



Education Cabinet Secretary Launches CBC Books

Publishing and Printing for YOU

By Joseph Ndegwa

On Monday, January 7, 2019, Education Cabinet Secretary Ambassador Amina Mohamed visited Kenya Literature Bureau headquarters, Nairobi. She was here for the launch and flagging off English and Kiswahili Grade 1 Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) textbooks. The visit saw her familiarise with the textbook publisher, tour the firm's printing plant and talk to the Board of Management about her vision for the sector.

KLB specialises in publishing and printing of books and other educational materials. In fact, it is the market leader in Kenya, controlling 70 percent of the secondary market segment and 36 percent of the primary school segment. It also supplies County Governments with branded textbooks for ECDE and technical education.

"I congratulate you for the great contribution you make towards growth and development of education in Kenya," Amb. Amina said at the beginning of her remarks. The Cabinet Secretary was quick to add: "Your efforts and commitment have ensured every child in Kenyan schools reads a KLB book."



CS for Education, Amb. Amina Mohammed plants a tree to commemorate her visit

Board members and entire management team came to meet and listen to the CS's remarks. A major theme in her speech was the roll out of the new curriculum and distribution of CBC textbooks to all public schools countrywide, outlining how important it is in the growth and development of the new generation of learners in Kenya.

"We are working hard to have course books and other learning materials published and distributed to all primary public schools by January 15," the CS said. I am proud that KLB is setting the pace, offering quality textbooks to learners across the country."

The Cabinet Secretary specifically highlighted the changing role of publishing in implementation of the new curriculum. KLB was contracted by the Ministry of Education to print 1.5 million textbooks for Tusome English grade one and 1.5 million books for Tusome Kiswahili Grade One. A further 30,000 Tusome English teachers' guide and 30,000 Tusome Kiswahili teachers guide have been printed by KLB. She was pleased that KLB has an elaborate plan to distribute the books to all the 21,627 public primary schools by January 15.

KLB Board Chair Amb. Francis Bayah, who was present, thanked the Cabinet Secretary for the visit, pointing out that KLB will continue working hard and remain a "shining example" in the Education Ministry.



Education CS, Amb. Amina Mohammed (centre), KLB Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah (2nd l), Basic education PS, Dr. Belio Kipsang (2nd r) and KLB MD, Victor Lomaria (r) hold copies of the books.

During the visit, the managing director, Mr. Victor Lomaria outlined the challenges and success areas KLB has attained, including the capacity upgrade of the printing press, market expansion, staff development and financial sustainability where KLB was able to grow its gross turnover from Ksh2.4 billion in fiscal year 2016-2017 to Ksh5 billion in fiscal year 2017-2018. He asked for support from the Ministry to promote Kenya's reading culture and fight piracy in the industry.

Mr. Lomaria thanked the Cabinet Secretary, the Principal Secretary and their team for the invaluable support received from the Ministry, which has enabled KLB stand out among leading State Corporations in Kenya.



Staff members follow proceedings.