

Books for Africa distribute books worth US\$440, 000 to schools

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Books for Africa through the Banjul City Council, on Monday donated 22, 000 books worth US\$440, 000 to 16 schools within the Greater Banjul Area at a ceremony held at Garba Jahumpa Upper Basic School in Banjul.

Speaking at the ceremony, the deputy mayor of Banjul City Council, Awa Sillah Njie, on behalf of Mayor Abdoulie Bah stated that the Banjul City Council has over the years been collaborating with Books for Africa. She said that Books for Africa serve as custodians of donated books from the USA meant for distribution to schools in Banjul.

According to her, the donated books are not only crucial to the education sector, but will also contribute effectively to the development of education in the country.

The deputy mayor of BCC pointed out that books are an important source of knowledge and that nurturing the reading culture is vital to the socio-economic development of any country.

For her part, Joy Buchanan, the president of the Better Community Association stated that Books for Africa is committed to improving literacy and the culture of reading, noting that the overall aim is to empower the next generation in order to break the endless cycle of poverty, and ultimately improve the quality of life.

She disclosed that Books for Africa has shipped more than 28 million educational and law books to 49 African countries since it's founding in 1988. She added that over the past 12 months alone, Books for Africa has shipped 2.2 million books valued at US\$28.3 million to 22 African countries with additional 616 computers and 15 brand new law libraries.

Buchanan went on to say that Books for Africa has been shipping to The Gambia for several years and that her organization was honoured to receive and distribute a shipment in November 2012. The president of the Better Community Association disclosed that the Association aims to provide educational help to needy students.

For his part, Ebrima Ceesay, a teacher at Garba Jahumpa Upper Basic School stated that books are among the vital things that can help extend the material range of intellectual and imaginative interest as far as the subject of life under education is concerned.

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