

NAME OF LIBRARY	REPORT NO.	DATE	PERIOD COVERED
Dabaso Community Library	49	01.01.2019	October, November and December

Introduction:

Happy New Year!

At Dabaso Library, we hope your year started well. We hope for even a better year this time, and we are optimistic because in spite of the challenges we faced last year, we still made tremendous efforts to produce good results

AS usual, let us take you through some of the outstanding happenings during this quarter.

ANNOUNCING THE KCSE RESULTS:

In 2018, we had two candidates, a girl and a boy. These candidates were in St. John's and Malindi High respectively.

Surprisingly, we were taken aback by the results of our candidates. Mecry, the girl student had always led Robert during the entire period in secondary school and we were all optimistic because Robert had been to one of the notorious schools in the county. Malindi High has been in the highlights recently for the wrong reasons. The school has been encompassed in a spate of strikes and demos, and it is this time they are beginning to settle.

When the results were out and the ministry of education put them online for public viewing, Robert called the library immediately to share the good news because he had scored a C+, a direct university entry mark. We congratulated him and waited to hear from Mercy, and she too confirmed she had a C plain.

Congratulations to them all because both will join universities later in the year or good colleges in the country.

On the other hand, Lawrence has already started exploring opportunities for the young scholars.

A week later, Robert organized a party and he invited the library staff plus Lawrence to a goat chewing party to celebrate his success. We have never been so honored.

SELECTING THE BURSARY STUDENTS FOR 2019:

Here is a brief report on the selection of the new students;

On the day we did the selections, we were informed prior to the meeting that we had only three slots. These were two girls and one boy. Since the students had started receiving calling letters to join secondary schools countrywide, the girls we had picked had both been called to join Canon Mweri Secondary School while the boy was to due to report to Gede Secondary.

At the meeting, we thought of finding alternate schools as it would be a gamble to take our bursary students to non boarding schools.

We contacted two schools, Ngala Girls' (for the girls) and St. George's (for the boy).

A moment later, the government of Kenya announced a new system of recording students called *NEMIS* (National Education Management Identification System). Under the new formula, the education ministry reasoned it was an organized way of supplying schools with the correct rations of food and funds to run schools because all the data about new secondary school goers was put on a database at *NEMIS*.

It became clear that the students were only supposed to be taken to the only schools appearing on the calling letters and the government termed any attempts at swapping schools a breach of the law.

This sent a panic wave to all parents willing to change schools and we were also dumbfounded because we had been sent to the drawing board with the trio of students at our disposal.

At the library, we made several calls to Ngala and George's but they were just frantic attempts. They too (school principals) were confused saying they were waiting for a further statement from the ministry.

Because the school forms sent to the students were downloaded online from the *NEMIS*, the minister directed anyone trying to swap schools to go online at the nearest ministry offices nationwide.

Putting in mind some parents had already started shopping in readiness for the impending intake, there was a mass outcry, and there was no chance of redeeming time lost. The clock kept ticking.

Cornelius and I spent the first week of the New Year going to Ngala, St. George's and the ministry offices in Malindi until later on when the government made a u-turn on the new directive.

However, the school principals were urged to register the new students they are trying to absorb with *NEMIS*.

The 2019 bursary selection was done on 28.12.2018 at Dabaso library.

The select panel comprised of the following representative;

1. Mrs. Esther Kutto - Dabaso primary school head
2. Lawrence Nzai - Library Chair
3. Fred Kittu - Librarian
4. Cornelius Safari - Librarian assistant
5. Mrs. Esther Iha - Dabaso primary school parents' representative Vice Chair
6. Sammy Baya - Dabaso-Hutton representative

The following candidates had their forms collected for examination;

Girls:

1. Katana Laurine Pendo - 303
2. Kenga Mary Kache - 308
3. Masha Rebecca Kalama - 315
4. Konde Nevia Saumu - 301

5. Bidii Maria Pendo - 310
6. Mramba Stephen Pendo - 324

Boys:

1. Kadenge Festus Nyundo - 324
2. Chengo Ramsi Kombe - 315
3. Kenga Kennedy Nyundo - 304
4. Mwaiha James Baraka - 319
5. Jefa Elisha Charo - 305

Selection criteria:

1. The candidate should have scored at least 300 marks

Sometimes back when the bursary was new, we awarded the bursary to students getting lower than 300 marks. We realized to some extent that some of these students did not do well in secondary school. As a committee, we learned we needed to keep a mark so that the candidate could have a target. Because of this, the students are able to strive and at the end of every year, we have more than 20 students getting 300 and above.

2. The candidates must be needy and bright:

To assure consistency of results while in secondary school, the school records should depict the student as well disciplined. We have discouraged undisciplined students because there was a general rise of school fires in the recent past and this was caused by such elements.

3. No homestead will be awarded two times:

As of now, we are still of the opinion that the Akili bursary is entitled to a fair rotation. That said, any family having benefitted from the bursary may not get another appointment especially when there are enough options to pick from.

4. Repeat and transfer cases:

Many people today know about the existence of the Akili bursary. Some parents have children in other schools. These parents transfer their children from neighboring private schools to do their final exams at Dabaso primary school. Because some of these private schools have excellent foundations, they take advantage of government schools which are mostly overloaded and have difficult conditions. These students get the highest marks but we can not pick them because we opt to pick those that have started studying at Dabaso primary school at a young age.

5. Locality:

Students to be selected MUST be coming from within Dabaso community. The primary idea is to have a cluster of high flying students at the end within the community.

Some students come from different parts of the country. Some live in rental residences and leave to go home once the students have completed their primary levels. This is not the idea because once they disappear, it may be difficult to trace them and also make an assessment when they are in the universities or colleges.

NOTE:

In most cases, we use elimination method while selecting. However, the panel must satisfactorily discuss all pending issues before eliminating the child.

Picking the girls:

As always, picking these students is not an easy task. Firstly, the number of students getting 300 and above marks is big than years back.

During the selection, we were only supposed to select two girls. Here is how it panned out;

Again the girls were

1. Katana Laurine Pendo - 303
2. Kenga Mary Kache - 308
3. Masha Rebecca Kalama - 315
4. Konde Nevia Saumu - 301
5. Bidii Maria Pendo - 310
6. Mramba Stephen Pendo - 324

Why Katana Laurine Pendo (303) was not picked

Discipline wise, Laurine failed to impress even after getting the target mark of 300. The girl was reported by the head teacher as having caused chaos at school on a myriad of occasions. At one of those particular episodes, she was said to have been sent by a female teacher to buy her a commodity from the trading center but she sized her up upon return before shoving the commodity at the teacher. She was sent home and asked to come with her parent.

The panel was of the opinion that her discipline is wanting and it would be a gamble to pick her.

Why Kenga Mary Kache (308) was not picked

Mary is the youngest sister to Khadija Ali Kenga. They share the same parents. Khadija was already sponsored by the Akili Trust and the sitting panel decided to go with a different option.

Why Masha Rebecca Kalama (315) was not picked

According to the school head, Rebecca is another rude girl who also registered to take her exams at Dabaso primary school but comes from a neighboring school.

Why Konde Nevia Saumu (301) was not picked

Nevia ia also a sibling to Harriet Nema Shindo who was once sponsored by the Akili Trust.

Bidii Maria Pendo (310) and Mramba Stephen Pendo (324) were picked. Why?

Both girls are industrious and young. They come from humble families. Maria's jobless father even had two girls who wanted to join secondary school after successful stints at Dabaso Primary school. He could not manage at all and had already grouped the two girls to join a nearby mediocre school before Maria was picked. He can now concentrate on one.

Mramba Stephen Pendo has both parents still alive. The father however has neglected his family and it is Mramba's mother who struggles to do manual jobs to educate the girl's elder brother who is in and out of school. She was totally unable to start off her daughter and when Mramba's results were out, she started parading her daughter to people she believed could help raise funds for her. She was only given empty promises by all those she went to e.g. the area political leaders until she smiled last when her daughter was picking by the Akili.

Still, it took time to sort the other items the girl would start school with, but she finally managed.

Picking the boys:

The Trust only needed one boy from the ones assembled. Here is the selection;

1. Kadenge Festus Nyundo - 324
2. Chengo Ramsi Kombe - 315
3. Kenga Kennedy Nyundo - 304
4. Mwaiha James Baraka - 319
5. Jefa Elisha Charo - 305

Kadenge Festus Nyundo, Kenga Kennedy Nyundo and Mwaiha James Baraka (325), (304) (319)

All these names were omitted because they all came to do the exams after registering with Dabaso primary school. They don't come from the community either.

Why Chengo Ramsi Kombe - (315) was not picked

We discovered that Ramsi had already been picked by another sponsor. Although he had all other outstanding qualifications, we had no reason to pick him.

Jefa Elisha Charo was picked, why?

Elisha emerged as the best candidate overall. He comes from a humble background and his mother has been ailing for about six years now from a strange illness.

He was on and off from school because there was barely no one to sufficiently help him because the guardians left behind are young and some still in school.

His father is old and can not take care of the family.

ARRIVAL OF NEW BOOKS:

Shortly before the New Year's Day, the expected consignment of books arrived at Dabaso Library. The shipment from the UK consisted of books bundled in boxes and labeled. They boxes belonged to Dabaso Library, Kakuyuni Library and Watamu Primary School.

THE ACTUAL REPORT

New registered readers from this quarter from the wider community	37
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The number of readers rose a bit in this quarter. While we were able to maintain the old readers, the new registrants also accompanied some of the current readers to the library to access the revision books and newspapers.

Total number of registered school staff	19
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After the arrival of the new African books, more teachers have had an interest of competing for the new titles. Still some access the revision guides when they have research lessons. Some just view the newspapers and comment on the trending stories, and flip to the sports pages too.

Average number of readers from the school per day	250
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Although this number reflects the number of daily users from the primary school, basically the quarter was all about the candidates. The candidates used all available opportunities to study and do revision in the library during the quarter

Average number of readers from the community/staff/teachers per day	50
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This time, we recorded quite a big number of readers as more teachers and outsiders courtesy of the new books.

The teachers from the lower primary schools have also been borrowing study charts for the young ones.

VISITORS

C o m m u n i t y meetings	4
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Not many meetings took place during the quarter. The women saving group continued to gather weekly but it did not time before they held an end of the year party.

The government through the health ministry sent health officers to Dabaso to administer vaccination to children under 5. It took place right outside the library.

Committee meetings	3
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The new library chair was able to organize a few unofficial meetings.

He once talked to the bursary students including a one-to-one with them.

He was able to also sit with the librarians to update one another of pending issues discussed in previous meetings.

BOOKS

Books for school work:

The revision guides again recorded the highest usage. The upper primary students kept on flocking in large numbers for their group discussions even on Saturday, as they were busy preparing themselves for their last examinations.

The new African books were very useful during this time as most of the students were reading more than one book in a week to sharpen themselves for their essay and composition writing in their examination

As the schools closed early for their long December holiday, most of the students from various schools who were on holidays joined also to benefit from the available collection of the revision guides and the new African books.

INTERACTION WITH READERS

Activities:

During the quarter;

- As this was the final term the numbers of students studying in groups. The other school was closing earlier to allow the candidates do the exams, so the study atmosphere was like a wholesome idea for the whole school.
- The librarians were mostly involved In the formation and managing of these study groups.
- We worked hand in hand with some of the teachers in managing all of these.

- We also managed to organize a successful academic clinic for our bursary students in the month of December present with their parents in a way to monitor their academic progress and improve their performance

FINAL WORDS

After completing the busy year (2018), we had plenty of work to do especially trying to catch up on various issues that arose during the trustees' visit in June last year.

In 2019, we are planning to start work immediately. We think we have all it takes to achieve a bigger perspective.

Happy New year to you all!

Dabaso library!