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National Library, UBEC Collaborate to Deepen Library at the Basic Education Level

The National Library of Nigeria, and the Universal Basic Education Commission, UBEC, are to partner on the delivery of library services at the basic level of education in the country. This resolution was arrived on, when the National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Chinwe Veronica Anunobi paid a courtesy call on Dr. Hamid Bobboyi, the Executive Secretary of the Universal Basic Education Commission in Abuja on 18th May, 2022.

Earlier in her address, the National Librarian who praised the Executive Secretary and the management of the Commission for the intervention in the education sector across the nation, informed her host that one of key mandates of the National Library is to promote reading amongst the

populace, which the National Library has been doing through sensitizations and campaigns, despite the challenges. According to her, "it is a herculean task to get people, who are out trying very hard to make a living, to now create time to read but we are doing our very best, with the support of the

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Dr. Bobboyi hands a Souvenir to Prof. Anunobi, while Dr. Kolawole (R) and Prof. Zakari (L) Looks On

Prof Anunobi Visits Prototype building site in Jalingo

The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi on Tuesday 14th June 2022 had visited the prototype building project site in Jalingo, Taraba State to ascertain the level of work done.

In her remarks, Prof. Anunobi expressed happiness and satisfaction on the quality of work she saw at the site, she also commended the contractor for a good work having committed much



The NL Flanked to the Right by Steven Ngorngor & Prof. Engr Gabriel D Akpen, M.D & Project Manager of G.Cristal Ltd To her Right is Jimoh Yusuf Yakubu HoB, Taraba State Branch Jalingo, Bldr Wilson Odumbaku, Deputy Director, Physical Planning Division and Joel Y. Munga

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government and sister agencies.”

As to the purpose of her visit to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Prof Anunobi stated it was to seek collaboration with the commission on how to target the promotion of readership towards the younger generation, in the early stages of their lives as “converting people from a hard formed habit to a



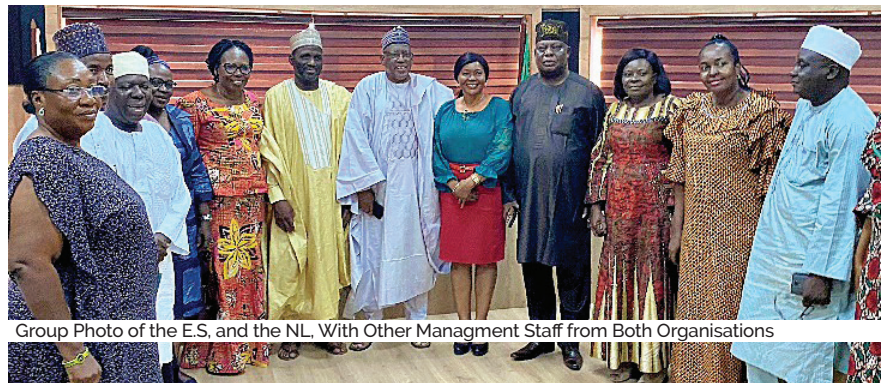
The National Librarian (2nd L) and the Executive Secretary of UBEC (2nd R), Flanked by Dr. Isiaka (R) and Prof. Zakari (L)

new one is more difficult, than grooming people at a young age, into developing and growing with a particular habit. We are therefore, changing direction to start directing a greater percentage of our effort towards catching them young. By this, we mean that our readership promotion campaign activities will be designed to and targeted at the young ones in the primary and junior level of education” she added.

To be able to effectively achieve that, according to Prof. Anunobi, requires a functional school library system at across the Nation. She however stated that a the National Library is conducting a census of schools with libraries across the nation and the interim report has captured 284,000 schools and out of this, less than 40,000 have school libraries. This, she said falls abysmally short of

the requirements of section 100(f) of the National Policy on Education (2004) which states that “since libraries constitute one of the most important educational services, proprietors of schools shall also provide functional libraries in all their educational institutions in accordance with the established standards. They shall also provide for training of librarians and library assistants for this service.”

The National Librarian, who also called on the Commission to create a special intervention window for supporting the development of libraries in private schools, further suggested that the commission should persuade all benefiting states to make it mandatory that each public school in their domain which doesn't already have an existing library must first be provided with a dedicated library building before any other structure. In addition to this, she said, the observance of a library hour during which, the pupils must go to the library as scheduled on



Group Photo of the E.S. and the NL. With Other Management Staff from Both Organisations

the timetable should be mandatory. Responding, the Executive Secretary, Dr.

Hamid Bobboi, who was in company of the Deputy Executive Secretary, Services, Dr. Isiaka Kolawole and the Deputy Executive Secretary, Technical, Prof. Bala Zakari and other top management staff, thanked his guest for taking up a fresh approach in promoting a reading culture, targeted at the young ones as according to him, people must learn to read, so that they can read to learn. He lamented that sports and libraries have been neglected thereby leaving a lot of idle time in the hands of the young ones, who then use it for developing negative tendencies. Dr. Bobboi further informed the National Librarian that 50% of the Commission's budget goes as counterpart funding to states, without the Commission dictating to them what to do with it but promised that the Commission will do what is possible, to collaborate with the National Library in its quest to deepen schools library services across the country, Mr. Wilson Odumbaku, alongside Peter Uchegwu, Mende B.A, Idah Benard, Arc.

OJ Ayatse, HoB C/S, Mr Nkereuwem Etuk, and the Contractor Mr Victor Ama, and the Consultant Engineer Bem Adzaagee.

Prof Anunobi Visits Prototype building site in Jalingo

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more money than was approved.

Prof. Anunobi urged the contractor Mr Steve Ngorngor of G-Crystal to keep pushing to see if his variation request will be approved to enable him complete the building in the shortest possible time.

She also warned the contractor to ensure that the Organization gets value for their money as lots of money has gone in already.

Responding, the MD, G-Crystal Mr Steve Ngorngor thanked the National Librarian/CEO for believing on them and giving them pass mark based on what she saw on ground.

The project manager prof. Engr Akpen added that they are committed to the completion of the project within 6 months.

After her meeting, the CEO, Prof Chinwe Anunobi continue her visit to the Branch to familiarize with staff members on Wednesday 15th June, 2022.

In his welcome remarks, the head of Branch Mr. Yusuf Jimoh congratulated the National Librarian on her appointment as National Librarian/CEO of NLN .

However, the head of Branch presented his challenges to the CEO which ranged from lack of furniture to non-payment of water Rate and inadequate staff etc.

In his contribution, Head Physical Planning Division of the Apex library in Nigeria, Builder Wilson Odumbaku commended the HOB for having a good working relationship with their staff.

Responding the NL/CEO commended the

HOB for keeping the Library environment clean irrespective of the suspension of the service of the cleaners for sometime.



Similarly, she acknowledge the branch's efforts, urging it to do more in terms of bringing library closer to the end users. She urge them to be innovative and continue to keep the environment clean.

Public Libraries Positioned To Deliver On 65 % SDGs At Local Levels – National Librarian

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN), prof Chinwe Veronica Anunobi has said public libraries are positioned to deliver on 65 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The National Librarian, Anunobi who spoke on the occasion of the 2022 Conference of Chairmen and Directors of Public Libraries, in Enugu State, said that 65 per cent of the SDGs relies on

the SDGs to their communities, towards further drive action to its realization.

Public libraries were further advised to 'raise awareness on various development



local initiatives, of which public libraries are ideally placed to deliver on at the local level. As a key part of SDG 4 which focuses on inclusive, equitable, quality and lifelong education for all, libraries, public libraries play an important role in helping to provide information, inculcate ideas, and develop knowledge that will enable people function successfully in today's world. She said since the launch of the SDGs in 2015, Nigerian public libraries and librarians have done much in the promotion of the SDGs.

Libraries she said have created awareness on the SDGs; planned and deployed continuing education programmes; partnered with government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to educate and penetrate local communities with the SDGs deliverables; and translated the SDGs documents into local languages; in addition to providing information resources and services to support the actualization of the goals. However, more needs to be done to ensure Nigeria meets the SDGs targets by year 2030. This, she said, can be achieved via public libraries ramping up strategies tailored to address the goals and deliverables at the local areas. "As library leaders, we are expected to encourage local leaders from all walks of life to communicate

issues spelled out in the SDGs; select resources for their libraries that takes into account development indicators raised in the SDGs; host local forums from time to time where people could talk through health, education, civil and human rights related to the goals; promote the establishment of libraries at the rural areas to enhance information dissemination; and advance access to ICT to help people acquire and develop new digital skills.

The conference themed "Nigerian Public Libraries in Achieving the SDGs: The Journey So Far" is aimed at evaluating the impact made so far by public libraries towards achieving the goals. "It is important to ask at this juncture, what

approaches are we taking? Which of them are working and which is not? Why are they not working? Can we borrow from other climes and colleagues? All these and more will be the focus of our conversation these two days," said Anunobi.

She urged the directors and library managers that alongside provision of qualitative and enduring information, intensive lobbying and advocacy on the goals, reviving of public libraries and secondary school libraries, in addition to, sustainable partnerships and collaborations "are key strategies to the actualization of the SDGs".

Speaking at the conference the keynote speaker Dr, Mercy Iroaganachi, the University Librarian, Covenant University Ota, Ogun State, acknowledged that in a bid to promote literacy, public libraries are tangential to the actualization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs.)

In the same vein, the chairman of the conference Ag. University Librarian Michael Okpara, Umudike, Abia State, Dr. Ogbonna Issac in his welcome address appreciated the commitment of the National Librarian to see the actualization of the conference. He said with the committed few, "we can achieve what many cannot achieve". The number in attendance is well enough to discuss the place of public Libraries in Nigeria.



NLN Urge Book Stakeholders To Desist From Obtaining Fake ISSN, ISBN

The National Librarian, Prof Chinwe Veronica Anunobi has urged book stakeholders to desist from purchasing fake International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). The Chief Executive Officer of the apex library who was also the Chairperson and the representative of the Honorable Minister of Education spoke at the 21st edition of the Nigerian International Book Fair, organized by the Nigeria Book Fair Trust (NBFT) in Lagos.

Dismayed by the fact that many books and serials are published without the ISBN and ISSN numbers, many, she stated are published with fake ISBN and ISSN. Acknowledging that there are attendant difficulties begetting the acquisition of the serial and book numbers, she said the library is dedicated to fine-tuning the online application system to

deposits in danger of deterioration, with the aim of preserving Nigeria's national heritage and collective memory, as a means of creating global visibility for Nigerian cultures, and meeting the needs of a new generation of learners. Thus, in line with the theme of the book fair, Copyright and Sustainable Growth in the Book Ecosystem Setting A New Agenda, the library seeks to work with the NBFT to achieve a balance

exceptions to the copyright is necessary and it is hoped that this gathering will consider how best a library can reconcile its preservation efforts with the copyright law. Let me indicate that concerted effort is needed from publishers and authors in the production of indigenous, family history/cultural heritage materials, especially those written in the nation's local languages," urged the National Librarian.

To set a new agenda towards ensuring a sustainable growth of Nigeria's Book Industry, she said striking a balance in the copyright framework and the delivery of sustainable development goals and the ease of publication, which include the 2007 Open Access Movement, the Creative Commons, and the public domain. Copyright decisions should have a balance between the rights and the exceptions (which include exceptions such as libraries allowing students to reproduce pages of a work, not all, for academic purposes); innovations on how to fight copyright infringement outside what is presently obtainable; and education of the public on issues around copyright, open government, digital inclusion and safeguarding cultural heritage. Meanwhile, during his welcome address



ensure that the numbers are obtained within the shortest period possible.

She urged attendees at the Book Fair to participate at the library's presentation on the online application for ISSN and ISBN numbers scheduled to hold on May 13th at the book fair.

Anunobi also sought the aid of the NBFT with regard to its digitization of its legal

between respect of authors' copyright and privileges and preservation of national heritage. "We are always confronted with issues of copyrights people would want to print and get books at cheaper costs, particularly on occasions when they are not readily available. That is infringement of copyright which implies using works protected by copyright without permission. "Guidance on the

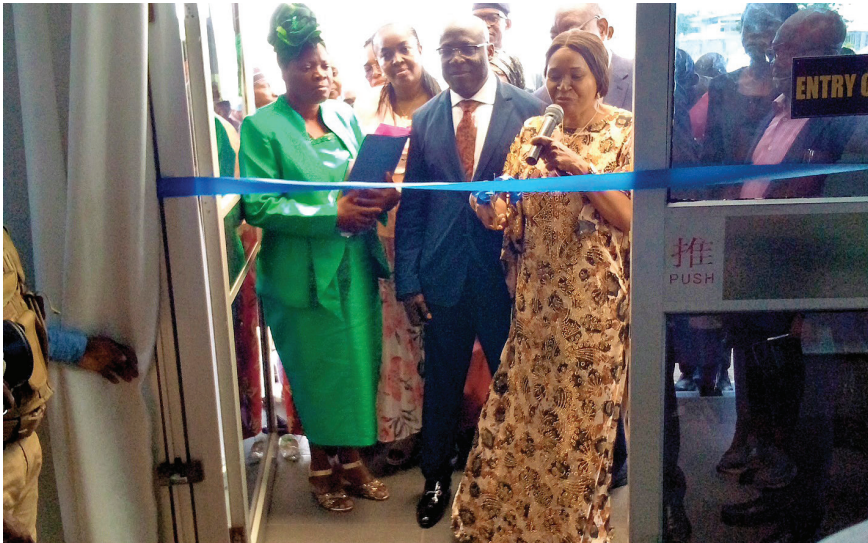
at the event, Chairman of the Nigeria International Fair (NIBF), Gbenga Adedapo highlighted the negative impact of book piracy on the book value chain. Book piracy, he said, whether print or digital, causes global losses for publishers amounting to billions of dollars annually. "It creates significant harmful effects throughout the book industry value chain, hurting publishers,

distributors, retailers and authors.

The Nigerian International Book Fair established in 1999, is managed by the Nigeria Book Fair Trust (NBFT), and has held consistently

since its founding till date.

The National Librarian/CEO on behalf of the Honorable Minister of Education later declared the Nigerian International Book fair 2022 open.



Inauguration of TETFund Digitization Project Steering and Coordinating Committee

The National Librarian/CEO Prof. Chinwe Veronica Anunobi gets inaugurated as a member to the Digitization Project Steering/Coordinating committee in the Boardroom of TETFUND headquarters. Maitama, Abuja on Monday 16th May, 2022.

The Executive Secretary Arch. Sunday S. T. Echono during inauguration address charged the committee which are made up of subject experts and stakeholders with a primary task to develop a frame work for federating research outputs from our institutions of higher learning. They are expected to liaise with other local, regional,



and global bodies on the best practices in delivering national academic repositories and also must bear in mind the profound need to strike a balance between the benefits and challenges of this efforts.

The Executive Secretary inaugurated the committee under the chairmanship of Prof Yakubu A. Ochefu, the Secretary- General of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian University.

Responding, the Committee Chairman expressed joy on the quality of the project composition of the steering committee and assured the TETFUND Management of its readiness to ensure a seamless work flow for the project.

PRESERVING OUR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES BY

Professor Chinwe Anunobi

Language is a cultural asset, as well as an identity that distinguishes one tribe from others. It is difficult to claim membership of a tribe without possessing the ability to speak its language.

However, due to the growing cosmopolitan settlement of our towns, cities, and rural areas whereby people of different tribes live together, a lingua franca, mostly English language or its pidgin variant, is usually adopted as a common language for communication in Nigeria. The effect of this over time is that our proficiency in our various indigenous languages is lost, and worse still, our children do not even develop fluency in their mother tongue. This signals the gradual but sure route to the disappearance of the mother tongue.

According to the British Council, at least one language disappears or dies every two weeks. Moreover, a tribe is as good as non-existent if its language disappears.

It is in recognition of the threat to the existence of indigenous languages, and the need to preserve them that UNESCO in 1999 adopted 21st February of every year, as mother language day. Furthermore, the United Nations has agreed that more work is needed to revitalise, protect, preserve and promote indigenous languages and has therefore designated the period

2022 – 2032 as the International Decade for Indigenous Languages.

The theme for this year's celebration is, **“Using Technology for Multilingual Learning: Challenges and Opportunities”**.

The theme is justifiable since education is presently founded on technology. Thus, using the same medium could engender the preservation of indigenous languages. The need to espouse multilingual learning in Nigeria is apt in view of the need to preserve the about 525 indigenous languages in Nigeria, majority of which are at the verge of disappearance, if their preservation is not addressed.

It is however possible that with concerted efforts; we can preserve and promote the use of indigenous languages in Nigeria. For instance, a period for mother language could be introduced in schools' timetable at the primary and secondary levels of our educational curricular. Despite the compositional mix of the classes, in terms of language and culture, this is doable. To achieve this, pupils/students could take home assignments each week, on specific topics for their parents to assist them. During the time

slated for indigenous languages, the pupils/students will be allowed a free time, to work-over, and discuss the topic, in an unregimented but recreational approach. This way, two results would have been achieved from the assignment; as the parents, and their children will, as a matter of duty, be committed to building and deepening proficiency in their respective mother languages, as well as preserving it in writing.

We at the National Library of Nigeria, have started an advocacy for the documentation of our family histories in indigenous languages. Our aim is to ensure that our history is documented, in the language of each family's tribe. It is one of the eight-point agenda I set when I was appointed as the National Librarian by President Muhammadu Buhari in September 2021.

That notwithstanding, the duty of preserving our languages is a universal responsibility for informal and formal educators.

Thankfully, technology has made it easy for us to tackle this situation. We can form virtual communities, starting from the family level, on the various platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp etc, and even prepare video clips where communication shall be exclusively in indigenous

languages.

It is hoped that with this reawakening, we shall be working towards realising the desire of preserving each of the world's indigenous languages, that very important asset and identity of our respective cultures.

In commemoration of this important day, I implore each one of us to send out a message to at least five people, in your indigenous language, informing them that "today is the International Mother Language Day". Afterwards, do remember to send out a different message in your language to another person, at least three times every day.

That is a good way to start.

Prof. Anunobi is the National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria

She wrote this in commemoration of the International Mother Language day.

National Librarian decries shortage of staff, Seeks Government Approval Of More Personnel

The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Chinwe Anunobi has decried the shortfall in the manpower strength of the organisation, stating that this is grossly affecting service delivery to the public.

Professor Anunobi stated this on Tuesday, 26th April 2022 during her meeting with the newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, Mr. David Adejo Andrew, to brief him about the activities of the National Library. According to Prof. Anunobi, the National Library has not employed new staff in the last ten years within which period some staff have exited the organisation due to retirement, transfer of service and few have deceased. "The affect of this is that more than 50% of our staff have exited, and we are left with less than 50% to run the organisation's 33 state branches and the headquarters. This is grossly affecting the turn around time of our service delivery to the public. It is affecting the processing of newly acquired books to enable them get to the shelves, it is affecting our standard numbers processing, especially in reporting the utilisation back to the Headquarters in Paris and London. This has stalled the release of new ISBN to us. These are some of the ways this affects us", Prof. Anunobi stated.

Responding to the briefing by the National Librarian, the Permanent Secretary, promised that he will give the utmost support he can afford, to see to the progress of the National Library. According to him, "my duty, for which I am paid for, is to support and drive government policy in the education sector for the growth and progress of our dear nation. I will give my best, with the support of all concerned, to realise this. Earlier in her briefing, the National

Librarian informed the Permanent Secretary who was in company of the Director of Library Services, Mr. Barnaba Awunandu and his counterpart in the Education Planning, Research and Statistics Department Mrs. Ogochukwu Ufoegbune, about the mandate of the National Library, the nature of operations in its 33 states and the Headquarters as well as the 8-point agenda which she set upon her appointment in September 2022, to help her drive a modern library. It will be recalled that upon her assumption of duty, Prof. Anunobi announced that her administration will focus on 8 thematic areas including, Digitization and development of National Repository of Nigeria, (NRN); Virtual Library Services Development;



Automation of Library Operations and Services; Enhancing the Branch Libraries Environment; Providing Library Services to the "Hard to Reach"; Enhancing Literacy Sensitization and Encouraging Documentation of Family Heritage in Indigenous Languages; Expansion and Strengthening of National Library Archive; Collaborating with

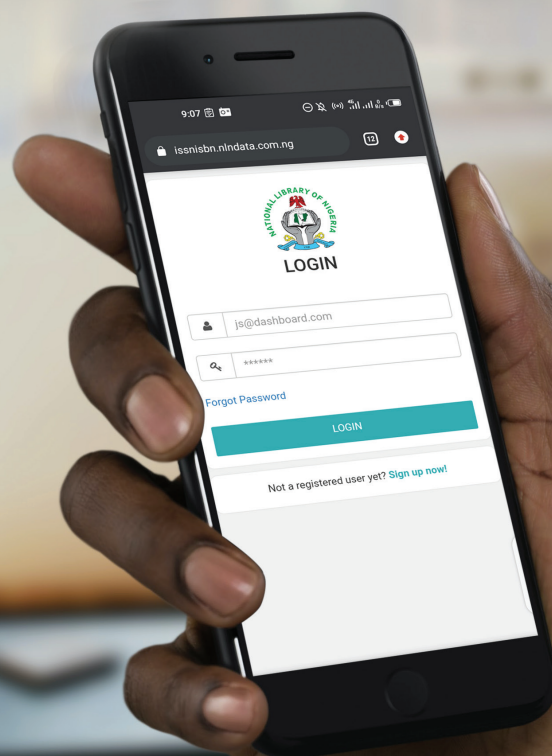
Schools to ensure the Establishment and Management of Libraries for Promotion of Reading.

The National Librarian was accompanied to the briefing by the Director, Collections Development and Technical Services, Mrs. Anthonia Onuoha, her counterparts in International Standards and Programs and the Virtual Library Services Departments, Ms. Amaka Ojielo and Mr. Paul Ibrahim Mamman respectively. Also present were the Deputy Directors, Legal Deposit Department, Ms. Idongesit Akpabio, that of Finance and Accounts Department Mr. Augustine Yue and the Special Assistant to the National Librarian on Administrative Matters, Mr. Dele Aworinde.

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