

Ghana Book News



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GBPA HOLDS SENSITISATION FORUM ON THE RESEARCH OF THE TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT & DISTRIBUTION POLICY

The Ghana Book Publishers Association organised Sensitisation Forum on February 23, 2018 at the Accra City Hotel. The Forum was to discuss the research on the Textbook Development and Distribution Policy (TDDP). The consultants, Mr. Woeli Dekutsey and Douglas Tsitse were commissioned in November 2017 by the Ghana Book Publishers Association with funding by Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) to carry out research into the Implementation of the Textbook Procurement and Distribution Policy by the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Education.

The consultants were tasked to work with terms of reference which include the following critical ones: Scope of the book industry; Expenditure on procurement and quantities of books procured to date; Student/pupils book ratio; Number of publishers involved in procurement under the policy; The contract sums; Impact of the policy; Ghanaian preferences for books and Impact of BUSAC.

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GBPA HOLDS SENSITISATION FORUM ON THE RESEARCH OF THE TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

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The consultants later presented their findings as follows:

FINDINGS

- Between 2004 and 2012 a total of US\$156million was spent on textbook procurement while only US\$ 8.5 million was spent on supplementary readers.
- Textbook evaluation process was found to lack transparency.
- Several non-GBPA members fully participated in tenders.
- The GBDC was found to be inadequately resourced and lacking the legal backing to intervene in the procurement process.
- The policy of one pupil one book has not been met. Invariably, the procurement regime could only attain the ratio of 1 book to 2 pupils on the average. In a significant number of districts, the ratio was 1:3.
- Ghanaian printers were virtually put on "No Parking" as their fortunes dwindled from 40 per cent inclusion in 2004 to 20 per cent in 2012. Ghanaian printers have poor turn-around time, high cost of printing and very wide variations in their production price quotations.
- The procurement document does not include the policy document so, in general, bidders are ignorant of its objectives.
- Tenders have no life-cycles. They are rather erratic and publishers are unable to predict and prepare for the next round of procurement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Public servants in textbook procurement needed to be conscientised on the need for transparency and value for money in educational procurement.
- Time-table for floatation of tenders for textbooks should be definite and notifications widely circulated rather than the current under-the-table dealings.
- GBPA needs to lobby for accreditation of qualified book publishers to prevent business people who are non-members from textbook procurement.
- GBDC must be given strong sharp teeth, through legal backing, to bite.
- There is the need for collaboration between the GBPA and GBDC to remove quarks and business opportunists from textbook procurement to assure quality learning materials for schools.
- GBPA needs to build its capacity especially in setting up a documentation unit to build and sustain its institutional memory
- There should be conferences with development partners to get them sensitised especially on funding for supplementary readers.



PLANNING COMMITTEE LAUNCHES THE 16TH GHANA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

ERNEST OPPONG

The 16th edition of the Ghana International Book Fair (GIBF) was officially launched on 5th April, 2018 at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Accra. The event congregated stakeholders of the book industry including associations for publishers, printers, writers, booksellers, library, editors, and institutions such as GBDC, Copyright Office, CopyGhana, Ghana Library Authority, George Padmore Library, National Commission for Tertiary Education, BUSAC Fund, Ghana Culture Forum and Access Bank.

The President of the Ghana Book Publishers Association and the Chair of the Stakeholder Planning Committee, Mr Elliot Agyare delivered GIBF review address. Mr Elliot said efforts are underway to make Ghana the publishing hub in Africa.

He said players in the book publishing value-chain were working to create infrastructure to make Ghana join the international centres of book publishing.

The Chair of this year's GIBF asked rhetorically, "What headline can we give to the Ghana International Book Fair?" He made a comparative analysis of how international book fairs are organised in other countries and the kind of support received from their government.

He stated that the role of the City Mayor is key in book fairs including London and Frankfurt Book Fairs, Germany. Mr Agyare stated that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts (MOTCCA) in many countries own, fund, organise or support their international book fairs.

He reported that the Turkish Press and Publishers Copyright & Licensing Society (TBYM) organised the third edition of Istanbul Fellowship Programme from 9th – 11th March, 2018 at the Wow Istanbul Convention Centre in Istanbul, Turkey. The main purpose of the Programme was to trade in copyrights of books to fulfill the establishment of Turkish Publishers Association (TPA) whose overarching objective is making Turkey a Copyright Market.

The Fellowship Programme involved 255 participants from 68 countries across the world and was funded by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Today, the Turkish publishing industry is the 11th publishing economy of the world with:

- More than 60 thousand titles
- Book sale over 600 million copies annually and
- 2.5 billion USD income was generated from book sales in 2017.

He therefore called on the government, private sector, Accra Metropolitan Assembly and the media to help make the dreams of Ghana publishers a reality.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Mr. Mohammed Adjei Sowah who was the chair of the occasion, described the occasion of the book fair as global promotion of the city of Accra.

pride for one to buy and hold in hand a hard copy of a book for reading.

He regretted that the level of rich intellectual discourse driven by reading of books is fast dissipating and rather political party foot soldiers are taking over issues even such as climate change. He likewise lamented that the educational system was on study-to-pass-exams, sacrificing solution-finding learning. This misplaced priority affect people negatively.

After his presentation, Mr Sowah declared the 16th GIBF duly launched. The fair is slated for 30th August to 2nd September, 2018 at the Accra International Conference Centre. This year's book fair is themed: "Revitalising the Book Chain for National and International Cooperation".

Mr Joseph Gyamfi, the Acting Executive Secretary made a presentation of satellite educational and interesting allied programmes taking place during the book fair. For instance, the Ghana Book Trust (GBT) and the Canadian Organisation for Development in Education (CODE) would organise the Biannual Regional Burt Awards for up-and-coming African writers during the 16th GIBF. This event will attract book industry players from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya and Ghana. CODE would also launch an online rights and licensing management course for publishers during the fair.

Other programmes include:

- A Workshop on Managing Metadata to be facilitated by the Book Onix people from UK;
- Electronic-Publishing workshop to be facilitated by Youth Empowerment Alliance, USA;
- Time with African Authors, and
- Some other international programmes and a host of events targeted at the local book industry in Ghana.
- A workshop on editing by the Ghana Association of Book Editors

'I pledge my full support to GIBF to be hosted in Accra, I will be actively involved in the process' the CEO stressed

He stated that without books, free education, one of the government's flagship programme last year could not be completed.

He challenged the stakeholders to catch up with growing technology such as the smartphone and computer-tablet in the international book publishing industry. He said notwithstanding the advancing digital system, it was still a source of

GBPA PARTNERS ROTARY CLUB AND GEDAID FOUNDATION TO CELEBRATE COPYRIGHT AND WORLD BOOK DAY

REPORT BY BEYONCÉ DIAMOND KPOGLI



The Rotary Club of Accra in collaboration with GEDAid Foundation donated 6,000 books to 15 basic schools in the LA Dadekotopon sub-metro area as part of activities marking World Book Day.

The event, which was held at the Labadi Beach Hotel in Accra was on the theme: Making Books Accessible to All Children. There was a book donation as well as a reading clinic.

World Book Day is an annual event which was celebrated for the first time on 23rd April 1995, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organisation (UNESCO), to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.

Ghana's Second Lady, Mrs. Samira Bawumia, delivered a speech in which she reiterated "To everyone here, let's join hands to promote reading across different disciplines as a major priority; let us engage students in extensive reading and help them become self-directed readers." She further advised parents to read to their wards in order to ingrain the habit of reading in them.

The Executive Director of GEDAid Foundation, Mr. Emmanuel Asafo Adjei, said the main purpose of donating the books was to improve the reading capability of the pupils at the basic level of education which would make it easy for them reach tertiary levels and

even higher standards. He lamented that his outfit has been constrained by printing costs which have affected the distribution of about 100 different books to support the children. GEDAid Foundation is calling on government and the general public to support them print the books to improve reading and learning in schools.

Other major educational stakeholders such as USAID Ghana, UNESCO, Ghana Book Publishers, Ghana Education Service, the Ministry of Education and World Vision were present to support the World Book Day celebration.



MEETING WITH NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT (NaCCA)

The Ghana Book Publishers Association had a meeting with the Ag. Executive Secretary of National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Mrs. Felicia Boakye-Yiadom during the last GBPA General Meeting on 18th May, 2018. The meeting was to inform publishers about developments at her outfit representing the Ministry of Education.

Below were the highlights of her presentation:

- She talked about a framework that has been prepared to guide in the development of supplementary reading materials for early grade readers. She promised

to have a workshop to further discuss and fine-tune the framework.

- The proposed new syllabus will be in three phases: KG & Primary, JHS and SHS. The Ministry of Education (MOE) is almost through with the review of the KG & Primary syllabuses but the completion date could not be confirmed.
- History as a subject would be introduced in the new syllabus
- The new syllabus would be based on Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.
- On procurement of books:

- Elective books for SHS would be procured this year. Only books submitted to NaCCA for assessment would qualify for the government's procurement.
- NaCCA would send books submitted to them by publishers. The books could be not yet assessed, being assessed or assessment completed to MoE for procurement consideration.
- The Governing Council of NaCCA will review the Textbook Development and Distribution Policy (TDDP) and use it for procurement. GBPA is to nominate a rep to serve on that Council.
- The NaCCA has reported of challenges, including inadequate staffing and low fees paid to evaluators. NaCCA intends expanding its staff.
- Any publisher whose book(s) has been with NaCCA for more than four months should contact the Director.



GBPA INAUGURATES NEW LEADERSHIP

GBPA inaugurated its new Council on February 23, 2018 at the Accra City Hotel. The previous Council members who assumed office in February 2016 for a two-year term creditably discharged their leadership roles for the progress of the Association. They were:

- **Mr Elliot Agyare** – President, (CEO, Smartline Ltd)
- **Mr Stephen Brobbey** – Vice President, (Country Director, Lantern Books)
- **Mr Evans Kennedy Amankwah** – Honorary Treasurer (CEO, Top Facts Publishing Ltd)
- **Mrs Anne Yayra Sakyi** – Honorary Secretary (CEO, MJP Ltd)
- **Nana Manukure Kissiedu** – Member (CEO, Richkiss)
- **Mrs Alberta Asirifi-Udzu** – Member (MD, Allgoodbooks Ltd)

- **Ms Pamela Aba Woode** – Member (Sam-Woode Ltd)
- **Mr Kingsley Mate-Kole** – Member (Marketing Manager, G-PAK)
- **Dr Paul Naah Yemeh** – Member, (CEO, Ask Africa Books Ltd)
- **Dr Samuel Osafo Acquaaah** – Ex-Officio Member
- **Mr Reuben Glover** – Co-opted Member

The new Council members of the Ghana Book Publishers Association mandated to serve the Association are:

- **Mr Elliot Agyare** – President, (CEO, Smartline Ltd)
- **Ms Pamela Aba Woode** – Vice President, (Sam-Woode Ltd)
- **Nana Manukure Kissiedu** – Honorary Treasurer (CEO, Richkiss)

- **Ms. Ama Hackman** – Honorary Secretary, (CEO, Ark Publications Ltd.)
- **Mr. Alex Reimmer** – Member (Minerva Books)
- **Mr. Berifi Apenteng** – Member (MD, EDKAP Publishing)
- **Mr. Ernest Boateng** – Member (Publishing & Research Officer, Bible Society of Ghana)
- **Mr. Frederick Labi** – Member (CEO, Digibooks Gh. Ltd.)
- **Dr. K. M. Ganu** – Member (CEO, Gavoss Education Ltd.)
- **Dr Samuel Osafo Acquaaah** – Ex-Officio Member
- **Mr Reuben Glover** – Co-opted Member (Head, Dept. of Publishing Studies)



GBPA DONATES BOOKS TO THE FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

The leadership of the Ghana Book Publishers Association (GBPA) paid a courtesy call on the First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Mrs. Rebecca Akufo-Addo, on 27th March, 2018. The President of the Association briefed her on the book industry and the 16th edition of the Ghana International Book Fair. The First Lady appreciated the visit and expressed her readiness to support the industry.

GBPA made a generous donation of 2,000 books for primary, JHS and SHS children. The purpose of the donation was to support the First Lady in her commitment to promoting literacy. Both the Association and the First Lady agreed that a focus on literacy is important for our younger generation. Mrs. Akufo-Addo expressed gratitude to the Association for the kind gesture.

COPYRIGHT OFFICE ORGANISES STAKEHOLDER SENSITISATION WORKSHOP

BY ERNEST OPPONG



The Copyright Office of Ghana organised Stakeholder Sensitisation Workshop on conducting "A Study on the Contribution of Copyright and Related Rights-based Industries to the Economy of Ghana".

The programme which was held on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at the Coconut Grove Regency Hotel, Accra, involved stakeholders in the various copyright industries.

The workshop had two sessions: Opening Ceremony and Presentations and Discussions. The Chairman, Mr Nicholas Appiah, in his opening address indicated that the Acting Copyright Administrator, Ms Yaa Attafua, initiated the study on the contribution of copyright industries to national economy since 2011. The Copyright office has received funding this year from Swiss Federal Insti-

tute of IP. "There have been no empirical figures to determine the contributions of copyright industries in Ghana," he stated.

The Acting Copyright Administrator welcomed all present; she affirmed the Chairman's remarks. The Project Coordinator of Swiss Federal Institute of IP, Mr Georges Bauer, stated briefly that the study would be based on the experience of Ghana and it would be a second phase for a 4-year term.

The Deputy Minister for Justice, Hon. Joseph Dinkio Kpemka, delivered the keynote address. He emphasized that on copyright over the years has focused on the legal aspects of copyright without focusing on the economic contribution of copyright industries. He stated that the stakeholders should cooperate with the Copyright Office for a successful study

that would stand the test of time. He eventually declared the Stakeholder Sensitisation Workshop duly launched.

The second session had two presentations from two consultants: national consultant, Dr Magnus Ebo Duncan (Director, Economic Statistics Division under Ghana Statistical Service) and International consultant from Kenya, Prof. Dickson M. Nyariki (Vice Chancellor of Murang'a University of Technology, Kenya). Dr Magnus's presentation justified the need for the study, the interest of stakeholders, indicators of the interest, expectations from stakeholders. He said the objectives of the study were to:

- Identify and quantify the economic contribution of copyright and related rights-based industries in Ghana by estimating

their value addition to GDP, share of national employment and revenue generated from foreign trade;

- Analyse and elaborate on selected copyright and related rights-based industries of importance to Ghana, their national market structure, value chain, demand and supply patterns, labour market, policy framework, the role of collective management organizations and

other copyright-related organizations;

- Identify the comparative advantages of the copyright and related rights-based industries with regard to other industry sectors and with regard to major trade partners; and
- Propose policy, strategy and institutional interventions for encouraging the growth and development of copyright and related rights-based industries in the country.

Prof Nyariki spoke on “Assessing the Economic Contribution of Copyright-Based Industries: Practical Experiences from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Ethiopia.” He reported that the aforementioned African countries have successfully conducted this research which has impacted positively on Kenyan copyright industries.

The research started in April 2018 and the results of the study would be launched in December 2018.



PUBLISHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN AFRICA

REPORT BY OLATOUN WILLIAMS

The International Publishers Association (IPA) in collaboration with Nigerian Publishers Association organised a seminar in Lagos on May 9, 2018 at Eko Hotels & Suites, Lagos, Nigeria. The Seminar, themed: “Publishing for Sustainable Development: The Role of Publishers in Africa”, coincided with the 17th edition of the Nigerian International Book Fair scheduled

held from Monday, May 7 to Saturday, May 12, 2018 at Jelili Adebisi Omotola Hall (formerly Multipurpose Hall), University of Lagos, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos State.

Present at the seminar were some presidents of African publishing associations and publishing experts in and outside Africa. A number of presentations and panel discussions were made and one

of them was on the Publishing in the 21st Century: The Socio-Economic Contribution of the Publishing Industry in Africa.

This discussion was defined by bitter complaints from the delegates about sub standard and inadequate book production, lack of distribution networks, and the apathy of government.

Sellami Ahmed El Meki, President of the Mauritanian Publishers Association, was particularly vocal about the inability of publishing to impact his nation's socio-economic growth due to these deficits. When recognised as a serious industry, he argued, publishing would be in a position to attract great investment, but from “our own income rather than from external sources.”

Elliot Agyare, President of Ghana Book Publishers Association made a strong case for publishers to take themselves more seriously as “gate-keepers of society”, referencing the biblical concept of eminent men meeting at the gates of the city to discuss affairs of state. The gate-keeping role of publishers in African society needs, he argued, to be conceptualised and birthed.

Other contributions came from, Mohammed Radi, Vice-Chair, African Publishers Network who advocated learning from the industry models of more advanced countries by joining international associations and establishing relationships with editors and publishers; the huge commercial value of book fairs; and the necessity for both economic and literary approaches to marketing books.

The key element of the “socio-economic” discussion can be said to be its emphasis on government's need to measure the outputs of the creative industries and the urgency for hard data gathering and book sector statistics in Africa without which our reports are mere anecdotes. An audience member who introduced the principle of output measurement spoke passionately that: if African governments won't undertake data gathering, then publishers' associations

must. He finished by proposing that a call for systematic data and information collection about the publishing industry of each African country be recorded as a concrete and urgent action in the blue print, “The Lagos Action Plan 2018”, that will emerge from the seminar.

In support of this line of reasoning the moderator, Samuel Kolawole, MD, University Press Ibadan and Chairman of African Publishers Network

Elliot Agyare, President, Ghana Book Publishers Association made a strong case for publishers to take themselves far more seriously as “gate-keepers of society”

(APNET), closed the panel with the recognition that the total (and undermining) inability of publishers on the panel to articulate how their outputs impact specific Sustainable Development Goals of the 17 outlined by the UN, was a direct result of the lack of verifiable and quantifiable publishing data available

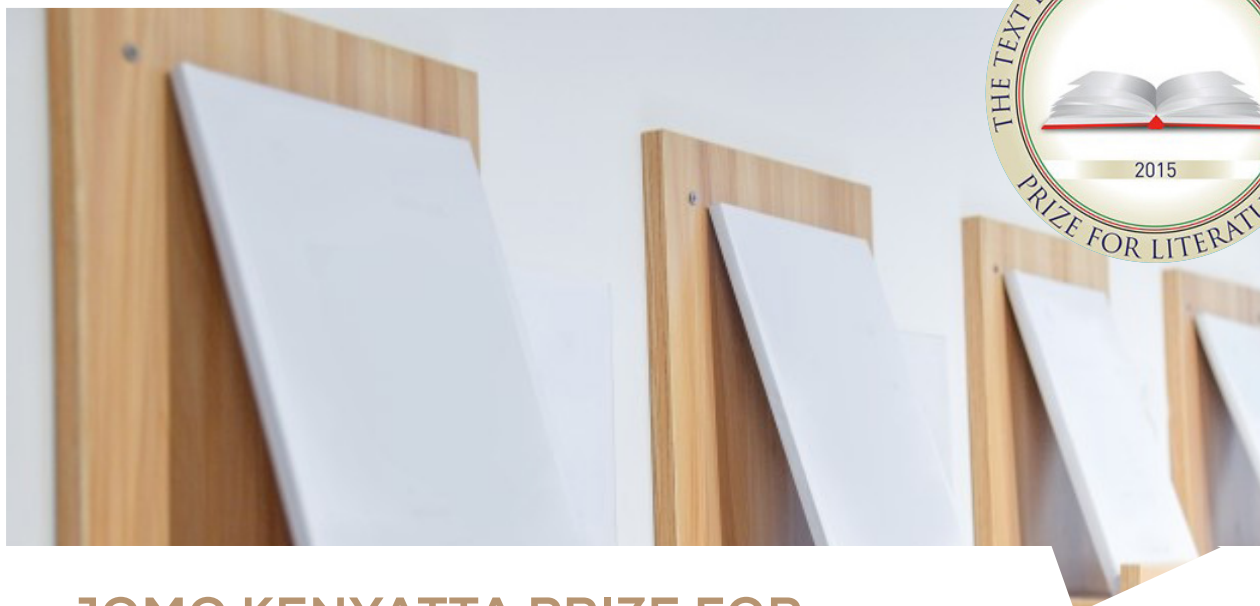
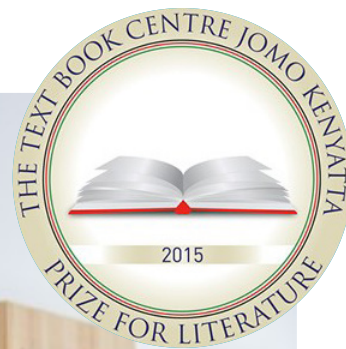
What he, or any of the other panelists, did not spell out were the causes of the sub-standard book production quality and quantity with a view to (government?)

putting the axe to the root, namely putting in place measures to reduce high manufacturing costs locally, and to strengthen the weak printing industries that exist in many African countries. I recently read parts of the Chairman's report of University Press Limited for 2016/2017 in which Lalekan Are remarked that, “Publishing was hit as a result of its dependence on foreign exchange to purchase raw materials for printing and settling financial obligations to foreign printers.”

And while the lack of formal distribution networks was mentioned repeatedly, no-one in this socio-economic panel spoke of poor road networks and the high cost of transportation and not until the Panel 3 discussion “Bringing the Voice of African Writers to the World”, would the subject be addressed by author, publisher and Ake festival convener, Lola Shoneyin, when he talked of unreliable postal system e.g. NIPOST in Nigeria.

Another omission was the golden opportunity for the African book trade represented by increasingly secure and reliable online payment systems in Nigeria. The country might normally be associated with cybercrime, but things are changing in the realm of electronic payments and this hope for the Nigerian book industry was not presented: perhaps because it is not yet universally understood.

My final point: on a socio-economic impact panel, why was there no mention of the taxation of books in some countries by way of debilitating tariffs of VAT and/or import duties, with VAT charges ranging from 14%-18%?



JOMO KENYATTA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

BY PHILIP OCHOI

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The Jomo Kenyatta Foundation maintained its unparalleled lead in the Text Book Centre Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature. This is a biennial literary award organised by the Kenya Publishers Association to recognise outstanding authorship. It has been called “The most prestigious literary award in the country”. The first award was in 1974, however due to financial constraints it was unable to continue.[1] In 1990 the award was revived with sponsorship from the Text Book Centre, and the first prize given in 1992.[1] Beginning in 2015 the award’s official name was changed to Text Book Centre Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature.

Thanks to its high quality publications, Jomo Kenyatta Foundation (JKF) has scooped over 90 per cent of the Kiswahili prizes in the past five years. The book titles include **Pamba**, **Mkakasi**, **Masaibu**, **Utoro**, **Fumbo**, **Dago**, **Vipanya**, and **Migogoro**.

Last year’s ceremony was not any different. Judges in the 2017 edition declared **Mashetani wa Alepo** by Tom Olali the overall winner in the Kiswahili Adult Category. **Kigoda cha Shimanzi na Hadithi Nyingine** and **Zaidi ya Mipaka** both by Jeff Mandila were each nominated in the Adult and Youth categories respectively.

During the award ceremony held on September 30, 2017 at the Pride Inn Hotel, Westlands, winners took home cash prizes worth Sh300,000. September is known as the “book month” especially in the

publishing circles, owing to the various book related events held in the month such as International Literacy Day, the Nairobi International Book Fair, and the Maktaba Awards.

Mashetani wa Alepo, a Kiswahili novel by Tom Olali, is dedicated to Prisoner No.46664, the archetypal identity of Nelson Mandela during his detention on Robben Island.

The novel, published by the Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, took first position in the Text Book Centre Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature (2017). Alepo is an imaginary country that is reminiscent of the city of Aleppo in Syria. It is a country in Africa, where evil permeates and dominates all spheres of society. Two factions led by two warlords, Megido and Makanyaga, are embroiled in ethnic supremacy. Megido is the leader of Nyakwelekere people while Makanyaga is in charge of the Maya. Megido is immersed in total recall and hallucinations. His wife Siprosa, who hails from the Maya people, ignores ethnic profiling and shows tenderness and care. In the year 3020, Megido’s people march towards the land of the Nyakwelekere for a final showdown. Megido is assisted by Champion. Their militia is known as “Sisimisi”. **Mashetani wa Alepo** is just but a long realist dream! The book is recommended for use by Kiswahili literature students both in schools and colleges.