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 9001:2015.

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’ interest without compromising the quality standards set.

Our quality objectives shall be established and reviewed at the regular management review meetings.
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A new Kenya Literature Bureau Board of Management has been unveiled. Led by Ambassador Francis Bayah as chairman, this is a diverse team of talents who bring a rich level of experience in public administration, education, investment promotion, public enterprise reform, employee and labour relations, privatization and portfolio management, legal jurisprudence and operations management. Their depth of knowledge and involvement in forward-looking organizations will be invaluable to KLB as we advance our growth strategy. We are excited to have them at such a pivotal time for our organization.

The new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) textbooks for Grade 1-3 have been launched and distributed to schools. Publishers are now working on Grade 4 materials for vetting and approval by the curriculum regulator, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). The Education Cabinet Secretary, Prof George Magoha says the books will trigger positive learning outcomes in schools and facilitate smooth transition from 8-4-4 system of education to the new 2-6-2-3-3 system.

Disability mainstreaming is a growing policy area in corporate offices and boardrooms. Organizations are increasingly adjusting their infrastructure and human resource policies to accommodate persons with disability. This is why Kenya Literature Bureau organized a disability mainstreaming and sensitization seminar for all staff at its head office.

Going down memory lane, KLB had a soccer team in the late 80s to early 90s that made exploits in the national football league. They played well and were promoted from Division III to Division II by the football governing council at the time. Remnants of that golden generation are still with us.

We have more on book launches, partnerships and environmental conservation. Welcome!

Joseph Ndegwa
KLB is the largest publishing house in Kenya. Our culture and business ethics are guided by the seven organizational core values, which are at the very heart of everything we do. From 2016, we have made incremental progress towards affirming our leadership, innovating and making new products for the market. The rewards of our efforts during the period are visible. We have increased our product portfolio, diversified revenue streams and enhanced profitability. As a result, KLB is, the first time in our history, projected to record a gross turnover of Ksh5.7 billion.

In keeping with this trend, we have introduced printing of exercise books into our portfolio to supplement income earnings received from institutional print jobs. KLB is determined to fully utilize the talents of all employees as they are our greatest asset. As a team, we can make significant contribution for our customers, suppliers, business partners and other stakeholders as well as for our own well-being and sustainability of the company.

In a special way, we shall continue investing and encouraging our employees to develop and implement innovative solutions for our stakeholders.

We are putting in adequate resource to acquire new machines to supplement the existing technology in the production press. I am pleased to note that the ongoing modernization program, that has seen us acquire a new Aster Sewing Machine, will enhance our competitiveness and efficiency. Our commitment to corporate social responsibility is strong. We continue to support schools and communities to create and re-stock libraries for our learners. KLB is also supporting environmental conservation initiatives around the country in partnership with the National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) and others.

In the 2019-2020 financial year, the need to do more to consolidate our position is important. Let us join hands to pitch in to fulfil market demands and secure new business opportunities for the organization. I thank the Ministry of Education, Board of Management, staff and our entire stakeholders for the support they’ve given us over the years.

Victor Lomaria, OGW
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Let’s work together to grow our organization
President Uhuru Kenyatta has re-appointed Amb Francis Bayah to chair the Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) Board of Management as part of the government’s strategy of ensuring continuity of the sustained growth of the State publisher. The announcement was made on June 20 during a meeting of all staff at KLB headquarters in South C, Nairobi.

Members of the KLB Board are Mr. John Kenduiwo, Mr. Elias Abdi, Mrs Josephine Maangi, Prof. Winston Akala, Ms Cheryl Majiwa, Mr. Abdallah Bii, Mr. Nicholas Mac’Botongore, Mr. Sammy Chepkwony, Ms. Augusta Muthigani and Mr Martin Mburu.

Addressing the forum, KLB Managing Director, Victor Lomaria, urged all employees to support the Chairman and his Board to actualise their vision for the organisation. He expressed his gratitude for the unyielding support received from the Board that has enable the Bureau meet its strategic plans and objectives.
“We are happy and thank God for a supportive Chairman,” the MD said. He announced plans to diversify KLB products and services by getting into non-textbook revenue business. This, he said, will increase throughput and output in the organisation.

Amb Francis Bayah thanked staff for the warm welcome. In his remarks, he recounted the KLB journey from 1947 when it operated as the East African Literature Bureau (EALB), the golden years and subsequent collapse of East African Community (EAC) in 1977, its placement under the Ministry of Education, enactment of the KLB Act, 1980 which transformed it into a State Corporation, and now a giant in publishing and printing industry in Kenya and beyond. He observed that KLB has gone through great transformation over the years.

“Operationally, things have remarkably improved. Let’s endeavour to maintain a unity of purpose, prudence in management of resources and commitment to take KLB to the next level,” he said.

A distinguished professional with many years of experience in public service, Amb Bayah delved into gems that have enabled employees to grow and organisations like KLB to survive challenges.

“Enhance team work, time management and protection of company property from theft and vandalism,” he said urging employees to pitch in to grow the revenue and assets.

“The resources acquired by KLB over the years including machines are many. Let us take care of them,” he added. He also spoke against discrimination and asked staff to work as brothers and sisters.

Mr Lomaria informed employees that the theme identified for the 2019/2020 financial year was - “Setting the Standard in the Book and Printing Industry.” He challenged all staff to pace up in order to overcome competition and affirm dominance of the Bureau in the market.

“We are pushing the pedestal of KLB to newer heights,” he said.
The Government launched the distribution of 12.36 million Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) textbooks targeting Grade 1 -3 pupils in public primary schools countrywide. The flagging-off ceremony was presided over by Education Cabinet Secretary, Prof George Magoha at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) headquarters in Nairobi on April 24, 2019.

The textbooks, which are aimed at improving learning outcomes in schools, cover ten activity areas, namely; Environmental Activities, Music Activities, English Literacy Activities, Kiswahili Literacy Activities, Hygiene and Nutrition Activities, Arts and Crafts Activities, Movement Activities, Christian Religious Education (CRE) and Islamic Religious Education (IRE).

The event came shortly after 91,000 teachers had been trained on the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). Prof Magoha said the books will be delivered to all schools by May 15 starting with Nairobi, Kajiado, Muranga, Nyeri, Embu, Nakuru and Garissa.

He lauded the CBC saying it will not only “identify the problems plaguing the education sector but also train job creators.”

“The CBC will transform the country by identifying the potential that children have and nurturing this through a curriculum that is designed to emphasize application of knowledge rather than its mere acquisition,” said the Education CS.

The Education CS said his Ministry will roll out the CBC in Grade 4 in 2020. An assertive plan for the roll-out will be ready by September, 2019.

Kenya Literature Bureau, a leading publisher and printer in the region has been at the fore-front, supporting government policy on the new curriculum. In January 2019, KLB printed and distributed Kiswahili and English Grade 1 textbooks to all public primary schools in Kenya.

All publishers and top education Ministry officials were present at the launch. KLB team lead by the Managing Director, Victor Lomaria and Publishing Manager, Kenneth Jumba were also present.
Top managers at Kenya Literature Bureau and the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) held a meeting on April 1, 2019 where a partnership agreement was discussed.

KLB Finance Manager, Francis Mutunga, Joseph Emojong (Production Manager), Kenneth Jumba (Publishing Manager), Martin Ngugi (Chief Designer) and Joseph Ndegwa (Senior Corporate Communications Officer) were present at the negotiations. NACOSTI team was led by Rachael Shibalisa (Board Member and chair of their Board’s Finance and General Purpose Committee), Abdallah Bii (Deputy Legal Services Director) and Pauline Were (Senior Supply Chain Officer). The meeting also discussed the production of the NACOSTI Strategic Plan 2019-2023 which was set to be printed in readiness for its launch.

KLB is the only publisher in the region with a fully-fledged printing press. It is, therefore, keen on establishing and firming up existing partnerships with Government Ministries, State Departments and Agencies to grow its institutional printing revenues.

So far, the revenues earned from institutional printing and county government jobs occupy a significant space in the Ksh5 billion gross turnover realized in the 2017-2018 financially year. It is projected that printing jobs would overtake book trade revenues in the years to come.
Kenya Literature Bureau and Tharaka Nithi County Government launch and flagged off competency based curriculum books worth Ksh9.5 million for ECDE and Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions at the devolved unit’s headquarters in Kathwana on May 17, 2019.

The ceremony was presided over by Tharaka Nithi Deputy Governor, Eng Francis Kagwima who said the launch of the “ECDE teaching and learning material’s will go a long way into ensuring our children transit to Grade 1 having acquired the requisite, knowledge, skills and attitude.”

Mr Kagwima said the county government had built more than 150 new ECDE classrooms across the county. “We endeavour to ensure that our young learners get quality education,” the deputy governor said urging

KLB MD, and County Heads in a drive to get schools equipped

By Joseph Ndegwa, Ronald Kibaron, and Benard Kibui
teachers to “take great care of the materials to avoid loss and misuse.”

Speaking at the event, KLB Managing Director, Victor Lomaria, thanked the county government for the partnership that has seen Skillgrow Series textbooks for ECDE centres and Innovator Series books for TVETs supplied to the county.

“We are grateful for your willingness to do business with us. This is a good investment that will improve learning outcomes in the county,” said Lomaria.

The event was also attended by Education CEC Abraham Maruta, Chief Officer Education Gateria Njagi, Chief Officer Sports and Culture, Wilson Diego, KEPSHA chairman, Gitonga Mugo, among others.

The ECDE textbooks were valued at Ksh6.9 million while the TVET one’s totalled Ksh2.6 million. KLB had earlier held capacity building workshops for 517 ECDE teachers, where various topics including pedagogy of learning, personal growth and new curriculum development and implementation were covered. At the event, KLB donated 2,100 textbooks worth Ksh300,000 to the county.

**Muranga County textbooks**

Earlier, KLB partnered with Muranga County government to unveil and distribute 33,000 textbooks to their 600 public ECDE centres. Presiding over the event held on May 29, 2019 at Ihura Stadium, was Muranga County Governor, James Kamau, accompanied by County Executive Committee (CEC’s) members and area Members of the County Assembly (MCAs). He was representing the Governor Mwangi Wa Iria.
Speaking during the flagoff of the textbooks, KLB Managing Director, Victor Lomaria, commended the county government for their continued investment in the education of children, saying “education as the best tool for success.” He underlined the willingness of KLB to partner with the devolved unit in all matters education.

“Our partnership should not be limited to books. We have the capacity to provide other services that can benefit the County,” the MD said.

Education CEC, Nyagia Reuben, thanked KLB for the critical role they’ve played in ensuring new curriculum textbooks are availed for use by learners and teachers. Her sentiments were echoed by the County Director of Educational Programmes, Catherine Mwaura.

The caravan that was flagged off included a donation of ten cartons of reference materials from the Bureau as well as mattresses and fortified porridge supplied by the County Government to all ECDE centres in Muranga.

KLB Finance Manager, Francis Mutunga, Senior Sales and Marketing Officer, Robert Too and Area Sales Representative, Simon Muthoni attended the event.

**Narok County Textbooks**

In Narok County, Governor Samuel Tunai, KLB Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah, and Managing Director, Victor Lomaria flagged off 55,000 textbooks and 6,500 teacher’s guides to all ECDE centres at a colourful ceremony held on January 23 at Masikonde Primary School in Narok town.

Speaking at the event, Governor Tunai thanked KLB for the partnership which will see the county government achieve the standard 1:1 learner to book ratio.

“We will invest more in pre-primary education by constructing more ECDE centres, employing more teachers and purchasing the relevant books from KLB for our teachers and learners,” he said.
Early childhood education is an urgent educational, economic and moral imperative. Without it, we face a long-term national economic security crisis.”

J.B. Pritzker

KLB Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah, lauded the county government for prioritising ECDE learning adding that the efforts will ensure more children are prepared with the building blocks to flourish in early learning and beyond.

“We are happy for this great investment in children’s educational foundations. Some of the greatest opportunities for growth happen when we introduce our children early to the relevant reading and learning materials,” KLB Board Chairman said.

Amb. Bayah reaffirmed KLB’s commitment to work with the County government to transform learning outcomes in the region.

KLB Managing Director Victor Lomaria thanked the Governor for the partnership. The Narok County Education CEC, Ms. Cecilia Wuapari, also thanked KLB for enlivening the education dream of the county.

APPOINTMENT

SARAH MUTUNE
Senior Legal Officer

Unveiling the book, KLB’s Eastern Regional Sales Manager, Mr. Joseph Nyiri, told Head-teachers that the Bureau strives to keep abreast with both learners and teachers’ needs, carrying out research to know what is suitable for them. The Bureau published the book which not only defines but also contains vivid illustrations and formulas that ease learning for the reader. The *Dictionary* covers the entire secondary school math syllabus and can be used by all levels.

After the launch, the principals and school heads flocked the KLB stand to purchase the Mathematics book among other revision materials. They welcomed the move to have a simplified text
for learners. Mr. Gicovi Rurigi, the Principal of Lumu Secondary School, was impressed by the book’s coverage of main concepts. Speaking with the Bureau’s Managing Director, Mr. Rurigi said that he had perused through the book and found it suitable for use. He also spoke about areas of enhancement, noting that they can be captured in future editions. Also welcoming the new addition was Mr. Godfrey Machanji, Head of St. Mary’s Boys Kitany. Mr. Machanji noted that it was a good progress and urged the KLB team to continuously churn out relevant knowledge materials. Other Principals spoke of the timeliness of introducing the book, to be used during preparations for the forthcoming national exams.

Among the books on sale were Kamusi ya Kiswahili Pevu; Topmark Revision and Question and Answer series; A Practical Approach to Biology, Chemistry, Agriculture and Physics; various English and Swahili readers.

The newly unveiled Dictionary Of Mathematics for Secondary Schools authored by Dr. Evelyn Njurai, retailing at Kshs. 580 in bookshops across the country.

The 44th Kenya Secondary School Heads Association conference was graced by the Education Cabinet Secretary, Prof. George Magoha, Principal Secretary Dr. Belio Kipsang, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Education, Senator Dr. Christopher Lang’at, and Chief Executive Officers of various SAGAS under the Ministry of Education.

KLB was represented by its Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Bayah, Managing Director, Victor Lomaria, and staff drawn from communication and marketing departments.
Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) joined other publishers during the annual regional book fair to exhibit products and engage customers on our services. This year’s event was held at Jomo Kenyatta Grounds, Kisumu, from May 22nd-25th, 2019 under the theme: Read, Apply and Freedom. The fair was free and open to Primary and Secondary School learners and the general public.

Speaking during the event, Kenya Publishers Association Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Njagi, thanked the publishers for honoring the invite to attend the fair and showcase their products. Said that the new Competency-based Curriculum remains the best thing ever to happen in the history of education in Kenya. “The new Competency-based Curriculum is about sensitization, information and skills creation. We are moving away from the old curriculum which was about cramming and passing exams,” said Njagi.

Kisumu County Executive Committee Member for Education, Dr. John Obiero, said that the County Government has a textbook policy which is strategically implemented to ensure that learners get limitless access to relevant learning materials. He encouraged teachers and learners to buy legit books from the publishers mentioning the key role played by KLB. “This event gathers many publishers with different genres of books. It is a promising event to learn about CBC, novels, poetry and prose, shining a spotlight on the authentic culture of our people. Kisumu County has been working closely with KLB and other publishers to ensure learners in ECDE and TVET institutions get access to relevant reading and learning materials,” said Dr. Obiero.

KLB Sales and Marketing Manager, Mr. Bernard Obura, took the opportunity...
The new Competency-based Curriculum is about sensitising information and creating skills to inform the public about our products especially the new Competency-based Curriculum books. He encouraged parents and teachers to expose children to books to enable them comprehend and conceptualise ideas and content early.

During the event, KLB partnered with other publishers to donate books worth 1 million to Manyatta Primary School, Kisumu in a bid to address the biting shortage of books in the school which has a large set of pupil population in the entire Kisumu County. The Sales and Marketing Manager, Benard Obura, was accompanied by Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager (Western Hub), Justine Koech, Senior Assistant Sales and Marketing Officer, Mukui Mbaluka and Marketing Officer, Duncan Gichuru.
Aster Pro Sewing Manufacturer trains KLB staff in Italy

By Regina Ng’ang’a

Four employees of Kenya Literature Bureau have been trained on the operation and maintenance of the recently acquired Aster Pro Sewing Machine at the manufacturer’s Meccanotecnica Factory in Bergamo, Italy.

The training was organised by Valsella Meccanotecnica SpA (also known as Valsella), one of Italy’s largest manufacturers of book finishing solutions, to equip the team from KLB with knowledge, skills and operational ability of the sewing machine. From May 20th to 24th, the team camped at the main assembly plant of the Aster Pro Sewing Machine, where they were practically taken through the assembling of the machine from scratch, and its user and operation manual.

KLB Legal Services Manager, Audrey Cheruto, Acting Production Officer Robert Manny and Patricia Mureithi, Bindery Operator as well as KLB Assistant Bindery Operator, Regina Ng’ang’a made the trip to Italy.

The new acquisition is part of an ongoing modernisation program aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Bureau to handle large volumes of work. The Aster Pro model machine has new features that allows for the sewing of books without the blind stitch for increased efficiency and productivity. It also has two inbuilt cameras to detect and report defects in print jobs.

In Italy, the team toured Rotalitho printing firm to see their ultra-modern press that included high level technology such as the Kolbus line, whose versatility allows it to independently perform many functions at one go, including gathering, perfect binding using the PUR glue, book trimming, application of security marks, packaging and placing them on a palate. The entire process is automated and has a capacity of churning out 40,000 book copies per day.

Among others, KLB team appreciated the importance of maintaining and servicing machines regularly as well as time management. They expressed their gratitude to KLB management and Valsella Meccanotecnica SpA team for the opportunity to visit and learn operations of the Aster Sewing machine.
In a meeting with officials on the County Government on March 21, KLB tabled a proposal for a mutual agreement to publish, print and supply branded textbooks for Early Learning and technical books for Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) centres in Nakuru. The team outlined the features and benefits of a partnership, as well as the qualities of content in KLB’s Skillgrow and Innovator textbooks. They also presented samples of the previous jobs done for other county governments, including branded exercise books.

The Deputy Governor Dr. Eric Korir, CEC for Education, ICT and E-Government Raymond Komen, Chief Officer Education Jamleck Maina were pleased with the presentation and promised to ensure the partnership is inked. Also present were County Director of Education Millicent Yugi and County Director of Youth and Vocational Training Josephat Kimemia.

So far, KLB has signed partnership deals with close to 30 county governments where textbooks and other learning materials have been supplied to institutions of learning under their jurisdiction. Among other benefits, KLB has sponsored training workshops for ECDE teachers and tutors in the technical institutions, a value add to their personal development and management skills, as well as ability to unpack the new competency based curriculum.

Nakuru County has 1,465 ECDE Centre’s – 771 are public, while 694 are private. The number of enrolment pupils in public ECDE center’s stands at 70,714 with 5,333 teachers. KLB was represented by Western Regional Sales Manager Justin Koech, Senior Corporate Communications Officer Joseph Ndegwa and Business Development Officer Arawo Achola.

Kenya Literature Bureau and Nakuru County Government could be headed towards a deal that will see learners in ECDE and Technical centres access quality books and other learning materials.

From L - R : Bomet Deputy Governor, Dr Hillary Barchok, KLB Regional Sales Manager Justin Koech, Nakuru Deputy Governor, Dr Eric Korir, Bomet County Secretary Evaline Rono and KLB Business Development Officer Arawo Achola at Sarova Woodlands Hotel in Nakuru. KLB made a pitch for business during the meeting.

From L - R : KLB Senior Corporate Communications Officer Joseph Ndegwa, Business Development Officer Achola Arawo, Nakuru County Chief Officer Education Jamleck Maina, CEC Education Raymond Komen, KLB Regional Manager Justin Koech and county Deputy Head of communication.
Exploits of the defunct KLB football Club remembered

By Joseph Ndegwa

As the referee’s whistle rang out in the Highway Secondary School football field, Kenya Literature Bureau’s players fell to their knees in despair. Etched in their faces were disappointments, the men in yellow and blue uniform consoled each other amid the agony of losing a match in the ninetieth minute. Despite feverish excitement and genuine pre-match optimism, KLB lost 2-1 to their erstwhile rivals Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS).

Samuel Langat, KLB managing director at the time was present. He was earlier overcome with joy when midfielder Akellolah John lifted the ball past KeBS goalkeeper to level the match at half time.

This is the story of KLB football team, which traces its origins to 1987 and made exploits in soccer. It started at a time when organizations, such as Kenya Breweries, Rivertex and Nzoia Sugar Company Limited, had invested heavily in sports, thanks to the efforts of the then Kenya Football Federation (KFF) chairman, Stanley Njindo Matiba. The late Matiba was a passionate sports fan who worked tirelessly to improve the standards of soccer in the country.

After KLB moved to the current premises in South C, employees often spent their free time in the field and halls playing football, draft board, darts or table tennis. As fate would have it, the Assistant Production Manager at the time, Peter Wanyama, was a football fan, perhaps due to his background growing up in the football rich Jericho Estate, in the Eastland suburb of Nairobi. This was also the home of Joe Kadenge the football legend. He formed the team and registered all the players with KFF.

In the team were Joseph Herbert Makalanya, Ben Olloo, Evans Ogutu, Kenneth Mackenzie, Julius Maloba, Christopher Okumu, Julius Mugambi, Clifford Kalama, Paul Sigei, Andrew Onyango Odewa, Joseph Madanji, Akellolah John, Fredrick Oduor and Gideon Maingi.
A few soccer players from the neighborhood also played for the team.

It is only Christopher Okumu (Quality Assurance Section), Julius Mugambi (ICT), Clifford Kalama (Finance Department) and Onyango Odewa (Administration Department) who are still in employment.

KLB had rented Highway Secondary School soccer pitch for training and home matches. Mr. Langat also provided a bus for the team, which played in Division III and later rose to Division II of the national league.

The team captain was Julius Mugambi, Chris Okumu (goal keeper), Kalama Clifford (striker) and Onyango Odewa (defender) have vivid memories of the golden soccer years.

They played against great teams in their league such as Stima Plaza and the Kenya Army Football Team. Their exploits saw them play famous grounds such as Nyayo National Stadium, City Stadium, Jamhuri, Golf Course and Langata Barracks.

Speaking to this writer, veteran Paul Mugambi says he “would wish soccer is revived because of the great potential within.” It is a “great past time,” he says.
Front (L-R): Joseph Mosi, Owen Omondu, Tom Mudibo and Aggrey Nona Mwangala

Standing (L - R): Ben Oloo, unknown, Tim Shikuku, Evans Ogutu, Kenneth Mackenzie, Joseph Herbert Makalanya, Julius Maloba Front (L - R): Julius Mugambi, Owen Omondi, Unknown, Unknown, George Chore

Julius Mugambi juggling a ball
Kenya Literature Bureau workers gathered at Uhuru Park, Nairobi on May 1 to mark the International Labour Day celebrations. The fete was led by the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) secretary general, Francis Atwoli.

KLB employees participated in the procession where members of the public had an opportunity to see our products and services in their capacity as members of the Kenya Printing, Publishing, Paper Manufacturers and Allied Workers Union (KUPPRIPUPA).

They were kitted in branded shirts and caps, and walked behind a KLB branded truck carrying cartons of books and a flag.

Among guests present were Kalonzo Musyoka (former Vice President and Wiper party leader), Senator Moses Wetangula (Ford Kenya), Musalia Mudavadi (former Vice President and ANC party leader), Nairobi County Governor, Mike Sonko, MPs, diplomats, parastatal chiefs and MCA’s.

Also present was Labour Cabinet Secretary, Ukur Yattani and National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Chairman, General Julius Karangi.

However, hopes of workers were dimmed after government failed to announce minimum or general wage increment. A salary increment was one of the expectations for the day. In his speech, Ukur Yattani indicated that there would be a discussion on the matter.

“I wish to state here that we are in the process of negotiating at the wages council between employers and employees on the possible increase,” he said.

COTU had proposed a 15% general wage increase, a position opposed by the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), which boycotted the Labour Day celebrations.
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KLB records management improves as reforms take shape

By Rency Kemei

Information is priceless. It facilitates business, decision-making and effective service delivery in firms and among individuals. It is the reason forward-looking organizations like Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) have a fully functional registry’s to manage records.

To keep up to speed with international trends in records management, KLB is undertaking reforms geared towards improving records management and customer service. The reforms seek to, among others, enhance transparency, accountability and integrity of records under their custody.

Recently, KLB’s Records Management Committee participated in a five-day training workshop on records management manual, file classification index, records disposition and retention schedule. The workshop was facilitated by officers from the Kenya National Archives and Documentation Services (KNADS) – Vincent Kabati and Eunice Nyoro. KNADS is a semi-autonomous State agency mandated to store and advise in the management of public records.

According to KLB Records Management Officer, Rency Kemei, a file classification scheme for coding and indexing of records into related activities and function for ease of identification, access, storage maintenance and retrieval has been designed and implemented.

“We have a systematic way of filling correspondences and a well-designed classification scheme for coding and indexing,” she said.

A retention and disposition schedule guides records management and facilitates control over the volume of records produced through disposal schedules. This is buttressed by the Procedure Manual for KLB Records Management provides step-by-step activities to be undertaken to ensure proper administration of records.

During the workshop, Records Management Committee members re-stated their commitment to protect and preserve records as evidence of actions taken to support future activities, business decisions and accountability for current and future generations.

KLB Records Management Committee members at a training workshop in Boma Hotel Nairobi.
Reception desk puts a glow on KLB

By Aska Makori

**KLB** is a household name. Every child that has studied in a Kenyan school is familiar with the brand. It is the leading publisher of textbooks and other learning materials in the country. It provides quality products and services, a fact that has enabled it earn and maintain its dominance in the book market.

The Bureau seeks to create lasting impressions on its customers. It is customer centric in its operations, a key pillar that has contributed to the attainment of its mandate. On your visit to KLB head-office, you will be received at the reception desk by the jovial, warm and friendly Lily Gaya, the Senior Office Assistant, who will guide you to the respective officer of interest. Lazarus Omulo who recently paid an official visit to the Supply Chain office, highly praised the Bureau for its good services.

“This institution is big; I have no complains about it. So far so good, the reception has been good, I have enjoyed”, said Mr. Omulo.

Another visitor, Virginia Muthama, who went to the Finance department, was equally pleased that her matter had been attended to her satisfaction.

“Nimepata usaidizi, asanfe sanal! (I have been assisted, thank you). All is well”, she said.

It is at the reception where accurate information about KLB products and services are availed to the customers. Reception, transfer and facilitation of calls for other staff members is enabled through the switchboard, whereas letters addressed to KLB are received and dispatched boosting effective communication in and out of the institution. It is a one-stop shop for all customers.

Students on attachment have, so far, reported amazing experience, appreciating the lifetime opportunity to acquire practical experience and knowledge on the industry. Their supervisors and staff have also been at hand to offer valuable advice on different aspects of work.

One of the students, Brian Muguro, from Moi University, says he has grown “intellectually and professionally” from the rare experience earned at the Publishing Department.

There are times when complaints are recorded at the reception desk. They are promptly addressed and a report on the same is forwarded to the Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of the Ombudsman) every quarter. This is a requirement in the Performance Contract signed by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Kenya.

A major challenge observed is the difficulty persons with disabilities have accessing upper floors of the building. However, positive steps are being undertaken to address this issue, including the recent renovation of the rump at the front desk to make the steep gentler and user friendly. There are also plans to install lifts for easy access of the first and second floor of the building by the physically challenged.
It is the beautiful sight of the Egyptian and yellow billed geese flocks swimming gracefully in the brackish water along the shores that welcomes you to the lake. A few meters away, we notice various plant species providing a panoramic view of the plains.

If you love nature you will enjoy the cold breeze of fresh air on your face and the wind blowing through your hair. Welcome to Ewaso Narok Swamp in Laikipia County.

Located along the episodic Eng’are Narok River in a semi-arid grassland area with frequent drought and unreliable rainfall of less than 714 mm and high temperature, Ewaso Narok Swamp is the only large fresh water source in Rumuruti. It supplies water to Isiolo, Samburu and Wajir counties, thereby supporting a large population of people, livestock and wildlife downstream.

It is also an important Bird Area that attracts tourists and researchers who come from as far as Europe and Asia.

Ewaso Narok Swamp is also a biodiversity hot spot and acts as a sponge, absorbing excess storm from heavy rainfall, in the process, ensuring flow regulation, flood control and soil erosion prevention. Its vegetation absorbs nutrients and toxic substances from inflowing water thereby improving the quality of water downstream. Despite its beauty and economic benefits, the swamp is threatened by unprecedented environmental degradation, silting, pollution and encroachment. There has been a strong trend towards settlement along riverine and wetland areas due to their suitability for farming and easy availability of water for cultivation.

However, this is bound to change as the Government of Kenya has declared the gazettement of Ewaso Narok Swamp as a wetland protected area, making it...
the “eighth most important wetland area in Kenya”.

The declaration was made by the Environment and Natural Resources Cabinet Secretary, Keriako Tobiko, during the World Wetlands Day celebration, in Laikipia County. This annual event, celebrated on February 2, brings together governments, non-governmental organizations, conservation groups, among others to champion the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of wetlands around the world.

Kenya Literature Bureau celebrated this milestone, achieved thanks to a result of immense efforts by environmental conservationists to ensure the swamp is conserved, rehabilitated and protected from activities that have threatened its future existence.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Tobiko, lauded the ongoing conservation efforts to restore and safeguard the swamp. He singled out the rare birds species which have the potential of making the swamp “an important tourist attraction in the region.” He also appealed to the local communities and ranchers to sustainably utilise the swamp resources to reduce conflict in the region.

The County Government, led by Governor Nderitu Mureithi, also pledged to support the gazettement of the swamp and continue working with all counties sharing this resource and other stakeholders to conserve it.

Wetlands play a regulatory role in climate systems, water purification, and waste removal, re-charge of ground water and provide a suitable habitat to many aquatic plants and animals. KLB was represented at the event by Assistant Quality Assurance Manager, Jackson Musau, Senior Supply Chain Officer, Gideon Mjambili and Senior Corporate Communications Officer, Joseph Ndegwa.
Disability Mainstreaming Workshop held at KLB head-office

By Joseph Ndegwa

A professor of history, author and disability activist who taught at San Francisco State University, Paul Longmore’s notable quote highlights the challenges faced persons with disability in the society. He had lost the use of his hands to polio when he was seven years old, and required breathing assistance from a ventilator at night and part of the day.

His story and of the many persons with disability has caused governments and organisations to consider mainstreaming disability in public spaces. Increasingly, public and private institutions are adjusting their infrastructure, including washrooms to accommodate PWDs.

At Kenya Literature Bureau, more resources have been channeled towards disability mainstreaming and training. Among others, new ramp has been constructed at the entrance that is gentler and an easy climb for customers on wheel chairs.

Moreover, KLB sponsored a three-day training workshop for all staff at the head-office on April 17, where disability mainstreaming concepts, etiquette, conflict management, emergency evacuation and legal framework were discussed. It was facilitated by Dr. Richard Nasongo and Caroline Afandi from the Gender and Disability Development Centre, Nairobi.

The Persons With Disabilities Act No. 4 of 2003 defines disability as “a physical, sensory, mental or other impairment, including any visual, hearing, learning or physical incapability, which impacts adversely on social-economic participation.”

Dr. Nasongo, therefore, asked participants to “avoid stereotypical or stigmatizing depictions” when interacting with PWDs. “Maintain natural language” in your conversations, he added.

“While we can’t always walk in someone’s shoes, we can take time to inquire about how the shoe fits and know if its path is smooth or riddled with pebbles,” he said, urging participants to be more sensitive to their colleagues.

The objects of the workshop were to enable participants gain an understanding of different kinds of impairment, barriers persons with disabilities face, various ways of working with PWDs and communication. Carol Rotich from Human Resources department was in-charge of the sessions.
A stakeholder’s sensitization workshop on HIV/AIDS was held at Kenya Literature Bureau head-office on June 17 where various issues such as the prevention and reduction of stigma and discrimination of persons living with HIV were discussed.

KLB Assistant Human Resources Manager, Loise Muteti, presided over the opening of the workshop, where she re-stated the importance of staff sensitization on HIV/AIDS.

The facilitator of the event was Agnes Mueni, a human resource specialist and part-time life coach at Daystar University. In her remarks, Ms Mueni walked participants through definition of HIV/AIDS, infection and preventive measures available, non-discrimination and stigma, as well as best support mechanism for persons living with HIV.

Among others, she said HIV virus can be transmitted through sexual intercourse, blood transfusion, from mother-to-child either at child birth or while breastfeeding, infected piercing equipment (such as needles and syringes) and accidents, where the blood of an infected person comes into contact with an open wound or cut of an uninfected person.

The participants were also cautioned against stigmatization of people infected with HIV virus, saying that “they too need societal acceptance and socio-economic support to overcome the challenges that come with the disease.”

HIV/AIDS is still considered the top killer disease in Sub Saharan Africa. According to the UNAIDS, an estimated 1.5 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya, and at least 53,000 new infections are recorded every year as well as 28,000 HIV/AIDS related deaths.

The statistics are grim. During the just concluded annual Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (KESSHA) conference in Mombasa, Dr. Nduku Kilonzo, the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) director said that an estimated 300,000 Kenyan youth aged below 24 years are living with HIV/AIDS.

KLB is mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and has upped awareness campaigns to prevent and control the spread of the disease. No employee has ever been stigmatised or discriminated on the basis of their health status.
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