

WELCOME ADDRESS BY Mr. Kingsley Egbulonu Deputy Director/ Head Rivers State Branch on the NL/ CEO VERY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO RIVERS STATE BRANCH TAKING PLACE TODAY THE 12th April 2023.

The National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Chinwe Veronica Anunobi,

The Director Public Services Department, Dr. Oluchi Kalu,

Members of the Entourage of Chief Executive,

Members of Staff of Rivers State Branch,

IT is my pleasure and honour to on behalf of members of Staff my Branch welcome our amiable and indefatigable National librarian and Chief Executive Officer, National Library of Nigeria and her entourage to the Garden City and the Treasure Base of the Nation. My NL/ CEO you are welcome to Port Harcourt. I am particularly happy that you are coming when the black Soot have subsided and we thank God for journey mercies and we all wish you and your entourage a Happy belated Easter and God's journey mercies as you move over to Bayelsa State after now. Please enjoy the hospitality of the Garden City, only that our waters are highly polluted and the fishes may not be good enough for your consumption.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE BRANCH

National Library of Nigeria Port Harcourt came into being on 27th January 2020. National Library of Nigeria Port Harcourt is located Along NTA Road Mgbuoba before or After location Round About. National Library of Nigeria Port is occupying the former World book Capital building temporarily on non- fixed tenure arrangement. The Branch has a total stock of 6,319 Titles in 7,126 volumes.

REQUEST FOR LAND ALLOCATION

The Branch intends to approach the Rivers State Government as soon the newly elected Governor is sworn into office for allocation of land for the building of our permanent site with a letter from the office of the NL/ CEO.

SETTING UP OF BRAND-NEW RIVERS STATE BRANCH

My Staff and I rolled up our sleeves, equipped ourselves with hammers, screw drivers, pliers, spanners and Mounted all the shelves, pigeon hole, carrel desks, arranged the book on the shelves and opened the library to the public. No opening ceremony was done for the library.

Opening Ceremony needed

DONATIONS

NLA, Rivers State Chapter donated 20 plastic chairs to us while, Prof Aina donated an office accommodation, including one plastic table and two chairs to NLA Secretariat. The head of Branch donated one industrial fan to the library for temporarily use, one bound magazines metal stand and a brand-new lectern pulpit. My principal librarian, Mrs. Beatrice Ogbonna equally donated one industrial fan on a temporary basis. The branch equally received book donations from well-meaning individuals in the State.

LAND MARK ACHIEVEMENT

- Planting of the library on Google map with my personal money, my Branch is now visible and accessible.
- Successful hosting of four RPC Events.
- With our collaboration with Coridina Edtech, we have now a Robotic section and this has increased traffic in the library
- Successful hosting of South-South Zonal Sensitization workshop for Authors and Publishers in 2021.
- Linkage of Branch to National Grid
- Installation of prepaid meter
- Comprehensive stock update of our holdings
- Creation of a database of Author/ Title index A- Z of our holdings
- Maintenance of an up-to-date accession register
- Complete listing of our magazine's holdings ✓
- Maintenance of date base of Indigenous publications ✓ 777
- Listing of all our Biographical collections.
- Capacity building for over 100 students from Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Iwofe Port Harcourt, University of Port Harcourt and Rivers State University, Port Harcourt.
- Efforts is being made to strengthen National Library literary Society book club Mgbuoba Port Harcourt.
- My Branch is in partnership with Coridina Edtech, Publishers, University of Port Harcourt, Nicholas Ajuru University of Education Iwofe Port Harcourt, Readers Association of Nigeria Rivers State Chapter, Association of Nigerian Authors Rivers State Chapter, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria Copy Right Commission and Nigeria Library Association Rivers State Chapter to say the least.
- Training of over 20 Youth Corp members on primary assignment since inception.
- Hosting of over 15 secondary schools on excursion.
- Over five thousand patrons have so far visited our Branch since inception
- Hosting of one Man on Community service
- Hosting of two students for TUFIL examination
- Receiving of over three hundred titles as Legal deposits

REMMITTANCES

- A total sum of Two million one hundred and forty-nine thousand, five hundred Naira (N2,149,500) Naira has so far been remitted to Single treasury account from 2020 to date for ISBN
- A total sum of Five hundred and twenty-five thousand Naira (N500,025) has so far been remitted to single treasury account from 2020 to date for ISSN
- A total sum of Fifteen thousand Naira(N15,000) has so far been remitted to single treasury account from 2020 to date for Barcode
- While a total sum of Ten thousand Naira (N10,000) has been remitted to single treasury account from 2020 to date for Certification.

CHALLENGES AND OUR NEEDS

1. Two male librarians and two male library Assistants are needed for effective service delivery. The branch has only One Deputy Director, one lady Principal Librarian, one lady Confidential Secretary, one lady Chief library Assistant and five outsourced staff. Members of staff have not been on annual leave for about three and half years now because of man power shortage. ✓
2. This branch is due for deployment of E- library now 777
3. There is a felt need for Refrigerator for Deputy Director and HOB
4. Branch needs Two laptops for our operations.
5. The branch needs One more UPS
6. The Branch needs Turners suitable for our Photocopier 777
7. 80 chairs and three tables for the conference hall 777
8. Book display rack
9. Wooden shelf for Newspaper bounds copies
10. Cotton blinds. No single curtain or curtain blind is found in our offices
11. Our branch needs about N60,000 quarterly for our prepaid meter recharges
12. Completion of CCTV CAMERA project
13. The branch needs to buy and install a new water pump as the one presently serving is now malfunctioning.
- 777 14. Evacuation of our Septic tank is now imperative as it is almost filled up. The Tank has not been evacuated for the past fifteen years now.
- 777 15. There is complete absence of Mobil sound system for our events
- 777 16. There is a felt need for leaking Roof in some corners of the building to be fixed now before rainy season sets in.
- 777 17. The branch needs about N30,000 or more for installation of Air conditioners
18. The branch has not received any Kobo this year as operating expenses
- 777 19. The branch has not received payment for last quarter of 2021 and first quarter of 2023 for newspaper purchases.
- 777 20. Payment of 2020 promotion arrears has not still been paid to promoted Staff of which I am affected.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

- 777 • That efforts should be made for the evacuation of inherited and unserviceable 2007 Tetfund Computer systems donated to the Branch many years ago.
- Efforts should be made to evacuate our hips of legal deposit materials to Abuja
- 777 • The Branch needs a befitting Bill Board. The one we have presently is not good enough for image of the Organization.
- x • I have not been paid my family Relocation Allowance since 2020 when I was posted to Port Harcourt as Head of Branch.
- Finally, may I plead to My NL/ CEO to grant approval for my members of staff to be exposed to more capacity building.

We want to appreciate the NL/ CEO for graciously approving the dispatch of some library equipment and books to our Branch. We are indeed grateful. Thank you and God bless you.