

# KENYA

**KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE**  
**MR S.K NG'ANG'A - DIRECTOR**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) is a statutory body of the Government of Kenya. It was established by an Act of Parliament Cap 225 of the Laws of Kenya in 1965. The KNLS serves both as a Public Library and National Library.

KNLS assumed its role as a National Library in 1980 in recognition of the need for bibliographic control in Kenya. The National Library is made up of two sections:

National reference section

Bibliographic section

Some of the functions of the National library include:

Publishing of Kenya National bibliography.

Publication of the Kenya Periodical Directory.

Acts as a centre for importation, exportation and exchange of bibliographic records.

Produces model catalogue in Kenya National Bibliography which may directly be copied by libraries and information institutions in Kenya.

As a legal depository centre, KNLS collects and preserves national imprint for Kenya.

Administers the of International Serial Book Number (ISBN) to Kenyan publishers.

In order to function effectively as a national institution, the Kenya National Library Service works in partnership with other stakeholders in the industry, such as publishers, authors, Government of Kenya etc. Each of these play a crucial role to ensure the publishing industry thrives. With a thriving publishing industry, KNLS is able to collect and preserve the Kenyan National imprint for further posterity.

### **2. ACTIVITIES OF THE KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE YEAR 2001 – 2002**

During the period under review the National Library:

Received 1540 titles as legal deposits. In addition 17 titles on Kenya published outside the country were purchased for their inclusion in the Kenya National Bibliography.

Issued 59 ISBN prefixes to publishers.

Served 3,299 researchers using the National Reference Collection.

Provided in-service training to 24 interns from various library-training institutions in Kenya.

### **3.0 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE**

A number of developments have emerged during the year 2001 – 2002 that has affected the performance. These include:

#### **The Carnegie Funding**

The Kenya National Library Service has received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The grant is intended to revitalize the Kenya National Library Service operations. The library will benefit from funding in the following areas:

#### **Acquisition of ICT Equipment**

Under this the National Library will be automated to enhance the production of Kenya National Bibliography (KNB), Kenya Periodical Directory (KPD), create databases for publishers and also assist in the issuance of ISBN numbers.

#### **Staff Training**

Part of this funding will go towards training National Library staff in various operations will enhance staff performance in discharging their duties.

#### **Books and Newspapers Act Cap III**

Recently the Government of Kenya passed a Media Bill that amended the Books and Newspaper Act cap III. Some of the amendments that are likely to affect the operations of National Library service include;

Introduction of Kshs 10,000/= fine or a maximum of a years jail or both for publishing without a bond.

Increase from Kshs 10,000/= to Kshs 1 million as bond required of publishers by the registrar.

These two amendments are likely to deter many publishers especially the young up coming publishing firms from publishing, as the penalties are too stringent. This will definitely result into a reduction in the annual Kenya Publication.

#### **KNLS New Role as Indicated in the National Development Plan 2002-2008**

The Government places high priority on developing a National Information System that is interlinked with the largest worldwide service providers of information infrastructure.

To achieve this goal, the Kenya National Library Service has been mandated by the Government to automate its services in the following areas;

Processing of information resources and electronic catalogue.

High quality and constantly accessible databases containing full text information.

Central purchase and distribution of international database.

Online national periodical databases system.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

It is encouraging to note that with the Government's recognition of the important role that the library is plays in the year 2003 will witness major efficiency in the performance of the National Library service especially with the incorporation of the ICTs. It is hoped that the National Library will be able to print its next Bibliography on time. The National Library has also planned to compile National Bibliography quarterly, which will eventually be

compiled into an annual National Bibliography. The National Library will continue exchanging publications with other National Libraries worldwide

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