali Kimaudhui*,



*A section of KLB staff follow proceedings during the ISO 9001:2015 QMS certification launch and the unveiling of Nasaha Kamusi series at KLB headquarters in South C, Nairobi.*



Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang'i (3<sup>rd</sup> Right) presided over the launch of Nasaha Kamusi at KLB headquarters in South C, Nairobi on December 13, 2017. He is flanked by Dr. Belio Kipsang, PS Basic Education (right), KLB Chairman Amb. Francis Bayah (3<sup>rd</sup> left), Managing Director, Victor Lomaria (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and Kiswahili Chief Editor, Frida Simwa (left).

Nasaha Kamusi ya Misemo Kimaudhui and Nasaha Kamusi ya Vitendawili na Mafumbo. The books, published by KLB,

are part of KLB's strategy to expand the use of Kiswahili in both official and non-official settings in Kenya and the region.





## Mentorship



*KLB Managing Director addressing Students at Lamudiak Mixed Secondary School in Njoro sub-County.*

# Work hard **to win easy**, KLB boss advises students

By Joseph Ndegwa

Students have been asked to be disciplined, spend more time reading to pass examinations, and prepare to play bigger roles in nation-building when the baton is passed on to them.

Victor Lomaria, the Kenya Literature Bureau Managing Director, asked students across the country to prepare for leadership when he addressed Njoro Boys High School, Lamudiak Mixed Secondary School, Njoro Girls High School and Menengai High School students during a textbook distribution exercise where all Form Ones received KLB's English, Chemistry and Biology textbooks.

Mr. Lomaria told Njoro Boys students to work hard to effectively compete with the rest in Kenya. "The seeds of today are the plants of tomorrow, work hard to win easy," he quipped.

He challenged teachers to share

knowledge and time willingly to prepare the learners for meaningful roles in the future. Telling his own story, Mr. Lomaria reiterated the importance of education, saying it is a great equaliser. "Education

will make you get noticed; it is a firm foundation for employment and growth," he said.

Njoro MP, Charity Kathambi, lauded the National Government for the one-textbook-per-child policy and sector reforms which, she said, would improve learning outcomes and enhance the integrity of education system.

Nakuru County Deputy Governor Dr. Erick Korir asked students and teachers to use books well in improving performance in examinations.

KLB won a tender to publish, print and supply 18 million books to schools under the new textbook distribution policy, which entails direct delivery by the government. The books are printed in full colour to enhance appeal and understanding of concepts. They have been written by a team of top authors and subject editors in a simple, clear and concise language appropriate for the level of the learner.

Others who attended the Nakuru event were the County Director of Education, Isaac Atebe, Njoro District Quality Assurance Officer, Moses Kuria, Prof. Rhoda Birech of Egerton University, MCAs, church leaders and school heads.



*Njoro Girls High School Form One students display copies of Text books received from KLB*

# Kenya Literature Bureau sponsors annual KEPSHA conference

By Mukui Mbaluka



*KLB Sales & Customer Service Branch Manager, Isaac Korir addressing delegates at the KEPSHA Conference in Mombasa.*

The 13<sup>th</sup> Kenya Primary Schools Heads Association (KEPSHA) Annual Delegates Conference played host to Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) and other industry players between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the Sheikh Zayed Childrens Welfare Centre in Mombasa County. The Annual Conference brought together more than 10,000 Head teachers who are members of the Association.

Addressing the delegates, KLB's Customer Service Manager, Mr. Isaac Korir emphasised the benefits of using KLB publications adding that the books are published for posterity and prosperity. "You can never go wrong while using KLB books as core books and reference books. KLB books are published for posterity and prosperity. The panels of authors cut across the education sector, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, qualified and experienced. They interpret the syllabus based on their expertise both for current and new curriculums" said Mr. Korir.

KLB's Sales and Marketing Manager, Mr. Bernard Obura, encouraged the head teachers to use KLB books for

preparation of candidates for KCPE. "The 2017 Composition was extracted from Primary Flying Colours page 168 sample number 8, which KLB's premium composition book for primary schools. The Insha too was extracted from page 123 which is an Insha on Barua Ya Kirafiki. The books are on sale at our tent at discounted prices for you during the conference." said Mr. Obura.

Mr. Obura also grasped the opportunity to inform the delegates of KLB's new products which include Nasaha Kamusi which is a series of three Kiswahili dictionaries published by KLB and approved by KICD for use in schools. The Sales and Marketing Manager asked the delegates to partner with KLB to improve the performance of Kenyan students across the country.

Speaking also at the Conference, KEPSHA National Chairman, Mr. Shem Ndolo, thanked KLB for being a consistent partner of the Association's activities throughout 2017. The Chairman also thanked KLB for sponsoring the 47 Spelling Bee Regional Conferences that were under KEPSHA. "I want to thank KLB

for sponsoring this conference with writing pads, pens and certificates which have gone a long way in making this conference a success. Thank you KLB for standing with KEPSHA in 2017. We look forward to more beneficial partnerships in the future" said the KEPSHA National Chairman.

Throughout the conference, the head teachers present sampled KLB's publications whilst making purchases and giving their feedback of our products. Mrs. Francisca K. Nzamba, Headmistress of Kavisi Primary School in Kitui County, while sampling our books said "KLB books are the best as they cover the syllabus fully. The teachers in my school always use KLB books as the core books in the school. We also recommend to the parents to buy for their children for home use." During this year's KEPSHA conference, KLB was represented by Customer Service Manager, Mr. Isaac Korir, Sales and Marketing Manager, Mr. Benard Obura, Senior Supply Chain Officer (Warehouse), Mr. Gideon Mjambili, Regional Sales Manager (Coast), Mr. Shukrani Kuzi, Ag. Market Development Officer, Ms. Mukui Mbaluka and Higher Clerical Officer, Mr. Duncan Gichuru.



# Kenya Literature Bureau expands reach to The People's Republic of China

By Kenneth Jumba and Diana Olenja

Kenya Literature Bureau recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China International Publishing Group (CIPG) in Beijing, China. The MoU is on co-publishing the second volume of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China in the Swahili language.

The signing ceremony was presided over by Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Political Bureau, Secretariat and Head of the Publicity Department. The event, hosted by China International Publishing Group President, Mr. Zhang

Fuhai, was held at Diaoyutai State Guest House. The Bureau was represented by the Publishing Manager, Mr. Kenneth Jumba and Public Relations Manager, Ms. Diana Olenja and saw sixteen other publishers from around the globe participate in the ceremony.

Mr. Jumba and Ms. Olenja, thereafter, paid a courtesy call to the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in China where they held discussions with officials on how to improve relations between the Bureau and the host country, especially

Kiswahili language. These books will be marketed jointly by the Bureau and the CIPG across institutions in Swahili speaking regions of Africa.

The translation exercise, upon completion, will culminate in a launch



Respected member of the Political Bureau, Mr. Huang Kunming (l) presents copies of China's President Xi Jinping: The Governance of China Vol. II to Kenya Literature Bureau's Publishing Manager, Mr. Kenneth Jumba (r) during the signing ceremony at Diaoyutai State Guest Lodge in Beijing- China.

in areas of marketing language books.

Kenya Literature Bureau is the only publishing house from the African continent to co-publish President Xi Jinping's autobiography in

by an official of the Communist Party of China in Kenya later in the year.

Signing this memorandum is in accordance with the Bureau's growth cycle and expansion into the international market.



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1. Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr Fred Matiang'i, waters a tree he planted at KLB headquarters in South C, Nairobi on December 13, 2017.

2. Education CS, Dr. Fred Matiang'i (c) receives electronic equipment donated to KLB from the Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, Wang Xuezheng (second right) Dr Belio Kipsang, PS State Department of Basic Education (second left), KLB Board Chairman, Amb Francis Bayah (right) and Managing Director, Victor Lomaria (left) look on.

3. KLB Managing Director, Victor Lomaria and Kasipul Kabondo MP, Hon. Eve Obara during the launch of ISO 9001: 2015 QMS certification launch. Hon Obara is the immediate former Managing Director of the Bureau.

4. Education CS, Dr Fred Matiang'i (second left) shares a cake with KLB Board Member, Josephine Maangi (left), Basic Education PS, Dr Belio Kipsang (third left), Nicholas Mac'Bontongore (Board Member), Board Chairman, Amb Francis Bayah (second right) and Managing Director, Victor Lomaria (right).

5. KLB Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah (left) issues text books to Form One students at of Matuga Girls Secondary School on February 10, 2018.

6. KLB MD, Victor Lomaria and Njoro MP, Charity Chepkwony (third left) join Form One students at Menengai High School, Nakuru to celebrate free Government text books supplied to the institution.





7. KLB Board Member, Abdalla Bii (in red tie) presided over free Form One text book distribution exercise at Tenwek Boys Secondary School in Kericho County.

8. Meru County Commissioner, Alfred Nyawanga, CEC Education, Technology, Gender, Culture and Social Development, Linah Nkirote Kailanya (in blue suit), KLB Board Member, Elizabeth Mwongera (in glasses) during the free Form One textbook distribution exercise at Kaaga Girls High School.

9. Nyamira County Governor, H.E. John Nyagarama (in red tie) and KLB Board Member, Josephine Maangi (third left) preside over free Form One textbook distribution exercise at Tombe Girls High School on February 10, 2018.

10. FROM LEFT-RIGHT: Nyamira County Deputy Secretary, Thomas Nyariki (second right) and Gladys Momanyi, the CEC Education and ICT (right) exchange copies of an MoU between the county government and Kenya Literature Bureau with KLB Board Members, Josephine Maangi (left) and Nicholas Mac'Botongore (second left).

11. KLB Board Member, Martin Mbau (in glasses) presiding over the free Form One textbook distribution at St. Peter's Thunguma Secondary School in Nyeri County.

12. KLB Choir in action during the World Aids Day celebration held at KLB's Conference room.





## BOOKFEST

# KLB feted at the Nairobi International Book Fair

By Ronald Kibaron

Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) emerged the third best stand overall and the best in stand design in this year's Nairobi International Book Fair (NBIF) which took place from September 25th to October 1st, 2017 at the Sarit Centre in Westlands, Nairobi. KLB, an annual participant in the exhibition, displayed various quality reading and learning materials steered under the theme "Unity through Books".

The 20th annual book fair was organised by the Kenya Publishers Association (KPA). Various events took place during this year's Book Fair which involved book display and selling, book launches, children activities and debates on topical issues. The 20th International Book Fair was packed with books of various kinds,

creative works or factual texts, which serve as a reflection of the society from which the writers are drawn.

The Chief Guest and Chief Executive Officer of Centum Investments, Dr. James Mworira, congratulated authors for the great work they had done and encouraged them to continue developing content that reflect the local cultural values. He urged them to focus more on producing quality content which satisfies consumer needs adding that knowledge was essential in every society.

Mr. Mworira registered his disappointment on the law passed by the government to introduce tax on text books and other learning materials saying it was a blow





*Pupils from various schools in Nairobi sample text books at KLB stand during the 2017 Nairobi International Bookfair at Sarit Centre, Nairobi.*



*Westlands Primary School, Nairobi pupils celebrate winning the 1st runners up trophy at the NIBF's Children Writing and Art Competition.*

to the poor in the society. He called on the Government through the Ministry of Education to review the law and lift it saying it would improve access to knowledge materials.

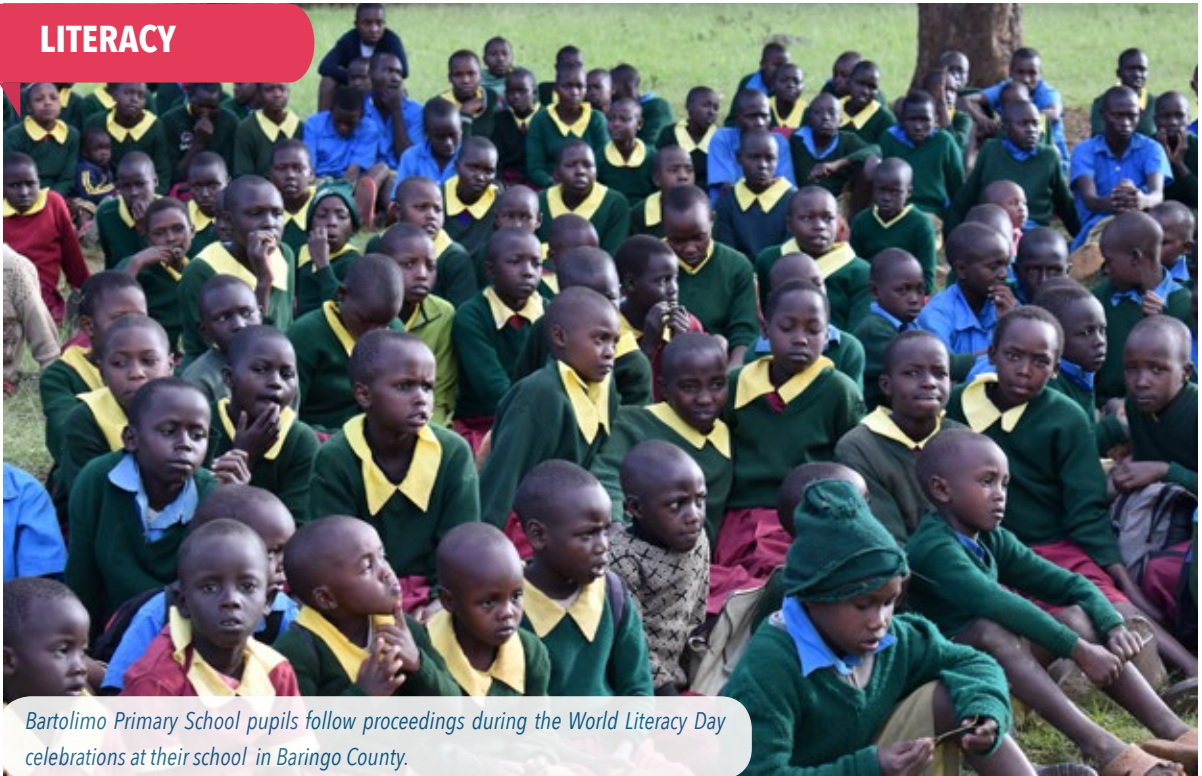
The Bureau stand had a very interactive section with the youngest resident author, Ms. Maryan Noor Yusuf, the author of *I Will Be Back*, published by Kenya Literature Bureau. Ms. Maryan, a Form Four student at Almarktoun Girls, took the opportunity to tell about her book particularly what made her write the book. She also used the same podium to challenge and encourage the pupils who visited the Bureau stand to work hard and join her in encouraging a morally upright generation through the writing of books.

Kenya Literature Bureau sponsored the Children's Activities for the third time in a row at Westlands Primary School. The activities included writing competitions and colouring for pupils and instructional seminars for Kiswahili and English for teachers who had accompanied the children for the activity. The pupils also got an opportunity to sharpen their wits in a hot debate organised to promote a better understanding of the theme. Kahuho Primary School emerged the overall winner. Westlands Primary and Excellent Care Centre came second and third respectively. Kenya Literature Bureau also awarded 498 pupils who participated in the writing competition.

The climax of the 20th International Book Fair was marked at Pride Inn Hotel during the famous Text Book Centre, Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature prize award ceremony. Veteran authors were awarded for their exemplary work. Notable authors were also present during the event to witness their fellow writers feted and to give a wise advice to the growing authors. Henry ole Kulet, the author of the book *The Elephant Dance*, published by Longhorn, won the Adult Category in Literature while Dr Tom Olali, the author of the book, *Mashetani wa Alepo*, won in the Adult Category in Kiswahili. The award recognized the outstanding works of fiction published during the last two years.

The Kenya Publishers Association chairperson, Mr. Lawrence Njagi thanked the exhibitors and visitors for finding time to attend the very important event in the education calendar. He stressed the need to protect the publishers from pirates which he said was a threat to the publishing industry. Mr. Njagi added that he was hopeful that the 12th Parliament which has better informed MPs, who include the new Kasipul Kabondo MP, Eve Obara and Njoro MP Charity Chepkwony who until last year, were working for Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) would push for the scrapping of VAT slapped on books. This year's NBIF attracted 78 exhibitors with 16 of them coming from various parts of the globe.

## LITERACY



*Bartolimo Primary School pupils follow proceedings during the World Literacy Day celebrations at their school in Baringo County.*

# BUREAU MARKS WORLD LITERACY DAY

*By Ronald Kibaron*

Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) joined the pupils, teachers and members of Bartolimo community during this year's International Literacy Day in a 'Book Harvesting' drive. This was carried out at Bartolimo Primary, a little known school in Baringo North Sub-County. The Bureau donated learning materials to stock a new library put up by parents and well-wishers.

Learners greatly rely on content from their teachers as they lack sufficient reading and learning materials. The Book harvest, thus, came at an

opportune time to stock the school's newly built library. The donated books went a long way in stocking the new

**"Any time you buy books, ensure you buy original and authentic books printed and published by Kenya Literature Bureau or any known publisher in the country for the safety of our children's future,"**

**-Mr. Lomaria-**

library and enabling the community access information. The school had a pupil population of 256 with 15 teachers. Kenya Literature Bureau Managing Director Mr. Victor Lomaria, speaking during the drive, thanked the school Board for the invitation and extended his commitment to work with them to improve access to education and learning materials. He added that the move will result in improved literacy levels in the county.





*Water and Irrigation PS, Fred Segor (second right) issues textbooks to Bartolimo Primary School headgirl, Cynthia Kandie (second left) during the World Literacy Day celebrations held in their school in Baringo County. Looking on is KLB Managing Director, Victor Lomaria (right), School BOG Chairman, Justice Joseph Sergon (third left), Head Teacher, Wesley Kangwony (third right) and head boy, Philip Cheson (left).*

Mr. Lomaria encouraged teachers and parents to purchase authentic KLB books hinting that pirated books are a huge threat to users, authors and the future of the publishing industry in Kenya.

He also asked teachers and parents to direct all their energies towards children's education growth adding that education remains the biggest investment of our time.

Speaking at the same function, Water and Irrigation Principal Secretary Prof. Fred Segor had immense appreciation to the Bureau for the great contribution it continues to make in impacting positively the lives of Kenyan children. Prof. Segor encouraged the pupils and teachers to develop a good reading culture. The School's Board Chairman, Justice Joseph Sergon, revealed that the only way a society will secure her future generation is through building children's foundation in education. He thanked KLB for helping the school lay a strong educational foundation. Justice Sergon added that the community was working towards having a resource centre which will be equipped with various knowledge materials for the public. He said the initiative will be a knowledge repository for the locals to advance their literacy levels in the community. In his parting remarks, he encouraged the pupils to take good care of the books to enable continued learning in the school.

**FROM LEFT-RIGHT:**  
Kenya Literature Bureau Managing Director, Victor Lomaria, Water and Irrigation Principal Secretary, Fred Segor and High Court Judge, Justice Joseph Sergon.



# Meet Maryan Noor,

## A budding Author and the latest addition to the KLB family of authors

By Gladys Sadera

**A**t only 13 years and in class Seven, Maryan Noor Yussuf, the first born in a family of four had a story to tell. A story about the colossal challenges she went through after her father passed on leaving her and the siblings under care of their mother. The young novelist spoke to KLB Editor, Ms. Gladys Sadera on her inspirations towards writing the book " *I Will Be Back*".

### **Please tell us a bit about yourself.**

I am Maryan Noor Yussuf, a candidate at Almaktoom Girls' Secondary School located in Kajiado County and I am 18 years old. I love art and literature. I completed my primary education in 2014 and attained 354 marks at Innercore Bethel View Academy. I have three younger siblings; Suleiman Noor

(16 years old), Sumaya Noor (15 years old) and Abdi Noor (13 years old). Our mother, Saadia Omar, who we treasure so much, has raised us as a single parent, since our father passed on in 2009. It has not been easy for our mother but all the same, she has taught us valuable lessons in life.

### **'I will be back' Why the title? Briefly tell us about the story.**

I wrote the book "*I will be back*" when I was in class 7 in 2013, in third term. I wrote it in two days. The title comes from the last words of my beloved father before he died. I wanted to make him proud of me wherever he is. It talks about sibling rivalry and revenge. After



Maryan Noor Yusuf addressing pupils during a writing and Art Competition at Westlands primary School Nairobi.



I finished writing the manuscript, I was so much obsessed to have it published and having a book with my name on it. Before that, I had done my own research about writing, publishing a book and what it takes. I took the handwritten manuscript to one of the publishers for evaluation. It was rejected. I felt a little discouraged; I could neither sleep, eat nor even concentrate on my studies for weeks because of the disappointment. A friend advised me to take the manuscript elsewhere for a second opinion. I took it to Kenya Literature Bureau. They accepted it and published it but after three years. From then, I learned that publishing requires a lot of patience.

**You were recently recognised... tell the world about it.** Yes, Wallah Bin Wallah recognised my work and gave me a cash token of ten thousand shillings which actually came as a surprise. I attended last year's Nairobi International Book Fair to talk to the

pupils and students during the event held at Sarit Centre, Nairobi. My presence turned to be a blessing. I also got the chance to rub shoulders with the gurus in the literary world.

#### **What or who inspired you to write?**

My history and my past really inspired me to write. I want to share with the youths of Africa that at one point of our lives we will be faced with a calamity and it's our choice to stay positive. From sharing one's experiences I believe that someone elsewhere will learn a lesson.

#### **How do you manage your time in terms of schoolwork and writing?**

Personally I am a fast learner hence I spend most of my free time writing about anything that comes to my mind. I write especially when sad or extremely happy. Writing is my favourite activity because I believe that feelings expressed in writing have more impact than that expressed by speaking. They

express more and will never disappoint since it releases all negative energies.

**Who is your mentor?** My mother is my mentor. She has taught me to believe in myself. She always tells us that we can be whatever we want to be.

**Are you writing anything at the moment?** At this particular moment I have four manuscripts that are lined up for publishing. I realised that once you start writing, it is addictive and there is no stopping.

**Parting shot?** I call out to anyone out there who has a dream and is thinking it is impossible. Nothing is impossible. It doesn't matter how old you are, just follow your heart and believe in yourself. Before you leave this world make sure you have left a legacy or footsteps to be followed by those who will come after you. Above all, always believe in God and always seek His counsel.



*Maryan Noor displays her book to pupils during the 20th International Book Fair held at Sarit Centre Nairobi*

## Staff Party



*KLB Board Members dance to Kayamba Africa beats during the annual staff end year party at the Buureau's headquarters in South C, Nairobi.*

## Pomp and Fun at KLB Staff Party

*By Brenda Ndwiga*

Wednesday, 13th December 2017 will go down memory lane in the history of Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) Board of Directors, Stakeholders, Management team, staff and booksellers. From the official presentation of the ISO 9001:2015 certification to unveiling of Nasaha Kamusi series, to the host of guests that graced the occasion, to the blue uniform shirts and blouses that most staff members adorned; and the list could go on and on.

The excitement of the launch of the ISO 9001:2015 certification and the unveiling of the Nasaha Kamusi series was almost tangible. At exactly 9.00 AM the choir assembled at the front parking lot to fine tune the songs they were going to present to entertain the guests. The ushers were busy receiving the guests and directing them to the venue. At around 9.30 AM the chase car sirens was a notification that the Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i had arrived.

The best performing booksellers in every region were awarded and the best improved booksellers in terms of

purchases motivated. Performing members of staff were feted with Employee Awards. Long serving staff members were awarded for their continued services to the Bureau and also their dedication and commitment in serving customers and the community. Francis Ngugi, Penina W. Gachigi and Wilfred Murage were recognised for having served KLB for 30 years. Denis Mosota Onsare, Margaret Wamuyu Kibira, James Otworu Aseta and Onesmus Willy Nzamba were awarded for having served KLB for 20 years.

The retirees were not left behind during the award ceremony. Though in absentia, John Ningo and John Ndalila were appreciated for the service they gave KLB over the years.

Mr. Lomaria's staff address came with promises and a package of good tidings, a perfect Christmas present for the KLB community. He stated that implementation of the new organisational structure would begin at the start of 2018. He also indicated: "There will be a new performance scorecard to gauge the performance of every staff member."

He also reported that courtesy of the Board of Management, a mortgage policy for all staff would be implemented as of 1st Jan 2018 at the rate of 4%, adding that it would be significant in ensuring that every staff member becomes a home owner. He also revealed that the internship policy by the Government would also be implemented in the coming year. Mr. Lomaria further added that Salaries and Remuneration Commission



(SRC) had approved increment of salaries for Management staff and they would be paid in arrears as from 1st July 2017.

On staff welfare, the Managing Director confirmed that the medical scheme had been upgraded and he was happy that the members of staff were comfortable. He announced that the staff scholarship scheme would continue being awarded to any of the staff members whose children attained 400 marks and above in KCPE.

Mr. Lomaria further recognised former staff members who had been elevated to higher positions. He recognised Hon. Kulamo Bullo, former KLB Chief Editor (eBooks) and the current County Executive Committee Member for Lands,

Energy and Urban Development for Marsabit County. He encouraged other staff members not to shy away from seeking greener pastures and he promised that any staff member who left KLB on elevation would receive an award.

Finally, a buffet of delicacies and drinks were served by The BOMA Hotel and all those present took the chance to celebrate the achievements of the year and acquire the zeal and energy to achieve more.

The event was made successful with the sponsorship from English Press, Printing Services, KCB, Icon and Print Arts, Poppy Bookshop Jonzavike Bookshop and The Boma Hotel among others.



*From L-R: KLB Human Resources Manager, Roselyne Mugavana, Assistant HR Manager, Loice Muteti and MMC Africa ISO Consultant, Anita Pate*



*Marsabit County CEC Land, Energy and Urban Development, Kullamo Bullo (centre) recieves a service recognition certificate from KLB Managing Director, Victor Lomria as Human Resources Manager, Roselyne Mugavana looks on. Prior to her appointment, Ms Bullo was KLB's Chief Editor e-Books.*

# HIV AND AIDS ADVOCACY FOR A BETTER LIVING

By Chris Okumu

In 2005, the Government of Kenya produced a Public Sector Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS. This policy has harmonised the approach to various Human Resource issues and recognises the important issues that come from the Human Resource in the public sector. Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) has fully embraced the policy and emphasises the need for HIV and AIDS activities to be mainstreamed into the core activities of the organisation. Further, KLB's Aids Control Unit (ACU) committee has been put in place to offer support to staff that are infected or affected.

December 1, every year is the World Aids Day, a day observed to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and mourn those who have succumbed to the condition. On December 1, 2017, KLB Staff joined the World in marking the 29<sup>th</sup> World AIDS Day at the Conference Hall in KLB Headquarters. The theme of the day, 'Step Up HIV: Youth Na Plan', was well communicated through the dress code and the tickertapes on the walls of the hall.



*A girl from Mama Ngina Children's Home recites a poem during World Aids Day fete at KLB head quaters.*

The theme, according to ACU Chairperson, Mr. Jackson Musau was not only to guide the staff during the World Aids Day but to be observed throughout the year to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS on the local campaign as well as the international platform. The Chairman stressed the importance of educating people about the condition to reduce the transmission or spread of the disease.

The guest speaker, M/s. Faith Mwirigi, a Counsellor at Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and her team acknowledged the social stigma associated with HIV and AIDS recognising that it poses a big challenge in workplaces. Ms. Mwirigi urged KLB to encourage HIV positive employees to disclose their status. This, she said would partly remove the burden of secrecy and the resultant problems and would also help create a conducive working environment for all concerned.

The team encouraged those who did not know their status to visit the Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres and know their status. She expressed confidence that KLB was an equal opportunity employer who does not discriminate and stigmatize her employees whether infected or affected.

The KLB choir entertained the guests with well composed melodies, perhaps to encourage the affected and remind the rest to continually strive to stay safe from the pandemic. The staff also got the opportunity of being entertained by youth from Mama Ngina Children's Home who heartily recited choral verses entitled AIDS.

KLB also donated books to Mama Ngina Children's Home and also gifted them with a cheque worth ten thousand shillings as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) which KLB prides itself with.



*ACU members led by Corporate Services Manager, Job Idaki (Centre) hand over a donation of Text-books to Mama Ngina Children's Home.*



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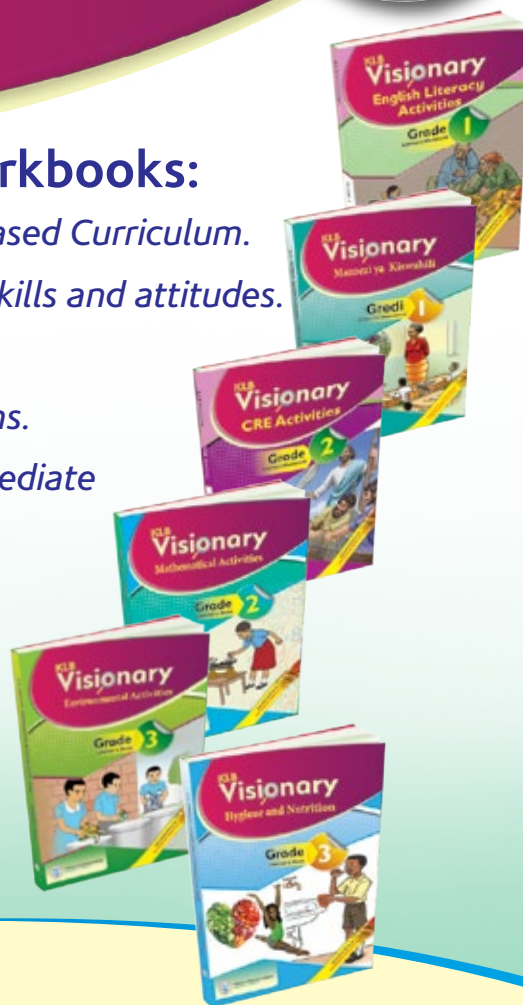
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