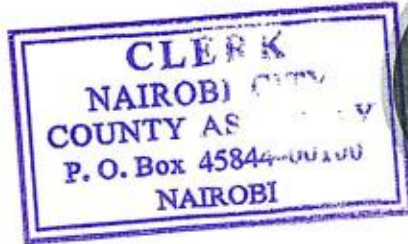


GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY COUNTY



THE NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION

NBI CA. PLC. 2015 / (06)

24<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

PAPER LAID

Pursuant to Standing Order 180 (6) I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly, today Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

REPORT OF THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ON THE INSPECTION VISIT TO MACMILLAN LIBRARY.

(The Chairperson, Committee on Culture and Community Services)

Copies to:

The Speaker  
The Clerk  
Hansard Editor  
Hansard Reporters  
The Press

*Approved  
The Speaker  
20/2/15*

*Paper laid on the  
Floor of the  
Assembly on  
24/2/2015 by  
the Chairperson  
Culture Committee  
Ajayi  
PLC/103  
24/2/15*



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

REPORT

OF THE

SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

INSPECTION VISIT ON THE STATUS OF MCMILLAN LIBRARY

Clerk's Chambers  
City Hall Buildings  
Nairobi

FEBRUARY 2015

1

Report of the Sectoral Committee on Culture and Community Services on inspection visit of McMillan Library on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2014| NCCA

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## PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Members of the Sectoral Committee on Culture and Community Services, it is my pleasure and duty to present to the Assembly, the Committee's report on inspection of the McMillan Library.

## 2.0 COMMITTEE MANDATE

The Sectoral Committee on Culture and Community Services is established by Standing Order 191 and is mandated to deal with all matters related to;

- Cultural activities
- Public entertainment
- Public amenities
- Betting, Casinos and other forms of gambling
- Racing
- Liquor licensing
- Cinemas
- Video shows and hiring
- Libraries
- Museums
- County parks
- Beaches
- Recreation facilities
- Firefighting Services and disaster management
- Control of drugs and pornography
- Ensuring and coordinating the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level and assisting communities and locations to develop the administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level.

## 2.1 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee on Culture and Community Services was constituted by the Nairobi City County Assembly on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 and comprises of the following Members:-

1. Hon. Ronald Milare – (Chairman)
2. Hon. Oscar Lore, (Vice-Chairman)
3. Hon. Tabitha Ndigirigi, MCA

4. Hon. Asha Abdi Sosso, MCA
5. Hon. Nancy Mwaura, MCA
6. Hon. Andrew Macharia, MCA
7. Hon Benadette W. Ng'ang'a, MCA
8. Hon. Janet Wala, MCA
9. Hon. David Mberia, MCA
10. Hon Rose Nancy Luchiri, MCA
11. Hon. Janet Kimondo, MCA
12. Hon. Paul Kiguathi Kados, MCA
13. Hon. Joash Omwenga, MCA
14. Hon. Kennedy Ng'ondi, MCA
15. Hon. Jackson Kiama, MCA
16. Hon. Elizabeth Sang, MCA
17. Hon. Martin Kinyanjui, MCA

## 2.2 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Speaker Sir, at its meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 the Committee resolved to visit and familiarize itself with the status of the McMillan Library on Tuesday 07<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 11.00am.

## 2.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir, May I take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Committee for their input and valuable contributions during the visit.

The Sectoral Committee on Culture and Community Services wishes to thank the office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Nairobi City County Assembly for the continuous maximum support and guidance extended to it in the execution of its mandate.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my pleasure, duty and privilege to present this report to the Assembly for adoption.

Thank you.

Signed .....  


Hon. Ronald Milare, MCA  
Chairperson of the Committee on Culture and Community Services

### 3.0 INSPECTION OF MCMILLAN LIBRARY

On Monday 07th October 2014 the Culture and Community Services Committee visited the McMillan Library which is located in the Nairobi City Business District (next to Jamia Mosque) on Banda Street. The McMillan Memorial Library is the headquarters of the City Library Services and was established in 1931. It was declared a national monument and is accessible to all people. The library's mission is to create a literate society by providing and disseminating the required information to its users. The Members were received at the library by Ms Violet Wanyama, the acting Chief Librarian, who gave a brief overview of the Library, and thereafter took the members on a tour of the library facilities.

#### 3.1 CORE FUNCTIONS

The library services is governed by an Act of Parliament, the McMillan Memorial Library Act Cap 217 of 1931. The section falls under the County's department of Social Services. The library's core functions are to provide;

- Reference information/resource center which facilitates research in every sphere for scholars and general public;
- Recreational reading to members of the public - a centre for recreational and leisure reading.

#### 3.2 MCMILLAN LIBRARY SERVICES

The services provided include the following:-

- Issue of books or documents for home reading for both adults and children.
- Advisory library services
- Field attachment to students of information science
- Research services
- Technical services
- Referral services
- Inter-library co-operation

### 4.0 ISSUES NOTED BY THE COMMITTEE

#### **Library Holding**

The stock has grown from 1,300 in 1931 to approximately 400,000 books and 10,000 volumes of bound periodicals.

The stock consists of books, periodicals and pictures. They are acquired through purchase, gifts and donations from well-wishers.

### **Library Membership**

Library membership is open to anyone living in Nairobi or to those residing outside Nairobi but are able to change their books in person.

Each applicant must obtain a recommendation from a person holding a responsible position who must sign all the application forms. Adults make an annual subscription of ksh.1, 000/= and children ksh. 500/=

The payment of one subscription allows a member to borrow more books, one must complete the appropriate number of application forms. An applicant in permanent employment must be recommended by the employer and foreign visitors by their respective embassies.

### **Branch Libraries**

In order to extend services to residential areas of Nairobi, the defunct City Council of Nairobi decided to open branches of McMillan Memorial Library as follows:-

- 1967 - Kaloleni Library (Set up by British Council)
- 1969 - Eastlands Library (Set up by British Council)
- 1990 - Waithaka Technical Library (Set up by UNICEF)
- 1996 - Kayole Library (Set up by the City Council of Nairobi)

### **Opening Hours**

Monday - Friday - 9.00am – 5.00pm

Saturday - 9.30am – 1.00pm

Closed on Sunday and Public Holidays

## **5.0 CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTY LIBRARIES**

- Lack of current and relevant books: The Library has been relying on book donations from well-wishers. The challenge is that the Library has no control of the kind of books to be received from the donors.
- Automation of library services: The library services need to be automated so as to be more effective and efficient in providing information to the public and also to be at par with other information providers/libraries and staff to be trained so as to bring them up to date with modern library services.



- Digitization of Periodicals Section: The newspaper the library holds are old and brittle. They go as far back as 1906 and there is need to digitize them in order not to lose these very important resources and the information in them.
- Newspaper binding: The library has loose newspapers which need to be bound into volumes. The backlog is from the year 2011 to date.
- Computers: There is need to purchase computers and their components for there is need to have a resource Centre in the library with internet connection.
- Maintenance/renovation of the library: Request for BQ's was done in early 2014 but no response has been received so far.
- Part of the perimeter wall was knocked down in October 2013 which is a security risk. People sometimes use it as a shortcut to the Jamia Mosque.
- Cleanliness of the library: The library is understaffed since most cleaners were deployed to the Wards.
- The staffs are not provided with airtime for communication with stakeholders as well as with officers within the County.

## 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the site visit and noting the importance of the role the library plays in the County and the fact that it is a gazetted National Monument, the Committee urges this County Assembly resolve as follows;

- The library management should do some promotion towards the use of public library services;
- Improve the library by integration of ICT in management and provision of information services;
- There should be re-stocking of new and relevant books to meet the public's demands/needs. The books that are not in use should be donated to other libraries or social halls in the County as well as seek for donations of books from institutions, societies, corporation, trusts or funds;
- Electrical Installation at the McMillan library - the library needs to be re-wired and also 3 phase to be installed as recommended by the electrical section;
- There is need to install CCTV at the library, as it stores very valuable items and also the users are tempted to mutilate or steal the materials.
- The relevant department of the County Executive to deploy at least ten support staff to the library.

- The library needs to get a facelift and automation from the budget of Ksh.20,000,000 passed in the 2014/15 Appropriations Act.
  - Partnership with Kenya National Archives and the National Museums in order to get more documentation and information for the public to access.
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