

UN System, MoEAC and ADS promote reading culture

In commemoration of World Book and Copyright Day, the United Nations System in Namibia, under the leadership of UNESCO and UNIC Windhoek, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture (MoEAC) and the Association of Diplomatic Spouses (ADS), jointly donated reading books to 160 learners at Havana Primary School on Friday, 21 April 2017.

On the World Book and Copyright Day, the global community joins UNESCO in paying tribute to books and authors, encouraging everyone, and in particular young people, to discover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those, who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity.



Learners reading The Blue Marble at the World Book and Copyright Day event.

At the commemoration, the learners received The Blue Marble, a story authored by nationals from a number of African countries including Namibia, which promotes cultural diversity and peace, themes that are in line with the spirit of the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

Speaking at the official handover, the Inspector of Education, Arts and Culture, Mr. Paulus Lewin remarked that, "Information literacy empowers people of all walks of life to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively. I am convinced that the donation of books will allow the children to access information about their health, their environment, their education and their work and to make critical decisions about their lives."

His sentiments were echoed by the Principal of Havana Primary School, Mr. Andrew Katangolo who expressed his gratitude for the initiative saying that, "The donation of books is coming at a very strategic time for the kids, as they are about to go for their school break. These books will keep them occupied constructively over their school holiday."

The handover of books aimed to inculcate a culture of reading amongst Namibian children as well as encourage learners to explore the pleasure of books and reading by providing them with the opportunity to have books of their own.

Study after study show that children who have strong reading skills also have other skills for success: better attention and concentration, greater general knowledge and higher confidence.