



OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

BULLETIN NO. 1745

MARCH 2026

ISSN 0255-0806

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National Library, US Embassy to Strengthen Partnership

The National Library of Nigeria and the Public Affairs Office of US Embassy have set strategies for revitalizing the partnership between them. This was the outcome of the visit of Ms. Raisa Dukas, Public Affairs Officer to the National Librarian/CEO on Tuesday, March 31st 2026.

Receiving the delegation which was led by the new head of Public Affairs, Ms. Raisa Dukas, in her opening remarks, Professor Anunobi who described the institution as the foremost national library in Africa, noted that despite challenges related to infrastructure and location, the library continues to make significant strides in service delivery and innovation. The National Librarian highlighted her eight-point agenda,



which places strong emphasis on digitization, expressing satisfaction with the level of commitment demonstrated by her management team in aligning with the library's vision, mission, and strategic direction. [Continued on page 2](#)

Ondo State Branch Hosts Adeyemi University Students on Academic Excursion



The National Library of Nigeria, Ondo State Branch, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, received staff and students of Adeyemi Federal University of Education during an academic excursion to the library.

The visiting delegation comprised the Head of Department, Dr. (Mrs.) Afolabi Adeola, a staff member, Mrs. Mary Erughe, and 100-level students of the institution.

The Head of Branch, Mr. Prince Ajani M. Akinlolu, warmly received the visitors and introduced them to the various operations and services of the library. Librarians and other members of staff were also present to welcome the team.

[Continued on page 3](#)

National Library Honors Retiring Director of Virtual Library Services on Retirement

The Management of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) on Monday, 30th March 2026, held a well-deserved send-off in honor of Mr. Bashir Akanni Salawu, Director of the Virtual Library Services Department (VLSD), as he retired from active service after 25 years of distinguished contribution to the institution.

The ceremony, which took place immediately after the weekly Management briefing at the National Librarian's Office, was marked by warm tributes and expressions of appreciation by his colleagues.

Mr. Bashir Salawu joined the National Library of Nigeria in 2001 and rose steadily through the ranks to become a director in Virtual Library & Services Department. He was first posted to Collection Development & Technical Services Department before his redeployment to Virtual Library Services Department.



[Continued on page 2](#)

INSIDE

National Library of Nigeria Hosts Author Afabwaje Kurian To A Book Talk.

Plateau State Branch Marks International Women's Day with Roundtable Discussion

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Continued from page 1

She revealed that in 2023, the National Library unveiled the National Repository of Nigeria, a digital initiative with over 3,000 resources currently housed within the Legal Deposit Department at the headquarters but accessible from anywhere.

She further elaborated on the library's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, which focuses on digital transformation, literacy development, and capacity building.

Responding on behalf of the delegation, Ms. Raisa Dukas, The Public Affairs Officer at the United States Embassy, expressed appreciation for the warm reception and commended the National Library for its ongoing transformation initiatives. She noted that the visit was aimed at deepening existing relations on cultural and intellectual preservation between both countries, with a particular focus on leveraging digital tools to safeguard heritage materials.



Ms. Dukas acknowledged the effective utilization of the American Space at the Katsina branch of the National Library and described it as a model for community engagement and knowledge exchange. She emphasized the Embassy's interest in expanding collaboration in areas such as digital programming, capacity-building workshops, and resource sharing.

She further stated that the United States Embassy is committed to supporting initiatives that promote access to information, digital literacy, and educational development, stressing that strengthening partnerships with institutions like the National Library of Nigeria is crucial in fostering inclusive knowledge societies and preserving shared cultural values.



Other members of the U.S. Embassy delegation included Mrs. Grace Lamon, American Center Director, and Mr. Aondoana Orlu, American Spaces Program Specialist.

The National Library management team present at the meeting included Mrs. Ngozi Odogwu, Director of Planning, Research and Statistics Department; Mrs. Kikelomo Abdulazeez, Deputy Director, Legal Deposit Department; Mr. Kehinde Ojo, Director, Public Services Department; Mr. Bashir Salawu, Director, Virtual Library Services Department; and Mr. Abubakar Hambagda, Director, Collection Development and Technical Services Department.

In her vote of thanks, Mrs. Kikelomo Abdulazeez expressed profound appreciation to the United States Embassy for its enduring partnership with the National Library of Nigeria, which has spanned over five decades. She noted that the collaboration has significantly contributed to the growth of library services, particularly in the areas of literacy promotion and access to information.

She commended the delegation for their visit and their willingness to explore new avenues of cooperation. Mrs. Abdulazeez reiterated the library's commitment to sustaining and strengthening the relationship, expressing hope that future collaborations would yield greater advancements in digital transformation, capacity building, and community outreach. She concluded by assuring the delegation of the National Library's continued support and readiness to work together towards shared goals.

Continued from page 1

Before then, he was at different times Head of Branch in both Oyo and Ondo States, where he made significant contributions to library development and service delivery.



In her remarks, the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer, Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi, described Mr. Salawu as “an intelligent professional who always thinks beyond what is possible,” commending his dedication and forward-thinking approach to library services. Members of the Management team also paid glowing tributes, highlighting his humility, diligence, and eagerness to learn.

The Director of Planning, Research and Statistics Department (PRSD), Mrs. Ngozi Odogwu, notably referred to him as “a moving encyclopedia,” in recognition of his vast knowledge and experience.

Responding, Mr. Bashir Salawu expressed gratitude to God, for the opportunity to serve the nation through the National Library of Nigeria. He particularly appreciated the National Librarian/CEO for her unwavering support during his tenure and encouraged younger librarians to learn from the experiences of their senior colleagues.

The ceremony concluded with a toast in honor of the retiring Director, followed by light refreshments.

Plateau State Branch Marks International Women's Day with Roundtable Discussion

The National Library of Nigeria, Plateau State Branch, in collaboration with the Toyin Wiggins Centre for Leadership and Mentoring Initiatives, commemorated International Women's Day on March 8, 2026, with a roundtable discussion centered on the theme “Give to Gain.”

The theme emphasized the idea that when women contribute positively to society, the entire world benefits, and when women take on leadership roles, the future becomes brighter for all.



The event featured engaging discussions where participants shared insights on the importance of empowering women, supporting leadership opportunities, and fostering mentorship among women in different sectors of society.

The discussion was particularly interesting and inclusive, as men were also actively involved in the conversation, contributing their perspectives and supporting the message of gender collaboration and development.

The programme provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, encouraging participants to recognize the value of women's contributions to societal growth and sustainable development.

Imo State Branch Hosts Pupils on Educational Excursion

The Imo State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria on Thursday, March 5th, 2026, hosted pupils and teachers from Brisman Royal Academy during an educational excursion to its facility in Owerri.

The visit featured a guided tour of the library's facilities, during which librarians and other staff introduced the pupils to the various services offered by the institution. The pupils were encouraged to cultivate the habit of reading from an early age, with emphasis on its importance in shaping knowledgeable, responsible, and impactful individuals in society.

In her remarks, the Head of Branch, Mrs. Ifeoma Obi, advised the school management to establish a functional school library and designate specific library periods for pupils. She noted that such initiatives would significantly enhance the reading culture among students. She also encouraged the school to collaborate with the National Library of Nigeria in setting up and developing the proposed library.



As part of efforts to make the excursion more engaging, the pupils were also taken to the fish farm located within the office complex, where they learned about fish and fish farming—an experience that generated excitement among them.



At the end of the visit, the Head of Branch Mrs. Ifeoma Obi presented books to the school as a token of support toward the establishment of its proposed library. The school management expressed appreciation for the gesture and assured that plans were underway to establish the school library in the near future.



Continued from page 1



The students were sensitized on the importance of reading and its role in personal development, emphasizing how it contributes to building knowledgeable, responsible, and well-informed individuals in society.

In his remarks, Mr. Akinlolu encouraged the students to make optimal use of their abilities despite individual differences and urged them to remain focused on their academic pursuits.

To enhance the learning experience, the students were taken on a guided tour of the library complex, where they gained firsthand knowledge of its operations and services.

The excursion concluded with a group photograph involving the management and staff of the National Library, representatives of Adeyemi Federal University of Education, and the visiting students.



Lagos State Branch Celebrates World Book Day



The National Library of Nigeria, Lagos State Branch, in collaboration with Zaccheus Onumba Dibiazue Memorial Libraries, on March 5th, 2026, organized an interactive book talk to commemorate World Book Day.

The event, held at the Green Library, featured renowned author Chioma M. Okonkwo and was designed to promote literary engagement and nurture creative writing skills among senior secondary school students.

Participating schools included Fazil Omar Senior High School and Birrel Avenue Senior High

School.

Activities commenced with a guided tour of the library, followed by an interactive session where students introduced themselves, stating their schools, classes, and hobbies.

During the author interaction segment, Chioma M. Okonkwo read a passage from her book *Twenty-One Days* and engaged the students in an open discussion on the themes and narrative of the story.

A major highlight of the programme was a literary competition organized for the students. Prior to the event, participants were given copies of the book and tasked with writing an additional chapter to conclude the story. Five shortlisted entries were read aloud, after which participants voted for the best submission. At the end of the process, Ndubuisi Favour emerged as the winner.

The event also featured a professional writing clinic facilitated by the guest author, who shared practical tips on creative writing. She introduced the students to the “Five P’s” of effective storytelling: Plot, Person (Character), Place



(Setting), Point of View, and Pattern, while also emphasizing Progression as a key element in developing and connecting chapters to sustain narrative momentum.

The programme concluded with the presentation of prizes to the winners, while Ndubuisi Favour, who clinched the star prize, delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of the participants.

Kids' Reading Club Hosts Engaging March Session in Plateau State Branch



The session underscored the creative abilities of the children while boosting their confidence as they shared ideas and performed before their peers. A total of sixty-seven (67) children attended the event.

In addition to the children's activities, a meeting was held with parents to discuss issues relating to the club and strategies for strengthening children's reading culture. The meeting provided an avenue for constructive engagement and was equally well received.

Overall, the March session of the Kids Reading Club was both impactful and memorable, fostering creativity, confidence, and active participation among the young attendees.



The Kids Reading Club of the Plateau State Branch, held its March session on Saturday, March 14, 2026, with an engaging and highly successful gathering centered on the theme, "Storytelling and Imagination."

Departing from its traditional book-reading format, the session encouraged children to create and share original stories, providing a platform for participants to explore and express their creativity. The initiative resulted in a variety of imaginative and captivating stories presented by the children.

To further enrich the experience, participants acted out short dramas based on their stories and took part in theme-related games. These activities created a lively and interactive atmosphere, filled with enthusiasm and laughter.

Postgraduate Students Visit National Library of Nigeria, Owerri

Master's Degree students from the Postgraduate School of Imo State University, Owerri, on Thursday, 26th March 2026, paid an academic visit to the Owerri Branch of the National Library of Nigeria as part of their study research and library tour.

The visit was aimed at exposing the students to the range of services and activities offered by the National Library in support of academic research and learning. During the tour, the students were conducted round the library's facilities, including its various sections and operational units, to give them a comprehensive understanding of its functions.

The exercise featured an interactive session where staff of the library engaged the students in a question-and-answer discussion. This provided further insight into the role of the National Library in facilitating research and knowledge development.

At the end of the visit, the students expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and affirmed their intention to make future visits to enhance their research capacity through continued engagement with the library.



Abia State Branch Sends-Forth Outgoing Head of Branch



The Abia State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, organized a send-forth ceremony in honour of its outgoing Head of Branch, Mr. Ikpe Enang. The event, held at Roots Restaurant, attracted dignitaries and key stakeholders in the library and information sector.

Among those in attendance were Mr. E. O Uwom, a retired Director of Human Resource/Administration from the National Library of Nigeria, the State Librarian; executives of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), Abia State Chapter; as well as friends of the library, including David Onuoha, an award-winning author; Chioma Delphine; and Godson Nzeuzor. Family members of the celebrant, his pastor, landlord, and other well-wishers were also present.

The ceremony featured a range of activities, including a lecture themed How to Retire Without Tears, goodwill messages, pep talks, dancing, and the presentation of gifts in honor of the outgoing Head of Branch.

In their remarks, participants commended Mr. Ikpe Enang for his years of dedicated service and his significant contributions to the growth and development of the National Library.

As the branch bade farewell to Mr. Ikpe Enang, staff and management of the National Library of Nigeria were encouraged to build on the strong foundations laid by retiring heroes and heroines who have contributed immensely to the advancement of library services in the country.



National Library of Nigeria Hosts Author Afabwaje Kurian To A Book Talk.



The National Library of Nigeria, in collaboration with Zaccheus Onumba Dibiaezue Memorial Libraries (ZODML), on Thursday, 26th March 2026 hosted an engaging virtual Book Talk featuring acclaimed author Afabwaje Kurian. The event brought together students and teachers from Ajeh Comprehensive Senior School and Wesley Girls Senior Secondary School to explore historical fiction and the creative writing process.

The central focus of the session was Kurian's novel *Before the Mango Ripens*, with the author sharing selected passages and providing insights into the historical context of the story. A dynamic question-and-answer session followed, during which students inquired about the inspiration behind the book's title and historical themes, the potential for a sequel, Kurian's use of satire as a narrative tool and the moral lessons intended for young readers, and the technical and personal challenges encountered during the writing process.

In line with promoting active literacy, the event featured readings of five shortlisted stories authored by the students. A voting session was conducted to select the winning entries, while students received professional feedback and five essential writing tips to enhance their writing skills.

The event concluded with the Presentation of Prizes to the winning student authors. Malik Mariam delivered the Vote of Thanks.

This interactive session provided students with practical insights into creative writing, historical fiction, and storytelling, strengthening their appreciation for literature and literary engagement.



National Library Lagos Hosts Inspiring Book Talk for Secondary School Students

The National Library of Nigeria, Lagos Branch, in collaboration with Zaccheus Onumba Dibiaezue Memorial Libraries, hosted a memorable session of its Senior Secondary School Book Talk Programme on March 10, 2026, at the Green Library.

The event featured renowned author Bosede Ademilua Afolayan, who engaged students in an interactive discussion of her book *Once Upon An Elephant*. During the session, Prof. Bosede Ademilua Afolayan the renowned author brought the story to life by reading selected excerpts from the book. *Once Upon An Elephant* which tells the story of King Ajanaku, a tyrannical ruler who, with the aid of the chief priest Serubawon, seizes a throne that is not rightfully his. His reign is characterized by oppression and terror, while his relentless quest for immortality and power ultimately leads to his dramatic downfall. The reading sparked a lively and insightful discussion with the students.

A major highlight of the programme was the recognition of student creativity. Ayo Obe, a distinguished member of ZODML's Board of Trustees, read the top five alternate endings to the story written by the students. The young authors were subsequently honored during a brief award ceremony.



The prize winners were announced as follows: Adio Imoleoluwa (Lagos City College, Yaba) – First Prize, Emmanuel Eunice (Lagos City College, Yaba) – Second Prize, Okeke Oyedinachukwu (Lagos City College, Yaba) – Third Prize, Obidike Francis (Western College, Yaba) – Fourth Prize, and Oyeyemi Yaramola (Western College, Yaba) – Fifth Prize.

In her remarks, the Head of Branch, Mrs. Uju Onuorah, encouraged students to cultivate the habit of reading. She advised those who mentioned sleeping and watching movies as their hobbies to also include reading if they wish to achieve greater success in life.

The event concluded on an inspiring note as Prof. Afolayan autographed copies of her book for all the students in attendance, leaving them with a memorable souvenir of the enriching literary experience.

HAPPY Birthday

1ST MARCH

AMINU FAIZATU

2ND MARCH

AKEREDOLU EMMANUEL O.
OKEKE, CHINECHEREM (MISS)

3RD MARCH

EGWIM OGOCHUKWU BASIL
BERNARD DORCAS TABITHA
KOLAWOLE OLADELE M.

4TH MARCH

NASIRU ELAMAH JAFARU

6TH MARCH

SOGBADE BABATUNDE

7TH MARCH

OKAFOR NGOZILILIAN
ANYAOGU KELECHI,

8TH MARCH

ADENIWE BOLA ABIGAIL

11TH MARCH

ADEDOKUN TUNRAYO ELIZABETH
ABDULLAHI MOHAMMAD. M
BABA IBRAHIM
MUSA NASIRU
HALIRU BILKISU
SAMUS NEHEMIAH AUDU

12TH MARCH

ADENIJI BUKOLA SAIDAT
LAWAN BALA BASHIR,

13TH MARCH

DIO VERSHIMA

14TH MARCH

ANDAH YAKUBU AUDU
AGWUNOBI PRECIOUS CHIDIMMA
OBIORAH ROSEMARY IFEOMA (MISS)

15TH MARCH

ABAYOMI, TOLULOPE OLUFUNMILOLA
NWAMARAH TONS ONYINYE
ADEYINKA FOLAKE OLUWAKEMI
EKECHUKWU CHUKWUEMEKA
MUSA NASSRAWA ALIYU

16TH MARCH

ADEKANKUN AKINLOSE OLOKUNWA
ADEJOH ENECHOJO BLESSING (MISS)
AHMED IBRAHIM LAWAL

18TH OCTOBER

YAKUBU BENJAMIN,

19TH MARCH

OLOYEDE MERCY OPEYEMI
IDOWU, KAYODE TOSIN

20TH MARCH

DIYONG MAHWASH SYL
ADESUGGBA, OLUSEGUN RAPHAEL

22ND MARCH

UKO UCHE OZURUONYE
UCHE CHIGOZIE CHIN,
EZE KUDIRAT MARYAM

23RD MARCH

EKEOCHA OKECHUKWU
SHEDA HARUNA,
UGODO OKEOGHENE CHARITY (MRS)
AGBASTI ANULIKA MAR

24TH MARCH

NDAKOTSU BABA ISAJAH
JAMES HANNY

25TH MARCH

ONWE, ORU IFEANACHO

26TH MARCH

EKE CHINEDU KINGSLEY

27TH MARCH

JOEL MUNGA YUSUF

28TH MARCH

EFFIOM BASSEY ESTHER
JOHN BRIGHT CHIMEZE

29TH MARCH

YUSUF TARFA AISHAT
ADU, TEMITAYO, RHODA (MISS)

30TH MARCH

EGBULONU KINGSLEY.O

31TH MARCH

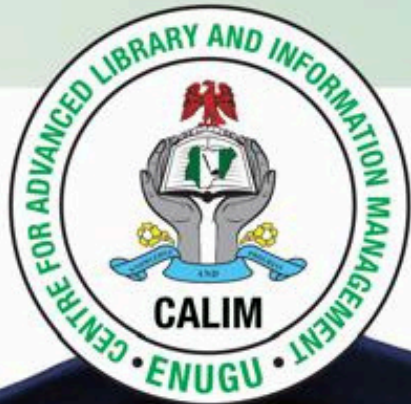
SALAWU AKANNI BASHIR
OJO KUBURAT OMOWUNMI

Picture Gallery



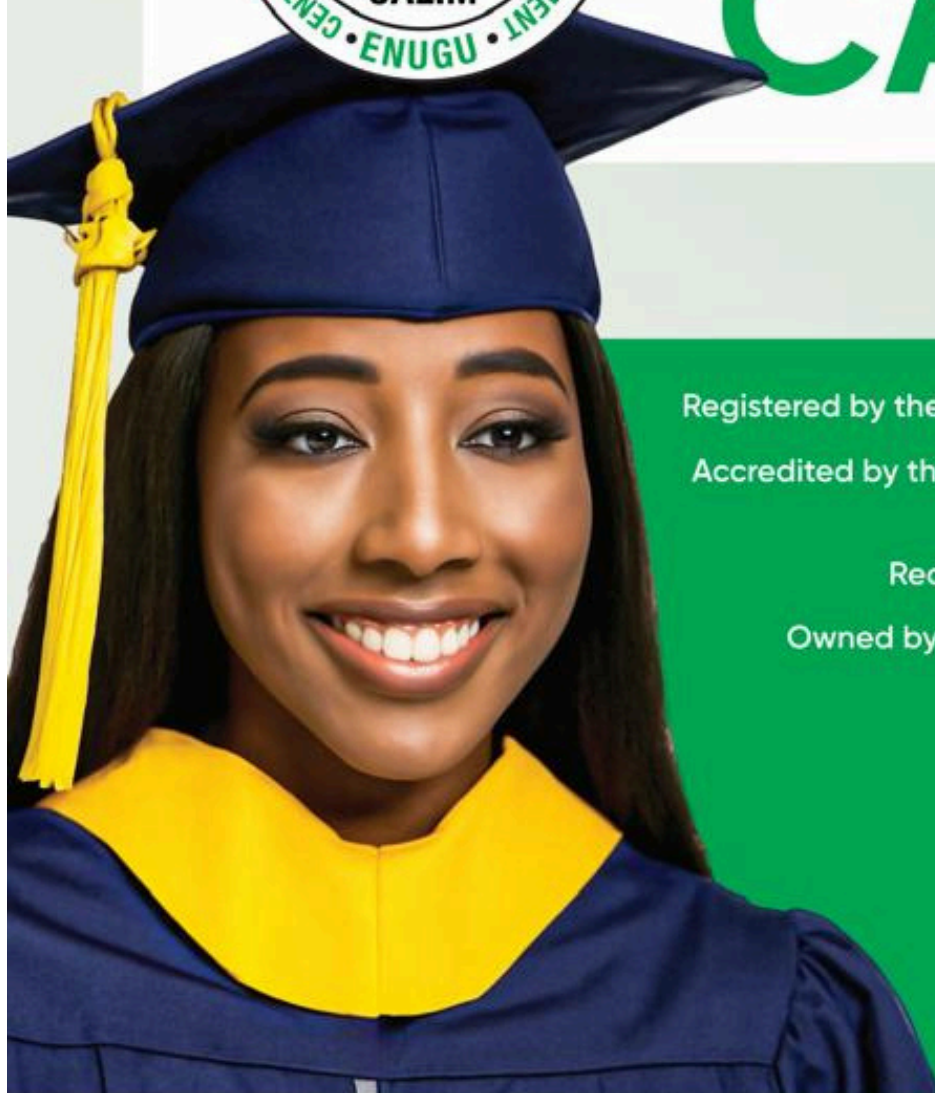
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