



REPORT OF THE WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY CELEBRATIONS 2017

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**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UGANDA
MAY 2017**



Uganda National Commission for UNESCO

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P. O. Box 4262,
Kampala,
Uganda**

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1.0 Background to the event

The National Library of Uganda (NLU) annually joins the rest of the World in celebrating the UNESCO declared World Book and Copyright Day, 23rd April. UNESCO declared the day in order to celebrate books and their authors and the value that they bring to humankind.

In 2017, NLU with financial support from Uganda National Commission for UNESCO organized a series of activities on 27th and 28th April, 2017 to celebrate this important day. The theme of this year's celebrations was "*Promoting literacy through inclusive publishing.*" This theme was specifically selected to appreciate inclusive writers and also promote inclusive publishing. Being inclusive ensures publishing for people of all age groups, sex and gender, including people with disabilities.

2.0 The Activities:

The following activities were carried out in 2017;

2.1 NLU Exhibition

The exhibition took place on 27th and 28th April 2017 along Buganda Road, outside the National Library building. This was targeted at awareness creation on the library operation, activities and resources offered by The National Library of Uganda and also a means to take the book services nearer to the users. A total of 151 users 30% females and 70% males visited the exhibition. The exhibition stand had current and old newspapers, secondary school books on different subjects, dictionaries in different languages (Ateso, Runyakitara, Luganda, Lusoga, Lukonzo etc), fiction books, self-help books, inspirational books, the National Bibliographies and government publications such as; (reports from different ministries). Those who visited the exhibition appreciated the work and the services that the NLU offers to the public and suggested a need for more public awareness (using radios, TVs and Newspapers, Social Media etc). They therefore, urged NLU to at least exhibit biennially and this was noted. It was also noted that the public was not aware of the diverse services that are being offered by the NLU as they were so curious to learn more about NLU. Statistically, it was noted that, compared to the previous exhibition, the number of people who were attracted to the exhibition was greater than ever at 40% increase. It was also realized that many people were interested in some of the old information sources such as *the Uganda Herald Newspaper* and "*Uganda building of the nation*" by Vision Group was of utmost interest to the public.

The public also had the desire to purchase books from the exhibition but they were sensitized that NLU does not sell to the public but rather is a depository center that only preserves the legal deposits and thus whoever wished to purchase was advised to visit the book shops.



Figure 1: some of the information resources that were exhibited



Figure 2: Roadside readers checking through some of the information materials

2.2 Book Giveaway

Each year, NLU donates free books to its users as part of celebrations of the World Book & Copyright day. These books are usually selected from a donation of books by Book Aid International to the National Library of Uganda in support of promoting the reading culture in Uganda. Subject areas selected for the giveaway included; children's books, novels to all library users as a way of appreciating their continued support to the library. Each user was given a chance to choose a book of her/his choice.



Figure 3: One of the users signing after picking a book

2.3 A Public Author Reading

A public Author Reading is a ceremony where by selected authors are invited to read from their writings to an audience and also be able to obtain feedback from the audience about their work. Annually, several authors are shortlisted and contacted to read their books to an audience and be able to get feedback pertaining their writing and also discuss be able to discuss publishing in general. The public author reading session was very engaging and the matters arising from the discussions were as follows;

-) The audience thanked NLU for annually giving chance to authors to meet and interact. This was seen as a way of motivating authorship and promoting reading culture in Uganda.
-) The audience was also informed that anyone can publish a book for as long as one has an agenda which motivates creation of a story. Thus, a teenager can create an adult story and likewise an adult can create a children's story.
-) However there was also a concern of the low reading culture and poverty of Ugandans which was a cause for low sales and thus, there was a need to address such issues.



Figure 4: Over 60 people attended the Public Author Reading 2017 at NLU reading room

2.3. 1 Authors who read from their works

The 2017 session had a total of five authors who participated in the public reading. The following authors read from their works;



2.3.1.1 Simpson Muhwezi

Simpson is a creative writer and children’s book author. His writings have been shortlisted in a number of functions like the 2016 folktale contest. His works have also appeared in a number of anthologies and he is the founder of “reading just for fun book project”. He also conducts monthly reading workshops in schools. He read “Flying without wings”

2.3.1.2 Gerald Ninsiima

Gerald is an Author who has written an enticing book on the “Perfect Gentleman.” He shared his encouraging principals for perfect gentlemen in societies today.

2.3.1.3 Mildred Kamau

Mildred is an author who has written a true story of her experiences of child abuse in Uganda. She shared her story book titled “Bullet in the Brain” based on a true story.

2.3.1.4 Author from Mixa kids Uganda

Mixakids kids is an innovative digital platform for electronic books and other content authored by children and for children. Mixakids Uganda first participated in the NLU author reading session in 2016. During that time, they delivered a lecture on the theme “Digital publishing: more books, more users”. Mixakids company has a website for online publishing of children’s books: By children and for children. One of the children who had written under Mixakids read a children’s story that had been published online.

2.3.1.5 Drake Sekeba (Guest Author)

Drake Sekeba Is a veteran journalist and author. He is popularly known for his investigative program which used to feature on WBS TV called “Vumbula”. He shared his experience in publishing, and also read from some of his documentations.

2.3.1.5.1 Drake Sekeba's experience

The Guest author, Drake Sekeba indicated that he was privileged to share his experience in the publishing industry. In his opening remarks, he noted that his vision for writing was dated back to 1977 when he hatched the idea and the vision to write. . Thereafter, he began researching and published his first book “Media bullets in Uganda” in 2016. He confessed that in his publishing journey, he noted a number of challenges that hindered the process among which included;

-) Low purchasing power in the market
-) Book sellers reluctant to extend royalties to the authors among others.
-) Unwillingness by publishing houses to sponsor author's printing expenses.

The Guest author went ahead and advised fellow authors and prospective writers on how to be successful writers basing on his experience;

-) In order for one to write, he/she must have a topic in mind in which he/she wishes to write about.
-) Think about the audience; whom you are writing to
-) Time frame: Know when to complete writing
-) Find a trust worthy editor who can not plagiarise your book
-) In case it's a factual book, think about the challenges and do a lot of research.
-) Do not decide the number of pages. It is automatic and will be determined by the quantity of information that you gather.
-) Be willing to distribute some free copies.

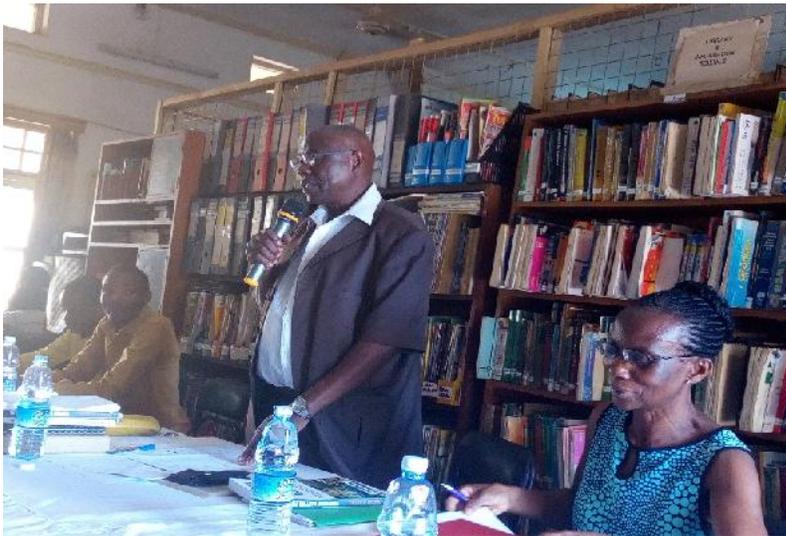


Figure 5: Guest Author)

2.4 NLU Author Award

Section 19 (i) of the National Library Act, 2003 states that “Every publisher of a book or document in Uganda shall at his or her own cost deposit three copies of the book or document or one copy of the video-gram or film and ten copies in the case of any government publication with the National Library.” Therefore copies of these publications are preserved and availed to the public for use.

This year, NLU recognized and rewarded the author whose book had been checked out most in the entire collection. Circulation statistics report was generated and the top ten authors shortlisted (See Appendix II). From these top ten authors, the Late Tayebwa B. Mugisha emerged as the author of the year 2017. This was basing on the fact that out of over 225 titles checked out in 2016, his title "Basics Economics" had been check out for a total of 16 times. He therefore won himself a trophy.



Figure 6: Director, National Library of Uganda handing over the trophy to the son of the late Tayebwa B. Mugisha

3.0 Conclusion

Indeed the World Book and Copyright Day celebrations have annually been acknowledged by stakeholders in the publishing industry and more so is a day when creative writers feel appreciated and recognized for their input in society. Special thanks to UNESCO, for the financial support in organizing the 2017 celebrations and to NLU for the initiative to have this special day in its annual calendar. Gratitude also goes to the public for turning up for the events and we urge everyone to keep writing.

**Appendix III: List of participants for the Public Author Reading
Public Author Reading and NLU Author Award Ceremony
28th April 2015 at the National Library Premises.
1:30pm-5:00pm
Attendance Sheet**

NO.	NAME	ORGANISATION
1.	Yolamu Nsamba	
2.	Mukasa Edward	
3.	Baker Mukasa	
4.	Byaruhanga Robert	UPDF/SFC
5.	Master Musiukira Paul	
6.	Mawanda Ivan	AMC
7.	Grace Zaake Waswwa	ACSI
8.	Joseph E Tomusange	Watoto
9.	DRE	
10.	Muhwezi Simpson	
11.	Dhikusooka Fred	
12.	Kabuuka Frank	Starchat
13.	Kannata Abdul	KPEC Kammatta Partners Education Consult
14.	Samuel C Odokogo	
15.	Mildred Kamau	Mildred Kamau Foundation
16.	Sowedi Kijere	
17.	Geofrey Ameny Olila	
18.	Isingoma Mathew	
19.	Nyombi Daniel	Focup media
20.	Kizza Eddie	Blessed reading tent Uganda
21.	Ninsiima Gerald	Piveuma word
22.	Malinga Gerald	MUK student
23.	Kasato Noah	Okozewoki(U)LTD
24.	Mpuuga Annette	TOCA
25.	Nasser W. Kakumba	Pan African Publication
26.	MusanaJafazi	CEHO-INT'L Uganda
27.	Kesuubipatricia	
28.	Mugabi Martin	UFCA FUFA

29.	Christopher Kikomeko	LamekaNtambi foundation
30.	Victor .T Kasene	CAN Uganda
31.	Asia W.P	Kabojja International School
32.	Tumusiime Solomon	
33.	Michkel Richard Katagaya	
34.	OyeruRobina	
35.	Victoria Nampala	New Vision
36.	Godfrey Kikonyogo	
37.	Monica Arinaitwe	
38.	Sabomwa Peter	Lords ffrong
39.	NyaraKakoma	Soo Many Stories
40.	Bonita Murungi	
41.	Joel Muhanguzi	
42.	Robby Muhumuza	Management and Communications Consult
43.	Opio John Felix	KIU
44.	Agodo Timothy	
45.	CollineTuhimbise	MUK
46.	NajjumaAminah	Buganda Road Primary School
47.	Ronald Mwije	Uganda Children Writers and Illustrators Association
48.	Simon Mukasa	Global Perfection Ministries
49.	Muduku Robert	Ug50.and Allied health Organization
50.	George Wilson Bateganya	The customer publications
51.	NamatovuGganyana Rebecca	Uganda National Farmers Federation
52.	Francis X.G. Luyera	Easy to Grasp and Apply Solutions
53.	Jacquiline Nakodi	New Vision
54.	Zawedde Agnes	NkumbaUniversiity
55.	David Edward, LincolnOpio	
56.	Lukyamuzi K David	Friends of Children in Rural area.(FOCIRA)
57.	Lillian Ssengoba	SOS CV Uganda
58.	Ronald Ssentumwa	SOS CU Uganda
59.	Busulwa Lule Frank	NTC
60.	Hawumba Eric Nelson	YMCA consult institute

PHOTO GALLERY



Road users at the exhibition



Guests at the public author reading



Guests at the public author reading

About National Library of Uganda

The National Library of Uganda was established by the National Library Act, 2003. This Act repealed the Public Libraries Act, 1964 which had established the Public Libraries Board. The Board had been charged with the responsibility of establishing, equipping, managing and maintaining libraries in Uganda. Following the enactment of the Local Governments Act, 1997, this responsibility was decentralized to the local governments. The Public Libraries Board and later the National Library of Uganda retained the responsibility of laying down national policies in regard to these libraries, giving advice, issuing standards, norms, guidelines and work manuals, providing technical and professional advisory services and coordinating and carrying out advocacy for these libraries at local and international levels.

With the enactment of the National Library Act, 2003, the NLU became the National Bibliographic Control Agency responsible for ensuring legal deposit of materials by publishers, publishing the National Bibliography of Uganda, allocating the International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSN) and establishing and managing a National Collection of Uganda.

Mission

To collect, preserve and disseminate Uganda's documented intellectual and cultural heritage, provide professional leadership in library and information delivery and promote a reading culture.

