



# Dr. Robert Ouko Memorial Community Library

Project Memorandum

2010



## DR. ROBERT OUKO: A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

**1932** Robert John Ouko was born on 31st March, 1932 at Nyahera in East Kisumu Location, Kisumu district, to Erasto Seda and Susan Aloo Seda.

He received his primary education at Ogada Primary School in Kisumu District and at Nyang'ori School in Kakamega District.

**1951** After leaving primary school, he attended Siriba Teachers' Training College and graduated with a Teacher's Certificate. Afterwards he taught in various primary schools in his home region, also serving as Games Master, Scoutmaster, Choirmaster, and Headmaster.

**1955** In 1955, he joined the Kenya Civil Service as a Revenue Officer, based in Kisii District. While working at the district treasury, he continued to study privately through correspondence for the Cambridge School Certificate and passed with a Division Two Certificate.

**1958** He went on to qualify for admission to the then Haile Selassie University in Addis Ababa in 1958. He graduated with a degree in Public Administration, Economics and Political Science in 1962, before proceeding to Makerere University for a post-graduate diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy.

**1962**

**1963** Just before independence, Robert John Ouko joined the colonial civil service as an Assistant Secretary in the Office of the British Governor. In 1963, he was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, a remarkable feat back then as in just one year, he had risen to a full Permanent Secretary, in the process skipping the ranks of under-secretary and deputy secretary.

**1965** Robert John Ouko married his wife Christabel in 1965, and they went on to have seven children.

**1969** In 1969, he was posted to Arusha as Minister for Finance and Administration for the East African Community. Later he served the Community as Minister for the Common Market and Economic Affairs.

**1971** In 1971, Robert John Ouko was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) by the Pacific Lutheran University in Seattle, USA.

**1978** After the collapse of the East African Community, Dr. Ouko was nominated as a Member of the Kenya Parliament and appointed as the Minister for Economic Planning and Community Affairs.

**1979** In 1979, Dr. Ouko was elected Member of Parliament for Kisumu Rural Constituency and appointed as the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He was re-elected MP for Kisumu Rural Constituency in 1983 and was appointed Minister for Labour.

**1983**

**1987** When a new cabinet was constituted in 1987, he was appointed Minister for Industry. One year later, he was elected Member of Parliament for Kisumu Town Constituency, and appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, where he served until his death in February of 1990.

**1990**



## FOREWORD

Many do not know that Dr. Robert Ouko did not attend a secondary school. Through self determination, he taught himself the curriculum and earned his Cambridge School Certificate ("O" Levels). This opened doors for him to pursue his university education and professional training. His continued passion for learning and self-improvement formed the basis for his well-known career accomplishments.

He passed on this lifelong passion for reading and knowledge enhancement to all around him. He also championed values like excellence, self-determination and community.

As a family, we would like to pass on his legacy by establishing and promoting this culture of reading and information literacy within the local community, recognizing that literacy and access to information are essential tools for unlocking the imagination, empowering the marginalized, and bringing about social change.

We are therefore embarking on a project to introduce a community library and resource centre to the Muhoroni/Koru area. The project will be carried out in partnership with the local community and the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), a state corporation whose objective of "...promoting a reading culture through the provision of library and information service countrywide" dovetail with ours.

*The Ouko Family*



### The Vision

To establish a high quality library and ICT resource centre for the local community that will contribute towards an empowered and informed citizenry.

### The Inspiration

The library will be inspired and guided by Dr. Robert Ouko's values of excellence, continuous learning and self-determination, and will preserve his memory by providing access to records of his life's works and achievements.

### The Beneficiaries

All learners: children, primary, secondary and tertiary students, school leavers, adults, retirees, families, and corporates in the region.



***A learning and resource center for the community***

## Muhoroni Demographics

Muhoroni, in Nyanza province, hosts a town council and had a total resident population of 31,148 as per the 1999 census. The town is 50 kilometers east of Kisumu, with Koru lying 7 kilometers east and Chemelil 10 kilometers to the west.

Within Muhoroni Division there are approximately 50 primary schools and 13 secondary schools. The students and teachers from these educational institutions will form the bulk of potential library users who would benefit from the project.

Muhoroni and Koru is also home to *Muhoroni Sugar Company, Agro-Chemical & Food Company Limited, Homa Lime Company Limited, Muhoroni Sub-district Hospital, Koru Bible College*, among other companies and institutions. These companies provide the much needed support to the local economy which mostly consists of small scale and large scale sugarcane farmers. There also exists a significant amount of brain power in the region, with a large number of professionals and retirees living in the area.

## The Need

To determine the level of demand for a community library a questionnaire was conducted in primary and secondary schools, churches, private and public institutions and among selected individuals in the area.

Of the total responses 100% indicated that the need for a library in the community is long overdue.

The respondents highlighted the top 3 reasons why they were keen to have a library as:

1. To strengthen the community reading culture and improve literacy.
2. To reduce idleness by providing alternative educational activities for the youth and the adult population to engage in.
3. To provide educational support for students and teachers in the surrounding schools.

In addition to the above, the respondents also indicated that they wished to get access to:

1. Computer training and affordable internet access
2. Audio-visual and multi-media materials(educational, training and entertainment)
3. A multi-purpose hall for:
  - a. Conferences and seminars
  - b. Schools debates
  - c. Public seminars and lectures

## The Project Concept

The library will be located just off the main Koru / Muhoroni road, equidistant from the two towns. The immediate beneficiaries of this community library will be the many schools in the area who currently don't have the benefit of varied and diverse reading and educational material. We will be forming partnerships with them and arranging for rotational schedules for them to have access to the library.

***“The need for a library in the community is long overdue”***



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

In addition, a meeting/conference room will be available to the community to allow for maximum shared use of the library. Retired teachers/educators will be recruited to conduct literacy and Adult Basic Education or other such services.

Special attention will be given to the reading needs of the school learners in the community in order to create the habit of using the library for information, education, and recreation.

In addition the library will provide computer and multimedia facilities with an aim to increase basic computer skills and encourage computer education in the community.

Voluntary library workers will be used to assist the librarian with marketing the library and its services to the community. The community itself will determine the level of services of the library through use of questionnaires and ongoing feedback collected from library users.

## Partnerships

To implement the project, a library development committee was constituted, and a self-help community project named "Dr. Robert Ouko Memorial Community Library" was registered. In recognition of its limitation in managing library services, the Library Development Committee has entered into partnership with the Kenya National Library Services and with the Digital Village Network.

### Digital Village Network (DVN)

The Digital Village Network (DVN) is a public-private initiative to rapidly implement ICT-driven initiatives in Kenya. DVN will provide free local internet access and to the library.

### Kenya National Library Services (KNLS)

KNLS long term strategy of establishing, developing and maintaining libraries in Kenya involves partnering with community projects such as this. The key roles that the KNLS is playing in this partnership are:

- Advising on the formation of the local Library Development Committee
- Educating the community on the benefits of a community library
- Lobbying the government and other entities to obtain resources to support the community library
- Having absolute administrative control in the day to day management and running of the community library
- Meeting the recurrent expenditures which include electricity, water, library staff salaries etc.
- Providing trained personnel
- Providing the initial stock of 4,500 books and continually replenishing it
- Maintaining and repairing the community library infrastructure

## The Library Development Committee

<b>Patron</b>	Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat
<b>Deputy Patron</b>	Christabel Ouko
<b>Chairman</b>	Martha Joseph
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Caleb Oguya
<b>Ag. Secretary</b>	Ezekiel Okeyo
<b>Treasurer</b>	Japheth Olwal
<b>Secretary</b>	KNLS Area Librarian
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Wilfrida Olali
<b>Members</b>	James Ogare, Pamela Odera, Netia Odhiambo, Charles Odhong'

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Provincial Administration Representative
- Ministry of Education Representative
- Local Town Authority Representative
- Public Works Representative
- Ministry of Social Services Representative

## The Role of the Committee

Among the library development committee's important functions are to:

- Plan, prepare and implement a schedule of development activities for the project
- Monitor and evaluate the development and completion of the project
- Solicit for funds, donations and materials for the continued development of the library project
- Represent the libraries interests on behalf of the community in any development forum

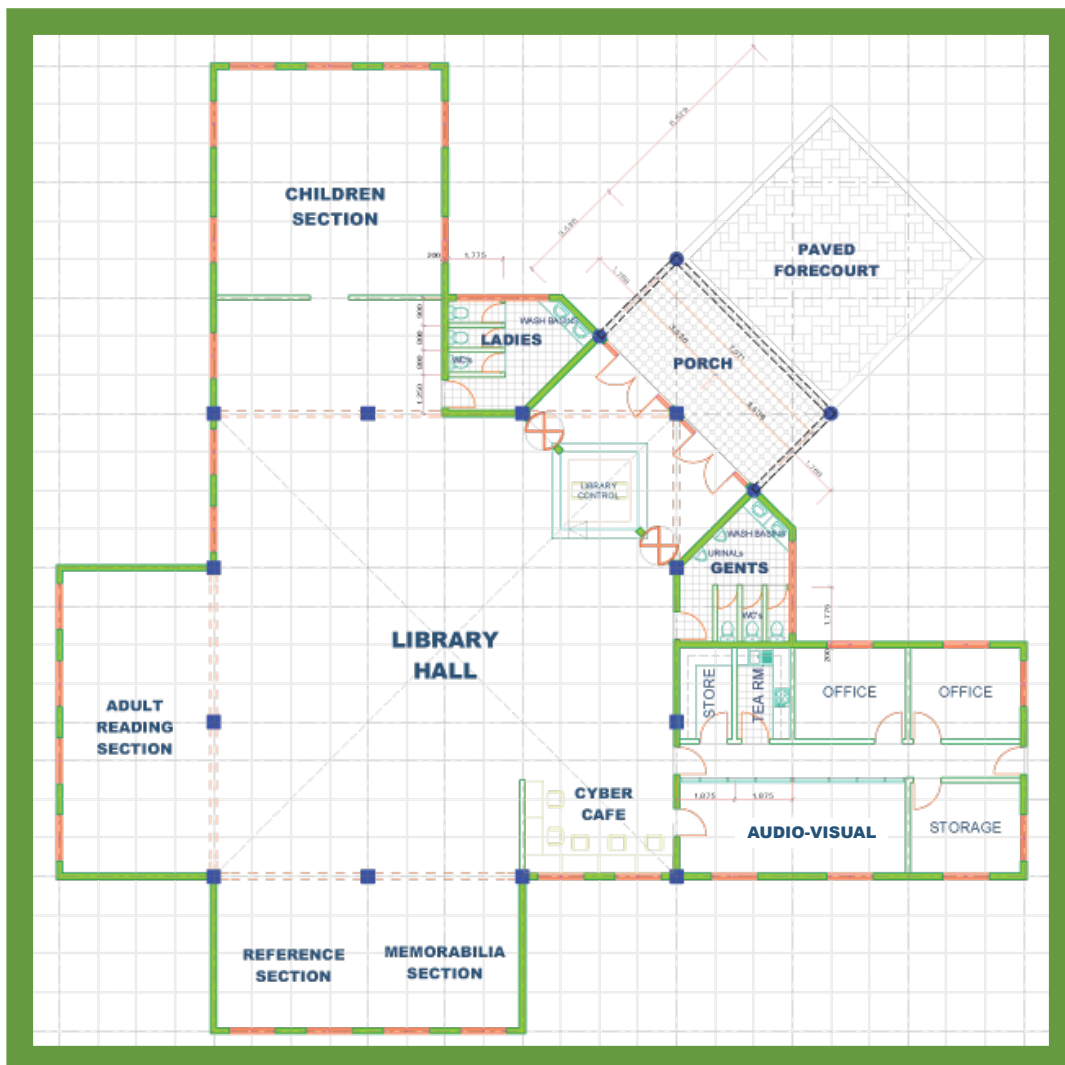


## Location and Accessibility Library Floor Plan Buildings and Infrastructure Project Team

### Location and Accessibility

The project is located on Plot Kisumu/Koru 1561, a 2 acre plot located approximately 4 kilometers from Muhoroni town and 3 kilometers from Koru town, along the Koru/Muhoroni Road in Muhoroni constituency. The land is a freehold title (free of any encumbrances) registered in the name of Mrs. Christabel Ouko. The process of transferring the title to the Kenya National Library Services and the Community is in progress. There is good road access to the library and around the area. All the requisite approvals to commence the project have been obtained from the Muhoroni Town Council, Commissioner of Lands and NEMA.

### Library Floor Plan



## Buildings and Infrastructure

The project infrastructure comprises a 548 m<sup>2</sup> plinth area library building and a 319 m<sup>2</sup> plinth area social hall as well as outbuildings, fencing and landscaping. Each block shall be based on a square base with a pyramidal roof, louvered sides and a double volume that allows for cross-ventilation. The roofing shall be galvanized coloured metal profiles. The walling shall consist of medium dressed stone with recessed joints. The main floors shall be typically patterned terrazzo, with ceramic tiling in rest rooms & clay quarry tiles for the porches. For easy ventilation, the windows shall be aluminium louvre panels secured by rows of metal bars within. The external doors shall be constructed in glazed metal casement for security, whereas all internal doors shall be durable framed timber batten doors.

The walkways shall be comprised of stone tile setts and precast concrete slabs. Driveways shall be all-weather roads overlaid by local coloured gravel chippings for easy maintenance.

The library shall be furnished with metal shelving and durable tables and chairs, and equipped with computers and audio visual equipment.

## Project Team

FIRM / CONSULTANT	BRIEF PROFILE
<b>O.H. Oyolla Architects</b>	<b>PROJECT ARCHITECTS</b> The firm consists of qualified professionals with extensive experience in architectural design, planning, interior design and project management. Their recent projects include Barclays Bank branches at Gikomba, Kapenguria, and Moi Avenue, and Forest Edge Gardens townhouses in Karen.
<b>Quantline Systems</b>	<b>QUANTITY SURVEYORS</b> The firm brings 12 years of experience in quantity surveying and contract management. Some recent projects undertaken include a Kshs. 48 million residential development in Riruta, and the Faculty of Arts & Sciences at Aga Khan University.
<b>EngPlan Consulting Engineers</b>	<b>STRUCTURAL/CIVIL ENGINEERS</b> The firm has 10 years of experience in structural and civil design and construction supervision. Some of the on-going/completed projects for the firm include: Nakumatt Nanyuki, Sameer Business Park, and Azaelea Luxury Apartments.

The main contractor will be procured by this project team through a competitive tender process.

## Project Cost Estimates

The estimated project cost is KShs 40.25 million summarized as follows:

Category	Breakdown	KShs
<b>CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>		
	Library Building	15,750,000
	Social Hall	10,750,000
	External Works	6,150,000
	Preliminaries, contingencies	1,250,000
<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>		<b>33,900,000</b>
<b>Consultants' Fees</b>		<b>1,850,000</b>
<b>Furniture</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>
<b>Audio-Visual Equipment</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>
<b>Computer Equipment</b>		<b>500,000</b>
<b>Marketing &amp; Fund raising costs</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>40,250,000</b>

The construction costs are based on bills of quantities prepared by the project quantity surveyor, while the consultants' fees are based on actual contracts entered into with the consultants.

The furniture cost estimate is based on a quotation received from the furniture supplier used by KNLS. The audio visual equipment, computer equipment and marketing & fund raising costs are estimates generated by the project committee.

## Funding and Material Support

To provide seed capital for the project, the family of the late Dr. Robert Ouko has donated the 2 acre piece of land on which the library will be built and provided an additional KShs 2.2 million towards the project costs. The title for the donated piece of land has been registered in the joint names of the community project and KNLS.

Due to the substantial resources required for the construction and furnishing of the library, the library committee is seeking funding and support from individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies.

The partnership with KNLS will ensure the sustainability of the library as KNLS will staff and operate it out of its budget.

We estimate that the funding gap is KShs 38 million, to construct, furnish and equip the library. There are two primary ways to partner with us in funding this gap:

### 1. Cash donations

- Donating money directly to the library committee.  
Make all checks payable to:

**Robert Ouko Memorial Community Library**  
Account number 1111844585  
Kenya Commercial Bank, Muhoroni Branch.

- Online at [www.robetoukolibrary.org](http://www.robetoukolibrary.org)

### 2. Donations in kind

Any donations of books and others materials should be directed to one of the following addresses:

- c/o Mrs. Christabel Ouko  
PO Box 33 - 40104 Koru
- c/o Mr. Kenneth Ouko  
PO box 48935 – 00100 GPO Nairobi



## LIBRARY REQUIREMENTS

### Library Stock

- Children's books (picture books, illustrated books etc.)
- Early reader fiction and non-fiction
- Juvenile/Youth fiction and non-fiction
- Adult fiction and non-fiction
- Teacher resource material
- Encyclopedias
- Children's and adult dictionaries
- Books and literature from local authors
- Textbooks in English, Science, Geography, Mathematics, Government and Social Studies
- Vocational books
- Poster boards and educational posters for library walls
- Educational DVDs and Videos
- Books on tape
- Periodicals (local and international periodicals, newspapers and magazines)

### Other Equipment

- Branded computers
- Printers and Typewriters
- Radio and Tape Recorder
- Television Set
- DVD and VHS Player
- Camcorder and Digital Camera
- Area rugs for the children's area
- General office supplies



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE LIBRARY

### Medium Term

1. Create and develop specialized sections within the library and approach donors to sponsor them (such as "Textbooks", "Government and Politics", "African Culture and Literature", "Information Technology", "Vocational Resources", "Educators Resources", "Community Interests", "Periodicals" etc.)
2. Approach TV Networks to provide viewing material of a historical and educational nature (copyrighted material that can be licensed/donated to the library for its use)
3. Digitize Dr. Robert Ouko's materials, recordings, films etc, to enable library patrons to access them.

### Long Term

Expand the scope of the project to include:

- Tertiary education and skills training
- Access to distance learning and virtual education

## Dr. Robert Ouko's Elective Offices, Memberships and Chairmanships

YEAR	TITLE
<b>July 1971</b>	Elected fellow of the Kenya Institute of Management
<b>November 1971</b>	Elected First President of the African Association for Public Administration and Management
<b>January 1972</b>	Awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship to deliver a keynote lecture at the UNCTAD Seminar
<b>March 1975</b>	Vice-Chairman, Third U.N. Meeting of Experts in the U.N. Programme in Public Administration and Finance
<b>May 1975</b>	Member, U.N. Panel of Action Programme for Economic Cooperation
<b>October 1975</b>	Co-Chairman, UNCTAD Meeting of Group of Experts on Economic Cooperation
<b>June 1976</b>	Chairman, Meeting of Commonwealth Group of Experts
<b>May 1976</b>	Elected National Chairman, Kenya Institute of Management
<b>1977 - 1978</b>	Chairman, Lusaka Economic Commission for Africa
<b>July 1981</b>	Elected Chairman, O.A.U. Council of Ministers
<b>November 1983</b>	Elected Chairman, ILO Governing Council
<b>June 1986</b>	Elected Patron, Kenya Economic Association



**Dr. Robert Ouko**  
**Memorial Community Library**

---

[www.robertoukolibrary.org](http://www.robertoukolibrary.org)