

EAEP Peak Times

A Publication of The East African Educational Publishers

East African Educational Publishers

Celebrating

50
years

Since 1965

in Publishing

A double celebration year for EAEP

This year, East African Educational Publishers (EAEP) is celebrating two major milestones. It is 50 years since the company was founded therefore we are celebrating our 50-Year Anniversary. It is also 50 years since the book 'Weep Not Child' by celebrated Ngugi wa Thiongo was first published.

It all started in 1965 when two British publishers, Heinemann and Cassell, formed a groundwork for publishing in Nairobi. In those days, the whole of Africa used to be a market place where books published in European metropolises were transported to and sold. In 1968, Heinemann Educational Books (EA) Limited changed its name to Heinemann (Kenya) Ltd when part of it became locally owned.

In 1972, our company Chairman, Dr. Henry Chakava, was appointed as the first African Editor at Heinemann. From then on, EAEP has moved from heights to heights. The leadership of Dr. Chakava gained international recognition when Oxford Brooks University honoured him with a doctorate for his indefatigable contribution to publishing not only in the African continent, but also on the international scene.

Twenty four years later, in 1992, the company became the first multinational publishing firm to enjoy full local ownership, and thereby changed its name to East African Educational Publishers. As you can see, we have come a long way.

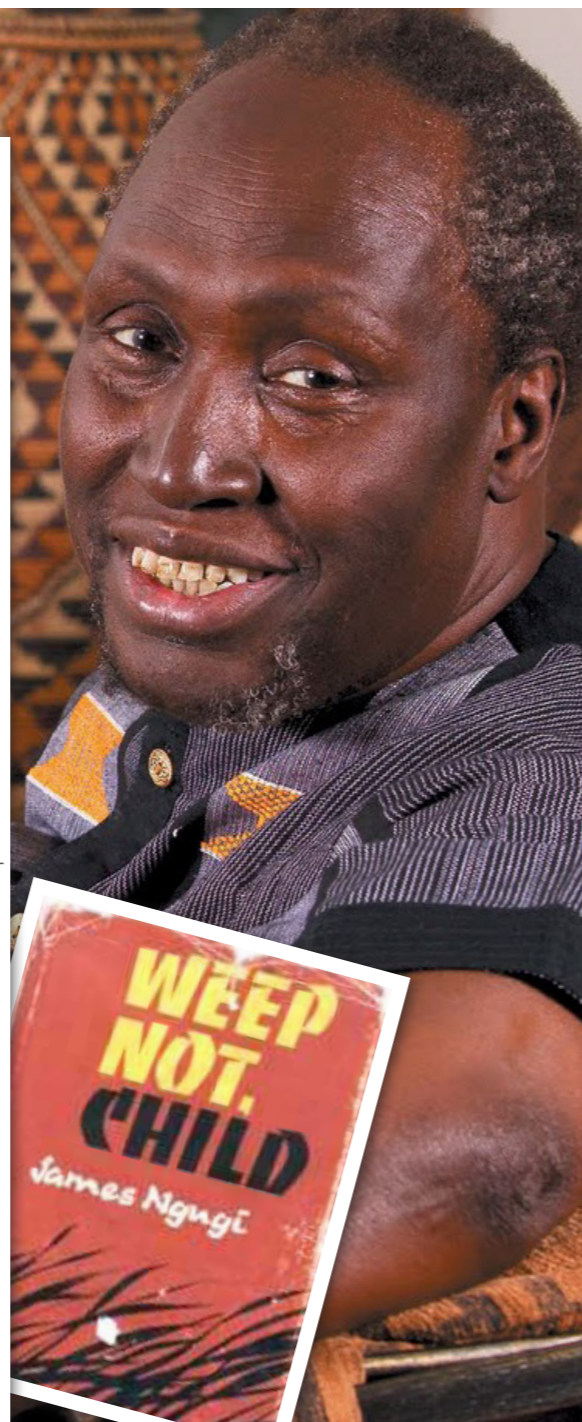
The novel 'Weep Not Child' was, according to records, the first novel in English to be published by an indigenous East African.

The book, a runner way success, deals with the relationship between Africans and the British colonialist in Africa and is heavily critical of the British rule. It specifically deals with Mau Mau Uprising and the bewildering dispossession of an entire people from their ancestral land. Ngugi wrote the while he was still a student at Makerere University in Uganda.

The story revolves around Njoroge, a young boy, urged to attend school by his mother. He is the first one of his family able to go to school. His family lives on the land of Jacobo, an African made rich by his dealings with white settlers, namely Mr. Howlands, the most powerful land owner in the area. Njoroge's brother Kamau works as an apprentice to a carpenter, while Boro, the eldest living son, is troubled by his experiences while in forced service during World War II, including witnessing the death of his elder brother. Ngogho, Njoroge's father and a respected man in the surrounding area, tends Mr. Howlands' crops, but is motivated by his passion to preserve his ancestral land, rather than for any compensation or loyalty.

"We are planning a series of celebration all through the year starting in June to mark this major milestone that no doubt put Africa in the literal world map. These will include workshops, cultural days, lectures and even a talent search to search for Kenya's next big author," reveals Sharon Chakava – Banda who is the General Manager at EAEP.

Timskymedia@gmail.com



Appointment



EAEP is pleased to announce to our stakeholders that Julius Kavita, a CPA (K) and a registered member of ICPAK has joined us in the position of Finance Manager. Prior to joining EAEP, he worked at Acorn Group Limited, a real estate development company as the Finance Manager. Prior to that, he played various finance roles in East African Breweries Ltd and East African Portland Cement Company. Julius recently stated "I am excited about joining EAEP which has a long history in book publishing. Indeed, the company has a rich mix

of approved titles; which presents the company with a rare opportunity to market and convert the same into cash.

Rights issue
Julius has joined the company when it's in the midst of issuing rights, and he provided an explanation on the same.

"A rights issue is an opportunity offered to the existing shareholders of a company to purchase additional shares from the company. By taking up the rights, the shareholders stand to benefit in two fronts; in that the shares are normally

issued at a lower price than the market price, and also the capital gain arising from appreciation in the value of the shares with time. The company is offering 5 shares for each share held.

The advantage to the company in the rights issue is that it's able to access additional funds at no interest cost, which means that it's better off than borrowing from banks. I would strongly recommend to the shareholders to take up the rights and put their company and investment in the right path of growth'.

The author who fell in love with kiswahili

Rebecca Nandwa love with books started very early in her life. All through her time at a primary school in Western Kenya and later at Loreto High School in Limuru, her inbuilt passion of reading grew with every step. It was however at secondary school that she fell in love with Kiswahili language.

"I suffered a cultural shock when I joined secondary school. My fellow students had more interest in learning a language like French than they did for Swahili. In fact, Kiswahili was considered a hard and cheap language for people in Eastlands," recalls Rebecca Nandwa.

Not surprisingly, when she joined Kenyatta University, she chose to study BA degree in Education and Education. Essentially, she was trained as a teacher, which gave her an opportunity to ensure the preservation of Kiswahili by passing it on to her students. Her first posting was to Emusire High School in May 1988 but she only taught there for a year in which she felt she had a different calling.

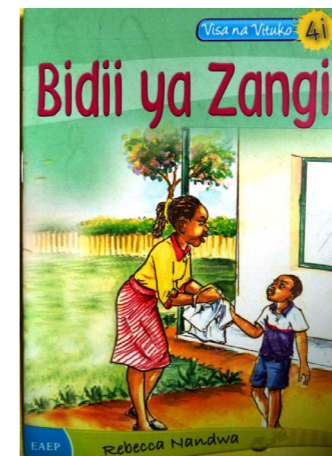
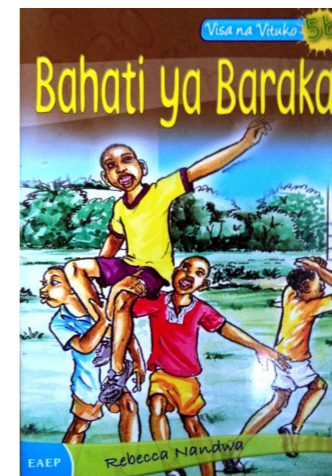
"The reading culture that I had nurtured and the love for the Kiswahili language gave way to another passion, which was to pursue a career as an author. However, I knew that I needed to be in Nairobi closer to publishers for me to push this through so I moved to schools nearer Nairobi," she says.

Her first steps in to establishing a career as an author were no easy. She submitted a hand-written manuscript to a publisher and it was returned with a rude comment in red by the publishers. She was almost in tears and contemplated tearing up the manuscript. However, Rebecca took it as a challenge, reworked the manuscript and it was published by a magazine.

"I could have given up but I learnt to take disappointments and use them to improve. The publishing of my first work in a magazine greatly encouraged me and gave me the springboard to do even more," adds the soft-spoken author who went on to author the books 'Hadithi Fupi' and 'Hadithi ya Watoto'.

It was during that time that she approached East African Educational Publishers where she met the Managing Director Barrack Muluka and submitted a Luhya folktale manuscript. She was the commissioned to do books for class 1 and 2 pupils. Rebecca ended up with 10 titles.

To date, Rebecca Nandwa is one of



the leading children's Kiswahili book author. She has had more than 35 titles/books to her name. Her titles have been published by East African Educational Publishers, Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, Longhorn Publishers and Kenya Literature Bureau. In 2013, she was awarded the Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature Award in the children's books category for the book 'Nimefufuka'.

"Having been through this journey, I can tell budding authors that it is worth having a one-on-one with the publisher as this will help you understand the gap in the market, the in-house style and the processes so that you can tailor-make your work to what they need," she advises.

She is also of the opinion that author must be ready to read more and be corrected and to re-do your work because educational books must be published according to the guidelines issues by Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).



So doesn't being an author pay in Kenya?

"Yes it does. However, take note that educational books make more money. Also, it helps if your doing something else in addition to writing. You could be a teacher and still write or even work in the media and still write," says Rebecca who has worked for both Taifa Leo and Daily Nation and is currently with The People newspaper.

Succeeding on the career also calls for patience, putting in long hours and having a good rapport with editors. She however cautions that an author should be focused more on telling good stories or crafting good educational books more than money.

She has an issue with the current state of affairs in Kenya where students only read books so that they can pass exams and then throw away those books after school. According to Rebecca, language and even knowledge has been eroded because of the diminishing reading culture in our country. The government has also not helped the cause by increasing taxes on books. People are buying what is essential be-

cause of the increased costs.

"The Internet is a good invention but the magic of having a hard copy book will never be taken away by any form of invention. The Internet will never become a teacher and instruct students in a classroom," she observes.

In regards to general books, Rebecca says there are many stories that need to be told. Societal ills such as insecurity, corruption, tribalism, immorality amongst others can be fought through good books just as the Russian novelist and playwright Nikolai Gogol did with 'The Government Inspector'. There are also rich cultures in Kenya and moving stories of Kenyans who have triumphed in different spheres that we can celebrate through books.

"I will work, write and write until I go blind. This is a passion that just can't go away," says Rebecca Nandwa of her future.

timskymedia@gmail.com



Business Process Re-engineering



The company is rapidly growing hence management's decision to initiate a process that will streamline activities throughout the organization.

East African Educational Publishers through the initiative of the Board of Directors embarked on a bold process, that is Business Process Re-engineering exclusively aimed at improving current business processes. The company is rapidly growing hence management's decision to initiate a process that will streamline activities throughout the organization. This is in order to remain competitive in the publishing industry in Kenya and in the region and to give it more longevity after fifty years of

its existence. The company has since organized extensive workshops and trainings for staff conducted by the Reengineering agency onboard. The trainings have proven exceedingly useful to the staff since through the vigorous activities involved, they have come to appreciate the significance of constant business process re-engineering. Our staff is now reenergized, positive and has owned the new plan and is steadily driving it forward.

In the coming months, I am confident the results will be evident. Our staff is already giving appropri-

ate focus to the business and displaying initiative such as customer focused approach to product development, synergy and breakthrough ideas coming from unanticipated members of staff which is a good indication of future growth and existence. The company's growth is guaranteed with the success of this popular, ambitious and necessary process.

Sharon Chakava - Banda
General Manager

Tribute to our fallen heroes



Omar Marjan Babu

In the past one year, the EAEP fraternity has lost a number of writers, young and old, whose contribution to the publishing world was exemplary. We lost them when we still needed them but the legacy of their works still remains in our heart and lives.

"Death is brutal and turbulent when it comes, inevitable as is. When death signals, life becomes a mirage, a fairytale and it leaves a trail of weighty memories of a journey travelled. Would it have been better had one not lived at all? That is inconceivable given the variety and diversity that is life, but most importantly a chance to life is a chance to procreate and impact lives".

We pay tribute to these fallen heroes

Author: Grace Ogot (Also a nurse, journalist, politician and diplomat)

Publications: Miah (The Strange Bride); Land without thunder; The other woman; The promised land; The strange bride

Author: Omar Marjan Babu
Publications: Kopo la Mwisho na hadithi nyingine

Author: S.N. Chibudu
Publications: Naipenda lugha yetu; Hadithi fupi; Hakim mwenye busara na hadithi nyingine; Visa vya kalio.

Author: Teresa Zani
Publications: Masomo ya msingi



Grace Ogot

