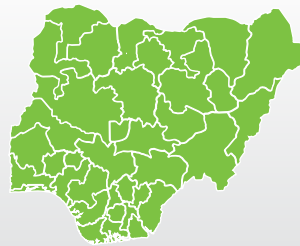




Readership Advocacy

A publication of National Library of Nigeria
2019 READERSHIP PROMOTION CAMPAIGN



**REPORT FROM
STATES**



THEME

Reading: A Tool For
Empowering The
Vulnerable



OUR MISSION

To acquire, process, organise, disseminate as well as provide links to information resources to all Nigerians for their educational pursuit and informed decision making.

OUR VISION

To ensure the building of an informed and enlightened citizenry through the provision of information resources that are readily available and easily accessible.

EDITORIAL REMARKS



One of the mandates of the National Library of Nigeria is to promote the decline reading culture amongst Nigerians, this is the trend that has been established right from time, until when the current National Librarian Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina resumed duty on 1st August, 2016 He discovered that the activities was not properly handled, in which it used to be organised only in one or two States of the Federation annually. He quickly changed the narrative, he said National Library of Nigeria's mandate was to serve all Nigerians, so Readership Promotion Campaign should go to all the Thirty Six States of the Federation, including the Federal Capital Territory FCT Abuja annually.

Professor Aina used the virtues of his Office and organized the readership promotion campaign in all the Twenty Three State Branches of the Apex library of the nation with the theme **'Working Together to Build a Virile Reading Nation: Challenges and Strategies'** which were the number of State Branches at that moment 2017.

The subsequent year 2018, National Library of Nigeria was able to organise reading campaign to Thirty Six States of the Federation, including FCT Abuja with the theme **'Sustaining Lifelong Reading for Positive Change'** This campaign went to the Pregnant Mothers in one Hospital each of the thirty six States and FCT Abuja, including Passengers and Officers from the Federal Road Safety Commission {FRSC} in one Motor Park each across the Country. It became so touching that many pregnant Mothers lamented their level of education which were not so encouraging and promised to improve themselves academically, same thing with many passengers at motor parks who testified the campaign as very encouraging and educative.

In 2019 the campaign train went to the Nigeria's Correctional Service Centres where it touched one Centre in all the Thirty Six States and the FCT with the theme **'Reading, a Tool for Empowering the Vulnerable'** it was also at the Traditional Rulers' premises in one local government Area of every State. Inmates were happy for the development so also all Traditional Rulers who commended the campaign and expressed optimism that education was eventually coming to limelight.

During the campaign, the National Librarian had promised to donate more books to all the Correctional Service Centres visited, this promise was fulfilled on Monday 23rd November, 2020 where he was accompanied by his Management team to the Headquarters of the Nigerian Correctional Service Centre at Airport Road to make the donation of Books worth N50, 000 each to all the Centres visited.

Correspondents



Musa Saleh



Obiageli Dennis



Christy Nchetuya



Board Members

National Library of Nigeria



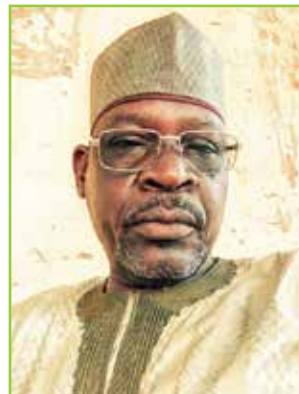
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WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PROFESSOR LENRIE O. AINA AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA'S NATIONAL READERSHIP PROMOTION CAMPAIGN IN CROSS RIVER STATE WITH THE THEME 'READING: A TOOL FOR EMPOWERING THE VULNERABLE', OCTOBER 22-23, 2019

Protocol

I am delighted to be in your midst for the purpose of the National Library of Nigeria's 2019 National Readership Promotion Campaign in Cross River State with the theme 'Reading: a tool for empowering the vulnerable'. This is the first of a series of six (6) simultaneously planned campaigns on weekly basis that would take place in the thirty-six (36) states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The campaign will run for two days in your state as well as in Osun, Imo, Enugu, Edo, and Lagos States respectively, from October 22nd - 23rd, 2019. The campaign will equally commence tomorrow in Ekiti, Bauchi, Kwara, Gombe, and Katsina for another two days. I therefore, welcome you all to this august event.

The main objective of this national campaign is to encourage reading amongst Nigerians by ways of carrying out sensitization activities and the provision of good reading materials. It is a collective effort with other stakeholders in order to proffer solutions that would ameliorate the poor reading culture in Nigeria. Over the years, this campaign was carried out with a focus on the children and youths in primary and secondary schools with the purpose of sensitizing, informing, and educating them on reading culture. However, the poor reading culture is a social phenomenon that cuts across all the social strata of the Nigerian society. Therefore, by way of strategies, the 2018 campaign, that was extended to the early part of this year, covered hospitals and motor parks across the nation with a focus on pregnant women, drivers and passengers. To keep the tempo going, the 2019 readership promotion campaign, in line with the present administrations' policy of reaching out to the vulnerable and the poor, is covering semi-urban communities and Nigerian correctional service centres across the country.

The semi-urban communities and Nigerian correctional service centres are amongst sub-sectors considered to be in the category of the vulnerable in our society. Vulnerability in this context is defined as the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard. The concept is relative and dynamic. Vulnerability is most often associated with poverty, but it can also arise when people are isolated, in secured and defenceless in the face of risk, shock or stress.

The people in semi-urban communities and the inmates in correctional centres fit into the above definition because, in addition to other disadvantages, they lack

adequate information materials which are required to acquire knowledge for personal development. On the other hand, the semi-urban populace suffers from acute low productivity, social and economic retrogression due to ignorance as a result of either inadequate or total absence of information dissemination. Similarly, prison inmates are incarcerated and deprived of access to learning and information resources. According to Lehmann and Locke (2005) as well as Campbell (2006), in most countries around the world, the majority of individuals who make up the prison and jail population have limited education, poor reading and life skills and do not come from a background where reading was a frequent or popular pursuit. The circumstances of these subsectors in our society do not stop them from being inquisitive to seek for information. They both need to know about health, finances, economy, government policies, current affair, politics etc in order to survive in the society. Hence, the need for this approach of the campaign: to encourage reading in all the strata of our country. As a result, the campaign is planned to sensitized the target groups to imbibe the culture of reading. They are to be supported with books which are carefully selected to meet their information needs: inhabitants of the communities and the inmates at the correctional centres. We are being careful to ensure that the correctional centres' policy of not allowing restricted books to the centres is not abused.

Let me at this juncture further mention that, with the provision of reading opportunities in our semi-urban areas and correctional centres, they can make good use of their time reading books to acquire knowledge instead of wasting their precious time with idle talks or discussions. With reading as a tool, the individuals in the semi-urban areas can be empowered with the knowledge and information from information resources to effectively carry out economic, social and political activities. Similarly the individuals in our correctional centres can acquire knowledge and be informed to be transformed and become good citizens.

Dear participants, taking into cognisance the poor reading culture in Nigeria as a dangerous challenge to individual and national development which must be addressed, let me conclude this address by urging us to keenly participate in all the activities and programmes lined up for this event.

Once again, you are all welcome to this event.

Thank you.

NLN donates Volumes of Books to Nigerian Correctional Service

The National Library of Nigeria had fulfilled its promised made last year 2019 during the annual Reading Promotion Campaign that took place at the Nigerian Correctional Service Centre across the Country. It could be recalled that the National Librarian/CEO Professor Lenrie Aina made such promise to donate more books to the Custodial Centres.

This promise was fulfilled on Monday 18th November, 2020 at the Headquarters of the Centre along Airport Road FCT Abuja.

The National Librarian in his speech had explained to the Officers of the Correctional Centres that the mandate of the National Library of Nigeria was to promote reading amongst Nigerians, he added 'in the last four years we are active, because there is what is called 'World Culture Statistics' that tries to measure hands of reading Worldwide and in that statistics only two African Countries were listed, they were South Africa and Egypt, Nigeria was not among'

He continued 'as a matter of fact Nigeria was listed amongst the lowest reading nation in the World' he said that was what made the National Library of Nigeria to embark on the readership promotion campaign nationwide to ensure that Nigerians emulate the habit of reading for national development.

He added that the campaign started with the Primary and Secondary School, then expanded to the Pregnant and Nursing Mothers to the Motor Parks and now to the Vulnerable.

He noted that the campaign train was at One Correctional and Custodial Centres in each State of the Federation and the FCT Abuja, where the organization promised to

donate more Books to the Centres to improve reading culture of the Inmates and their Officers.

all the Correctional and Custodial Centres the Organization visited across the Country.

Professor Aina made the donation of Books worth N50, 000 each to

In his response, the Comptroller General of the Nigerian



The national Librarian, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina left with Comptroller General Nigerian Correctinal Service Mr. Jafaru Ahmed at the Headquarters of the Centre during the books donations by the National Library to the Inmates nationwide. On 18th November, 2020



The Management team of the National Library of Nigeria along with Officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service during the books donation by the National Library to the Inmates on 18th November, 2020

Correctional Service Mr. Jafaru Ahmed commended the effort of the National Library of Nigeria in its efforts to support the service to provide education to the Inmate and make them better individuals and be reintegrated back to the society.

He said that in fact 'if you recalled on 31st July, 2019 the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari has accented to the bill by the National Assembly which reformed the Nigerian Prison Service to the Nigerian Correctional Service, and in it two services were created, the custodial services and the non-custodial services. He added that the custodial service is the

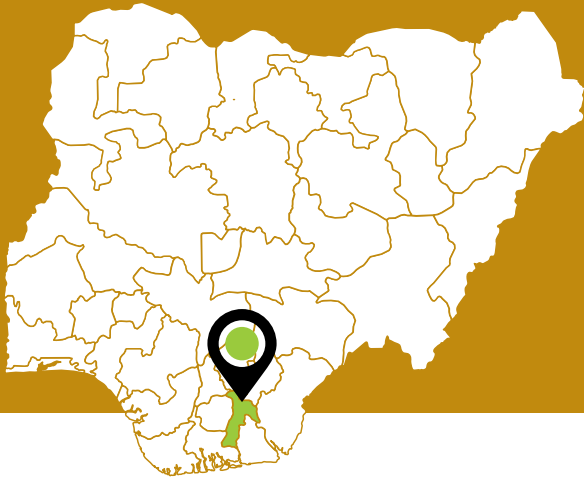
continuation of the normal duties performed by the Nigerian Prison Service, while the non- custodial service is the one we hear from our other client elsewhere which has not been established hear in Nigeria and they are Probation, Parole, community service and disruptive justice.

The Comptroller added that there was nothing mentioned about information, rehabilitation and reintegration of Inmates into the Society before. This Law has actually been subjective on the function of the Nigerian Correctional Service and they were clearly defined to include information, rehabilitation and reintegration of the Inmates

to the Society as the main reason for the creation of the Service.

He said that they took it from there in which education was part of this strategy. He noted that education has now been made as one of the statutory function of the Nigerian Correctional Service.

He revealed that the effort of the National Library of Nigeria in this direction was highly appreciated and commended, he promised that the Nigerian Correctional Service would continue to partner with National Library of Nigeria to improve education in the Country.



Establish Libraries in all Correctional Centres Nationwide

-Abia Comptroller appeals

ABIA - The Comptroller, National Correctional Service, Abia State Command, Mr. Julius Ezeugwu has appealed to the National Library of Nigeria to quickly establish standard libraries at the correctional centres across the nation to strengthen the system for optimal performance.

Ezeugwu made the appeal at the annual Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the Abia branch of the National Library of Nigeria held at the Afaraukwu Correctional Facility, Umuahia. He pointed out that the command had made several attempts to engage the government to establish libraries in all the correctional facilities across the nation to no avail.

The Comptroller noted that the campaign was an opportunity for the Centre to tender their request for the establishment of a library, adding that even though they have libraries in name, the reality is that the facilities need more books and computers with internet facilities in order to give inmates opportunity to improve themselves efficiently.

Mr Ezeugwu reiterated that having a standard library at the Correctional Centres would be an agent for rehabilitation and would have tremendous positive effect on the lives of people in the legal custody.

Mr. Ezeugwu also emphasised that since correctional centres have many programmes for rehabilitation, provision of satisfactory library services would change the lives and behavioural patterns of inmates. He also said reading was considered as part of the cure for the inmates and literature was even more of a central role in supporting the rehabilitation of inmates.

In his address, the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie

Olatokunbo Aina stated that the theme of the campaign was 'reading as a tool for empowering the vulnerable' stressing that the campaign was the fourth in the series of six simultaneously planned weekly activities in the thirty six state branches and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

Professor Aina added that the organization has donated food stuff and reading materials to all the visited correctional facilities during the events and is in the process of making more donations in the forthcoming events. He noted that empowering inmates through the provision of necessary skills and knowledge would help reduce their numbers because any inmate that completed his/or her stay at the correctional facility would not comeback but definitely create a good status for him/herself.

He advised other stakeholders to come on board and join the campaign train to promote library services in the nation. According to the National Librarian, for any nation to prosper, education must be given a priority to achieve development, he added that even farmers need to embrace mechanisation for more bountiful yield. Earlier in her welcome address, the head of Abia branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Mrs Christy Ezulike emphasised that the decline of reading culture amongst Nigerians prompted this national campaign in order to sensitize the general public on the importance of inculcating the reading culture.



She noted that it is worrisome that the social media have done more harm than good in the lives of Nigerians. She expressed concern that instead of acquiring knowledge, people have engaged more in the use of smart phones to browse funny pictures and movies while abandoning the beauty of their lives which is acquisition of knowledge to develop the nation.

Mrs Ezulike therefore charged all inmates to embrace the reading culture in order to improve themselves and help to develop the nation. She said targeting the vulnerable at this period of neglect was the best idea provided by the National Librarian, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina towards changing the narrative of readership promotion campaign by the National Library of Nigeria. She commended the National Librarian for transforming the activities of the organization to capture the whole nation including the vulnerable.

In the same vein, the day two of the campaign took place at the Amauzu Ubakala Community, Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State where the Royal Highness Uzu II of Amuzu, Eze Chukwuemeka Iruke and

his Council Chiefs and other stakeholders participated in the campaign with keen interest.

Represented by the traditional Prime Minister of the community, Mr Geoffrey Amaechi, the royal father expressed gratitude to the National Library of Nigeria for recognizing them with the very important message. He also thanked members of the community for coming out to witness the readership campaign.

He described a library as a poor man's university. He cited example with himself that reading turned his life positively amongst his peers, he advised people in his community to hold on books very tight.

The Chairman of the occasion Elder Rex Obioha in his goodwill message expressed appreciation to the national Library of Nigeria for the gesture and commitment. He frowned at the declining rate of reading in this twenty first century children where the smart phones has taken them over, emphasising that they truly needed the push to remember the importance of books



From Left, National Librarian, Professor Lenrie O. Aina and the Comptroller Correctional Service Abia State Command during the RPC campaign in the State



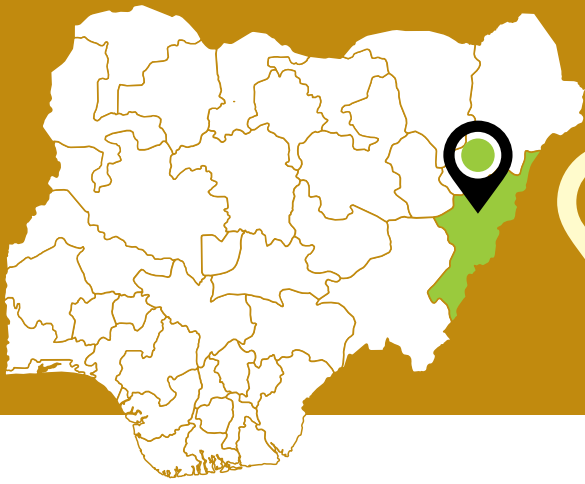
The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie O. Aina with the Abia State HOB, Mrs. Christy Ezulike.



Cross section of participants at the National Library of Nigeria's RPC Campaign 2019 in Abia



Staff of Abia State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria at 2019 RPC Campaign



NLN Sets up Mini Library in Yola Correctional Centre

ADAMAWA: The National Library of Nigeria in pursuit of its vision of building an informed and enlightened citizenry through the provision of information resources that are readily available and easily accessible has set up a mini library for the inmates of Adamawa state Correctional Centre, Yola. This was part of activities of its Annual Readership Promotion Campaign with the theme: “Reading: A Tool for Empowering the Vulnerable”.

Speaking at the event, the representative of the National Librarian, Mr. Abubakar Hussein Hammagda, the Head of Bauchi State branch, charged the inmates to imbibe the culture of learning and reading during their stay in the custodial centre and make judicious use of the books presented to them by National Library of Nigeria.

The Comptroller of the centre, Mr. Audu Umar while appreciating the National Library of Nigeria for identifying with the centre, stated that such gestures will go a long way in reforming the lives of the inmates.

In a related development, Wayam community in Numan local government area of the state also benefitted from the Readership Promotion Campaign programme as National Library of Nigeria also donated gifts of books and shelf to the community.

In his remark, the Adamawa State Governor, represented by Mrs. Heidi E. Sunday, a Director in the Ministry of Education urged participants to read more and more stating that it is the only way to empower the vulnerable. In the same vein, the keynote speaker, Dr. Agoso Bamaiyi bemoaned the depreciating standard of reading and the vulnerability of those who do not read but chose to remain uninformed. He encouraged all to embrace reading as the only remedy for empowerment economically, socially and otherwise.

In a goodwill message, the Royal Father of the community represented by Chief Philemon Godi challenged all the participants to re-embrace the culture of reading stating that it is the only means of sustainability and development.



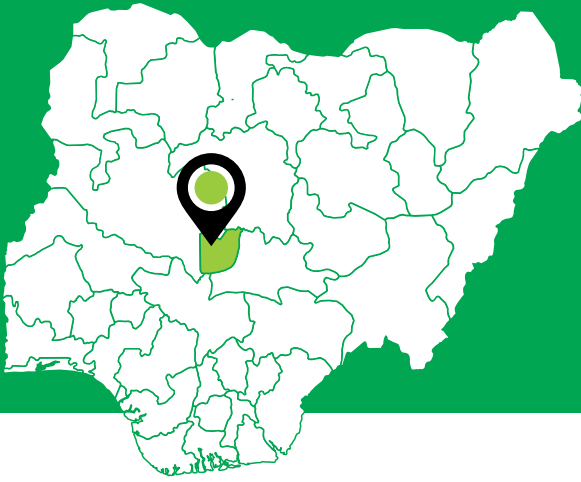
Books and Shelf presentation at the Yola Correctional Centre during RPC held at the Centre



Mr. Alfred Susommen HOB, Adamawa 4th from right and others at Numan Wayan Community where the 2019 RPC was held



Adamawa HOB 2nd right with the Secretary to the Humun Bachama of Numan Wayan Community in Adamawa State with other community members.



ABUJA

Centre of Unity

Prof. Aina Pledges Books to Correctional Centres

ABUJA: The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina has promised to donate volumes of books worth Fifty Thousand Naira (N50, 000) each to Correctional and Custodial Centres across the country to strengthen the centres to contribute in the development of the nation.

He made the call at the annual Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the FCT branch of the National Library of Nigeria held at Kuje Medium Correctional and Custodial Centre, Abuja where he acknowledged the contribution that would be gotten from the correctional centres if rehabilitated.

Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina said inmates have a big role to play in the development of the nation that should not be neglected, emphasizing that when engaged while at the centre with various trainings and capacity building workshops, they would have no option than to re-position themselves to contribute positively to the growth of the nation.

The National Librarian disclosed that when you give education to a person you have given him life, maintaining that education sharpens the mind of an individual and makes him think reasonably in whatever decision making.

He said that 'do you think attending school and doing projects for your college is a waste of time? If you do, you might want to reconsider that claim as education is a key part of a society's growth and progress'. He further noted that when people are educated they could significantly contribute to their families and society in various aspects and fields, adding that they would create a stable and stimulating community.

Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina noted that the

inmates could create more employment opportunities and secure a higher income for themselves and their country if they develop problem-solving skills, stressing that it was only education that teaches people how to obtain and develop critical and logical thinking and make independent decisions. The National Librarian added that when children became adults, they would be faced with a lot of challenges but if educated they should be able to make very sound decisions.

The National Librarian who was represented by the Head of FCT Branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Haj. Rakiya Shehu said not only that inmates would be able to have their own opinions but that they would also be good at finding solid and reliable arguments and evidence to back up and confirm their decisions. He added that on the area of economy people with good academic and educational backgrounds tend to get well-paid jobs. He maintained that the higher their educational level and accomplishments the better employment options. Aina explained that people who grew up poor but have good education stand better chance of transforming themselves and contributing to decrease the poverty level of their communities, stressing that education helps countries grow economically.

Responding, the Deputy Comptroller, Correctional and Custodial Centre, Kuje FCT, Abuja Mr. I. E. Onoja applauded the huge contributions by the National Library of Nigeria, saying that it was the first time government came to the correctional centre in the



ABUJA

name of carrying the inmates along with developmental initiatives to foster the growth of the centre. He added that National Library of Nigeria came to rescue inmates from deterioration because this gesture would give them hope and optimism which would never be thrown away.

Mr Onoja also expressed the appreciation on behalf of the entire inmates and officers of the centre to the National Library of Nigeria for the beautiful recognition and concern. The Comptroller promised to ensure adherence to this messages of the campaign. In her contribution, the head FCT branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Haj. Rakiya Shehu encouraged all inmates to imbibe reading habit and become better citizens in future. Hajiya Rakiya Shehu said that FCT branch of the National Library of Nigeria was located opposite Area 2 shopping mall, Moshood Abiola Street, Garki Abuja and that the services were free of charge.

The event also featured drama presentation, quiz competition and pep talks all by the inmates, as well as donation of food and reading materials to the correctional centre.

The second day of the campaign in the Federal Capital Territory took place at the Conference Centre of Kuje Area Council Secretariat where teachers, parents and students of the local Area attended the campaign including the private school teachers and other stakeholders



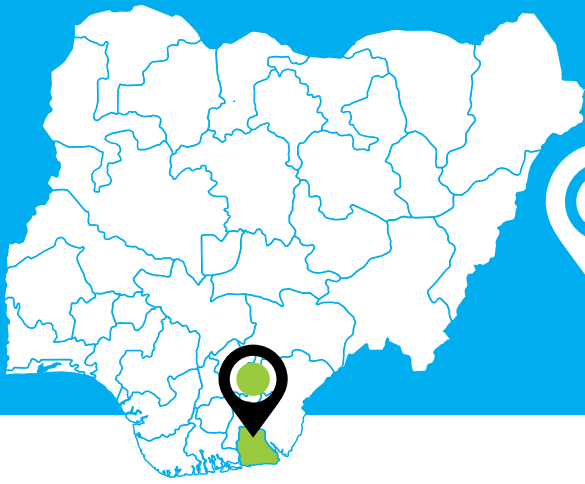
From Left, Jummai Bulus, Mr Ojo Samuel, FCT Comptroller Correctional Centre Mr. I. E. Onojah, Christy Zebere and Mr. Ahmed Jegede during the FCT RPC at Kuje 2019



Mr. Prince Ajani, Mr. Ahmed O. Jegede and Mrs Christy Zebere during the FCT 2019 RPC at Kuje Community



FCT Branch of the National Library of Nigeria during the 2019 RPC at Kuje Correctional Centre



AKWA IBOM

Land of Promise

House Committee Chairman on education Applauds NLN

AKWA IBOM: The Chairman, House Committee on Education, Youths and Sports, Pastor David Akwa has expressed his delight to have the Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library of Nigeria in his community during his tenure. He applauded the National Library of Nigeria for its efforts and encouraged students all over the country to go back to the library and build up themselves through reading.

Mr. Nkereuwem Etok who represented the National Librarian/CEO informed the people that the programme was mapped out specifically to reach the vulnerable in the society who still need information to know about health, finances, economy, government policies, current affairs, politics etc. in order to survive in the society.

The Vice Chairman of Asutan Local Government Area, Hon. Ubong Jonah while speaking at the occasion stated that the things we read have a great impact on our lives and attitudes. According to him, 'the books presented by the National Library of Nigeria will in one way or the other change the mentality of so many people'. He further stated that the books will save many people from depression and suicide, saying that many commit suicide because of depression. But reading good books can actually change the way one thinks and reasons.

The Readership Promotion Campaign was equally extended to the Ibesikpo community in Asutan local government area of Akwa-Ibom State where the community dwellers were sensitized on the need to embrace reading.

While in Akwa Ibom state, the Readership Promotion Campaign was also extended to the inmates of Uyo Correctional Centre with the theme "Reading: a Tool for Empowering the Vulnerable".

Speaking at the event, the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina who was represented by the Head of Cross River State branch, Mr. Nkereuwem Etok

stated that the main objective of this national campaign is to encourage reading among Nigerians by ways of carrying out sensitization activities and provision of good reading materials. According to him, "it is a collective effort with other stakeholders in order to proffer solutions that would ameliorate the poor reading culture in Nigeria".

Prof. Aina further stated that semi-urban communities and custodial centres are among sub-sectors considered to be in the category of the vulnerable in our society. And with provision of reading opportunities in these

areas, they can make good use of their time reading books to acquire knowledge instead of wasting their precious time in idle talks or discussions.



Mr. Nkereuwem Etok HOB, Cross River State presenting the National Librarian's address to Ibesikpo Community of Asutan LGA, Akwa Ibom State

AKWA IBOM

Receiving the team, the Deputy Comptroller, Correctional Centre, Uyo, Mr. Jaiyeoba Babafemi informed that good things are coming their ways since after the change of name from prisons to correctional centres. He applauded the National Library of Nigeria for the gesture and for considering the centre for such national event to sensitize inmates on reading culture. Also the Principal of the custodial centre, Assistant

Superintendent of Correctional, Esther Ukoh said the centre started with nothing and National Library of Nigeria has come to assist them with books and other items which will go a long way in improving the inmates academically. Drama and pep talks were presented by the inmates who were delighted to have such programme brought to them in their domain.



National Library Staff on arrival at the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Uyo for 2019 RPC.



Group photograph of Ibesikpo Community members and some students with National Library of Nigeria staff at the 2019 RPC.

AKWA IBOM



The Vice Chairman, Asutan LGA receiving books and book shelf on behalf of his Community.



Mr. Jaiyeoba Babafemi (right), Deputy Comptroller, Uyo Correctional Centre receiving gifts from Mr. Etok, HOB CRS.



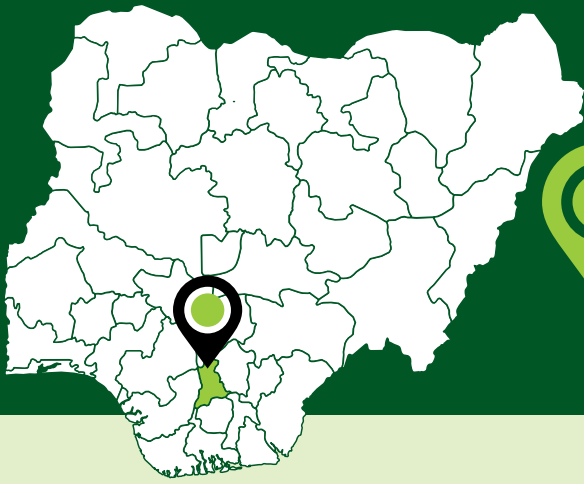
Mr. Etok, Head of Branch, Cross River State 2nd left flanked by the Vice Chairman, Asutan LGA and othersCommunity.



The Vice Chairman of Asutan LGA, Hon. Ubong Jonah addressing his community and appreciating NLN for the good tidings of RPC.



Some members of Ibesikpo Community at the 2019 RPC held in the Community.



ANAMBRA

Light of the Nation

Royal Blessings for National Library of Nigeria

ANAMBRA: His Royal Majesty, Igwe Chris Eneke Nnaegbula, Iga 11 of Ebenebe has showered royal blessing on the National Library of Nigeria entourage for choosing Ebenebe community as a start-up place for Readership Promotion Campaign in Anambra State. Welcoming the guest to the community, he expressed optimism that the gifts presented by the NLN would serve as seed for the take-off of Ebenebe Community Library.

A retired Principal who was also the Palace Secretary, Nze Daniel Chigbata gave a pep talk encouraging his community members on the importance of reading. He stated that it is only through reading that one can become a responsible and respected member of the society. He therefore advised members of the community to embrace the opportunity provided by the National Library of Nigeria to develop their reading habit.

Earlier, the annual Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library of Nigeria was taken to the Custodial Centre, Awka, where the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Lenrie Aina, represented by Ms. Glory Okeagu informed the correctional centre inmates that the National Library of Nigeria is determined to take the reading campaign to the vulnerable of the society to encourage them on

the need to improve themselves through reading. She further emphasized that the prison inmates need to know about health, finances, economy, government policies, current affairs, politics etc. in order to survive in the society.

In his remarks, the Comptroller, Custodial Centre Awka, Barrister E.A. Nwakaeze commended the NLN for the decision to take readership promotion campaign to the vulnerable in the society. He maintained that the gesture will go a long way in boosting the knowledge of the inmates and challenge them to read for life transformation.

A motivational talk was presented by an inmate who was running his master's degree programme. He encouraged his fellow inmates to make heaven out of every situation they find themselves by forging ahead through acquisition of further education and through reading.

Remarkably, an inmate who gave a vote of thanks on behalf of his colleagues was reported to have his bail posted for release.

The event was very enlightening, engaging and educative as participants were excited as shown through their song presentation titled: light at the end of the tunnel.

The correctional centre has a functional library so NLN presented them with books to boost their library holdings and two book shelves for expansion.



From L-R: Mrs. Rachael Neboh HOB Enugu, Barr. E.A. Nwakaeze, Comptroller Awka Custodial Centre and Ms. Glory Okuagu at the centre in Awka.



Group photograph of National Library of Nigeria staff and officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Awka at the Anambra RPC



Ms. Glory Okuagu, representative of the National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of Nigeria presenting the National Librarian's address at the Custodial Centre, Awka.



Mrs. Neboh, R.I. making a speech at Ebenebe Community, Awka North LGA during the 2019 RPC held at the Community.



Ms. Glory Okuagu, representative of NL/CEO in company of others handing over books, shelf and other items to the Comptroller, Awka Correctional Centre.



Presentation of books and book shelf to the Ebenebe Community of Awka North LGA.



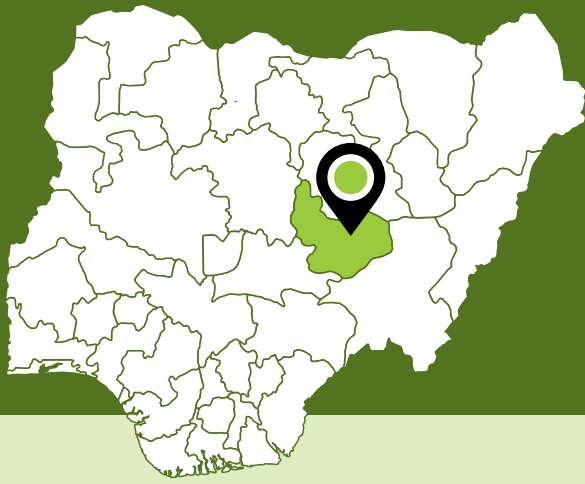
His Royal Majesty, Igwe Chris Eneka Nnaegbula Iga 11 of Ebenebe Community (middle) flanked by his Cabinet members, community members and National Library staff during the 2019 RPC held at the Community.



Mrs Rachael Neboh, HOB, Enugu (middle) flanked by Barr. E.A. Nwakaeze, Comptroller, Awka Correctional Centre and others at the 2019 RPC held at the centre.



National Library team at the Palace of HRM, Igwe Chris Eneka Nnaegbula at Ebenebe, Awka North LGA.



Reading changes your Perception

– Prof. Aina

BAUCHI: Inmates of the National Correctional Service, Bauchi Custodial Centre have been urged to cultivate the habit of reading in order to change their perception of life. The Deputy Director, Legal Deposit Department and Chairperson, 2019 RPC, Ms. I. G. Akpabio who represented the National Librarian made this known during the RPC held at the Centre on 23rd October, 2019. She further informed the inmates that the National Library of Nigeria decided to step down its Readership Promotion Campaign to the vulnerable in the society so as to encourage them to develop themselves through reading and become transformed.

A motivational Speaker, S.P. Kabiru who spoke in both English and Hausa languages stressed the importance of seeking knowledge. He advised the inmates to make good use of the opportunity provided for them at the centre to widen their knowledge. He further encouraged them to enrol into the different levels of education at the centre and improve themselves academically.

The Deputy Comptroller, Joshua Danjuma while appreciating the NLN stated that the Readership Promotion Campaign will go a long way in motivating the prison inmates to appreciate the value of reading. He expressed gratitude to the NLN for the books and shelves donated to the centre.

The second day of the event was held at Dass Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

The Representative of the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Akpabio informed the community that the objective of the RPC was among other things to encourage reading among Nigerians with the provision of good reading materials.

Chairman of Dass Local Government Council, represented by the Head of Administration, Alhaji Shuaibu Abubakar was full of thanks to the NLN. He stated that efforts would be made to renovate the dilapidated Dass Community Library. He said that the books and the shelves donated by the NLN have already set the ball rolling towards improving the reading culture of the community.



Mr. Abubakar HOB, Bauchi with the Deputy Comptroller Joshua Danjuma at Bauchi Correctional Centre.



Gifts presented at the Bauchi Correctional centre



BAUCHI



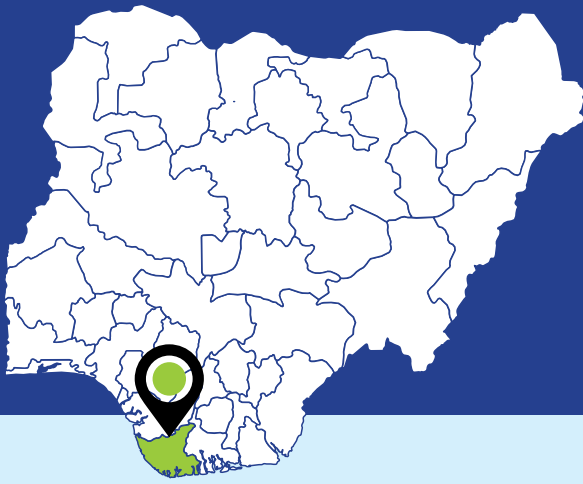
Ms. I. G. Akpabio flanked by traditional rulers and other community members at Dass LGA, venue of 2019 RPC in Bauchi State.



Cross-section of some guests at Dass LGA of Bauchi for 2019 RPC.



RPC Chairperson presenting gifts to members of Dass community in Bauchi State during the 2019 RPC



BAYELSA

The Glory of all Lands

National Library Holds RPC In Bayelsa

BAYELSA: The National Library of Nigeria (NLN) took its Annual Readership Promotion Campaign to the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Okaka, Yenegoa in Bayelsa State.

The event which was organised to sensitize the inmates of the centre on the need to cultivate the habit of reading in order to acquire knowledge and become transformed witnessed a large gathering.

During the event, Mr. Paul Mamman, a Director in the office of the National Librarian in a welcome address on behalf of the National Librarian, informed the inmates that semi-urban communities and Nigerian correctional custodial centres were among the sub-sectors chosen by the National Library of Nigeria for this year's RPC. He further stated that the inmates in correctional centres lack adequate information materials which are required to acquire knowledge for personal development. The National Library of Nigeria according to him is positioned to provide them with resources that will enable them develop themselves through reading while serving their jail terms.

The Deputy Comptroller of Corrections, Mr. Y. Amayo in his remarks expressed gratitude to the National Library of Nigeria for extending a hand of fellowship to custodial centres across the federation and giving the inmates the feeling that they are not totally forgotten.

In a solidarity speech, the Director, Bayelsa State Library Board urged the inmates to make adequate use of the opportunity provided by the NLN and ensure that they become transformed through reading. He applauded the management of the NLN for such gestures and hoped that the custodial centres will not relent in their efforts of life transformation.

A motivational Speaker, Mr. Kenneth Irenea motivated the inmates while encouraging them to embrace reading in order to become more useful to the society

after their jail terms. Also, two serving inmates presented motivational speeches to their fellow inmates and advised them never to give up despite their incarceration. The inmates also displayed local arts and crafts which they made.

Books and shelf were presented to the inmates in addition to other consumable goods.

At the Swali Community in Yenegoa, Bayelsa State, the Community Leader and a Paramount Ruler, His Royal



Bayelsa State 2019 Readership promotion campaign held at Swali Community Yenegoa, Bayelsa State



BAYELSA

Highness, Sir Wilcox Seiyefa Job in an opening speech, thanked the NLN for bringing Readership Promotion Campaign event to his community.

The National Librarian represented by a director, and Personal Assistant to the National Librarian on Professional Matters, Mr Paul Mamman, stated that the semi-urban populace suffers from acute low productivity, social and economic retrogression due to ignorance as a result of either inadequate or total absence of information dissemination. He said that this reality prompted the National Library of Nigeria to embark on nationwide Readership Promotion Campaign and to extend it to semi urban areas to carry them along.

A paper titled: The Importance of Reading in our Everyday Life as Humans was presented by Mr. Wilcox Clement Job. He encouraged all his subjects to imbibe the attitude of reading as that is the only way out of poverty and marginalisation.

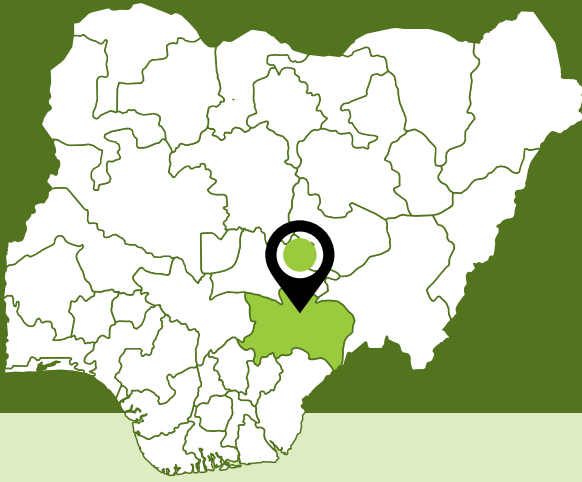
The community displayed cultural dances, drama and other entertainment to spice the event. The National Library of Nigeria presented the community with books and shelf to set up their community library.



Mr. Paul Mamman, Director and Special Assistant to the NL on Professional Matters (2nd right) assisted by HOB Imo State (green polo) presenting Books and Shelf to the Assistant Comptroller, Medium Security Custodial Centre at Okaka, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.



National Library Staff in a group Pix with some staff of the Correctional Centre



Without Education a Community Won't achieve much

-Shawon

BENUE: The Chairman of Guma Local Government Area of Benue State, Hon. Anthony Shawon has solicited the support of all traditional rulers, teachers, lecturers, parents and other stakeholders in the state to rally round the National Library of Nigeria's Readership Promotion Campaign to take the community to greater heights.

He made the call at the organization's annual Readership Promotion Campaign held at the Local Government Secretariat at Gbajimba. The Chairman stated that the benefit of education could not be overemphasised, stating that National Library of Nigeria came all the way from Makurdi and Abuja respectively to encourage people of Guma community to read and acquire education, stressing that without education a community will not achieve anything in life.

Honourable Shawon emphasized that education brings about transformation. According to the chairman, those who have good education have higher income, have more opportunities in life and tend to be healthier, have lower crime rate, and civic involvement. further noting that societies with good educational background benefit more globally than illiterate societies.

Hon. Anthony also revealed that when education is achieved in a community, the economic growth of that community is enhanced, the level of productivity is increased, average income also increases, and unemployment decreases. leading to economic growth of the society.

The chairman called on Community leaders to come forward to support and spread the message carried by the National Library of Nigeria.

Earlier In his opening speech, the National Librarian,

Professor Lenrie O. Aina charged community leaders to support the Organization in creating awareness to embrace the reading culture amongst Nigerians. Dwelling on the theme of the campaign tagged 'reading a tool for empowering the vulnerable' he stated that Nigeria would not move forward without education and a sustainable culture of reading is necessary to achieve education.

Prof Aina said that even for career preparation, some people might not know exactly what they were good at without education but a college degree would narrow their interest and refine their skills to obtain better opportunities and be successful in the future.

Represented by the Head of Benue State Branch of the National Library, Mr. Clement Mngba, Professor Aina also said that students in colleges are taught to think alternatively and creatively to solve problems. As a result, they have high cognitive ability to deliver in a society unlike an illiterate person who would rather sit and wait for assistance.

A resource person, Dr Cletus Ityokyaa who delivered a on the theme of the campaign - 'reading as a tool for empowering the vulnerable' explained to the community the importance of reading and education. He called on parents and teachers to increase their effort to improve the educational level of Guma Local Government area and Benue State at large. He commended the

assistance given by the National Library of Nigeria to reawaken reading culture during this critical period of underdevelopment.

Meanwhile, the campaign was also staged at the Yaikyo Medium Custodial Correctional Centre Makurdi, Benue State to encourage inmates to embrace the reading habit in order to have a crime-free society. The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Lenrie O. Aina represented by the Head of Branch, Mr Clement Mngba stated that the organization was the apex library in the country which has the mandate to promote reading among Nigerians by way of carrying out sensitization campaigns in schools and communities.



Benue RPC 2019 at the Yaikyo Medium Correctional Centre

He said that the organization has twenty seven state branches and was mandated to have a branch in all the thirty six state of the federation including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to ensure sustainability of library services across the country.

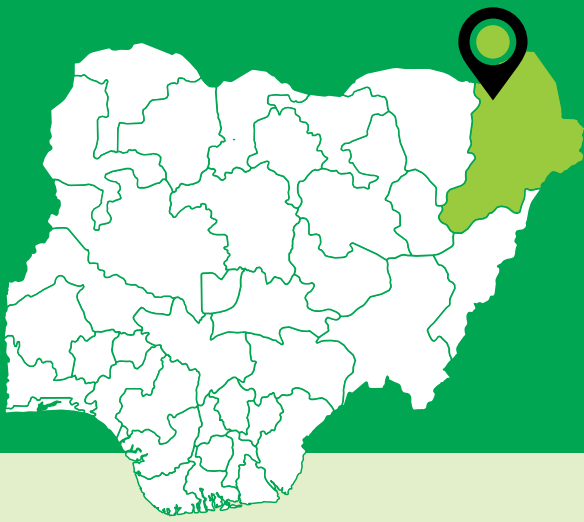
He added that part of the strategy the organization took this year was to go to the vulnerable areas such as the semi-urban communities and Nigerian Correctional and Custodial Centres. He appealed to all the inmates to take the campaign messages and other advices given by other personalities very seriously.

Responding, the Comptroller Nigerian Correctional Service, Benue State Command, Mrs Amaka Okori who described the campaign as 'exactly what we needed' said that the Readership Promotion Campaign came at a right time when inmates were ready to improve themselves. Mrs Okori said that most inmates have regretted what brought them to the correctional centres and promised to desist from criminal activities.

The programme featured drama presentation, quiz competition, pep talks and goodwill messages by both inmates and other participants.



Benue RPC 2019



DCC Mbaya Solicits English and Indigenous Books for Inmates

BORNO: The Comptroller, Maximum Security Custodial Centre, Maiduguri, DCC Abullahi, D. Mbaya FSI has requested for more books in English and indigenous languages for inmates across the country as a way of boosting reading culture in correctional facilities.

DCC Mbaya said this during the National Library of Nigeria annual Readership Promotion Campaign held at the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Maiduguri and the Jere community in Jere Local Government Area, Borno State. The two –day event had as its theme; Reading: A tool for empowering the vulnerable.

According to the comptroller, the custodial centre was already in collaboration with the education board in order to get the unlearned inmates educated. In doing so, they can improve their reading skills. He further stated that the centre has a high number of inmates with low or no academic background, and that is the reason the campaign was timely.

Prof. Aina, who was represented by the Director, Public Service Department of the National Library of Nigeria, Mrs Ruth Bature said the main objective of the campaign is to encourage reading among Nigerian by ways of carrying out sensitization activities and

provision of reading materials”. The National Librarian stressed the need to address the poor reading culture in Nigeria which he described as a dangerous challenge to individual development.



Mrs Ruth Bature (representative of the National Librarian) and staff of Maximum Correctional Centre, Maiduguri during the Borno State RPC

In the same vein, the guest speaker, Mallam Abulrahama Yusuf said reading empowers one to fit into every sphere of the society. He also urged the libraries to play greater role in improving

reading culture in Nigeria. He encouraged parents and all relevant stakeholders to put hands together in promoting reading.

Responding, the Jere community leader decried poverty as the main reason they are unable to send their wards to school as most of the people there are farmers and petty traders. He however thanked the National Library of Nigeria for choosing Jere community for the campaign which he described as a good initiative that could influence

the attitude of individuals and increase their knowledge base.

Books and shelf were donated to both the Custodial centre and the community.



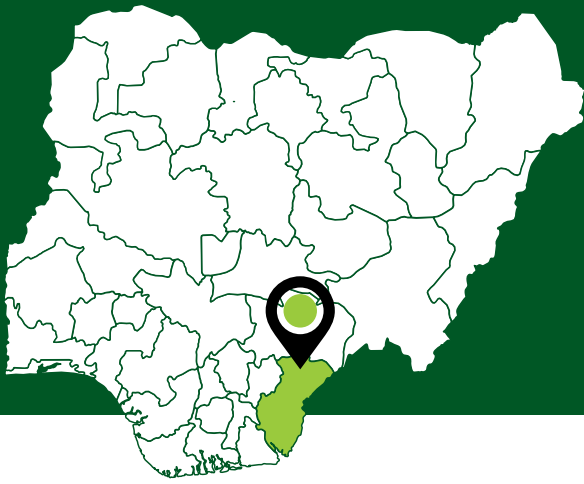
BORNO



The Director PSD Mrs Ruth Bature presenting books and shelf to the Maximum Correctional Centre Maidugiri



Group photo with the Bulama, Lawan, Ajiya, women leader and members of the Jere community during the RPC in Borno State



Reading is the Pivot of Education -HRH Eyaba

CROSS RIVER: His Royal Highness, Chief Silvanus Eyaba of Odukpani Rural community in Cross River State, has commended the National Library of Nigeria for organizing the national Readership Promotion Campaign held at the Nigeria Correctional Center, Calabar.

Chief Eyaba noted that the annual readership campaign is aimed at encouraging reading among the poor and the vulnerable in the rural community. According to him, no nation can advance if her citizens are not educated and reading is the pivot of education. He pleaded with the National Library of Nigeria to establish a library in the community.

In his address, the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Aina explained that the Readership Promotion Campaign is to sensitize vulnerable members of society, particularly inmates and residents of sub-urban communities on the benefits of reading.

Represented by the Director of Administration, National Library of Nigeria, Mr. Ben Osiagwu, the National Librarian said the 2019 annual National Readership Promotion Campaign is to encourage reading among Nigerians by way of carrying out sensitization activities and the provision of good reading materials. According to Professor Aina, people in semi - urban communities and the correctional centers fit in to the definition of vulnerable because they lack information materials required to acquire knowledge for personal development.

Also, the Deputy Comptroller Correctional Center, Calabar, Mr. Amuche Bola expressed joy by thanking the National Library of Nigeria for the laudable gesture



The Director, Human Resources and Administration, National Library of Nigeria, Mr. Ben Osiagwu (Representative of the National Librarian) presenting books and shelf to the Odukpani community in Cross River State



CROSS RIVER

of promoting reading among inmates at correctional centres.

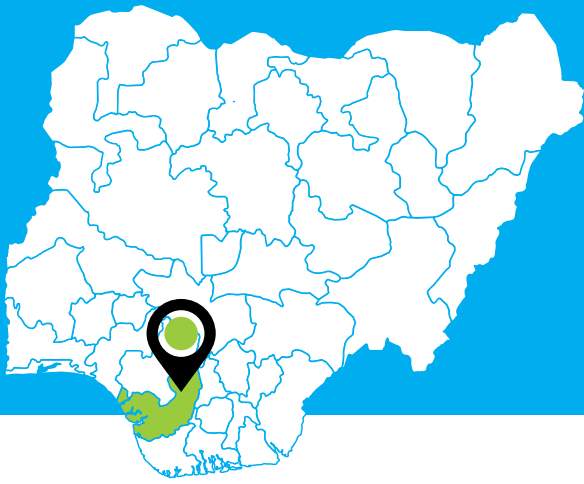
The inmate on their part thanked the NLN for remembering them because it is the first time a government organization engaged them for the purpose of encouraging them to read. The Ekonbi cultural dance groups were also on ground to entertain the guest. Reading materials were also donated to the community.



Director of Human Resources and Administration, Mr Ben Osiagwu (standing) His Royal Highness Chief Sylvanus Enyaba with Members of Odukpani LGA, Cross River State at the 2019 RPC



Cross section of School Children at Odukpani Rural Community Cross River State during 2019 RPC



READERSHIP CAMPAIGN, A Well Thought Program

- Jonathan Ikhazungbe

DELTA: The deputy superintendent and welfare officer of the Nigerian correctional center, Agbor, Delta State, Mr. Jonathan Ikhazungbe has described the annual Readership Promotion Campaign as a well thought out programme that will serve as an eye opener for many inmates who are languishing because of illiteracy and ignorance of the law.

Mr. Ikhazungbe stated this during the 2019 annual Readership Promotion Campaign held in Delta State.

To buttress his point, he cited an example of one ex- convict who bought a motor cycle that carried different registration numbers, which landed him in prison for buying a stolen motorcycle. He therefore admonished the inmates to cultivate passion for reading and be more careful.

Earlier, the National Librarian/CEO of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Lenrie Aina who was represented by Ms Amaka Ojielo said the focus of the 2019 campaign is to sensitize inmates and residents of sub-urban communities to imbibe the culture of reading". He further stated that inmates lack adequate information materials

required to acquire knowledge for personal development.

In the same vein, the head of branch who is the coordinator of RPC in the state, Mr. Augustine O. Unangbaoje urged the inmates to embrace the campaign meant to create opportunity for self-employment and development.

The campaign was later moved to the semi-urban community to sensitise residents on the importance of reading and its attendant benefits. The palace of the Obi of Owa-Oyinu, in Ika –South L.G.A was the venue of the campaign.

Addressing the council, the representative of the National Librarian Ms. Amaka Ojielo reviewed the various sections of the society across the country and

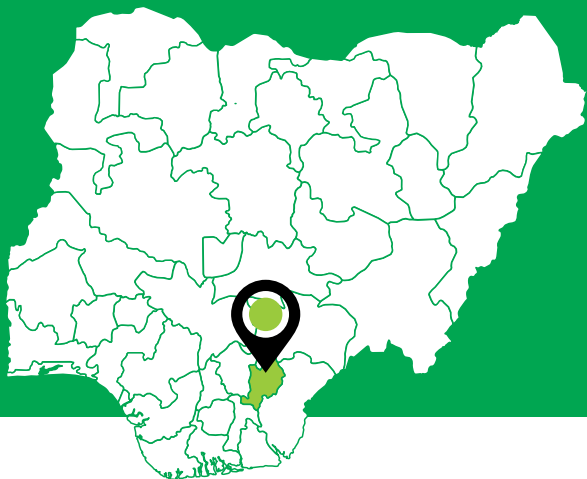
described the 2019 RPC as one specially designed to reach the vulnerable and the poor in the semi-urban communities and custodial centres across the country.

Responding on behalf of the Obi, the traditional ruler, Chief Okorocho described reading as foundation to educational development and further corroborated the assertion that if a man spends money he could have used to train his children to build a house, the children will one day sell the house. But if he used such money to train his children, the children will one day build their father a house. He therefore advised the participants to make good use of the reading materials to be housed at the Obi's palace which is open to every member of the community.

The daughter of the Obi, Princess Helen Ani Efeizormon with other dignitaries were full of gratitude as she described the Obi as a seasoned writer and publisher whose interest in reading knows no bounds.

Books and shelves were donated to both the correctional centre and the semi-urban community.





Cultivate the Habit of Reading

-National Librarian

The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN), Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina has urged inmates doing time in custodial centers in Nigeria, as well as all other Nigerians to cultivate the habit of reading and become changed individuals so as to contribute more meaningfully to the development of the country.

Prof. Aina, who spoke during the annual Readership Promotion Campaign organised by the NLN at the Medium Security Custodial Centre of the National Correctional Service in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, bemoaned the generally poor reading culture that has become a social phenomenon that cuts across all social strata of the Nigerian society.

Prof Aina, represented at the event by the Head of Enugu Branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Mrs. Rachel Neboh, explained that in line with the present administration's policy of reaching out to the vulnerable, the 2019 Readership Promotion Campaign has been extended to inmates at custodial centres and residents of sub-urban communities.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, previous readership promotion campaigns had targeted expectant and nursing mothers in maternity homes, as well as workers and passengers in motor parks across the country.

The Ebonyi State Comptroller of Nigerian Correctional Service, Mrs. Emelia Oputa while responding, expressed appreciation to the management of the National Library of Nigeria for recognizing the correctional centers across the country to sensitize them on the importance of reading, which according to her would shape the thinking of inmates for the better.

Mrs. Oputa pointed out that the gesture by the National Library of Nigeria would go a long way to show the inmates that they were not at a disadvantage and they would believe that government kept them at the correctional centers to reform them for the better.

The comptroller also used the occasion to plead with the management of the NLN to furnish the correctional centre library with reading materials and other





EBONYI

facilities that would help inmates gain more knowledge while doing their time at the centre.

An inmate of the centre gave a testimony that it was lack of education that sent him to jail. He narrated that he was working for an influential man (name withheld) in Ebonyi State who fell sick and he was sent to buy drugs. The inmate said he bought drugs that turned out to be expired drugs which the man took and eventually died. The relatives dragged him to court where he was sent to jail.

The inmates commended the NLN for considering inmates all over the nation and promised to utilize the opportunity and become better individuals.

Gifts including reading materials and food items were presented to the inmates. There was also a drama presentation by inmates and pep talks.



Head of Enugu State Branch, Mrs Rachel Neboh middle with Officers from Ebonyi Correctional Service during the 2019 RPC



Head Enugu Branch Mrs Rachel Neboh being welcomed by the PRO of the Correctional Service in Ebonyi State



Comptroller of Nigerian Correctional Service, Ebonyi State Command, Mrs Emilia Oputa middle with officers from the command during the RPC 2019.



An overview of the environment during the 2019 RPC in Ebonyi Correctional Centre



Ebonyi Community outreach during the 2019 RPC



Group Photograph of the NLN Staff with Officers from the Ebonyi Correctional Service during the 2019 RPC



Presentation of reading materials to the Royal Highness Eze Michael Udo 1 during the 2019 RPC community outreach



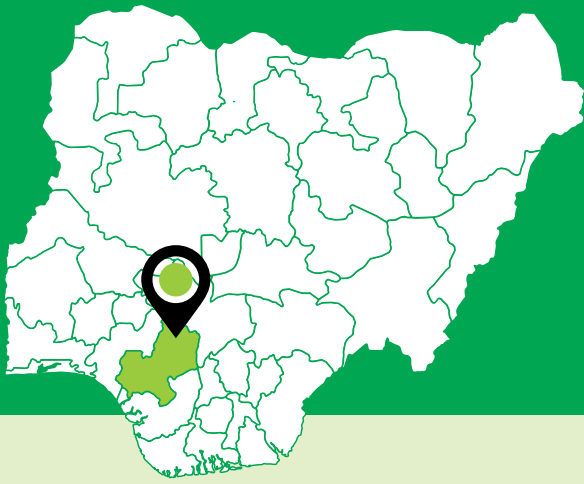
Women cultural group with Enugu staff members at the RPC event in Ebonyi State.



National Library of Nigeria staff in a group photograph with some members of the community in Ebonyi State.



Gift materials donated at the Ebonyi Correctional Centre during 2019 RPC

**EDO**The Heart beat
of the nation

Edo Community Leader Pledges Conducive Environment for Reading

EDO: The Enogie of Idogbo community at Ikpoba – Okah Local Government Area of Edo State, has pledged his support to protect and provide more materials and a conducive environment for reading in his community. He equally urged his subjects to fully utilize the opportunity to develop themselves and the community.

The Enogie stated this during the Edo State branch of National Library of Nigeria Readership Promotion Campaign in his community. Speaking at the event, the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Lenrie Aina who was represented by Mrs. Ngozi Odogwu explained that poor reading culture has negatively affected the social and economic lives of the vulnerable in Nigeria. She therefore advised the participants to not only embrace the program, but to also cultivate reading habit and acquire knowledge and information for self and societal development. She further added that with the provision of reading opportunities in our semi – urban areas and custodial centers, citizens can make good use of their time reading books to acquire knowledge instead of wasting their time with idle talks.

Earlier in his welcome address, the head of branch, Mr. Augustine Uangbaoje outlined series of

Readership Promotion Campaign programmes that have been held and the reasons why the 2019 programmes took a different dimension from the previous ones.

He explained that 2019 theme was a reflection of the need to reach out to the vulnerable in the society which he said will serve as an instrument to enhance the lives of members of the community.

Others who spoke at the event include Mr. Otaniyowa an indigene of Idogbo community, who stressed the need for both the young and old in the community to consider themselves lucky to be remembered by the federal government. Speaking extensively using the Benin dialect and English language on the degree of poverty and ignorance in the community, Mr. Otaniyowa advised them to use the Readership Promotion Campaign programme as an eye opener to develop themselves and their children. He solicited for the sustainability of the programme

which he described as the first of its kind in the community.

Similarly, the Readership Promotion Campaign was taken to the correctional centre of the Nigerian Correctional Service in Sapele Road, Benin city to encourage inmates on the importance of reading. Mrs Odogwu who spoke on behalf of the National Librarian, encouraged the inmates to be hopeful and look beyond their circumstances. She advised them to cultivate the habit of reading to escape from the grip of ignorance and all forms of risk that place them in vulnerability. She advised the inmates to flee from every form of indecent behaviours and improve their lives through reading.



Representative of the National Librarian, Mrs Ngozi Odogwu reading the welcome address at the Edo State RPC



From right: The Head of branch, Mr Augustine Uangbaoje in a handshake with the Onogie; and two staff from the branch



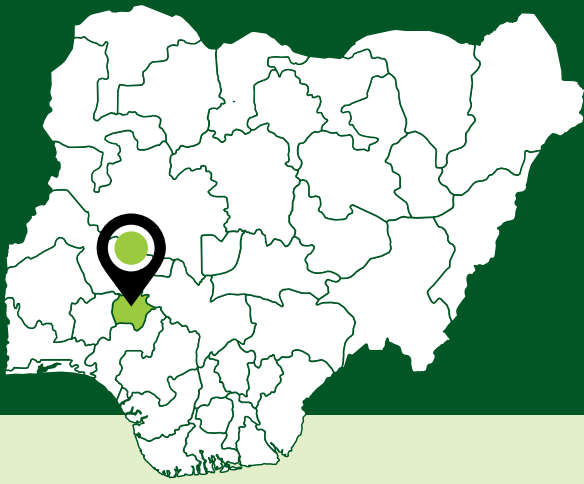
Mrs Ngozi Odogwu (representative of the National Librarian) and the Onogie with members of staff of Edo state branch during the RPC 2019



National Library of Nigeria presenting food stuff, books and book shelves to the Correctional Centre in Edo state during the 2019 RPC



Cultural troop from Edo RPC who performed during the 2019 campaign

Land of Honour
and Integrity

Reading culture: Ekiti Urged to Partner NLN

EKITI: The Ekiti State Readership Promotion Campaign was at the Ogoga of Ikere-Ekiti palace, Ekiti state. The community has about 600,000 population and also has a small public library.

Speaking at the event, the National Librarian/CEO of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina who was represented by the Head of Branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Ondo State, Mrs. M. Ogunyemi said the main objective of the campaign is to encourage reading amongst Nigerians by way of carrying out sensitization activities and provision of good reading materials. According to him, the theme is line with the present administration's policy of reaching out to the vulnerable and the poor.

The National Librarian/CEO also disclosed that over the years, the campaign was carried out with the focus on children and youth in the primary and secondary schools with the purpose of sensitizing, informing and educating them on reading culture, adding that in 2018 the campaign was strategized to cover hospitals and motor parks across the nation with focus on pregnant women, drivers and passengers.

Mr. Emmanuel Ayeni, a Librarian and the resource person from the Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti who delivered his speech in the indigenous language urged the state government to collaborate with National Library of Nigeria in its effort to revive the moribund reading culture. He also said that reviving Nigerians' reading habit requires collaborative effort of all stakeholders in the country. The campaign was earlier taken to the correctional centre at, Ado - Ekiti, Ekiti State.

Speaking at the correctional centre, , the Director, Ekiti State Library Board encouraged the inmates to improve

on their reading culture and further appealed to them to use their precious time while in custody to improve their reading skills and also to acquire knowledge through reading books that will better their lives rather than engaging in frivolous activities.

The representative of the Comptroller of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Ekiti State Command advised the inmates to reciprocate the gesture by making good use of the books provided by the National Library of Nigeria to improve on their reading culture and to acquire knowledge that will benefit them after completing their jail terms.

He also pleaded with authorities of the National Library of Nigeria not to relent in their effort at providing valuable books to correctional centres for the benefit of the inmates.



The head of Ondo State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria reading the opening remark of NL/CEO, Prof. L.O. Aina at 2019 RPC in Ekiti State



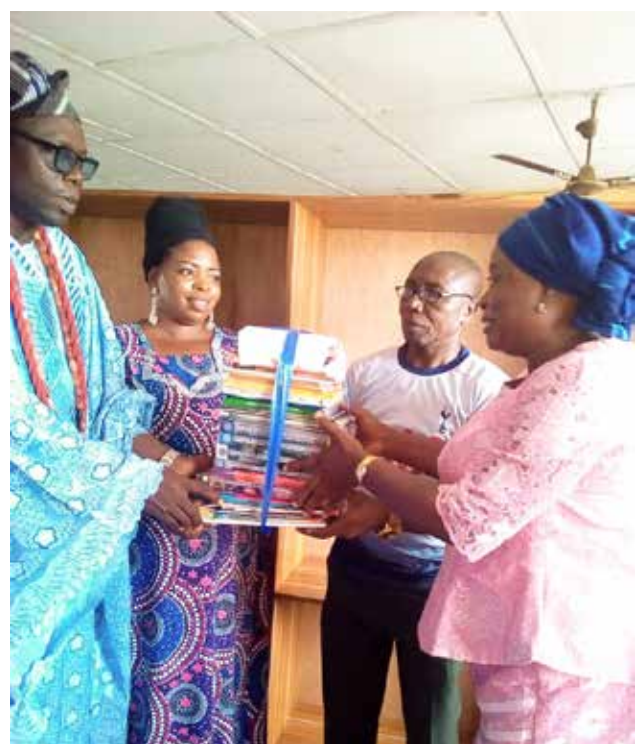
Cross section of the participants at the Ogoga of Ikere-Ekiti Palace Hall.



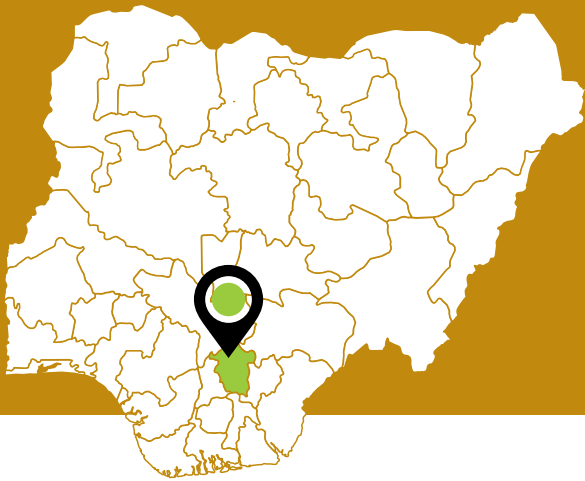
Representative of Kabiyesi, Chief Tajudeen Adejumo reading his speech during the Readership Promotion Campaign at Ikere-Ekiti.



The resource person/motivational speaker, Mr Emmanuel Ayeni delivering his paper at the Readership Promotion Campaign event in Ekiti



Presentation of Books and Books Shelf to the Kabiyesi's representative assisted by Deputy Chairman, Ikere-Ekiti Local Government, HOB and Mr Okafor NLN, Abuja.



National Library takes Readership Promotion Campaign to the Vulnerable

ENUGU: The National Library of Nigeria in pursuant of its vision of building an informed and enlightened citizenry through the provision of information resources that are readily available and easily accessible extended the readership promotion campaign to the vulnerable in the society at Enugu State with the theme: *Reading: A Tool for Empowering the Vulnerable*.

The Enugu State branch of the National Library of Nigeria called at the premises of the Nigerian Correctional services at old park in Enugu North LGA where the campaign was staged.

In an opening remarks, the National Librarian, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina who was represented by Mrs Patience Samuel, a Chief Administrative Officer and the Secretary of the Readership Promotion Campaign stated that the main objective of the national campaign was to encourage reading amongst Nigerians by way of carrying out sensitization activities and the provision of good reading materials. He further stated that it is a collective effort with other stakeholders in order to proffer solutions that would ameliorate the poor reading culture in Nigeria.

The National Librarian said that the readership promotion campaign is in line with the present administration's policy of reaching out to the vulnerable and the poor, and is intended to cover semi-urban

communities and the Nigerian Correctional Service Centres across the nation. He emphasized that with the provision of reading opportunities in our semi-urban

and correctional centres, they can make good use of their time reading books to acquire knowledge instead of wasting their precious time with idle talks or discussions.

Earlier in a welcome address, the Head of Enugu State branch, Mrs Rachael Neboh stated that the objective of the campaign being launched at the premises



Mrs Patience Samuel, RPC Secretary and Representative of NL/CEO presenting NL's address at Uboji, Ngwo-Uno in Enugu State during the 2019 RPC.

of the correctional centres was to encourage the inmates to imbibe the culture of reading stating that reading enriches the mind, changes one's thought as well as one's world.

She also charged the inmates to embrace the golden message of reading, stating that it will be the ladder with which they will climb to the pinnacle of their chosen careers.

The Controller of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Enugu, Mr. Joseph Elumelu commended the National Library of Nigeria for the noble task of ensuring that all Nigerians imbibe the reading culture and especially for taking the campaign to the vulnerable

in the society. He said, it is a welcome development and that the centre is ready to partner with the National Library of Nigeria to ensure that the objective of the campaign is achieved.

The campaign was equally extended to St. Joseph's Catholic Church/ Community Library premises, Uboji Ngwo-Uno, Enugu State. The objective according to the Head of branch was to encourage reading among the people despite age, profession, gender or class. The community was presented with books and shelf to enable them set up their mini community library.



Mrs Patience Samuel presenting books, book shelf and other items to Mr. Joseph Elumelu, Comptroller of Nigerian Correctional Service Centre, Old Park, Enugu.



The community Head presenting gift to Mrs. Neboh and Mrs Samuel



Mrs Rachael Neboh 1st left and other staff of the National Library of Nigeria at Uboji Ngwo-Uno Community where the 2019 RPC was held.



Group photograph of Women's Wing and other members of Uboji Ngwo-Uno Community with National Library of Nigeria staff.



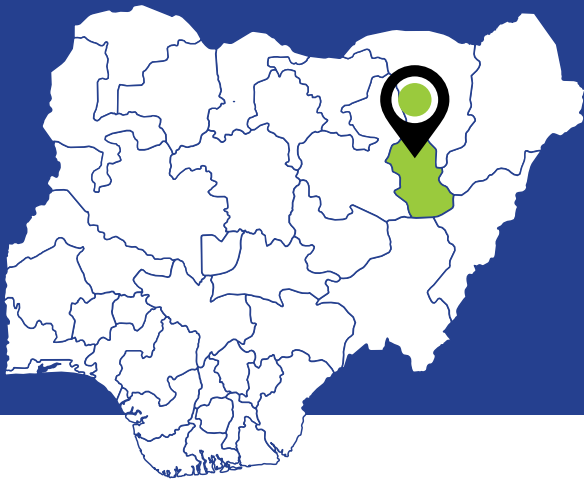
Faces of Uboji Ngwo-Uno community members and National Library of Nigeria staff at the 2019 RPC held at the community.



Uboji Women Cultural troupe that entertained the guests during RPC held at Uboji Ngwo-Uno



Staff members of Enugu State Branch on arrival at Nigerian Correctional Service Centre, Old Park, Enugu during the 2019 RPC.



GOMBE

Jewel in the Savannah

Offer Inmates Quality Education National Librarian Advises Govt

The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina has called on governments at all levels, Non-Governmental organizations and other stakeholders to consider inmates in all correctional custodial centres across the country and offer them quality education.

He made this known at the Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the National Library of Nigeria, at the correctional Custodial centre along Dukku Road, Gombe, Gombe State. Professor Lenrie Aina maintained that inmates were not to be considered as rejected individuals in the society but individuals who offended government in one way or the other and are kept at the correctional centres in order to be rehabilitated. He added that based on this understanding, inmates have the right to quality education in the country.

Professor Aina stated that education remained the backbone of every economy and inmates at correctional custodial centres should not be left behind. He added that when they obtain good and quality education, they would surely contribute to the development of the nation, whenever they regain their freedom.

The National Librarian, represented by his Personal Assistant on Financial Matters, Mr. Augustine Yue also charged the inmates to take reading very seriously and struggle hard to become better individuals in the society. He further charged them to try and adjust themselves to obtain quality educational training so that when the period of stay at the correctional centres is over, they would have a particular focus in life to take to sustain themselves and become responsible personalities.

of Nigeria for giving the inmates hope in life. He added that most of the inmates thought that they would never make a meaningful life in the future because of the fact that they stayed at the correctional centres for a long period of time, “but with this hope given to them by the National Library of Nigeria, many of them would work hard to improve their lives and become better individuals in future.”

Mr. Bala further stated that the Centre did not have enough reading



Education remained the backbone of every economy and inmates at correctional custodial centres should not be left behind

- Professor Aina

Responding, the Comptroller of the Correctional Service in Gombe State, Mr. Bulus Bala, expressed appreciation to the National Library

materials and other facilities for the inmates and therefore pleaded with the National Library of Nigeria to provide them with reading materials



Photo by Sharon McCutcheon on Unsplash



for the smooth take off of the studies in the Centre, requesting that books on the economy, politics and agriculture would be of great importance so that inmates would have the opportunity to study on these sectors.

According to the Comptroller, the inmates were doing vocational training and fashion design but with the introduction of more study centres, the inmates would have no excuse not to improve themselves.

In his contribution, the head of Gombe Branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Mal. Abubakar Yakubu Musa stated that there was enough reading materials to access at the branch. He added that the services were free of charge and all assistance needed would be given freely.

He also advised the inmates to rekindle their hope in the situation they have found themselves, and struggle hard to earn a legitimate income at the expiration of their various terms.

A motivational speaker and lecturer from the Department of Art, Gombe State Polytechnic Mr. Jamilu Lamwa in his paper presentation titled 'keeping hope alive at the Correctional Centre and the importance of life long reading' advised all inmates to abandon the acts that brought them to jail and embrace hard work and dedication.

Some of the inmates who spoke during the occasion commended the effort of the National Library of Nigeria to rekindle their hope in life.

Gift items such as bags of Rice, cooking oil, reading materials, and book shelves were donated by the National Library of Nigeria for use by the inmates.

Education the only Hope for Development

GOMBE: The Emir of Akko in Gombe State, Alh. Umar Mohammad Atiku has declared that education is the only hope for development in any community.

The Emir who made this known at the Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the National Library of Nigeria held at the Emir's palace in Akko local government also extended profound appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria for its efforts in rekindling reading culture in the country..

The Emir promised he would make sure that education thrives in his community noting that his palace was ready to partner with the NLN to develop education in the Gombe State and Nigeria at large. He thanked the National Library of Nigeria over the series of reading campaigns the institution had been organizing in the state, stressing that this gesture would be highly utilized by all.

Earlier in his keynote address, the National Librarian Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina charged people of the community, the state and all Nigerians at large to work hard and promote their educational level which would guarantee their personal and community development.

The National Librarian who was represented by his Personal Assistant, Mr Augustine Yue, pointed out that in the 60s and 70s, there was appreciable reading culture among the educated citizens in Nigeria however since the 80s' the reading culture, due to the total disregard to our social norms and values coupled with economic and social actors, is drastically reduced. Professor Aina reiterated the need for rigorous reading campaign in the country, stressing that citizens of many advanced nations of the world such as France, Britain, America and today China have acquired knowledge and turned it into effective tools for national development. He added that such nations are today referred to as knowledge - based societies.

Prof Aina lamented that Nigeria cannot afford to be out of trend, especially on the African continent if not the whole world. The National Librarian advised all stakeholders to redouble efforts to revive the habit of reading among Nigerians.

Head of the Gombe Branch of the NLN, Mal. Abubakar Yakub Musa in his speech extolled the Emir of Akko's support and contribution to the National Library of Nigeria in the areas of educational advocacy. He urged all the people of Akko including elders and the youth to embrace the reading culture in their various communities.



Cross section of Staff from National Library of Nigeria, Gombe Branch and an Officer from the Correctional Centre Gombe during the RPC



Donation from NLN for Gombe Correctional Centre during the 2019 RPC



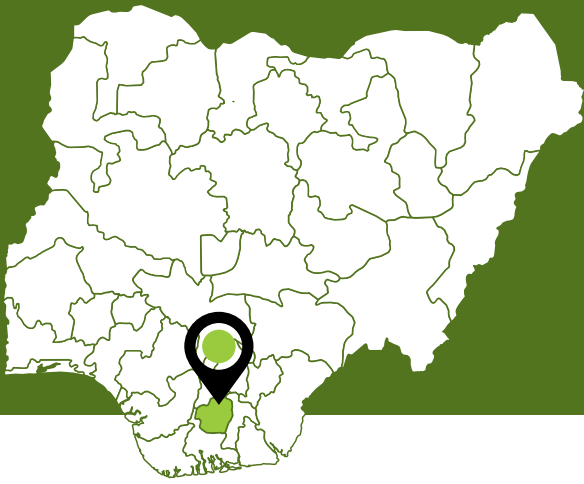
Emir of Akko Alhaji Umar Mohammad Atiku flanked on the left by Personal Assistant to the National Library, Mr. Augustine Yue, and on the right by the head of Gombe branch, Malam Abubakar Yakubu Musa at the 2019 RPC in Gombe.



Presentation of reading materials to Akko Community by the National Library of Nigeria during the RPC at Gombe



Group photo of Akko community with the Emir, Alh. Muhammad Atiku during the 2019 RPC at Gombe



Awo-Mbieri Autonomous Community Imo State Hosts the Annual NLN RPC

IMO: The traditional head of Awo –Mbieri Community in Imo state, His Royal Highness (Dr) C.A.C Eronini and his entire cabinet were on ground to witness the Readership Promotion Campaign organised by the National Library of Nigeria in the state.

Reflecting on the theme, His Royal Highness Eze Eronini noted that it is good to inculcate good reading culture in children, the poor and the vulnerable in the community to reduce crime rate. He further urged Igbo parents and teachers to teach their children how to read Igbo books, as promoting reading culture should not only be anchored on reading English books.

The campaign was earlier taken to the Nigerian Custodian Centre Owerri to sensitize the inmates on the importance of imbining good reading culture even while in custodial centre. The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Aina who was represented by Mr Wale Joseph reiterated the commitment of the National Library of Nigeria towards improving the reading culture of Nigerians. He stressed that in 2017, the campaign was taken to schools and hospitals with pregnant mothers as main focus, in 2018, it was extended to motor parks and in 2019, the campaign is to the Nigerian custodial centres across the country.

In his response, the Deputy Comptroller, Nigerian Correctional Service, Imo State Command, Mr Seyi Odutan expressed appreciation to the National Library for the efforts. He said the campaign was timely and the idea was excellent following the fact that they are constructing a school in the centre and would need the services of National Library of Nigeria to provide a library.

The head of Imo branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Mr I. E Enang while thanking the community for a great turn out of the poor and the vulnerable which was main target, emphasised reading as a continuous endeavour which can take one to greater heights.

The occasion also featured dances from women and Okirisha cultural troop of Awo-Mbieri Autonomous community.



Head of Imo State Branch, Mr. Enang. I.E Second right, Mr. Wale Joseph with Officers from Correctional Centre during the RPC 2019



The Head of Imo Branch, Mr Enang Presenting gifts from National Library of Nigeria to the Semi-Urban Community of Awo-Mbieri in Imo State



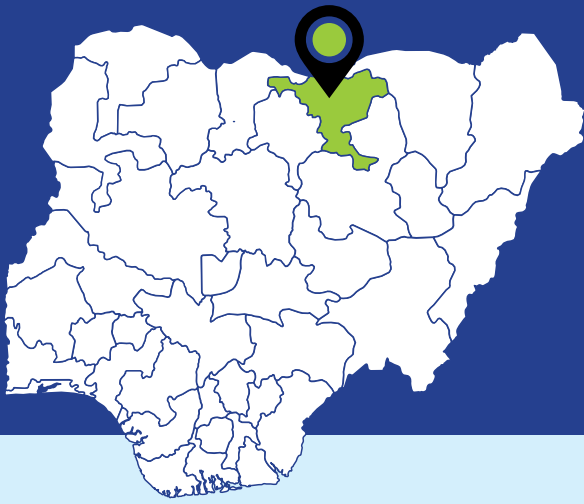
A cross section of the participants of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Imo State



The Head of Branch Imo, Mr Enang with members of the Eze Eronini cabinet and staff from NLN



The Head of Imo Branch, Mr Enang Presenting gifts from National Library of Nigeria to the Semi-Urban Community of Awo-Mbieri in Imo State



Form Alliances on Education

-Magaji

JIGAWA—The Comptroller Nigerian Correctional Service, Jigawa State Command Alhaji Ahad Magaji has stressed the need for states in the northern part of the country to brace up and uplift the educational status of their region.

Alh. Magaji specifically wants all state governors in the region and other stakeholders to form an alliance on education sector which would eventually upgrade the region and the country at large, noting that education is not something that should be taken for granted.

The comptroller who was speaking at the Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library of Nigeria in Dutse also encouraged all inmates to upgrade themselves through knowledge and dedication, adding that though it was not easy, somebody had to be determined and resilient in order to come up with some qualities which would eventually turn someone into a relevant personality in the society. He acknowledged that the annual readership promotion campaign was the first time government has taken a position to improve the wellbeing of inmates at correctional centres across the country.

Earlier, the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina in his speech requested that the

people of Jigawa State should partner with the National Library of Nigeria to rescue their wards from illiteracy and lack of zeal to acquire knowledge and technological advancement. Prof. Aina said, according to recent statistics the state was among states that have not performed credibly well in the West African Examination Council (WAEC), National Examination Council (NECO) and Joint Admission and Matriculation (JAMB) examinations noting that based on this fact, the state government and other stakeholders must work hard to salvage the situation.

Represented by the Chief Accountant of the apex library of the nation, Mr Bitrus Nda, Professor Aina noted that the National Library of Nigeria would not stand to watch this type of predicament repeat itself, when the apex library in the nation has been mandated to promote reading culture in the country, 'we must go extra miles to reintroduce strategies to capture Nigerians to adopt the reading culture'.

The event also featured drama

presentation, quiz competition and lots of pep talks by the inmates. Food stuff and reading materials were donated to the correctional centre by the National Library of Nigeria.

In the same vein, the second day of the campaign in Jigawa State took place at Emir's Palace, Sakwaya Community in Dutse. Speaking at the event, the Emir, Alh. Zaharaddeen Basiru Sanusi expressed appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria for the opportunity given to his community to host the Readership Promotion Campaign in his community. The traditional ruler acknowledged that anybody who encourages another to read did so because he desired the person to prosper.

The Emir therefore called on the community to take the campaign very seriously, noting that there was no way a person or community could attain sustainable development without education, so education is the key to development. He charged them to wholeheartedly embrace reading culture as a pathway to enhanced development.

Alh. Sanusi also pledged to liaise with the State government to seek for the establishment of a standard library for the community.

Earlier in his opening speech, the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie O.Aina represented by Mr Bitrus Nda took the community down the memory lane, when communities used to have reading rooms. He said those reading rooms were what metamorphosed into library institutions.

The National Librarian advised the community leaders to establish a standard library to assist the people conform to culture of reading which would eventually transform the community to achieve development in all strata of life.

The campaign also featured drama presentation and presentation of reading materials by the National Library of Nigeria.



Members of Staff of Jigawa State Branch during the 2019 RPC



Mr. Bitrus Nda, representative of the National Librarian, addressing the Jigawa Community leaders at the 2019 RPC in Dutse



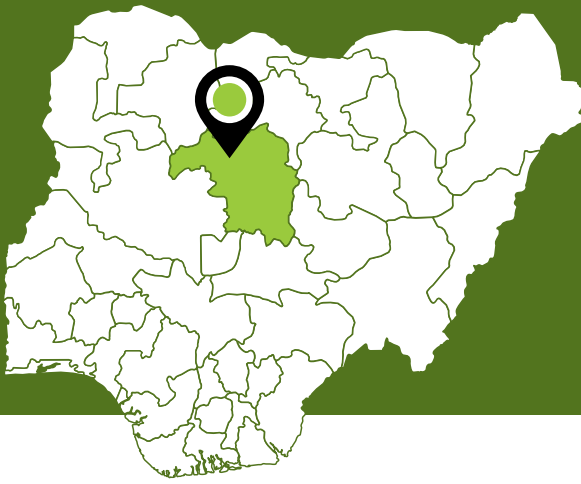
Mr Bitrus Nda, representative of the National Librarian with Comptroller Jigawa State command of the Nigerian Correctional Service during the RPC



Mr. Bitrus Nda presenting materials donated by NLN to Jigawa community during the RPC 2019



Community campaign at Jigawa State 2019 RPC



KADUNA

Centre of Learning

Readership Promotion Campaign Holds in Kaduna

KADUNA: The National Library of Nigeria in its efforts to promote readership has taken the Reading Promotion Campaign to Kaduna State. The campaign was launched at the Custodial Centre, Independence Way Kaduna and Rafin Guza Community in Kaduna North local government area on 12th and 13th November, 2019 respectively with the theme: **Reading: A Tool for Empowering the Vulnerable.**

The National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, who was represented by Ms. I.G. Akpabio, the Deputy Director of Legal Deposit Department as well as the Readership Promotion Campaign Chairperson, in a welcome address lamented the poor reading culture in the country which is inimical to individual and national development. He stressed that the campaign was planned to sensitize the target groups to imbibe the culture of reading; saying that the National Library of Nigeria will support them with books which are carefully selected to meet their information needs.

At the custodial centre in Independence Way, the inmates were sensitized on the need to develop themselves through reading so as to come out transformed after their jail terms.

Earlier in an opening remarks, the Comptroller of the Correctional Centre, Mallam Sanusi Mu'azu Danmusa who doubled as the

Chairman of the event expressed appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria for bringing the 2019 Readership Promotion Campaign to the vulnerable in the society to sensitize them on the importance of reading for personal transformation and development. According to him, it was the first of its kind. He therefore, urged the inmates to utilize the opportunity which the National Library of Nigeria offered them.

The inmates who were very much delighted with the programme made some presentations of songs, drama and pep talks to spice up the event.

One of the inmates expressed appreciation on behalf of his fellows. He said they were very thankful and would make adequate use of the books presented to them to develop themselves and widen their knowledge.

The second arm of the RPC was held at the Rafin Guza community in Kaduna North Local Government

Area. The National Librarian/CEO informed the people that the poor reading culture is a social phenomenon that cuts across all the strata of the Nigerian society. That, according to him propelled the National Library of Nigeria to organise RPC across the nation. He stated that with reading as a tool, the individuals in the semi-urban



Mrs Martina Egwuibe, Ag. HOB Kaduna addressing the people of Rafin Guza Community, Kaduna during RPC held at the Community.



areas can be empowered with the knowledge and information to effectively carry out economic, social and political activities.

Kaduna State Head of Branch, Mallam Mohammed Umar Ndaji earlier in his opening remarks encouraged the community members to key into the gesture, stressing that it will go a long way in improving the students and the people's performance. He further emphasized that every vocation requires reading to enable the artisans or traders do well in their day to day activities.

In a goodwill message, the Wakilin Rafin Guza, Mallam Hussaini Ibrahim who was filled with joy over the massive turnout of the people expressed appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria on behalf of his people

for bringing the campaign to their community. Other top community leaders equally expressed their gratitude to the NLN for reaching the community.

A retired Secretary to Education Board, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar who spoke in Hausa language in a vote of thanks expressed appreciation to the NLN and appealed that such programme should be a continuous phenomenon in their community.

There were pep talks, motivational speeches, spelling bee competition and cultural dance by the members of the community which added colour to the event.

Books gifts, shelves, and other consumables were presented to the prison inmates by the National Library of Nigeria



A Community Leader in Rafin Guza, Kaduna state appreciating NLN for bringing the RPC to the Community.



Ms. I. G. Akpabio, Deputy Director, Legal Deposit 4th from right, in a group photograph with some members of Rafin Guza Community in Kaduna during 2019 RPC.



Ms. Akpabio DD, Legal Deposit and RPC Chairperson presenting the NL/CEO's address at Rafin Guza Community, Kaduna. Beside her is the HOB, Malam Mohammed Umar Ndagi.



KADUNA



Ms. I.G. Akpabio, DD Legal Deposit (middle), in a group photograph with National Library of Nigeria staff and officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Kaduna during the 2019 RPC



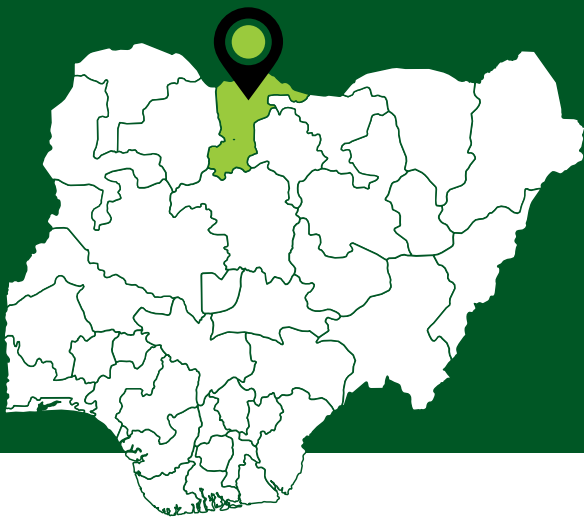
A Cross-section of Rafin Guza community members who attended the 2019 RPC held at the community during the 2019 RPC.



The Fulani Cultural Troupe of Rafin Guza, Kaduna presenting a Calabash of fura and nunu to the NL/CEO Rep. as mark of joy and appreciation during the RPC held in the Community.



Presentation of Books and other items at the Kaduna Custodial Centre during the 2019 RPC.



NLN advocates Reading Culture for the Vulnerable

The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina has said that education is a tool for empowering vulnerable people who are defenceless, helpless and weak as well as those who are exposed to attacks or harm, either physically or emotionally.

The National Librarian who spoke at the Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the Katsina branch of the National Library of Nigeria held at the Correctional and Custodial Service Centre in Katsina acknowledged the fact that the vulnerable need much attention in the face of this global crisis where insurgencies kept increasing by the day.

Prof. Aina said it has become necessary for government at all levels as well as other stakeholders to provide social amenities for the vulnerable to improve their lives and develop their communities thereby reducing the level of crime in the society. Professor Aina noted that the objective of the national campaign is to encourage reading among Nigerians through sensitization activities and provision of good reading materials.

The National Librarian represented by the head of Kaduna branch of the National Library, Alh. Mohammed Ndagi advised that government must come out with innovations

and activities just like the reading campaign that was going on presently in order to improve the educational level of the vulnerable in the society. He also solicited that other stakeholders should contribute to this struggle.

Professor Aina noted that the National Library of Nigeria was ready to provide reading materials necessary to assist the vulnerable to acquire education. The National Librarian assured that at the end of the campaign at least one Correctional and Custodial Centre in each state capital will receive bags of Rice, text books and book shelves.

Responding, the Comptroller of Katsina Maximum Security and Correctional Centre, Malam Abubakar Siddiq Mohammed Gusau represented by his deputy DSP Yunusa A. expressed happiness over the commitment of the National Library of Nigeria to carry inmates along in the struggle to develop the nation. He also expressed his appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria and

promised judicious use of the books and shelves donated.

He charged the inmates to use the opportunity to improve themselves by acquiring knowledge and skills to become good citizens when they reunite with the society. The Comptroller said that the correctional centre established in 1834 used to have similar engagement with agencies such as The West African Examination Council (WAEC), the National Examination Council (NECO) and some universities where inmates used to write examinations to enrol into university to obtain degrees adding that with the boost by the National Library of Nigeria through the Readership Promotion Campaign, more inmates would be encouraged to join.

The Chief Judge of Katsina State, Justice Musa Danladi Abubakar in his goodwill message applauded the efforts of National Library of Nigeria in rebuilding the nation's manpower through readership promotion. He stated that inmates are still sons and daughters of the nation and would not be abandoned to deteriorate and become useless to the society..

Justice Abubakar called on other stakeholders in the state and the country in general to join the



KATSINA

struggle to salvage the nation from total collapse, adding that anytime the crime rate increases, it is the entire country that suffers. He cited examples of countries with low crime rates such as Switzerland, Austria and Norway which many people would love to live in.

In a show of magnanimity, the Chive Judge pledged to pay the bills of any inmate that desires to write any examination, as well as sponsorship of any publication by any inmate.

The State Coordinator of the Northern Nigerian Youth Skill Programme, Alh. Aminu Anas who was also in the state to empower youth on self-development also charged the inmates to imbibe the reading culture and strive for self-empowerment.

Alhaji Anas encouraged the inmates to take education as a priority in their lives because without education, development will be a mirage., The development practitioner emphasised that even though his NGO exposed the inmates to skills such like carpentry, masonry, and fashion and design without education they might not achieve much success.

In her contribution, the head of Katsina Branch of the National Library, Hajia Amina Sayyadi Maje encouraged the inmates to feel free to visit the National Library of Nigeria branch located at Tafawa Balewa way, Dutsin Ma Road, opposite HUK Polytechnic, Katsina to read books and other materials in order to improve themselves academically.

The campaign featured drama presentation on the importance of education, quiz competitions and lot of songs all by the inmates.



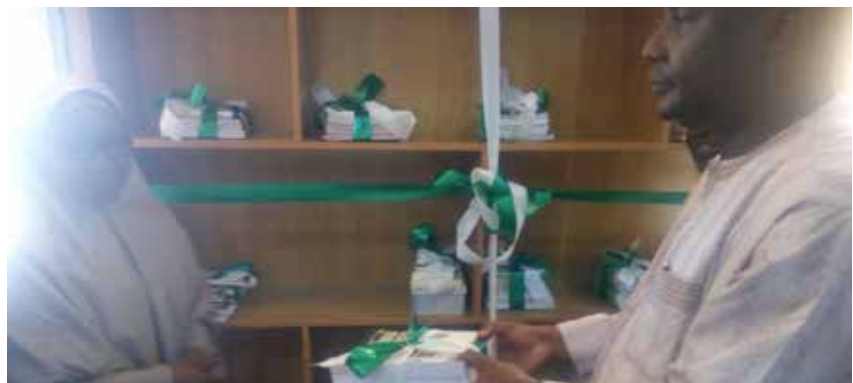
Group Photograph in Katsina during the 2019 RPC at Katsina Correctional Centre



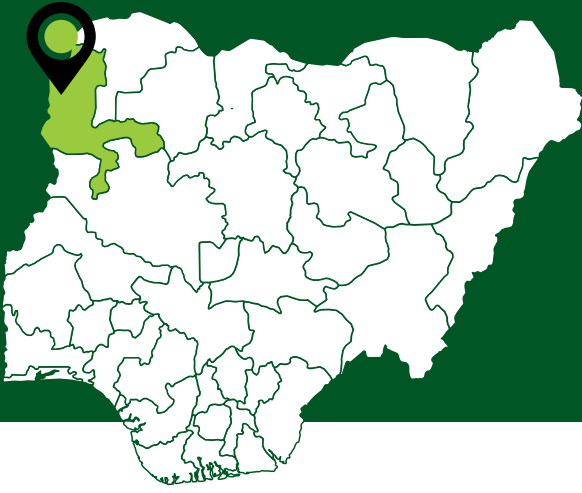
Head of Katsina branch, Amina S. Maje with Correctional Centre officers at Katsina RPC 2019



Cross section of participants at the Katsina Community RPC 2019



Head of Katsina Branch of the National Library, Mrs Amina S. Maje making a donation at the Correctional Centre



Kebbi Correctional Centre tasks Inmates on Reading Culture

KEBBI: Inmates of Birnin Kebbi Correctional Centre, Jega Road, Birnin Kebbi have been tasked to embrace the reading culture in order to become transformed after their prison terms.

The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. L.O. Aina who was represented by the Director of Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD), Mrs. Oluchi Kalu made this assertion at the Readership Promotion Campaign of the apex library held in Birnin Kebbi.

In a welcome address, the National Librarian highlighted that the objectives of the campaign among other things was to sensitize the Nigerian populace especially the vulnerable of the society on readership culture. The National Library of Nigeria he said, is poised to ensure that Nigeria is rated among the reading countries of the world hence the annual readership promotion campaign across the nation.

The Deputy Comptroller, Kebbi Correctional Centre, Dr. Onugha Chukwueke who represented the Comptroller

General in an opening speech extolled the management of the NLN for such gesture of extending the RPC to inmates. He said it is a welcome development and prayed that the inmates will make adequate use of the opportunity to develop themselves.

A pep talk was delivered by Alhaji A. Kalgo, a Lecturer at the Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, centred on “**The Importance of Reading to the Vulnerable Class in the Society**”. Participants were charged by this talk to imbibe the attitude of life-long reading so as to be properly informed and enlightened.

The inmates thanked the management of NLN and prayed for more of such gestures in the future. Gifts presented for the inmates by the National Library of Nigeria included books and other consumables.



Mr. Zaki Jekada HOB, Sokoto 2nd left in a group photograph with officers of Kebbi Correctional Centre



KEBBI

The day two of the event took place at Kalgo Local Government Area of Kebbi State where the National Librarian informed members of the community that the essence of the campaign was to sensitize them on reading culture

The District Head of Kalgo, Alhaji A. Haruna in his remarks expressed joy and gratitude to the National Librarian and the management of the NLN for the decision to extend the RPC to local communities. He was optimistic that the gesture will impact positively on the members of his community.

The Chairman Kalgo LGA, Alhaji Ahmed in a remark commended the NLN for the initiative of brining the RPC down to community level. He stated that members of his community would utilise the opportunity offered by the NLN to improve their lives through reading.

Community members were delighted with the programme and appealed that such programmes be organised more frequently.



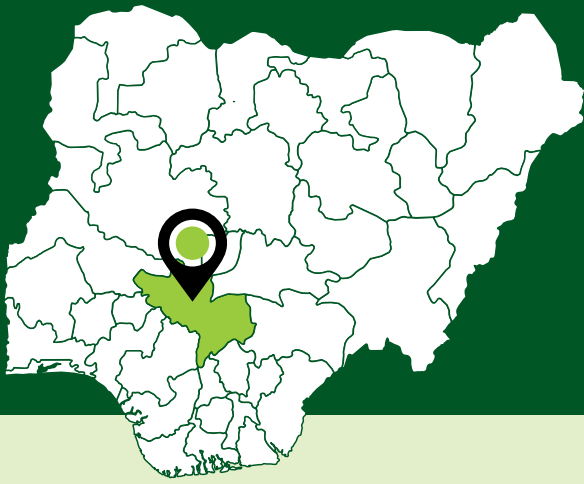
Mrs Oluchi Kalu, Director Virtual Library Services Department representing the NL/CEO at Kebbi State RPC.



Some dignitaries at Kebbi RPC.



Gifts presented at Kebbi Correctional Centre being inspected by an officer of the Centre.



NLN Begins Operations in Kogi

-Prof Aina

KOGI: The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Lenrie O. Aina has stated that the Kogi State branch of the National Library of Nigeria has just began operations to provide library services to the people of the state and to improve their level of reading culture.

He made this known at the Readership Promotion Campaign held at the Medium Security Correctional and Custodial Centre, Okene, Kogi State.

Represented by the Secretary to the Board of the apex library, Barr Aminu Ogaji, Prof. Aina said the Kogi State Government has given the National Library of Nigeria a temporary building to begin operations and a plot of land to construct a permanent and prototype structure. The National Librarian noted that temporary operations have just began and efforts are in place to commence the construction of permanent structure very soon. He said that currently, the National Library of Nigeria has ongoing projects for prototype buildings at in Calabar, Cross Rivers, Osogbo, Osun, Yenegoa, Bayelsa, Jalingo, Taraba and Ibadan, the Oyo State capital. He added that Gombe and Katsina State branches have been completed, what remained there was just landscaping and other small touches.

The National Librarian assured that permanent and prototype structures of the Kogi State branch would soon be actualized to give the people of the state ample opportunities to explore the area of technology and development.

Responding, the Comptroller, Nigerian Correctional Service, Kogi State Command, Mr A.A. Amanyi stated that the presence of the National Library of Nigeria in Kogi State is a welcome development considering the array of services that would be rendered by the apex library of the nation. The comptroller envisaged that this

development will improve the reading culture of Kogi people and enhance skills both on individual basis and the state in general.

Mr Amanyi attributed the rise in criminal activities and delayed development to lack of education. He therefore called on all inmates and other citizens in the state to embrace the reading culture which would help transform them to better members of society.

The comptroller expressed appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria for their decision to visit the correctional centre to lecture them on the importance of education and promised to carry the message to all the inmates and ensure adherence.

Other prominent personalities that attended the event include the Chief Judge of Kogi State, Justice Levy Animoku, Commissioner of Education, Hon Rosemary Osikoya, the University Librarian, Federal University, Lokoja, Prof Ezra S. Ubaje, and the Director of Kogi State Library Board among many others.

The resource person and pep talk speaker at the event, Mr Owolagba who lectured the inmates on the theme of the campaign - 'Reading: A tool for empowering the vulnerable' advised them to embrace the culture of reading even when they found themselves outside the correctional environment because it is capable of transforming them into esteemed personalities in the society.

Presenting her welcome address, the Head of Kogi State

branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Mrs Oyiza Agwu stated that since the inception of the Readership Promotion Campaign in 1981, it is the first time that the campaign has been carried out in the state. Mmrs Agwu averred that illiteracy and ignorance are some of the prevailing causes of poverty and under development in Nigeria and that is why the National Library of Nigeria has intensified the campaign encouraging citizens to embrace the culture of reading.

She said that to have a healthy society, education was the key and not only formal education but any form of knowledge would contribute to development. She then invited the guest and other citizens of Kogi State to visit the library at Stella Obasanjo library Complex Building, Second Gate Government House Road, GRA Lokoja.

At the end of the programme there was presentation of reading materials and food items.

In a related development, the Ohimegye Igu of Koton Karfe Local Government Area of the state, His Royal Majesty Alh. Abdulrazak Sani Isakoto has commended the enormous efforts of the National Library of Nigeria towards shoring up the reading habit of Nigerians.

The Ohimegye Igu who gave the commendation on the second day of the Readership Promotion Campaign in Kogi State which took place at his palace also pledged to encourage his subjects to key into the campaign.

HRM Alhaji Isakoto said that reading was not only for examination purposes but a way of life., According to the traditional ruler, reading, like other useful skills requires time and dedication to develop.

The programme was also featured a presentation of reading materials, refreshment and drama presentation and Cultural dances.



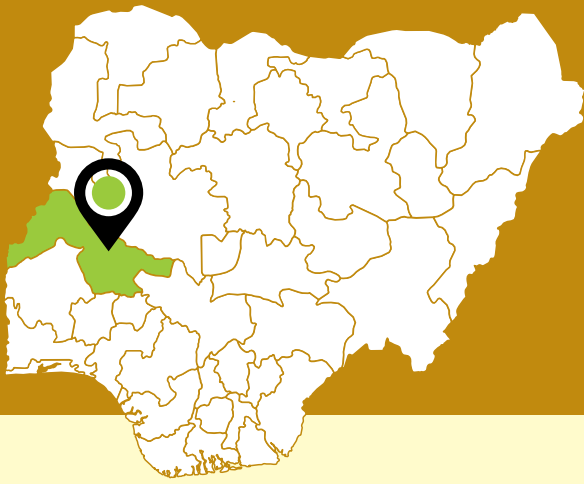
Staff of the Kogi Branch of the National Library at the 2019 RPC



Secretary to the National Library of Nigeria Board, Barr. Aminu Ogaji presenting reading materials on behalf of the National Librarian to Kogi Community during RPC 2019



Staff of the National Library, Kogi branch with officials of The Nigerian Correctional Service at Kogi Correctional Centre during the 2019 RPC



Inculcate the Value of Reading -Kwara Governor

KWARA: The Executive Governor of Kwara State, Abdurrahman Abdulrazak has said it is necessary to inculcate the values of reading in children and adults in order to boost human capital development required for continued societal progress.

The governor who stated this at the annual Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library of Nigeria at the Borstal Training Institute in the state, said people have realized that without education life would never be the same.

Represented by his Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Human Capital Development, the governor explained that he wants his administration to be remembered for stopping brain drain on account of poor infrastructure and lack of the right environment to thrive.

He said that 'the House of Assembly has approved the revised budget which provided for renovation of the state owned library that is currently in a state of disrepair'; adding that government is not just renovating but making the place a sort of innovation hub with full internet access necessary for '21st century education. This step according to the governor would boost reading culture and human capital development in the state.

Earlier in his opening speech. The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie O. Aina explained that the center was chosen because its inmates lacked adequate information materials required for

of the Apex library, Alhaja Kafayat OLani, stated that inmates were incarcerated and deprived of access to hearing and information resources noting that the circumstances of this sub – sector in the society should not stop them from being inquisitive to seek for information.

Prof Aina added that inmates needed to know more about health, finances, economy, government



From right: Mrs. O.K. Olani, Head KWSB and Miss Omogbayi Blessing Efe representative from the National Library Headquarter presenting books and bookshelf to Amoyo Community leader.

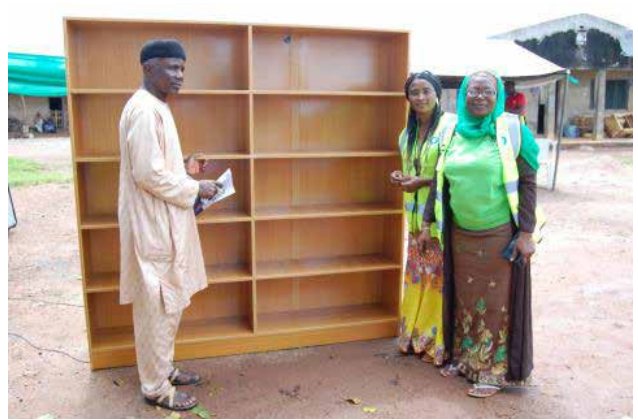
personal development. He noted that the organization decided that the campaign be held at the centre in order to brace up all inmates towards the acquisition of knowledge and self-development.

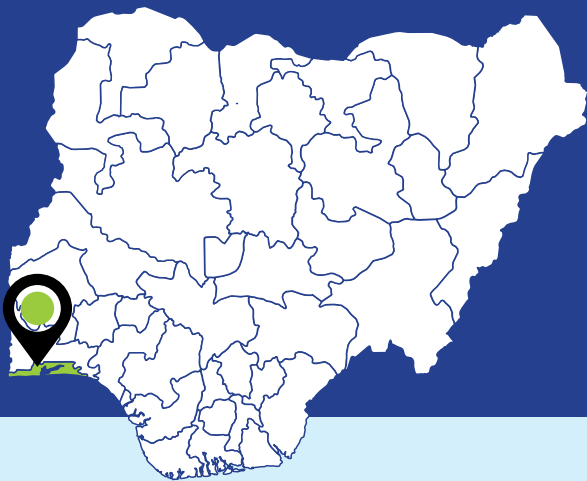
The National Librarian, represented by the Head, Kwara State branch

policies, current affairs, and politics in order to survive and function better in the society. He said inmates would be supported with books carefully selected to meet their information needs so that they could acquire the necessary knowledge that will enable them become good citizens.



KWARA





RPC a Welcome Development -Chief Gbengbeleku

LAGOS: The campaign train of the RPC moved to the semi – Urban community of Ajegunle in Lagos state where the Baale of the community Chief Shehu Salami Gbengbeleku welcomed them saying that they are highly honoured to have a Federal Government organisation choose their community to host such campaign. According to the Baale, the campaign is a welcome development that should be appreciated by all.

The Readership Promotion Campaign was held in Lagos at the Nigerian correctional centre Ikoyi, and the Ajegunle Community in Lagos.

The National Librarian and Chief

Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Lenrie Aina who was represented by the Head of Branch, in Lagos, Mrs. Uju Onuorah declared that “by way of strategies, the campaign that was extended to the early part of the

year, covered hospitals, and motor parks across the nation with a focus on pregnant women, drivers, and passengers. To keep the tempo going, Readership Promotion Campaign-in line with the present administration’s policy of reaching out to the vulnerable and the poor - is covering semi – urban community and custodial centres”.

The Head of Branch, NLN Lagos State, Mrs. Onuorah said the campaign was designed to arouse the people’s interest towards



The Baale of Ajegunle Community in Lagos ,Chief Shehu Salami Gbengbeleku, the HOB, Lagos, Mrs Uju Onuorah and the members of the community at the RPC

reading so as to maximize the numerous benefits it confers.

The Assistant Comptroller of the correctional centre, Mr Aremu Adegboyega in his remarks said he was excited to have the presence of the National Library of Nigeria in their facility.

In the same vein, the principal of the correctional Centre, Mr Ibikunle and one of the inmates gave the closing remark by thanking the organisation saying that, the door of their correctional centre was open any time.

Mr. Tom Udeme, a motivational speaker who was once an inmate at the Ikoyi correctional centre also gave a pep talk on the importance of reading and gave some words of encouragement to the inmates to embrace reading.

The chairman of Ajeromi/Ifelodun LGA , Mr Tunde Balogun who spoke in Yoruba language and pidgin advised the youth to shun vices and embrace reading as a decent way to progress in life.

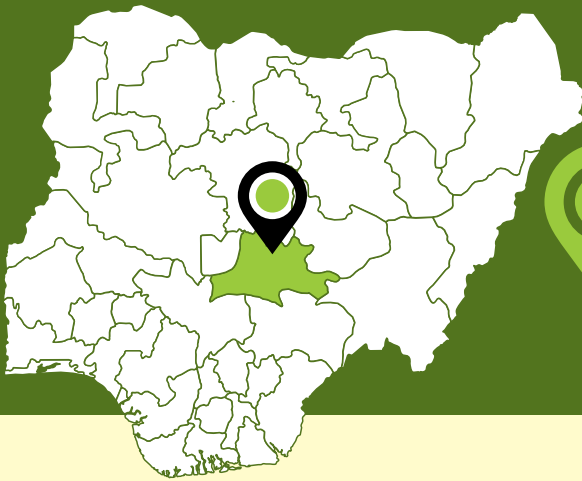
National Library of Nigeria presented books and book shelf to the community.



Baale of Ajegunle community Chief Salami Gbengbeleku receiving books and book shelf from The National Library of Nigeria



The Baale of Ajegunle community, the HOB, Lagos Branch, Mrs Uju Onuorah , the community members and the staff of the branch during the RPC



NASARAWA

Home of Solid Minerals

Readership Campaign a Reawakening Call -HRH Angbazo

NASARAWA: The Aren Eggon, His Royal Highness, Dr. Bala Angbazo has appreciated the National Library of Nigeria organisers of the Readership Promotion Campaign for extending their hands of partnership to the community. He described reading as an important exercise that human beings must be involved in in order to be better irrespective of age or gender. He encouraged participants to take the event as a reawakening call by indulging in continuous reading.

The Readership Promotion Campaign was speaking at the event held at Eggon rural community in Nasarawa Eggon Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, the National Librarian /CEO, Prof. Lenrie Aina described reading as a veritable tool for empowering the vulnerable and eradicating illiteracy in society. He disclosed that the main objective of the nationwide Readership Promotion Campaign was to encourage reading among

Nigerians and provision of reading materials while calling for collective effort with other stakeholders in order to proffer solution that would improve the reading culture of the vulnerable.

Prof. Aina who was represented by the Director, Collection, Development and Technical Services of the National Library of Nigeria, Mrs Anthonia Onuoha explained vulnerability in the context as the diminishing capacity of an

individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist or recover from the impact of natural or man-made hazards; even as he lamented that poor reading culture was a social phenomenon that cuts across all social strata of the Nigerian society.

In her welcome address, the Head of branch, Mrs. Rafikatu Sylvanus said the exercise was designed to encourage the citizens to read despite one's profession, gender or age.



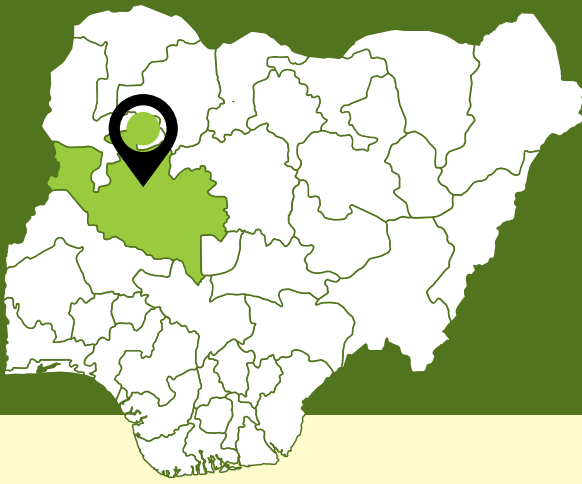
Head of Nasarawa State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Mrs Rufkatu Isah; middle with members of Eggon Community during the 2019 RPC

The campaign was also taken to the Nigerian Correctional Centre, Doma Road, Lafia where the State Comptroller of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Mr. E. E. Okoro received them and appreciated the management of the National Library of Nigeria for considering the correctional centre as one of the places to visit. The comptroller said inmates at the correctional centre as are desirous to read.

The Readership Promotion Campaign was with new innovation as books and shelf donated to the community.



Director Collection, Development and Technical Services Mrs Anthonia Onuoha delivering the National Librarian's speech during the 2019 RPC in Nasarawa



National Librarian Laments Poor Reading Culture

NIGER: The National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina has lamented the poor reading culture in the country. He disclosed this at the national Readership Promotion Campaign which took place at the palace of the District Head of Bosso in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State.

Prof. Aina explained that the Readership Promotion Campaign was taken to the communities across the nation as a way of sensitizing dwellers of semi-urban areas on the need to embrace reading culture to foster individual and national development.

The occasion was graced by the Secretary to the Niger State Government who was represented by a Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Secretary to the State Government, the District Head of Bosso Local Government Area, Mallam Adamu Muazu Laka, the College and University Librarian of Niger State College of Education and Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, members of the Association of Nigerian Authors members of the Bosso community.

Dr. Abubakar Ndayelechi of Niger State College of Education, Minna who delivered a keynote speech on the theme of the campaign: "Reading: A Tool for Empowering the Vulnerable" spoke extensively to the community members on the importance of reading.

The campaign equally took

place at the Medium Security and Custodial Centre, Tunga, Minna where the inmates were sensitized on the need to develop themselves through reading so that they can come out as changed persons after their jail terms.



Mr. Philemon Aya HOB, Niger State on official visit to the Comptroller, Niger State Correctional Centre prior to 2019 RPC.

In an opening remark, the Comptroller General of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Mr. Lawal Gausu who was represented by the Deputy Comptroller, expressed delight to the NLN for embarking on nationwide reading campaign and especially for taking it further to the vulnerable in the society. He stressed that the event will remain indelible in the lives of the inmates.

At the custodial centre, the Head of National Library, Niger branch, Mr. Philemon Aya who represented the National Librarian informed the inmates that they too need to know about health, finances, economy, government policies, current affairs, politics etc. in order to survive in the society. He further stated that the poor reading culture is a social phenomenon that cuts across the social strata of the Nigerian society. He stressed

that the NLN is collaborating with relevant stakeholders to ameliorate the poor reading culture and turn Nigeria to a reading nation.

In line with the custom of the National Library of Nigeria, books and shelves were presented both to the Bosso community and the Medium Security and Custodial Centre.



A Cross-section of the Community in Bosso LGA, Niger State where the RPC took place.



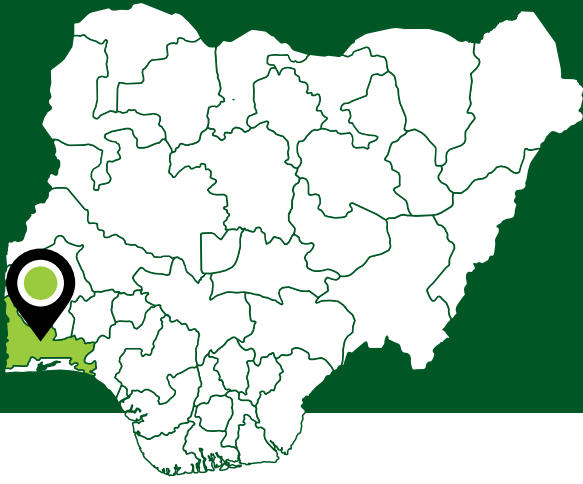
Community members of Bosso LGA, Niger State where the 2019 RPC was held.



Members of Bosso Community of Niger State at 2019 RPC held in the Community, Niger State.



Cross Section of some participants at the RPC held at Bosso LGA, Niger State.



Embrace Reading Culture

-National Librarian

The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina has urged all inmates in Nigeria to embrace the reading culture in order to improve themselves and help in the country's development. He stated this at the Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the National Library of Nigeria, Ogun State branch at the Nigerian Correctional Service, Ibara Custodial Centre, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The centre was established in 1900 with a capacity for 510 inmates but presently housing 1180 inmates.

The National Librarian noted that it was the right of all inmates in the country to prosper in life and this can only happen when they engage in constructive study. He added that they could not achieve that without the support of all stakeholders to make them changed individuals in the society.

He said if given the opportunity to study well while at the correctional centres, inmates would have valuable contributions to the development of the nation. Prof. Aina urged the inmates to endeavour to cultivate the habit of reading as 'readers are leaders' and told them to become better individuals in the society. The National Librarian assured inhabitants of the communities at the correctional centres that they would be supported with books and other reading materials which are carefully selected to meet their needs.

The national Librarian represented by the Director and Special Assistant to the National Librarian on Professional Matters, Mr. Paul Ibrahim Mamman also noted that the campaign was to bring the best out of Nigerians through the act of reading. He disclosed that with the provision of reading opportunities in the semi-urban and correctional centres, the inmates would make good use of their time reading books to acquire

knowledge instead of wasting time in non-useful ventures.

Responding, the Welfare Officer, Ogun State maximum security and Correctional Centres Mr. Abdulhakeem Awesu stated that 30 of their inmates were currently undergoing undergraduate degree studies while one inmate was on a Master's programme with the National Open University of Nigeria. He noted that currently many inmates were writing WAEC and NECO examinations, stressing that with the assistance of the National Library of Nigeria, the inmates are on the path of progress in life. He explained that the gesture by the National Library of Nigeria would go a long way to ensure that the inmates nationwide get sound and quality education that could make them better persons in future.

Earlier in his opening remarks, the head of the National Library, Ogun State branch, Mr. J. Ajayi said the National Library of Nigeria was in the correctional centre in Ogun to resuscitate the dying reading culture in the country. He added that readership promotion was one of the major mandates of the National Library of Nigeria and the year's focus was on vulnerable Nigerians and the Nigerian Correctional Centres.



Asalu Oyetola Apete in Ogun Commends NLN

OGUN – The community leader of Asalu Oyetola Apete village in Ogun State, Baale Oke – Odo Chief Olusegun Ogunbona has commended the National Library of Nigeria for choosing the community and other semi-urban communities in the country to carry out such important campaign as the Readership Promotion Campaign.

The Baale expressed his appreciation when the Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the National Library of Nigeria reached his village in Odeda Local Government Area of Ogun State. According to the Baale, everybody in the community was impressed with the campaign. He pointed out the presence of all teachers in the community, all market women and men, all farmers and parents who had attended the event as a proof and assured that the people of the community would make sure that they sustain readership and use materials given to the community very well.

Earlier in his keynote address at the event, the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie O. Aina emphasized that the years' campaign focused on two major areas namely: semi – urban communities and Nigerian correctional centres, noting that it was what informed the choice of Asalu Oyetola Apete Village for the campaign.

The National Librarian noted that semi – urban communities and Nigerian correctional centres were amongst sub – sectors considered to be in the category of the vulnerable in our society. He explained that though the concept of vulnerability was relative and dynamic, in context, it is seen as the diminished capacity of an individual

or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of natural or man-made hazards.

While noting that vulnerability was most often associated with poverty, Prof Aina revealed it could as well arise when people are isolated, insecure, and defenseless in the face of risk, shock, or stress. Prof Aina pointed out that semi – urban communities lack adequate information materials which are required to acquire knowledge for personal development. Due to ignorance as a result of either inadequate or total absence of information materials as

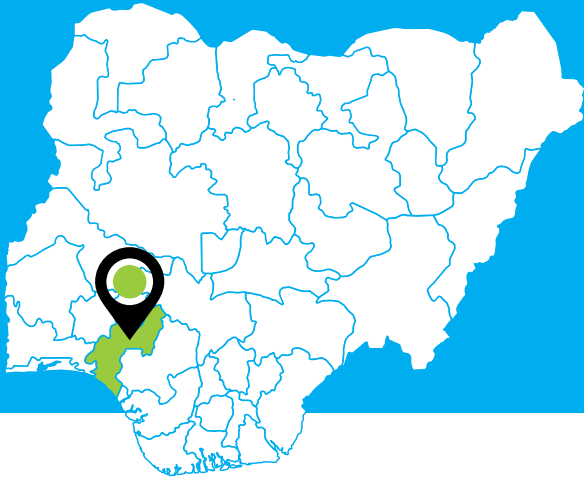
dissemination, the community suffers from acute low productivity, social and economic retrogression.

The National Librarian who was represented by the director of Special Duties, Mr. Paul Ibrahim Mamma advised the people of the community to embrace reading culture for their development and the development of their children yet unborn.

The keynote speaker at the event, Mr. Olalekuan Alex Shoyinka in his speech had expressed the need to partner with the NLN to promote reading culture among Nigerians, he cited as example the Asalu Oyetola Apete village had only one public primary school and lacked social amenities such as schools, good roads and portable water supply.



Representative of the National Librarian, Director, Special Duties, Mr. Mamman (second right) at the Readership Promotion Campaign in Ogun



Ondo Inmates Laud National Library of Nigeria

ONDO: In her mission to promote reading culture in the country, the National Library of Nigeria extended her Readership Promotion Campaign to the Nigerian Correctional Centre Olokuta, Ore Road, Ondo.

The representative of the Comptroller, Mr Aderemi Adeleke thanked the National Library of Nigeria for considering correctional centres for this year's Readership Promotional Campaign. She appreciated the National Library of Nigeria for such giant initiative which she said will go a long way in promoting the reading culture among inmates.

In response, the inmates expressed gratitude to the National Library of Nigeria for the visit and promised to make good use of the materials given to them.

The facility was established in 1988 and has the capacity for Two hundred (200) inmates but presently has Six Hundred and Nineteen (619) inmates.

In the same spirit of the campaign, the campaign was taken to Owo rural Community in Ondo State. Speaking during the rural community campaign in Owo, the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. L.O.Aina represented by the Chief Admin officer, Mr. E.O. Okoro regretted that poor reading culture in Nigeria is now a dangerous challenge to both individual and national development and called for prompt actions to address the problem.

The resource person for the campaign, Dr (Mrs) Yinka Jinadu of Rufus Giwa Polytechnic Owo did justice to the theme of the event, by stressing the importance of reading to an individual, family and the general society. She also gave words of encouragement to the participants.

The representative of the Chairman, Owo Local Government Area, Mr Bankole Balogun said education is the spice of life and reading wipes away ignorance,

promising that the local government will support the National Library of Nigeria in promoting the reading campaign and appreciated the National Library of Nigeria for the recognition accorded to the traditional institution.

He also called on Ondo Library Board to key into the reading campaign programme and initiate the reading campaign similar at the ward level of the state saying lack of reading makes people to be illiterates and illiterates are an enemy of peace. He encouraged the attendees to always read in order to update skills in whatever they do.

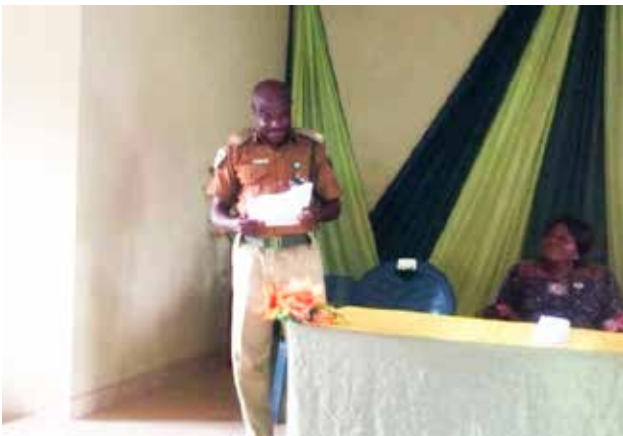
Books and shelf were donated to community and the correctional centre.



The NL/CEO's Opening Remarks delivered by Mr Okoro at Ondo RPC



Head of Branch, Mrs M.W. Ogunyemi, Mr E. U. Okoro, Mrs Mary and staff of the correctional centre in Ondo



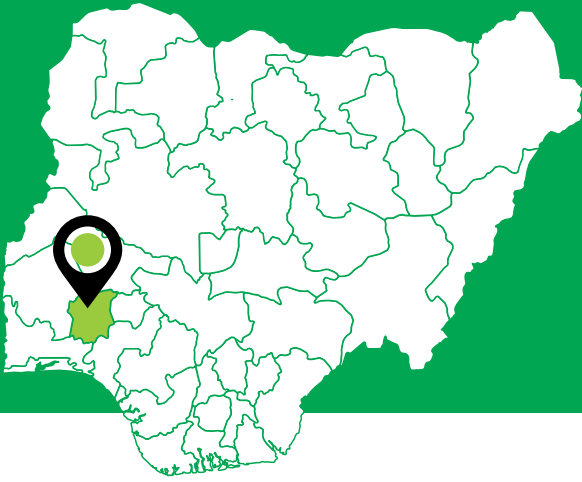
Mr Aderemi Adeleke reading the Comptroller's speech at the Event



Welcome address by the HOB, Mrs M. Ogunyemi at the Ondo RPC



Group Photograph of Staff of NLN, Abuja and Akure at the Presentation of gifts items to inmates and received by the Correctional Service officials



OSUN

Reading: A Priority for Individual Growth

-National Librarian

OSUN: The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina has urged management of national correctional and custodial centres as well as their inmates to give reading a priority. He made the call at the annual Readership Promotion Campaign organized by Osun State branch of the National Library of Nigeria held at the Ayeso, Ilesa Correctional and Custodial Centre, Osun State. He stated that reading could benefit individuals in many areas such as increased memory, increased vocabulary, it can make individuals to be more creative and to develop their skills in many professions, adding that reading also enhances the educational growth of a nation.

Professor Lenrie Aina explained that reading culture refers to habitual and regular reading of books and informational materials. He further noted that strategies for developing reading culture are usually introduced to children at the early stage of their lives, while adults could adopt the reading culture by regular reading

The National Librarian noted that establishment of libraries could hasten the reading culture in the same way regular training of teachers and instructors would support children and adult adopt the habit of reading. He added that reading culture could be enhanced through the provision of sustainable reading materials in schools and

public libraries and the use of the readership promotion campaign.

Prof Aina also lamented that poor funding of education and poor economy hindered the inculcation of the reading culture. In addition, the National Librarian said the multi lingual nature of Nigeria also affects the reading culture because English Language is not a mother tongue and has been made an official language of the country.

In his response, the Comptroller, Correctional and Custodial Centre, Osun State Command, Mr Segun Isaac expressed his command's appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria for the good initiatives and kind gestures

towards sensitizing inmates to develop the habit of reading.

He revealed that the inmates have been engaged with so many educational activities such as classroom teaching, debates and quiz competition but the custodial centre lacked books and other reading materials. The Comptroller further noted that luckily most inmates have the interest to read and acquire knowledge, assuring that with the provision of adequate books and other reading materials, inmates would utilize the gesture very well.

Many inmates during the pep talks showered their appreciation on the National Library of Nigeria and promised to adhere to the advice given by the National Librarian.

Second day of the campaign took place at the Iragbiji Town hall with the theme 'reading: a tool for empowering the vulnerable' where the Kabiyesi, Akirun of Ikirun land, Oba Olawale Adedeji, the Kabiyesi Oba Kamaruuddeen, Adeyanju Alawole IV, the Olororuwo of Ororuwo Land, Aragbiji of Iragbiji Land, Oba Abdulrasheed, Ayotunde Olaboi, Odundun Asoludero



National Librarian, Professor L.O Aina presenting reading materials to the Osun Correctional Centre during the 2019 RPC

IV who was represented by his deputy Eesa of Iragbiji Land, Chief Muraina Oyelami, Chiefs Iyalode and the Otun Iyalode of Iragbiji Land and lots of other important dignitaries attended the campaign.

Addressing the Obas, the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie O. Aina solicited their support for the National Library of Nigeria to enable the National Library free the nation from bondage.

Professor Aina reiterated the call for the education of children to curtail their involvement in crime noting further that since children are supposed to be leaders of tomorrow, they must be prepared to showcase their talents and expertise to become relevant individuals in the society.

Represented by the head of branch, Dr. Adejumoke S. Ajibola, Professor Aina invited all participants to always visit the National Library of Nigeria Osun state branch located at KM 2 New Ikiru Road, Omo West, New NYSC Secretariat, Osogbo Osun State. He also advised them to assist in spreading this information to the larger population.

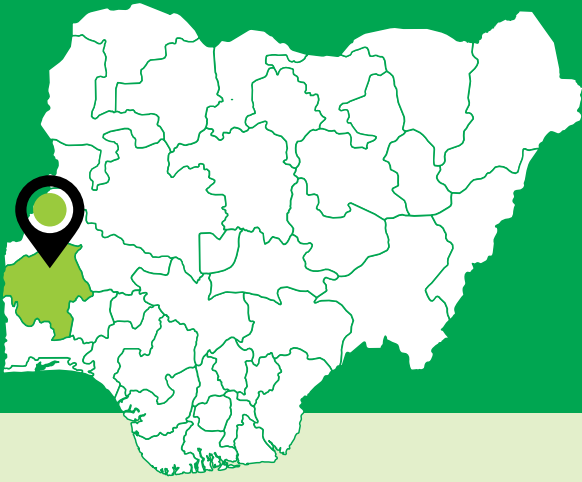
Reading materials and other gifts were also presented to the community as well as the Correctional centre.



National Librarian, Prof. L.O. Aina (middle) with National Library of Nigeria, Osun branch Staff and officers from the Osun State command of the Nigerian Correctional Service during the 2019 RPC



Prof. L.O. Aina with the Head of the National Library Osun State branch, Mrs. Ajibola C. during the 2019 RPC in Osun



OYO

The Pacesetter State

NLN Reels out Objectives of Readership Campaign

OYO: The annual Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library of Nigeria was held in Ibadan, the Oyo state at the Agodi Correctional Service and Custodial Centre and at the Award Hall of Akinyele Local Government Secretariat, Moniya, Ibadan respectively.

At the Agodi Correctional Service and Custodial Centre, the programme was anchored by the Principal of the Custodial Centre, Mr. Oluwatoki Sunday who in the opening remarks welcomed all present and expressed satisfaction to the management of the National Library of Nigeria for putting such programme in place.

The representative of the National Librarian, Deputy Director of Legal Deposit department, Ms. I.G. Akpabio, in a welcome address reeled out the objectives of the campaign, saying that it was aimed at encouraging reading amongst Nigerians by way of carrying out sensitization activities and the provision of good reading materials. She further stated that it was a collective effort with other stakeholders in order to proffer solutions that would ameliorate the poor reading culture in Nigeria.

The Comptroller of the Centre who was represented by the Assistant Comptroller, Mrs. Ajeleti in a speech commended the National Library of Nigeria for the campaign stating that it was very necessary considering the poor reading culture of Nigerians. She applauded the Management of the NLN for deeming it fit to bring down the reading campaign to the vulnerable in society and hoped that the gesture will boost the reading habit of the prison inmates.

The Principal of the Custodial Centre, Mr. Oluwatoki Sunday took the entourage round the Custodial Centre School Library and equally used the opportunity to appeal to the management of the National Library for financial and material support.

Drama show and cultural dance were displayed by the inmates who were very much delighted with the

programme. Books and shelf were presented to the custodial centre.

The second day of the campaign was held at the Award Hall of Akinyele local government secretariat, Moniya, Ibadan where the members of the community were sensitized on the importance of reading for individual and national development.

A keynote address was presented by Mrs. Victoria Oloyede on the theme of the campaign. Goodwill messages were presented by Mrs. Janet Lasisi, a retired Deputy Director of the NLN, and by other guests.

The community Head, Mrs. Aderonke Idowu who was represented by Mrs. C.O. Adetayo expressed gratitude on behalf of the community members and pledged that they will make adequate use of the resources presented. Dignitaries at the event included Chairman of the National Library Association, Oyo State Chapter, Dr. Pius Olajo among others.

Books and shelves were presented to the community to set up their mini-library.



Mrs. Ajeleti, Assistant Comptroller of the Custodial Centre appreciating NLN for the RPC brought to the inmates.



Ms. I. G. Akpabio, presenting books to the Agodi Custodial Centre, Oyo to mark 2019 RPC. The gifts were received by Mrs. Ajeleti, the Assistant Comptroller of the Centre.



A Cross-section of participants at Akinyele LGA, Moniya Ibadan where the 2019 RPC took place.



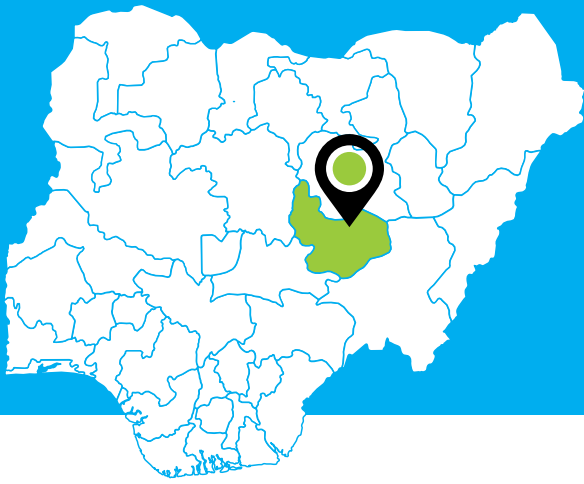
Some dignitaries at the RPC held in Akinyele LGA, Moniya Ibadan



Mr. Salawu, HOB, Oyo presenting his speech at Akinyele LGA during 2019 RPC held at the community.



Ms. I. G. Akpabio, DD Legal Deposit 3rd right in a group photo with some members of staff of Oyo State branch of the National Library of Nigeria at the Akinyele Local Government Secretariat where the RPC took place.



Jos East Chairman Promises To Build A Library For Community

PLATEAU: The Chairman of Jos East local government council in Plateau State, Hon. Ibrahim Musa Agwonwho has promised to build a library for the community before the end of his tenure.

Hon, Agwonwho made this declaration during the Readership Promotion Campaign organized by the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) in Maigemu community, Angware in Jos East local government council.

The chairman in a statement expressed his appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria for choosing Jos East Local Government Area to be honoured for such national event to hold in their community. The Chairman who also declared that he was delighted to host such event during his tenure promised to provide more shelves and books in addition to the ones donated to the community by

the National Library of Nigeria.

The Readership Promotion Campaign was also taken to Custodial Centre, Jos. The Head of Plateau Branch of NLN, Mrs Sarah Emmanuel encouraged all especially the inmates to take reading as a habit and join hands with the National Library of Nigeria in her efforts to empower the vulnerable in society.

In a solidarity message, the ACC, Jos Custodial Centre, Mr. Tekura Luka advised the inmates to make adequate use of the opportunity provided by the National Library of Nigeria to develop themselves so that at the end of their terms,

they will leave the place better than the way they came.

Readership Promotion Campaign is an annual event being organized by the National Library of Nigeria aimed at inculcating reading habit to all Nigerians. The theme for the campaign is: Reading: A Tool for Empowering the Vulnerable.

The National Librarian, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina was represented at the Plateau event by the Director of Human Resources and Administration, Mr. Bamidele Jacobs who informed participants that with the provision of reading opportunities in semi-urban areas and correctional centres, people can make good use of their time reading books to acquire knowledge instead of wasting their precious time with idle talks or discussions.



Mr. Bamidele Jacob, Director Human Resources and Administration (M, on cap), Mrs Sarah Emmanuel standing 7th from R, Mrs Miriam Kayode on blue and white attire and other members of staff including NYSC members at the Angware Community, Maigamu, Jos East LGA for 2019 RPC.



Director HR, Mr. Jacob Bamidele (on cap) with NLN Staff at the Jos Custodial Centre during the 2019 RPC held at the Correctional Centre.



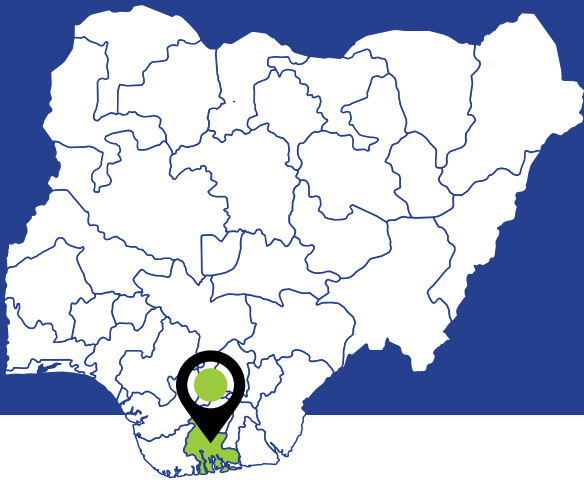
Mrs. Sarah Mshelia Emmanuel HOB, Plateau at an official visit to the Comptroller, Jos Custodial Centre seeking approval for the 2019 RPC.



National Library Staff with members of Angware Community during RPC held at the Community.



NLN staff with the Comptroller, Jos Correctional Centre.



National Library on the Move to Promote Readership

RIVERS: Until majority of Nigerians fully cultivate the habit of reading, National Library of Nigeria will continue to carry out its Readership Promotion Campaign. This captures the resolve of the National Library of Nigeria to greatly improve reading culture of Nigerians.

Having taken the campaign to various groups across the nation - to schools, to hospitals through pregnant women, to motor parks etc, the campaign was targeted to the vulnerable in the society.

In line with this, the apex library hosted the RPC at the Maximum Security Custodial Centre, Port-Harcourt, River State where inmates were exposed to various activities that would arouse their reading interest.

Delivering the National Librarian's welcome address, Mr. Kingsley Egbulonu informed the inmates that the National Library of Nigeria has decided to extend the Readership Promotion Campaign to the vulnerable in the society knowing that it is only through reading that they can develop themselves and become useful when they are integrated back to the society. According to him, inmates are incarcerated and deprived of access to learning and information resources. The National Library of Nigeria is therefore supporting inmates with books which are carefully selected to meet their information needs bearing in minds that the correctional centres' policy of not allowing restricted books to the centres is not abused.

The Deputy Comptroller, Corrections, Mr. M. Ojiugo who received the National Library entourage thanked the organisation for carrying the vulnerable along in the readership promotion programme. He stressed that the programme will in no small measure positively affect the lives of the inmates and bring about positive changes in their lives.

A paper presentation titled: Reading: An Instrument for Self Freedom and Empowerment was delivered by Elder

Lucky Welekwe, Director, River State Library Board. He advised the inmates to imbibe the habit of reading which will empower them and make them self-reliant.



Elder Lucky Welekwe, a former Director, Rivers State Library Board giving a Motivational Speech to the Inmates of Maximum Security Custodial Centre, Port Harcourt during the 2019 RPC.



Two inmates of the centre gave motivational speeches that encouraged their fellows on self-development.

The Deputy Comptroller of Corrections, while receiving the gifts of books, shelf and other consumables applauded the NLN and solicited that more books be sent to equip the custodial centre library.

The RPC event proceeded to Omoku-Onelga community in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni local government area of River State on 7th November, 2019. Residents of the community happily received the National Library of Nigeria entourage.

In a welcome address, Mr. Kingsley Egbulonu who represented the National Librarian informed the community members that the National Library of Nigeria is bent on ensuring that people in the semi-urban communities were not left behind in the readership promotion campaign hence the need to bring down the campaign to the rural areas.

The Traditional Prime Minister, Eze Yasara who spoke on behalf of the community praised the NLN for reawakening the consciousness of the community on the need for a community library and also for providing a take-off shelf and books for the library.

During the event, a paper titled: Reading Culture: A Tool for Knowledge and Wealth Creations in Nigeria was presented by Mr. ThankGod Dimkpa. He exposed the community members to the importance of reading which serves as a tool for knowledge and wealth creation.

The Chairman of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area who was represented by Dr. Sam Praise also joined his voice to appreciate the NLN for such initiative. He was hopeful that the gesture will go

a long way to motivate the community members to read.

Books and shelf were presented to the community through the Traditional Prime Minister, Eze Yasara.



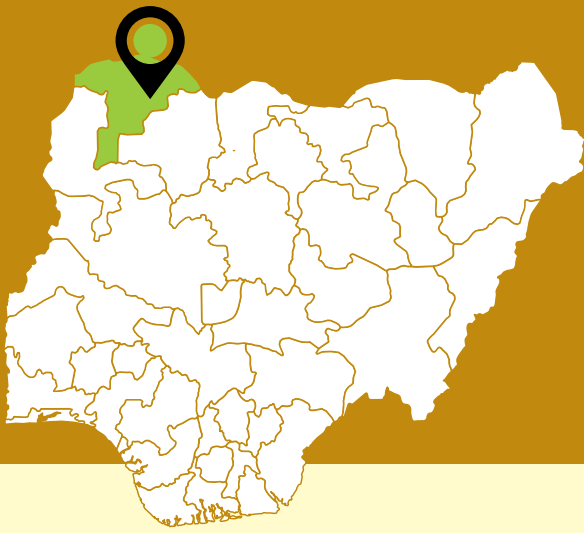
From L-R: Mr. Kingsley Egbulonu HOB, Rivers State, Elder Lucky Welekwe, a Former Director, Rivers State Library Board, Mr. Nwabueze, HOB, Imo State presenting books and book shelf to the Maximum Custodial Centre, Port Harcourt.



A Representative of the Chairman of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA, Eze-Yassara of Omoku Community (Red Cap middle) flanked by other Dignitaries/Community members and RPC LOC at the RPC held at Omoku-Onelga, Rivers State.



Mr. Kingsley Egbulonu, HOB, Rivers State presenting the NL/CEO's address at Omoku-Onelga, Rivers State.



SOKOTO

Seat of Caliphate

National Library Of Nigeria Donates Books To Sokoto Correctional Centre

SOKOTO: The National Library of Nigeria has donated books and book shelf to the Sokoto State Correctional Centre to encourage the inmates to develop the habit of reading. The items and other consumable goods were handed over to the inmates during the Readership Promotion Campaign.

In a welcome address presented by the Head of Sokoto State branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Malam Zaki Jekada who represented the National Librarian/CEO, he informed the participants that the readership campaign was aimed at sensitizing the vulnerable of the society on reading culture which will transform their lives. He further informed them that the NLN is set to ensuring that Nigerians cultivate the habit of reading.

The Deputy Comptroller, Corrections (DCC), H.A. Kamba

in an opening remark expressed gratitude to the management of the National Library of Nigeria for taking the bold step of extending the readership campaign to the vulnerable. He said the programme will boost the morale of the prison inmates towards reading for personal development. He received the gifts on behalf of the centre and was optimistic that the book gifts and the shelf will be fully utilized.

The inmates who were very excited with the programmes staged a debate on the topic: "Between

Teachers and Parents who is to be blamed for the Falling Standard of Education". Winners were rewarded handsomely with a gift.

Leader of the inmates, nicknamed as Sarki while expressing his gratitude on behalf of his fellows applauded the management of the NLN for extending the RPC to the vulnerable and hoped that the gesture would enhance their skills.

Other dignitaries at the event include, Alhaji Abubakar Shamaki, a board member of the National Library of Nigeria, Alhaji Bayero who delivered a pep talk, CSC Nasiru and others.

Phones are consuming the Time of the Youths - Chairman Wamakko LG

SOKOTO: The Chairman of Wamakko Local Government Council of Sokoto State has lamented that phones are consuming the time of the youths at the detriment of books. The local

council boss who was represented by the council Secretary, Alhaji A. Goronyo however thanked the National Librarian for his initiative in taking on the campaign to improve reading and especially

extending the initiative to the rural areas, expressing optimism that everyone will heed the call to embrace reading.

While thanking the leadership of Wamakko Local Government Area for accepting to host the readership campaign, the National Librarian, Prof. L.O. Aina said that the poor reading culture affects all strata of the society and the



National Library of Nigeria aims to reverse the trend so that our society will gain all the benefits that accrue to those who read. Reading, according to the National Librarian, must not be in English language but in any language that is most convenient to the reader.

A pep talk was also delivered by Dr. Bayero, National Library Association State Chairman and an indigene of the community to encourage his people on the importance of reading.

Present at the event were the eleven councilors of the Local Government Council, ten district heads and Imams, staff of the National Orientations Agency, women leader, members of kabu-kabu association and other members of the community. Other dignitaries at the event include; Alhaji Abubakar Shamaki, a board member of the National Library of Nigeria, staff of NLN, Sokoto State branch, some NYSC corps members, staff of the correctional centre and the inmates at the custodial centre.

The community was presented with gifts of books and book shelf to set the reading ball rolling.



The NL/CEO on arrival at Wamakko LGA, flanked by the Council Secretary, Alhaji A. Goronyo who represented the Council Chairman. Behind is the HOB, Sokoto branch of the National Library of Nigeria, Mr. Zaki Jekada.



Mr. Zaki Jekada 2nd left, officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Sokoto Command and others in attendance during 2019 RPC held at the centre.



The National Librarian/CEO, Prof. L.O. Aina addressing the people of Wamakko LGA of Sokoto State during the 2019 RPC held at the community.



SOKOTO



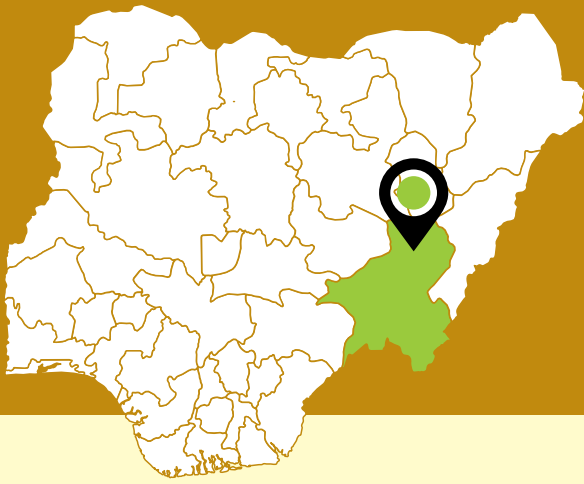
Faces at the Sokoto Correctional Centre for 2019 RPC.



Mr. Zaki Jekada HOB, Sokoto presenting the NL/CEO's address at the Sokoto Correctional Centre



Staff of National Library of Nigeria, NYSC corps members and some officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service during the 2019 RPC



Reading Culture Poor in Rural Areas

-Dogo

TARABA: The Chairman Ardo – Kola Local Government of Taraba State, Hon, Salihu Dogo says the reading culture in the country was very poor particularly in the rural areas.

The local government administrator who spoke at the community outreach programme of the Readership Promotion Campaign organised by the National Library of Nigeria also pleaded that the Readership Promotion Campaign in Ardo – Kola Local Government in Taraba will not be complete without the children in primary and secondary schools since they are target audience and most vulnerable in terms of education. He stated the programme came at the right time as he compared the level of education in primary and secondary schools in his Local Government Area.

Hon, Dogo charged the National Library of Nigeria to make the Readership Promotion Campaign an annual event until reading culture is totally revived in the country. He also thanked the National Library of Nigeria for the wonderful gift of books and shelf donated to the LGA. He promised that his community will make good use items for the purpose it was intended.

The Taraba state branch of National Library of Nigeria Readership Promotion Campaign had as its theme "Reading : A tool for empowering the vulnerable" .

Speaking during the event that took place at Ardo – Kola Local Government Area, Jalingo. The National Librarian /Chief Executive Officer of the National Library, Prof. L.O. Aina who was represented by M .K Mrs Abudul-Azeez ,said with reading as a tool the individual in the semi-Urban areas can be empowered with knowledge and information to effectively carry out economic, social and political activities saying the individual in

our correctional centres too can acquire knowledge and become a better citizen.

The National Librarian explained that with the provision of reading materials in semi-urban areas and custodial centres, the target audience can make good use of their time reading books to acquire knowledge and become productive instead of wasting their time with idle talks.

The Readership Promotion Campaign train was also at the correctional centre in Jalingo to sensitize inmates of the importance of reading while in prison, The Deputy Comptroller Corrections, Mr Ezekiel Moses Kagah reminded the inmates that the down fall of any man is not the end of the man.

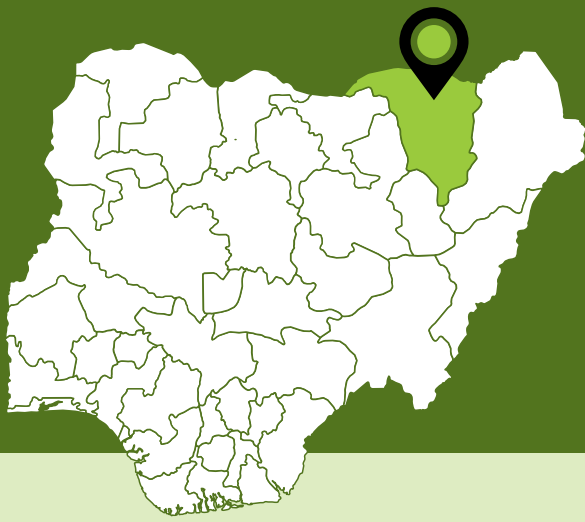
In line with the theme, he said readers are leaders of tomorrow. He further stated that reading is a tool that will lead one to the next level which will in turn transform one positively into a better person. He thanked the National Library of Nigeria for the reading materials donated to the correctional centres.



Mrs Abdulazeez and Staff of National Library of Nigeria at the Taraba State RPC



Members of Ardo-Kola Community at the Taraba State RPC.



NLN Mulls Reopening of Yobe Branch

The National Librarian, Professor Lenrie Olatokubo Aina has promised to reopen Yobe State branch of the National Library of Nigeria to give people of the state access to library services. He made this known at the Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library of Nigeria held at the Potiskum Correctional and Custodial Centre, Yobe State.

Professor Aina also pledged to equip the library with modern reading materials and e-library services to give students and other researchers easy access to informational materials. He emphasised that education must be given adequate priority in any community that wants to prosper.

Represented by the Director Planning Research and Statistics Department of the NLN, Mr. A. Odigba, Prof. Aina lamented that the branch was fully operational until insurgency forced the facility to be closed completely but assured that very soon the branch would be reopened for the people to have access to library services.

The CEO of the National Library of Nigeria said that readership promotion campaign was one of the major mandates of the organization that is carried out on a yearly basis across the country and that this years' campaign focussed primarily on semi-urban communities and the vulnerable including the Nigerian Correctional and Custodial Centres across the Country.

He advised inmates to use the time of their stay at the Correctional Centres to develop themselves academically and assured them that this would be the best decision for them.

The Comptroller of Correctional Service, Yobe State Command, Mr. Isah Sabo Kashuri represented by his assistant, Mr. Usman Musa Magumeri, applauded the efforts of the National Library of Nigeria for recognizing inmates in their annual campaign calling them to embrace the reading culture. He expressed joy and gratitude to the National Librarian for making them and the inmates worthy of this recognition.

He promised to make the inmates utilize the gesture very well. He also appealed to the National Librarian to provide them with more reading materials and computer sets to enable the inmates have access to enough reading materials in different professions.

The Comptroller also enjoined the inmates to make judicious use of their time while at the correctional

centre for there must be a purpose for their isolation. Mr Magumeri also charged the inmates to turn a new leaf and avoid their old ways of living, urging them to imbibe the habit of reading so as to become better personalities.

In his contribution, the head of the National Library of Nigeria, Gombe Branch Mallam Abubakar Yakubu Musa who organized the event said he was the one heading the Yobe Branch of the National Library of Nigeria before the crisis escalated forcing the branch to close. He assured the reading public in Yobe of the commitment of the National Librarian to reopen the branch.

Inmates who spoke during the pep talks applauded and expressed their appreciation to the National Library of Nigeria for the gesture.

Other highlights of the event were presentation of gifts of reading materials and food items for use by inmates.

In a related development, the second day of the campaign took place at Damagun, Fune Local Government Area of the state, where all schools including primary and secondary were in attendance.

The National Librarian in his speech solicited the cooperation of the



YOBE

community leaders to support young people to commit to the reading culture for personal and collective development.

Represented by the Director Planning, Research and Statistic Department of the National Library of Nigeria, Pastor O. Odigba, the National Librarian advised the community to give premium attention to provision of library facilities in the community. According to him every school must have a library and every child must visit a library a day to read a book in order to engender more interest in reading, the National Librarian suggested that after each book a child read, he/she should be encouraged to come to a class to narrate the story to fellow students

to prove the level of understanding.

Responding, the Traditional Ruler of the community, Dr Idriss Saleh Ibn Usman represented by Malam Idrisu Garba confessed to the gathering that it was the first time something of such nature had ever happened in the community and promised to adopt the strategies and advices given to the community by the National Librarian.

Dr Usman expressed profound gratitude to the National Library of Nigeria for giving the community hope to prosper in life, adding that the community which is located in a remote environment lacks access to good education.

The head of Gombe branch of

the National Library of Nigeria, Mallam Abubakar Yakubu Musa in his contribution also urged the community to step up their effort in inculcating the reading habit among citizens to transform their community to greater heights. Mallam Musa also advised them to get acquainted with the government's policies at all times in order to make themselves relevant in the society.

The campaign attracted a lot of goodwill messages from many quarters of the community including pep talks where National Library of Nigeria was appreciated for organizing the campaign. There was refreshment, presentation of gift and reading materials amongst others.



Representative of the National Librarian, Mr Odigba, Director Planning Research and Statistics making a donation to the Correctional Centre, Yobe command at the 2019 RPC



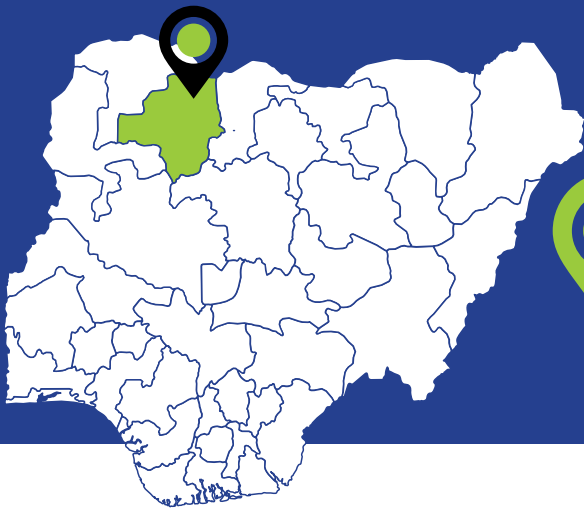
Donations to Yobe Correctional Centre during the 2019 RPC



The community outreach and presentation of reading materials by the Director Planning, Research and Statistics Department, Mr. Odigba in Yobe during the RPC 2019



Staff of the National Library, Gombe branch and Yobe Correctional Service officers during RPC 2019



READING: A Form of Self-Education -Sheik Ahmad Kanoma

ZAMFARA: The renowned cleric, Sheik Ahmad Umar Kanoma of Bangudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State has charged inmates at Correctional and Custodial centres to use their time while at the centres to read both the Qur'an and western books to gain valuable knowledge and avoid stagnation in life.

Sheik Kanoma made the call at the annual Readership Promotion Campaign of the National Library of Nigeria held at the Medium Security Custodial Centre Uguwar Gwaza Gusau, Zamfara State where he refreshed the memory of participants with the first verse of the Holy Qur'an that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad {SAW} thus: 'read in the name of the your Lord who created you' your Lord who was bounteous, who taught by the pen what the man knew not'

Sheik Kanoma who was the guest and motivational speaker of the campaign explained to the inmates the importance of reading where he said of all the skills they would ever learnt in life to grow up, none will be more important than the ability to read, adding that each book they read would become an opportunity for them to learn something.

He advised them to expand their brain, increase their wellness, and lower their stress to discover

something new, stressing that reading was one of the best forms of self-education for both children and adults. Sheik Kkanoma also noted that reading for an hour a day would expose the reader to four million words per year and improve the level of concentration. Sheik Kanoma further explained that according to studies from the University of Liverpool, reading helped patients suffering from depression with their social well-being; it also helps in building self-confidence, lessening cultural isolation, building a sense of community and fostering increased communication skills.

Earlier in his speech, the National Librarian, Professor Lenrie O. Aina represented by a deputy Director in the virtual library services Department of the National Library, Mr. I. O. Ajibola, told the inmates how reading could improve their lives and their empathy by understanding the feelings of other persons, whether the material is fiction or nonfiction.

Professor Lenrie O. Aina noted that readers have a better ability to have empathy, insisting that intelligent people read a lot, adding that reading makes someone become a much better communicator.

Meanwhile in her welcome address, the Head of Katsina State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria Haj. Amina Sayyadi Maje informed the inmates to appreciate the National Librarian, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina for his passion in transforming the organisation. She added that the campaign promoting readership was never carried out in three states at a go until Professor Aina assumed duty as the National Librarian, where he immediately directed the campaign to be carried out in twenty three state branches and subsequently covered all the thirty six states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

She further noted that the National Librarian deserved commendation and applause from all and sundry because Nigerians have started feeling the impact of the National Library of Nigeria for providing library services across the country.

The event featured drama presentation, pep talks, quiz completion, goodwill messages



and presentation of gifts covering reading materials and food stuff to the correctional centre.

The Second day of the campaign took place at the Local Government town hall about 20 kilometres Bungudu Local Government Area, Gusau on Thursday 13th November, 2019 where the Chairman of the Local Government Hon. Abdulazzeez Ahmad Nahuce extended the appreciation of the local government and the state in general to the National Library of Nigeria for the campaign and wished them success. Meanwhile the Royal father of the day and special guest of Honour was His Royal Highness Sarkin Fulani Bungudu, Alh. Hassan Attahiru MFR.



Mr Ajibola middle and head of Katsina branch, Haj. Amina S. Maje second right with officers of Zamfara State Command of the Nigerian Correctional Service during RPC 2019



Head of Katsina Branch, Amina S. Maje WEARING GLASSES, Deputy Director Mr Ajibola (Rep. of National Librarian) second left, Emir of Bungudu at Zamfara RPC 2019



Mr. Ajibola making donations to the Zamfara State Command of the Nigerian Correctional Service during the RPC 2019



Zamfara RPC 2019 community outreach



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA

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