

THE Publisher

keeping you
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KLB is Born Pioneers, Leaders and Workers



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OUR VISION

A knowledgeable and inspired society

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide innovative and competitive publishing and printing solutions.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Customer Focus
- Integrity
- Creativity and Innovation
- Quality Publishing and Printing Solutions

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 Quality Management System.

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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What a challenging year it has been for Kenya Literature Bureau! We made progress in the past and are now keen to forge ahead, COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding. In keeping with best practice in corporate governance, KLB has developed the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 to guide its operations for the next five years. It takes over from the previous Plan which was retired on June 30, 2020 and has exciting provisions aimed at ensuring continual growth and sustainability of the company.

In this issue of *the Publisher*, we present to you a comprehensive account of KLB's history from 1948, when the colonial government established it as East African Literature Bureau (EALB). The profiles of the previous chief executives and board chairmen are also presented as a permanent record of the captains of this institution for posterity.

On this, it is hoped that future generations of KLB employees and stakeholders will find it important to celebrate the founders and stewards of the organisation for their stories are truly inspiring.

The Bureau continues to play its part in corporate social value, championing book donation and environmental conservation campaigns in different parts of the country. A story on a recent book donation drive at a school in Kiambu is featured.

We invite you to read, enjoy and have fun.

Welcome.

By Joseph Ndegwa



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 on what you would like to read as well as comments on how we can improve our Newsletter.



A new journey begins

This has been a difficult year for the firm. The COVID-19 outbreak disrupted lives and businesses, and Kenya Literature Bureau was not an exception. However, adequate plans have been laid to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on our business operation and output.

KLB has developed a new Strategic Plan 2020-2024 to take over from the previous plan which steered the Bureau for the last five years.

The new plan takes account of the dynamic business environment and strategic priorities of the Government of Kenya and mandate of the Bureau as stipulated in the Kenya Literature Bureau Act 1980 Cap 209. It has a new vision and mission statement that outlines the purpose and values, objectives and strategies we intend to pursue to provide customer and shareholder value.

It will enable us achieve our new vision – “A knowledgeable and inspired society” and mission – “To provide innovative and competitive publishing and

printing solutions.” I ask all of us to read, internalise the document and work towards implementing the noble goals outlined in the Plan.

As the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 begins; we wish to recognise previous leaders who contributed immensely to the growth of the Bureau from inception. They are the heroes of our institution and we celebrate them.

KLB is committed to institutional growth and making a difference in the lives of others. As a publishing house, we have championed transformative initiatives, such as book donation and tree planting. This has enabled us establish and restock libraries especially in marginalised areas of the country.

Through our *Twachapisha Twasoma* Corporate Social Value (CSV) programme, we continue to champion literacy.

We have also considerably supported environmental conservation campaigns in the country. In February 2020, KLB,

in partnership with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), planted trees in Kaptunga Forest, which is located within the larger Mau Water Towers, in Nakuru County. Similar plans to plant trees in Turkana County during the World Environment Day national celebrations on June 6 were disrupted by the COVID 19 pandemic.

In the days ahead, we shall require all of us to work in concert towards promoting KLB and its products and services for greater profitability and sustainability.

We continue to set the pace and standards in the publishing and printing industry. KLB, Publishing and Printing for YOU.

Thank you and God bless.

Victor Lomaria, OGW
MANAGING DIRECTOR

KLB set to unveil new Strategic Plan

By Joseph Ndegwa

Kenya Literature Bureau is set to launch a new Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2024 on October 28, 2020 at the Boma Hotel, Nairobi. It takes over from the third *Strategic Plan 2016-2020*, which expired on June 30, 2020.

The *Strategic Plan 2020-2024* is aligned to the dynamic business environment and strategic priorities of the Government of Kenya as outlined in the *Kenya Vision 2030* and the *National Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2022* and the *Africa Union Agenda 2063*, among others. It has a new vision and mission statement that outlines the purpose, values and objectives the publisher intends to pursue to provide customer and shareholder value.

The development of the Plan was based on the review of KLB's performance and experiences, resources awareness and focus on the future. It is a culmination of an extensive consultative process involving the Board of Management, staff and other stakeholders. It is, therefore, a step forward in KLB's commitment towards fulfilling its mandate through the focused pursuit of our vision – "A knowledgeable and inspired society" and mission – "To provide innovative and competitive publishing and printing solutions."

In launching the plan, KLB also hopes to effectively and efficiently address itself to prevailing challenges and transform itself into a robust, customer centric and highly performing institution as envisaged in the Kenya Literature Bureau Act, 1980 Chapter 209.

From inception, the State publisher has contributed immensely to the enhancement of literacy in the country, and in ensuring availability and affordability of books and other learning materials in educational institutions and the market place.

KLB also becomes the first local publishing house to be ISO 9001:2015 certified for its quality management systems. The Plan, therefore, will facilitate the re-engineering of the firm for greater sustainability as projected in the new mission, vision and core values.

It provides a clear road map for the achievement of quality educational and other literacy materials for Kenya's education sub-sector. It also purposes to support the implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) by publishing quality Learning

and Teaching Materials (LTMs), the diversification of revenue streams to include the provision of printing services and to continually improve on the quality of our products and services.

In the Plan is a strategy to modernise the printing press and grow revenue for increased profitability and sustainability.

It is premised on five thematic areas, namely: financial sustainability; customer centricity; operational efficiency and effectiveness; and organisational capacity development.



Gazing Ahead

Our promise to stakeholders

Views of the Board Operations and Strategy Committee Chair Mrs. Josephine Maangi

as narrated to Diana Olenja



Mrs Josephine Maangi

1. Tell us a bit about the role of the KLB Board Operations and Strategy Committee?

The Operations and Strategy Committee is one of the three committees of the KLB Board. The committee's mandate is oversight on the core business of the Bureau and the implementation of the strategic objectives as spelt out in the *KLB Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024*. The committee advises the Board on KLB's core business of publishing, printing, sales,

business development and quality as well as new developments and technologies in the industry.

2. What drives KLB to excel in its mandate?

The Bureau has strategic leadership from the Board and CEO. They have managed to steer this ship through the past planning period and achieved exemplary results.

We thrive on product differentiation strategy, producing quality content and superior product thanks to the pool of talented subject authors and editors.

As the only publishing house with an in-house printing press, we have been able to achieve timely delivery of books and printing services for our customers and thereby meeting their expectations.

3. Walk us through the development of the 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan?

The process of formulation of the *KLB Strategic Plan 2020-2024* was

consultative, involving both internal and external stakeholders. The Steering Committee took a participatory approach that saw KLB Board, staff and stakeholders discussing the new strategic direction of the Bureau.

We also looked at the business operating environment and changes taking place in the education sector, such as the revised curriculum and change in textbook procurement policy for public schools to formulate our strategies.

This new plan is heavy on product diversification and improvement of business processes to steer us to the next level. Major emphasis is going to be on producing electronic reading and knowledge materials as one way of meeting our customers' needs.

4. What lessons did you draw on to formulate this particular road map?

After reviewing operations in the past

planning period, we sought to prioritise operational efficiency. We need a robust printing press to sustain our business going forward. This Plan emphasises business diversification, and we can only achieve this with an improved printing press.

Another lesson was the inadequate technical capacity. This saw us run high operational costs with low production efficiency.

We intend to leverage on modern technology to ease our operations and lead to sustainable growth.

In the past, KLB relied heavily on the school textbook market to generate its revenue. Being fully commercial, we realise the need to diversify operations expanding our products and service offering in the growing publishing and printing industry to grow our potential.

All these lessons drive our overarching need to be the publisher and printer of choice within Kenya and the East Africa region.

5. Tell us something about the Bureau's philosophy.

Our aspirations are for a knowledgeable and inspired society. We will strive to achieve this by being innovative and creative. Our values are driven by Customer Focus; Integrity and offering quality publishing and printing solutions.

6. Was stakeholder engagement done? How and why?

Stakeholder engagement is very important and is guided by the *Constitution of Kenya 2010*.

We started by carrying out



Mr Sammy Chepkwony



Mr Abdallah Bii



Mr Martin Mburu



Mr John Kenduiywo



Mr Nicholas Mac'Botongore



Mr Elyas Abdi



stakeholder mapping. We then drew a representative sample to whom we sent questionnaires. The feedback received was analyzed and some of the views captured in the final draft of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

We are grateful to all the stakeholders who took their time to go through our draft Strategic Plan and gave their valuable input. We will continue engaging with them on a need basis as we monitor and implement the roadmap.

and challenges of the previous planning periods and the current business operating environment. Our strategies were formulated on the assumption that the government policies will continue into the foreseeable future and accord us a stable operating environment.

8. Which measures have you put in place to ensure there are minimal disruptions in realising the strategies?

There are three levels of implementation; Corporate, Divisional/ Departmental and individual.

To implement this Strategic Plan, the Bureau will come up with corporate, Divisional/Departmental and Individual annual workplans.

The Strategic Plan will

be implemented on an annual basis with individual work targets drawn from the corporate workplan.

The Strategic Plan has in place a monitoring and evaluation framework from which reports will be presented on a quarterly basis. It also allows for risk evaluation besides the mid-term and end-term reviews.

9. If you were to forecast, what would you say is in the Bureau's future?

The future is bright for the Bureau, with planned continuous assessment of our operating environment to gauge our customers' needs.

We are also keen to grow in the digital publishing arena and have already made steps towards having our own e-commerce platform.

KLB will definitely continue Publishing and Printing for YOU!

7. How will this new plan impact the Bureau's operations and the general business operating environment?

A wise man once said, failure to plan is planning to fail. Given our growth trajectory, our sites are set on growth.

This new plan has evaluated the successes



KLB is Born

Pioneers, Leaders and Workers

By Joseph Ndegwa

"History is not a burden on the memory, but an illumination of the soul".

-John Dalberg-Acton-

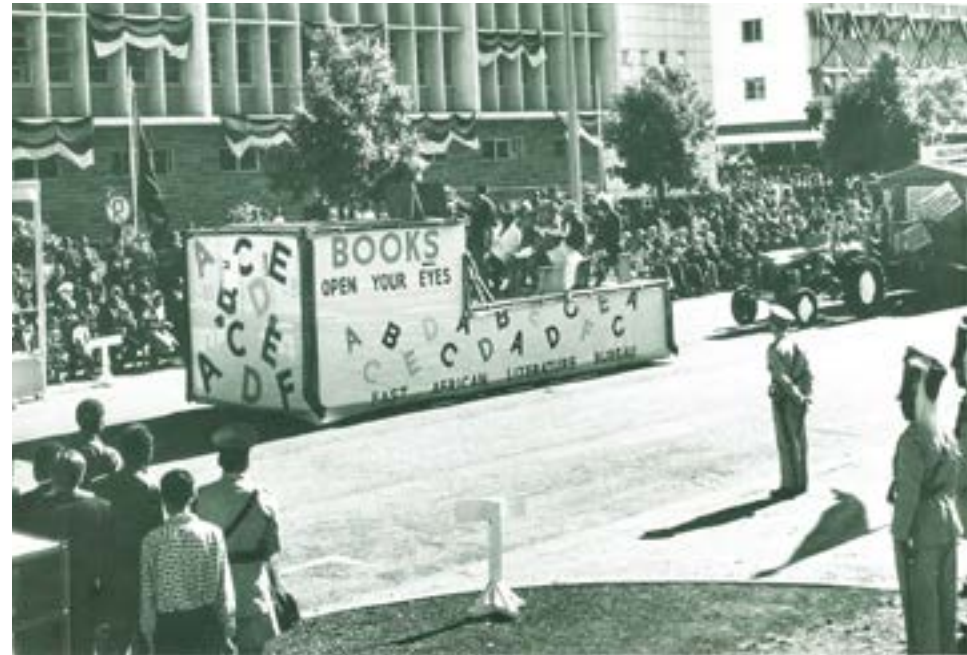
As aptly captured in this quote, history is not a burden, but a relentless master that marries the past into the future. Past key events and policies have had a significant influence on the development of publishing in Kenya. Kenya Literature Bureau, for example, is an organisation with guts and heart. It has a rich past that is connected to colonialism and missionary work in East Africa. It draws its history from the defunct East African Literature Bureau, which was set up by the colonial administration.

At the turn of the 19th Century, the early missionaries who had followed explorers in their adventure into Kenya and Uganda fast realised that their success in spreading the gospel would depend on literary appreciation of the indigenes. East Africa was a promising ground for the spread of Christianity after King Mutesa I and Omukama of the Kingdom of Bunyoro-Kitara warmly

received the missionaries in 1876 and expressed desire to read and write.

Subsequently, they requested the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in London to send missionaries in what Fieldhouse' called, the "civilising mission." The first volunteers included Alexander Mackay, the missionary printer who did letters of the alphabet, postage stamps, "Biscuit Bible" and other religious tracts in his Albion Hand Proofing Press in 1884.

Apolo Kagwa, the author of a short *History of the Kings of Buganda and Proverbs of the Baganda* also had a small printing press that the British Government gave him. The small missionary presses came together in the 1940s and formed Ndia-Kuu Press, a commercial venture to publish educational and adult literacy materials, especially in African languages.



A procession of East African Literature Bureau (EALB) along Harambee Avenue during the national Labour Day celebrations held on May 1, 1966 at Harambee House, Nairobi.

Around that time, after the Second World War, the British Government published "Proposals for Future Management of the Inter-territorial Services in East Africa." The document was anchored in the long history of co-operation between Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika in regional integration arrangements such as the Customs Collection Centre (1900), East African Currency Board (1905), Postal Union (1905), Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa (1909), Customs Union (1917), East African Governors Conference (1926), East African Income Tax Board (1940) and the Joint Economic Council (1940).

The East Africa (High

Commission) Order in Council, 1947 was, subsequently, created but came into effect on January 1, 1948. Among others, it established and centrally administered institutions such as the

The East African Literature Bureau (EALB) was established in 1948 as the only social service of the High Commission. An offshoot of Ndia-Kuu Press, its formation was based on **Elsbeth Joscelyn Huxley** report to the 1946 Governor's Conference, chaired by Sir Philip Mitchell. The report recommended its

set up to combat illiteracy by providing reading and knowledge materials suitable for the newly literate in many East African languages and dialects.

Stimulation of thought through books, educating children, encouraging interest in reading, assisting indigenous authors to provide books for their own people, developing periodical literature, and building a library service were the objectives that guided the formation of the publisher.

The brain power behind EALB's formation, Mrs Huxley, was an author, journalist, broadcaster, magistrate, environmentalist, farmer and government adviser. Born in the UK and raised in Thika, Mrs Huxley worked as a broadcaster for the BBC during the Second World War, the Advisory Commission for



The Books Box Service of East African Literature Bureau (EALB) delivering books at a village in Uganda territory



From Left: An EALB employee, Hon Paul Ngei, Joseph arap Leting and Mama Lucy Kibaki at an EALB event.

the Review of the Constitution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and published 40 books, including the best-known lyrical books, *Flame Trees of Thika* and *The Mottled Lizard*.

Charles Richards

The founding Director of the EALB was Charles Granston Richards (1908-1996). He first came to Kenya in 1935 to develop and expand book publishing activities of the Church Missionary Society. His exploits caught the attention of the colonial government who tapped him to implement the recommendations of the Huxley Report. He took up his job end of 1948 but work could not take off immediately due to the absence of skilled staff. They had to source for staff from



Charles Granston Richards founder of East African Literature Bureau (EALB)

Britain who arrived in 1949, and advertised in local Press such as the *East African Law Review* and the *East African Journal* seeking manuscripts. The scheme worked, especially at Makerere College and African Government Schools, where young writers submitted manuscripts. Prof John Mbiti (1939-2019), a Christian philosopher and writer, was the first African author of EALB with his *English-Akamba Dictionary* published in 1948. Other published works were *Growing UP* by David Sebukima, *The Land is Ours* by John Karoki, *A Hitch Over the Weekend* by Dr. D. Devercharia.

EALB had 65 titles in its stable and 350,000 copies published by end of 1950. From 1956 to 1962, the Bureau published 177 titles and reprinted 79 of them for Uganda alone. In the 1959/60 Annual Report, it is indicated that the EALB had published 38 new titles and 20 reprints, and sold 486,844 volumes in

10 languages. They ranged from a Swahili thriller (written by a Zanzibari) to an *English-Ateso Dictionary* and a magazine in Swahili, *Tazama*.

At the time, Richards described EALB as the "single integrated organisation attacking the problems of production and distribution



Workers of the East African Literature Bureau (EALB) at Central Printing Press

of general literature, of school textbooks, of books for adults on agriculture



First deputy director of EALB, Jonathan Kariara

and technical subjects, and magazines. It gives assistance to African and European authors, acting in the several capacities of critic, literary agent, editor, financier and publisher."

Using funds received from the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, he established

exception of one, because most were European. John Ndegwa, therefore, was made the Librarian in-charge of the Kenya Branch of EALB. Mr. Kariara, well known as a poet, left to join the Oxford University Press where he served as Nairobi Branch manager for many years before his death on November 29, 1993.

He established the first two local government libraries in Eldoret and Nyeri, and an Arab Book Production Unit to print books for the teaching of Arabic to non-Arabic speaking people in East Africa. His success at EALB earned him an O.B.E. (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) award in 1958. Richards has written many books in English and Kiswahili, mostly on Christian devotion and the Early East African Explorers.

The pioneer staff of EALB included George Annsley (Public Librarian), William Frank, Emmanuel Nsubuga (Auxiliary staff/Messenger), J.C. Sharman, Barbara Sheane, John Johnson, H. Miller, M.A. Bentley, Oivind Johansen (Printing Expert seconded from NORAD), Reuben Sekantuka (press manager, Central Printing Section), Hezron Eliud Bright Agar Mactolo (Executive Officer), Ernest Kizito (Ugandan driver), C.B. Sabiiti (Book Production Officer, Uganda), E.J.M. Mwangi (Executive Officer), G.E. Kilonzo (Executive Officer), Mrs. Violent R. Barungi (Book

Production Officer, Uganda), Ms Patricia M. Eddes (Chief Librarian, EALB), G.C. Mistry (Executive Officer), Hosea N. Kasule (Book Production Officer), G.R. Hansraj (Executive Officer), N.G. Sarvaiya (Executive Officer), C.L.J. Almeida (Executive Officer), M.C.A. D'Cruz (Executive Officer), Mrs Carpenter (Chauffeuse) and R.S. Saini (Executive Officer).

H.R. Chabbra (Finance Officer), L.S.A. Guga (Accounts Assistant), C.B. Sabiiti (Book Production Officer), P.J. Ngugi (Executive Officer), J.M. Ngatia (Executive Officer), Miss F.M. Mamseri (Executive Officer), Y.P. Kapoor, S.E.K. Mpalanyi (Translator/Book Production Officer), G.H.A. Iteba, P. Zirimu, Christopher H.R. Ssemanda Yakobo (Salesman), J.H.M. Malago, Nathan Bwerenga (Salesman), Joseph Mutua Mulwa (Administration), M.S. Muchoki, Mrs F.B. Kirunda, Silas Agumba Owuor (Typist Grade II), Miss F.M. Mamseri, H. Bagyenzi (Book Production Officer), N.K. Oine (Book Production Officer, Mrs Florence Beatrice Pannian Mawerere Kirunda (Copy Typist, Stenographer), J.B.O. Onyango, Sohindar Singh, H.N. Kasule, R.A. Muga, Eric Jemba-Kabi (Salesman), Ellih Ammo (Salesman), Suleiman Saidi (Salesman), Stanley G. Kamau (Salesman) F.M. Nyakojo, Mrs. E.A. Indiaka, David Musoke, Willy Okiror Art Assistant), Agnes Nkya, Rose Mwangi, R.S. Mmari, J.F. Owino, A.J. Saliku, J.M.

Kabete, in 1950 and then worked for the African District Council, Kericho, as a welfare officer from 1950 to 1957.

In 1955, the Council sent Dr Toweett for a one year course in Public and Social Administration in Britain. He also studied privately with the University of South Africa for a B.A., which he obtained in 1956. Later, he studied for an honours B.A. in philosophy, passing his examinations in 1959.

From 1958, Dr Toweett worked for six months as a community development of-

ficer in Nandi District. He was elected unopposed to the Legislative Council in 1958, and in the general elections of 1961, he was returned as MP for Kipsigis with the largest majority of any candidate.

In April the same year, he became Minister for Labour and Housing and, on the formation of a coalition government after the London Constitutional talks in early 1962, Minister for Land, Surveys and Town Planning.

He resigned his ministerial post in January 1963 to devote more time to the

affairs of the now defunct Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) of which he was political adviser.

In 1969, Dr. Toweett was returned as MP for Bureti and appointed Minister for Education, a portfolio he held until 1974, and again in 1979. He lost his seat in the 1979 general elections to Prof. Jonathan Ng'eno who was immediately appointed Minister for Basic Education.

Dr Toweett served on a number of boards and committees including the Kericho Urban District Council, Kipsigis District Education Board, Nyanza District Education Board for Settled Areas, Lake Victoria Water Board, the District Probation Committee and the Kipsigis-Nandi Language Committee. He left KLB to join Kenya Airways as its Board Chairman from October, 1983 to June, 1985. Thereafter, he was appointed Chairman of Kenya Seed Company (1985-1998) and nominated MP from 1992-1997. He died on 8 October 2007.



Dr Taaita arap Toweett signing visitors book at KLB offices in the Income Tax building (now Milimani Commercial Courts) in Community Area, Nairobi.

Leonard Mathew Njoroge Kabetu



(23 September, 1983 to 17 February, 1992)

Mathew Kabetu served as Board Chairman of the Kenya Literature Bureau from 23 September, 1983 to 18 February, 1992. He is credited as the steady hand that supported management in sourcing for funds for the purchase of land and construction of the current KLB headquarters in South C, Nairobi.

He worked closely with the then managing director, Samwel Lang'at, leveraging on his expertise and experience in administration in ensuring completion of the building and subsequent amalgamation of all KLB functions into one compound.

Earlier, the administrative arm of KLB was at Income

Tax building (now Milimani Law Courts) in Community Area of Nairobi. The printing press was at Express Kenya Limited godowns next to the present day Mukuru Kwa Reuben slums in Industrial Area, stores where printing papers were kept was at a building along Lusaka Road, while the Warehouse was located next to House of Manji along Enterprise Road.

Life at Express Kenya godowns was difficult, there were no toilets and workers used buckets to relieve themselves, had their tea using plastic mugs and ate lunch in people's houses in the slums. A lot changed when they moved into the current premises, which has a modern staff canteen, toilets and bathrooms for workers, among other amenities.

Kabetu steadied the ship in 1985 when President Daniel arap Moi introduced the 8-4-4 system of education, which adopted eight years of primary, four years of secondary and four years of University education. He left KLB a profitable and stable government institution.

At the time of his appointment, vide a

letter from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Joseph T. arap Leting, he was the Permanent Secretary/Director of Local Government Elections in the Ministry of Local Government.

Kabetu was born on September 1, 1929 in Kabete to Stephano Kinuthia Kabetu and Alice Wambui Muthithi. He attended Kabete and Wangige Primary Schools, where he completed primary education before joining Kabete Intermediate School. He then joined St. Leo's College (now St. Leo's College, Kyegobe) in Virika, Fort Portal, Uganda from 1949 to 1952, where he completed and attained Division II in the Cambridge School Certificate. He taught at Rungiri and Kiangari Primary Schools on his return from Uganda. Amos Kiri and Ashford Githinji, who later became Permanent Secretaries in the Kenya government, were his pupils.

He married Victoria Nyaihiru Mungai on April 12, 1958 and was blessed with six children – Alice Wambui, Stephen Kinuthia, Stephen Mungai, Mary Wanjiku, Essie Njeri and George Kabetu.

He received an Indian Government Scholarship to study Science at Wilson College, Bombay University from 1954 to 1957.

Kabetu had a stellar career in Kenya's public service. He was among the group of young educated Africans who joined the Civil Service before Kenya's Independence in 1963. The Colonial Government employed him as Trade Instructor Trainee in the Department of Trade and Supplies in May 1958. He was the first African Trade Officer in 1962 and was posted to Coast Province as Trade Officer In-Charge of the Province.

He was transferred to Nyeri in 1963 as Officer-In-Charge of Trade in Central Province. He attended the Economic Commission for Africa/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (ECA/GATT) course on foreign trade and international policy in Nairobi from October 16, 1964 to November 10, 1964. Later, he received yet another transfer back to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry headquarters in Nairobi. His career blossomed.

He attended the UN Conference on Trade and

Development in Geneva, Switzerland from 26 March 1964 to 16 June 1964 as member of the official Kenya Government delegation that was led by the then Minister of Commerce and Industry, Julius Kiano. He championed the Africanisation of commerce and industry in Kenya.

James Gichuru, the Minister for Finance, appointed him to the Cereals and Sugar Finance Corporation on 29 January, 1965 to deputise its chairman, T.P.H. Leech.

On March 2, 1965, Andrew Omanga, the then PS, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, appointed Kabetu to serve as the first African Director of Trade and Supplies until 1974. As an expert in trade and multilateralism, he joined the then Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mwai Kibaki to the UN Conference on Trade and Development Second Session in New Dehli, India from 1 February to 29 March, 1968.

He was a lead expert in the "Arusha I" and "Arusha II" negotiations that led to the signing of the ground-breaking Lome Convention between European Economic Community (EEC) and African, Caribbean

and Pacific Group of States (ACP). It was during his time at the Ministry that Parliament enacted the *Trade Licensing Act, 1967*.

Thanks to his efforts, President Jomo Kenyatta appointed him Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Industry on March 29, 1974, a position he held for many years. Again, President Daniel arap Moi appointed him PS Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for one year and eight months before its abolishment in 1982. On January 26, 1983, he became PS/Director of Local Government Elections in the Ministry of Local Government. He was also chairman of the Kenya Local Government Superannuation Fund till January 5, 1984.

After retirement from the public service, he embarked in coffee farming and floriculture at his Muthithi Plantations in Kiambu. He was an exporter of cut flowers to Europe. He was the Board Chairman of Kiambu High School and Secretary of St. Paul's Church, Kiambu.

He died of kidney complications at Agakhan Hospital, Nairobi on October 26, 2004.

Jane Mumbi Kiano



(18 Feb. 1992 – 17 Feb. 1995)

Jane Mumbi Kiano served as the chairman from February 18, 1992 to February 17, 1995. She is the wife of former Trade Minister Julius Gikonyo Kiano who was the first Kenyan to earn a PhD in 1956.

Mrs Kiano's name was synonymous with Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation's (MYWO) – the largest and vibrant grassroots women's organisation in Kenya – activities after Kenya's Independence in 1963. She joined KLB in a difficult year for the organisation and country; Kenya was set to hold its first multi-party general elections on December 28, 2002, the economy was unstable and the shilling was smarting from

the first wave of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) implementation. Her commitment to duty saw her work closely with management to grow the revenues and asset base of the Literature Bureau for greater sustainability and KLB survived.

Mrs Kiano was born in 1944 in Tumutumu, in the present day Mathira Constituency, in Nyeri County. She attended Tumutumu Primary School and trained and taught briefly as a P3 teacher. Thereafter, she resigned to work as an Assistant Housekeeper at the Pan Africa Hotel.

From 1971 to 1974, Mrs Kiano served as the chairperson of the Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation, during which time she oversaw the construction of the Maendeleo House, in Nairobi's Central Business District (CBD). The multi-storey building houses the outfit and other offices.

Mrs. Kiano also campaigned for introduction of a national dress as a way of diminishing the ogre of tribalism in Kenya, besides her efforts towards the empowerment of girls and introduction of sex education in schools. She is the former Vice

President of the National Council of Women (NCW), member of the Child Welfare Society of Kenya (CWSK) and commissioner at the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), and also a former member of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) for East, West and Central Africa.

NCIC was created after the 2008 Post Election Violence (PEV) in Kenya to promote cohesion and peaceful co-existence among Kenyans.

Mrs Kiano also served as Alliance Francaise President (1982-2013) and was Nairobi City Commission Deputy Chairperson from 1988 to 1992.

In recognition of her efforts, she was awarded the Freedom of the Nairobi City in 2006, Pan African Mercury Gold Award, Legion d' Honneur du France in 2014 and the Elder of the Burning Spear, among others. In August 23, 2018, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta honoured her with the First Class, Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear Award.

A mother of two, Mrs Kiano succumbed to lung cancer at Nairobi Hospital on October 25, 2018.

Prof Jonathan K. Ole Karei



(31 March, 1995 – 27 February, 2013)

Prof Jonathan K. Ole Karei was the fourth chairman of the KLB Board. He was appointed on March 31, 1995 when the publisher was only seven years old in its current location from the Income Tax Building (now Milimani Law Courts), which had housed it for more than a decade, and served with distinction for 18 uninterrupted years.

At the time of his appointment, the publishing business was at its lowest ebb, battered by high cost of production, unstable economic landscape, devalued shilling, political upheaval as well as influx of cheap educational materials into the country following the opening

up of the local market to international competition. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAPs), which saw markets liberalised, had just been introduced. KLB, for the first time, was facing stiff competition from independent publishers – local and international.

His stint saw him work with three managing directors – Mr. Samwel Cheruiyot Lang'at, Hon. Mathew Adams Karauri and Mrs. Eve Akinyi Obara. He oversaw staff rationalisation and improvements of terms of service, preservation and modernisation of the printing press at a time when it was fashionable to sell off equipment and outsource services, up-skilling of staff, attaining ISO 9001:2008 Certification, and stellar performance in State-led Performance contracting. He also guided KLB in developing the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan whose thrust was improved growth for enhanced sustainability.

On April 26, 2013 the KLB family hosted the former board chairman, Prof. Jonathan Ole Karei, to a luncheon at

the headquarters. The board, management and staff feted him with a portrait of an elephant with a baby to reflect the former chairman's caring image of a parent. Like a mother elephant in the portrait, Prof. Karei gently guided the Bureau through turbulent times into stability and a strong presence in the region.

"I am very happy," an elated and tearful Prof. Karei said soon after KLB gifted him.

During his tenure, he told his audience that the board made difficult decisions to weather difficult years, helping his team to keep KLB afloat.

"We developed and implemented quality systems of management that enabled us to score firsts in ISO 9001:2008 certification, performance contracting and profitability," he said.

He lauded the firm for its success during his tenure saying, "Yours is the most efficient institution in time management. I am proud to be associated with you."

"When you perform well, you are helping Kenya to

develop," he added urging KLB staff to work together to uplift the publishing house.

Prof Karei was born in 1937 in Olombokishi village in Narok County to Karei Ololchoki and Kakenia Karei. His father had three wives and Karei was the fifth child of the second wife.

After the death of his father, young Karei's mother took him and his siblings to Nairegie Enkare, where he attended Ole Sankale D.E.B. Primary School between 1945 and 1953. He joined Machakos Boys High School for his 'O' Level studies from 1954 to 1957, where he passed with Division One in Cambridge examinations.

Prof Ole Karei taught at Ole Sankale Primary School and later worked for Gailey and Roberts Ltd Company.

A beneficiary of the Tom Mboya's scholarship programme, which came to be known as the "Airlift to America", Ole Karei enrolled at Philander Smith College in the United States of America where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree in Political Science and History in 1963.

He obtained his Master of Arts degree from Atlanta University majoring in

Political Science, with International Relations as his minor. Two years later, he got his second Master's degree - Master of Public Administration, majoring in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

A budding scholar with a consuming appetite for knowledge, he obtained another Master of Arts degree in International Relations (major), and Administrative Management and International Law and Diplomacy (minor) from the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. In the same year, Ole Karei earned his PhD degree in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

Prof Ole Karei was appointed an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Geography at Voorhees College in 1966 and became a full professor of Political Science in 1974. Between 1974 and 1977, Prof Ole Karei served South Carolina State University as a Professor of Political Science and Southern Illinois University as a visiting professor. His excellence and dedication to service earned him recognition of Governor Richard Wilson Riley, who appointed him to the South

Carolina Re-organisation Committee in 1979, becoming the first African to serve in the Commission, and was re-appointed to the same position in 1983.

From July 1984 to March 2013, Prof Ole Karei served with distinction, as the Chief Academic Officer of Moi University, where he was also a Professor of International Relations and Public Administration. In 2013, he was appointed acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs.

Prof Ole Karei's capabilities caught the attention of President Daniel Arap Moi, who, in 1984, appointed him first Chief Academic Officer of Moi University, a position he held for 30 years. He was also appointed, in 1989, as the first Chairman of Ewaso Ng'iro South Development Authority, where he served for four years.

Between 2008 and 2013, Prof Ole Karei served on yet another presidential appointment when former President Mwai Kibaki picked him as the first Chairman of the Council of Narok University College, now Maasai Mara University. He attained another first when on 13th January 2013,

President Kibaki appointed him first Chancellor of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), a position he held until his death.

Prof. Ole Karei also served on several ministerial appointments. Between 1989 and 1999, he was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sunset Hotel, Kisumu; Golf Hotel, Kakamega; and Homa Bay Hotel Limited, Homa Bay. He was a member of the Kenya Tourist Development Corporation for 10 years from 1989 to 1999. Between 1995 and 2005 he served as a member of the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST). He was a member of the Councils of Maseno University College (now Maseno University) and Western University College of Science and Technology (now Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology). He also served on the Board of Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology.

Prof. Ole Karei earned prestigious national and international honours and recognitions, including, Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (E.B.S.) in 1986. In 1984 he was awarded the Order of the Palmetto (OPG), A Palmetto Gentleman (the

US Governor). He became a member of the Pi Gamma Society of Social Science in 1978 while in 1975 he was decorated with the award of Outstanding Educators of America. In 1976 he got the Community Leader Award. In the same year he was recognised in the roll of *Who is Who in South and South West*. He won the Men of Achievement, Cambridge recognition in 1978, the same year he was also featured in the *Who is Who in the World*. In 1982, he got a Certificate of Recognition from Claflin University. In the same year, he got the coveted Certificate of Recognition by South Carolina State for Outstanding Contribution to Education.

In May 2013, JOOUST awarded Prof. Ole Karei its first honorary degree, the Doctor of Science.



Prof K. Ole Karei is feted with a portrait of an elephant with a baby to reflect the former chairman's caring image. Like a mother elephant in the portrait, Prof. Karei guided KLB through turbulent times into stability and a strong presence in the region.

Prof Ole Karei's strong heart of giving back to society saw him serve in various philanthropic and community projects. He headed, as chief executive officer, the African Tasliti Foundation, the Maasai Development Foundation and the Mara Technical College. In Eldoret, he was a member of the Sirikwa Pentecostal Fellowship.

He married Dr. Rachel Lanoi in 1976 and was blessed with seven children – Kakenia, Jonathan, Naisiae, Munke, Meiriapie, Maiyiana and Supeo.

On the 16th day of July 2014, while at Eldoret International Airport waiting to fly to Nairobi, and cheerful as ever, Prof. Ole Karei collapsed and died inside the plane.

Serah Kainyu Ndege



(28 February, 2013 to 27 February, 2016)

Serah Kainyu Ndege was appointed board chairman on February 28, 2013. Kenya Literature Bureau was, therefore, thrust into history as the only parastatal headed by a female chief executive and board chairperson, at the same time, in the country.

Before KLB, Mrs Ndege had been the head-teacher of State House Girls High School in Nairobi from 1997 to 2008. She, thereafter, joined the Technical University of Kenya (formerly Kenya Polytechnic) as Lecturer in Communications from 2008 to-date.

Her Board worked closely with management to grow KLB's revenues and profit-

ability. In three years, the company's gross profit grew by 49 per cent from 117.987 million in 2012/2013 to 176.8 million in 2014/2015 while the annual turnover rose by 26 per cent from 1.39 billion to 1.76.32 billion within the same period.

KLB signed partnership agreement with Zheijing Publishing United from China with a view to pursuing activities for mutual benefit of both organisations during her period.

It also embarked on an upgrade of infrastructure program that saw KLB acquire state-of-the-art machines such as the High Speed Aster 220 sewing machine, integration of the ACCPAC financial system and implementation of the Human Resource Management Information System.

Prof John Mbiti's Kiikamba Bible – *Utianiyo Mweu Wa Mwiyai Yesu Kilisto* (The New Testament of Our Lord Jesus Christ), which is the first translation, from original Greek into a native African language, was printed, launched and distributed to beneficiaries in March 2015.

The then Chief Justice Willy Mutunga who was the chief guest at its launch, thanked KLB "for the quality of the production of the Bible."

Her team also seized the opportunity of the One Laptop Per Child Policy presented to publishers. KLB produced digital content for Standard One to fit into the programme. The publisher's eBooks are also trading in Amazon.com/World Reader and eKitabu, among other online bookstores.

An agreement was also signed with MapStudio South Africa to develop and market wall maps, and the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) to publish and distribute their *Four Figure Mathematical Tables*.

A Taste of Fame authored by Argwings Kodhek won the Burt Award during this time. The award is named after Canadian philanthropist, Bill Burt and sponsored by the National Book Development Council (NBDC) and Canadian Organisation for Development of Education (CODE). KLB was also first runners up in the Gender Mainstreaming Excellence Award.

Stanley Frederick Omanyo Muka



(28 November, 1978 – 24 May, 1981)

At 41 years, Stanley Frederick Muka joined Kenya Literature Bureau at such a critical moment that his tenure will forever be remembered.

Although he was named to the position of director in acting capacity, it was immediately after his arriving there that *Kenya Literature Bureau Act, 1980* was passed and the first Board Chairman, Dr Taaita Toweett, was appointed.

At the time, the pay structure of the managing director's post had not been determined, but it was placed as Job Group N on the *Waruhiu's Civil Service Schedule on Basic Salaries in November, 1981*.

The salaries schedule was a product of the *Civil*

Service Review Committee, commissioned on October 2, 1979 by President Daniel arap Moi to, among others: examine Government Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1974 with a view to assessing the extent to which the recommendations of the *Public Service Structure and Remuneration Commission 1970-71* (Ndegwa Commission Report) had been implemented, and to study the structure of salaries and other fringe benefits and harmonise them.

The Board Chairman's remuneration was based on Chief Secretary's circular No. 1/1981 of February 28 (*Guidelines on Review of Salaries and Terms of Service for Parastatal Organisations dated November 2, 1981*).

A Harvard-trained educationist who first went to Makerere University for a diploma in Education, Mr Muka taught in a number of secondary schools, including Kericho and Koelel, before rising to become a headmaster from being a science master.

He graduated from Makerere in 1962 and five years later

went to Harvard for a one-year master's degree in Education, which training journeys prepared him for a long career in the sector, working with the Ministry of Education and the UN.

On returning from the US studies, he joined the Kenya Institute of Education (now Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development) as head of the Science Section and co-ordinator of curriculum development. A year later, Mr Muka was appointed as Senior Education Officer at the ministry, rising through the ranks to become Assistant Director of Education in the Ministry of Higher Education on October 16, 1972.

In May 1973, he was appointed Kenya's Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and Education Attaché at the Kenya Embassy in Paris, France, where he served for four years.

Mr Muka took over from Mrs Rose Mwangi, a Senior Book Production Officer, who had held forte after the collapse of the East African Community (EAC) in July 1977.

He traveled to Arusha with three members of the Interim Publishing Fund Management Committee in June 1980 to meet their counterparts, Eastern Africa Publications, to collect files, manuscripts and other documents that helped build KLB registry and secure its assets.

His commitment was evident in deciding to use his personal car for official functions before he and the chairman got official cars.

Mr Muka initiated partnerships between KLB and the Writers Association, Hans Zeli Publishers London, Kenya Litho for Publishers, Pan African Paper Mills and the Kenya Publishers Association.

In a meeting with officials of the Webuye-based Pan African Paper Mills on June 28, 1979, he asked to buy papers directly from the factory.

In May 1981 he left to join the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO as Secretary General. He was later posted to UNESCO offices in Paris as the Senior Education Programme Specialist, responsible for the Eastern Africa, a position he held for 14 years. He retired on October 15, 1997.

Mr Muka was the father of Stella Awinja, who was

killed prior to her graduation when building planks fell on her during the construction of Lillian Towers, which is opposite the University of Nairobi where she was a student. A hostel at the university is named after her. His other children were Pamela Osimbo, Lucy Asango (deceased), Jacqueline Mbiere, Caroline Atemba, Diana Nganyi and Linda Anyanje.

A devout Anglican, Mr Muka had a passion for sports and

community service. He once served as Secretary of the defunct Abaluhya Football Club (now AFC Leopards). He also served on the boards of several secondary schools such as Butere Girls, Butere Boys, Lunza, Ibokolo and Imanga secondary schools.

Mr Muka succumbed to cancer of the colon at The Nairobi Hospital on May 29, 2017 and was buried at his Lunza home in Butere on June 10, 2017.

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Zachariah Ndegwa Bacia Kanaiya



(25 May, 1981 – 20 December, 1983)

Zachariah Kanaiya succeeded Fredrick Muka at the KLB corner office where the latter told him he was getting into “a challenging job, but very interesting”.

Mr Kanaiya is now 92.

He joined KLB from the Kenya Institute of Administration (now Kenya School of Government) where he was the Chief Librarian. Two months into service and having appreciated the “problems and prospects” of the Bureau, he wrote to Higher Education PS, Joseph T. Letting on July 31, 1981, requesting to meet him.

He promoted every staff two grades up, improving salaries and allowances. Mr Kanaiya had asked the

Inspector of Statutory Boards on July 24, 1981 to approve his staffing proposals for the new parastatal. “I am really handicapped for lack of staff. I cannot get into full motion. My money-making opportunities pass away daily, we need speedy consideration,” he said in his letter.

He also sought to cut costs of warehousing, and arranged for movement of EALB files for Uganda and Tanzania to their respective countries.

For this article, he said: “I realised it was costing us much to rent the building where materials of the Literature Bureau, which belonged to Uganda and Tanzania were stored in Industrial Area. I, therefore, sought for ministerial approvals to release the files. Tanzania came for theirs, while Uganda documents were sent.”

He also terminated “outsourcing of services, including printing and manuscript evaluation, to save KLB money.”

Mr. Kanaiya proposed formation of a training and management consultancy service run and managed

by Kenyans since foreigners' consultancies were making good money from the Training Levy Fund.

On July 28, 1981, he asked Prof. George Eshiwani, the Bureau of Education Research director at Kenyatta University College (later Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University) seeking a cooperation between KLB and KU and the University of Nairobi's Inter-Faculty Editorial and Publication Committee in textbook writing and publishing. This, he said, would “enable the country to progressively and rapidly become independent of foreign attendant shortcoming in so far as they fail to encourage the emergence of a truly African ethos.”

Prof Eshiwani responded in the affirmative on August 13, 1981. *The Kenya Educational Review Book* is a product of the partnerships. Mr. Kanaiya's idea was modelled along the KIE and Jomo Kenyatta Foundation (JKF) partnership in publishing of training materials developed at KIE.

KIE brought experienced

teachers to Nairobi to develop mainly primary school curricula and then wrote textbooks and other training materials. The books were published and distributed by JKF, which pays royalties to KIE and honoraria to those who prepare the texts.

His official car was a Volvo KTU 110.

Mr Kanaiya says he “worked to ensure we get the benefit and promoted the organisation, especially where public finance and interest is concerned.”

He was born on September 28, 1928 in Nyeri, attended Mihuti Primary School and later joined Government

African School Kagumo from Standard 6 to 8 between 1942 and 1944. He joined Alliance High School where he sat Cambridge School Exams in 1949.

At Makerere University College, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/ Botany and Geography. He remained at Makerere, and enrolled for a one year education course. During this time, he worked at the University Library as a Trainee Librarian.

He got a US government scholarship for a Master's degree in Library Studies at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado in 1958. He was part of Kenyans in

the diaspora who received Kennedy scholarships on arrival in New York in September, 1959.

“After the airlift, an organisation in the US decided to sponsor African students, not just from Kenya, to go study in the US. This influenced African governments to start sending people.”

From the US, he went back to Makerere as Assistant Librarian. Harold Holtsworth, a famed librarian, was his boss at the University College. He came back to Kenya in 1964 to head the Library at the Kenya Institute of Administration. He retired from KLB at 55.

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Duncan Mwangi

(21 December, 1983 to 20 September, 1984 and 21 October, 1984 to 31 October 1984)

Duncan Mwangi's appointment as Acting Director in December 1983 was marked by noise for good reasons. A former provincial director of education in the Rift Valley, teachers protested when he was coming to KLB and petitioned President Daniel arap Moi to reinstate him.

Before KLB, Mr Mwangi had been the head-teacher of Jamhuri High School (formerly known as Government Indian School and later Duke of Gloucester School) in Nairobi, an institution that had a massive student population of more than 1,800 students. The largest multi-racial school in Kenya then, Jamhuri, where he took 10 years from 1968, was considered the second most populated school in the Commonwealth after another institution in India.

He was, thereafter, appointed Secretary (chief executive) of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) from January 1, 1978 to October 31, 1980.

Mr Mwangi developed the first KLB scheme of service that outlined roles and salary

scales, delivering juicy perks that filled former workers of the publisher with envy.

Gideon Maingi, then an Estimator during Mwangi's tenure, says his monthly salary improved to KSh2,800 and got a house allowance of KSh880, which was more than what his father earned as a civil servant.

"My new salary pushed my father to retire from the civil service. I was earning more than him, and so he left me his house along Jogoo Road, Nairobi, whose rent was only KSh170 per month."

Mr Maingi says that Mr Mwangi, his high school head-teacher, recognised him when they met at KLB. He asked, "Have we met?" Maingi answered: "Yes, you were my principal at Jamhuri High School." In response, Mr Mwangi said, tongue in cheek: "For how long am I going to be your boss?" They laughed.

Mr. Mwangi re-organised the Central Printing Press (CPS), ensuring all jobs were received and estimation done at the head office in Income Tax building (now Milimani Commercial Courts)

in Community Area, Nairobi. The CPS was in In-Dar Singh Warehouse, next to present day Mukuru Kwa Reuben slums.

Mr Mwangi was transferred to the civil service in September 1984, returned to KLB a month later, before going back to the Rift Valley as the Provincial Director of Education.

Upon exit, his deputy, Samwel Lang'at, took over as the first KLB Managing Director.



Mr Mwangi developed the first KLB scheme of service that outlined roles and salary scales, delivering juicy perks that filled former workers of the publisher with envy

Agnes G. Ochindo Ojany



(20 September, 1984 to 20 October, 1984)

A school head girl who was airlifted to the US, Agnes Ojany was appointed KLB Ag. Director on 20th September, 1984 from Jomo Kenyatta Foundation (JKF) where she deputised the Secretary General, J.K. Sang.

Leadership at her alma mater Ng'iya Girls High School and a considerably challenging life in the US, where she completed her secondary school, prepared her for corner-office life.

She completed her secondary education at Springfield South High School

in Springfield, Ohio and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa.

After six years in the US, she returned to Kenya and joined JKF as deputy CEO. The then Education Permanent Secretary, Leo Pius Odera, appointed her Acting Director of KLB.

An astute mobiliser, Mrs Ojany fundraised within KLB in 1984 when drought-linked famine hit Kenya, raising Sh1,250 from staff to support the starving.

She left KLB end of October, 1984 to join the Kenya Tourist Development Corporation (KTDC) as deputy Managing Director and Administration Manager.

In 1989, President Daniel arap Moi appointed her to head the Catering Levy Trustees, becoming the first female CEO of a parastatal

in Kenya. Catering Levy Trust collected a two per cent training levy from hotels and restaurants to support training and operations of the Kenya Utalii College.

She is the wife of Prof Francis Fredrick Ojany, a renowned University of Nairobi Geography Lecturer. She has six children: Lucy "Archie" Alai (Tourism, Sports and Culture CEC, Kisumu County), Debra Mallowah (Safaricom Chief Digital De), Peter Ojany (Bio-Technology Engineer), Jonathan Ojany (Chief of Staff to the President, Coca-Cola Global PLC in Atlanta), Hazel Ojany (Architect and Civil Engineer) and Cecilia "Cece" Ojany (Lawyer and Coach).

After retirement, she founded the Development Centre for Gender Empowerment, a not-for-profit organisation promoting education in Muhoroni, Kisumu County. She is farming in Koru.

Samuel Cheruiyot Lang'at



(1 November, 1984 to 31 March, 2003)

Samuel Cheruiyot Lang'at was appointed KLB Managing Director on November 1, 1984 after a difficult transitional period following the collapse of the East African Community (EAC).

At the time of his appointment, Joseph Kamotho was Minister for Education and Joseph arap Leting his Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Langat established a strong foundation for the growth of the publisher. He had a dream of constructing the present day KLB headquarters and made it happen. The land was acquired in 1985 and completed the construction of the building in 1988, way ahead of his neighbours,

who received an equal amount of grant that was disbursed at the same time. The building stands out for architectural outlook and sits on what was otherwise a swamp.

He did not compromise on its foundation, which was raised to allow for underground water drainage and fortified to support future extensions of the building. It also has provisions for a lift and a raised water storage tank. It was built to last.

KLB operations were scattered at the time. The administrative function was at the Income Tax Building (now Milimani Law Courts), printing press was at Express Kenya Limited godowns in Industrial Area, Stores where printing papers were kept was at In-Dar Sigh building along Lusaka Road, while the Warehouse was located next to House of Manji along Enterprise Road. Upon completion of the building in 1988, KLB moved all its functions to its current premises.

The amalgamation of functions to one location, among other decisions,

transformed KLB into a giant publishing house in the country. In 1985, when the 8-4-4 system of education was introduced, he successfully lobbied to publish and print a majority of textbooks for use in schools.

"He knew all workers by name and employment number," says Mr Jackson Mutai, a long-serving KLB Assistant Records Management Officer.

He retired in 2003 and is fondly remembered as a hardworking, firm, fair and diligent Managing Director.

Born on July 7, 1943, Mr Langat was the fourth child of Jacob Sitonik and Zipporah Sitonik from Kapsimbiri Village in Bomet. He started his primary schooling at Kapsimbiri Primary School from 1951 to 1954. He enrolled for Standard Five at Merigi Primary School in 1955 and passed his Competitive Entrance Examinations (CEE) earning him a slot at Tenwek Primary School where he passed his Kenya African Preliminary Examinations (KAPE) in 1958. The following year, he was admitted at

Kericho High School and passed his 'O' Level East Africa School Certificate (EASC) exams in 1962. He later joined Kisii High School for his 'A' Levels and passed the East Africa Advanced School Certificate (EAASC) in 1964 to secure admission at the University of Nairobi.

He graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. While at the University of Nairobi, he partnered with his classmate Prof William Ochieng to co-author *Ngano*, a book on African Oral literature, which formed part of his thesis. He was a diligent student who valued rules and details.

In literary circles, Prof. Ochieng referred to himself as "the Crocodile's Eyeball".

After graduation, Lang'at taught at Kericho High School and in 1968, before joining Jomo Kenyatta Foundation (JKF) as General Secretary. A family man, Mr. Langat declined an ambassadorial appointment to the former USSR in 1974, to raise his young family in Kenya.

He was appointed chairman of the Tea Research Foundation in 2004 and later chairman of the Bomet Constituency Development Fund (CDF) by his friend, area MP Kipkalya Kones.

Mr. Langat had great interest in community service, which was viewed by some as meddling in local politics. Among others, he was BOG chairman of Mugango High

School and Kapsimbiri High School, and served in the boards of Tenwek Boys High School and Kapsimbiri Primary School. He established Tenwek Boarding Primary School, the first mixed primary boarding school in Bomet together with his friends, Hon Kipkalya Kones (deceased), Hon Joseph Chumo (deceased), Dr Ezekiel Kerich and Paul Leitich. Education was a subject close to his heart.

He married Elizabeth Chumo on December 1977 in Sotik Anglican Church and was blessed with six children – Agnes, Ernest, Eric, Enock, Edwin and Anne. Mr Langat died of lung cancer at Nairobi Hospital on September 16, 2011.



Kenya Literature Bureau headquarters in South C, Nairobi during its construction in 1988.

Mathew Adams Karauri



(1 April, 2004 to 31 March, 2007)

Hon Mathew Adams Karauri, was appointed KLB Managing Director in April 1, 2004. He is a former head teacher, who served as Tigania MP for four consecutive terms.

At KLB, Hon Karauri initiated several projects that improved service delivery and welfare of staff. He purchased the building where the KLB Sales and Customer Service Branch (SCSB) is located along Kijabe Street, off Globe Cinema Roundabout in Nairobi's Central Business District (CBD). Kijabe is considered the publishers street as all publishing houses in Kenya have shops in the area. It was, therefore, important for KLB to have a shop to ease service delivery to walk-in customers and booksellers in the city centre. Hon Karauri also introduced

banking to KLB staff. He insisted that all employees must open salary accounts with banking institutions, ending the age-old practice of salaries payment in cash every end-month.

"Every end month, workers would line at the cash office to collect their salaries, which was unacceptable. Hon Karauri ended that system when he asked us to open bank accounts," says KLB History and Government editor, Sebastian Mbogo.

In one of his tours, Hon Karauri realised that staff in Production Department would work for hours without refreshments. He, therefore, ordered for supply of fresh milk for machine operators to lessen harmful effects of chemicals and other fumes they may be exposed to at the printing press. It is also under his leadership that provision of staff tea was extended beyond management to other employees of the Bureau.

Before joining KLB, the publisher's headquarters had a flat concrete roof, which would at times leak during heavy rains. In mitigation, Hon Karauri covered the building with corrugated iron sheets, maintaining the architectural aesthetics of

the structure.

He is the father of Sports Pesa Chief Executive Officer, Ronald Biko Karauri. His other children are Lena, Nkatha, Mwenda and Naita.

Hon Karauri was born in Ankamia, Meru County. He attended Ankamia Primary School from Class 1 to 7 before joining Igembe Secondary School where he did his 'O' Level examinations. He, thereafter, joined Kangaru High School for Form 5 and 6 studies, passing his exams to earn admission at The Nairobi University College for a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Literature.

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) employed him, after which he rose through the ranks to become Headmaster of Mutindwa Secondary School in Meru. He contested for the Tigania Parliamentary Seat in 1974 and lost. On his second attempt, he won to become MP Tigania Constituency from 1979 to 1992 and from 1997 to 2002. He served as Assistant Minister for Education from 1988 to 1992 and from 1997 to 2002.

In the corporate sector, Hon Karauri was chairman of the Central Agricultural Board and the Kenya Football Federation.

Mrs Eve A. Obara



(1 April, 2007 to 26 September, 2016)

Mrs Eve Akinyi Obara was the Managing Director from April 1, 2007 to September 26, 2016 and Council member of the lobby, Kenya Publishers Association (KPA).

An alumnus of Limuru Girls High School and Lwak Girls High School, Mrs Obara holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Political Science from the University of Nairobi and has a MSc in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. She also holds a Certificate in Personnel Management from the Royal Institute of Public Administration, London, UK.

By the time she was taking over at KLB, the publisher had challenges that the first workshop on the 2004-2009 Strategic Plan recommended downsizing

and closing down the printing press due to financial constraints. However, the Board decided to retain staff and focus on growing the business.

"I realised early that change happens when a leader provides direction and remains committed to a cause," she said in a previous interview with *the Publisher*, KLB's internal newsletter"

We, therefore, identified and addressed critical challenges, reduced overhead expenses, improved gross margins, embraced quality and improved management systems," she added.

That is how KLB started operations engineering and rebranding that sought to save costs, support innovation, appeal more to the market and to ensure the company was well positioned as the publisher and printer of choice.

Increased profits, a wider asset base and high tax and dividend pay-outs to the government were the results of the revamp.

Under the leadership of Mrs Obara, the Bureau maintained a structured and disciplined investment strategy that enabled it

become a leading textbook publisher, controlling 79 per cent of the Secondary School market and 34 per cent of the Primary School market. KLB also became the first indigenous book publisher to be awarded ISO 9001 certification in Kenya and to produce e-Books with local content.

In another inspiring feat, KLB was in 2010 ranked the third best-run State Corporation in Kenya, out of a field of 139 agencies in performance contracting. KLB continued to excel and improve its quality management standards and was ranked third best most-sustained State Corporation in 2010-2011 for excellence over the last three years.

During her tenure, KLB also maintained sound industrial relations and was recategorised from PC7C to PC7A in the commercial/manufacturing functional categorisation of State corporations as a result of impressive performance and growth.

Mrs Obara left KLB end of September 2016 and was elected Kabondo Kasipul MP in the August 8, 2017 General Elections. She was a member of the Nyanza Provincial Education Board

and sat on several school boards. She supports girl child education through NEWI, and was instrumental in setting up the Rachuonyo South District headquarters and construction of the District Commissioner's (DC's) residence through a community initiative. NEWI is a not-for-profit organisation of over 600 professionals, mainly women who volunteer their time and resources to promote girl-child education in Kenya through mentorship,

counselling and role-modelling. They also offer material support to girls in school. As a champion of women empowerment initiatives, Mrs Obara served as the Chairperson of Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation (MYWO) Nyanza and National Executive Committee member of MYWO, the largest grassroots women's organisation in Kenya. In 2008, she was awarded the Moran of the Burning

Spear (MBS), a recognition for Kenyans who contribute to humanity in their specialisation. She is also a recipient of the MSK Warrior Award, 2010, for innovation in industry and the Girl-Child Crusader Award, 2010 by the Ministry of Education. Widowed early, she is a mother of three grown children, two sons and a daughter.

Twachapisha Mwasoma Drive held at Maria Immaculate Education Centre in Kiamumbi

By Ronald Kibaron and Sharon Nderema

The Maria Immaculata Education Centre in Kiamumbi, Kahawa West in Kiambu County recently received a donation of books from Kenya Literature Bureau.

The donation was part of KLB's Twachapisha Mwasoma Corporate Social Value programme aimed at equipping deserving schools across the country with books to improve literacy.

The school was established by the Catholic church in Kenya to support orphaned children access education.

Speaking on behalf of the Managing Director, Victor Lomaria, KLB Ag. Sales and Marketing Manager, David Kimita, said that KLB was glad to provide learning and reference materials for the learners in the school. He added that every child in the



Maria Immaculata Education Centre Head teacher, Sister Rosslyn Lenguris (2nd right) receives a carton of donation books from Mr. David Kimita (in coat).

country has a right to better education emphasising the need to avail books to schools.

"KLB is a giant publisher both in the country and beyond. We pride ourselves with quality publications. Make proper use of these materials to pass in your exams," said Kimita.

Speaking at the function, Joseph Nyiri, the Bureau's Regional Sales and Marketing Manager (Easter Hub), said

that the Bureau continues to partner with other well-wishers to provide books to schools and thus enhance the reading culture at Maria Immaculate Education Centre. KLB Assistant Corporate Communications Manager, Diana Olenja while addressing the pupils said that KLB remains focused on its Corporate Social Value programmes to help the school post better academic results.

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"It is important to inculcate reading habits into children to provide cognitive development. It is, thus, our duty as the Bureau to provide relevant content for you, our erstwhile consumers," said Olenja.

The head teacher, Sister Rosslyn Lenguris, thanked KLB for the kind gesture and expressed the hope that the relationship will continue to help the growth of

education in the school. The school's head further added that the reference books will help re-stock the library making learning for both pupils and teachers continuous.

"We are happy to see this day. We want to get the learners well educated and so I think the relationship is going to be a long standing one and we wish to involve KLB in what we do," she emphasised.



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