FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Publishers and Libraries thriving as partners in Zambia

Lubuto Library Partners support ZEPH

Lusaka, Zambia, 11 May 2017 – When Lubuto Library Partners (LLP) began creating the Zambia Heritage Library to preserve beloved literature that was long out of print, they were thrilled to learn that the recently-strengthened Zambian Educational Publishing House (ZEPH) had begun bringing those classics back into print. Discovering their mutual desire that those books be made available to new generations of readers, the two organizations began exploring all the ways they could work together to achieve that goal.

LLP President Jane Kinney Meyers explains the motive for cooperation with ZEPH from the librarian perspective: “Libraries thrive when publishers thrive. A robust publishing industry is necessary for the educational and intellectual life of a society. The progress of African publishers and booksellers has been impeded in recent years by well-meaning external book donation programs from wealthy areas. Lubuto is committed to strengthening Zambian publishers, and particularly the government publishing house.”

ZEPH Marketing Manager Angelina Phiri expressed the importance of this initiative in terms of meeting the two organizations’ mutual goal of providing books to all Zambian children: “Our motto is to support education by ensuring every child and youth in Zambia has access to books. So this is a great opportunity for LLP to support us and strengthen our partnership.”

LLP has constructed a kiosk on the grounds of the heavily-visited Ngwerere Lubuto Library in Garden as a more accessible sales outlet for ZEPH. ZEPH’s publications will be on display in the library next to the sales kiosk, making a section of that library a ZEPH showroom. The display will include the textbooks ZEPH publishes that comprise Zambia’s school curriculum, in part to encourage well-wishers to purchase Zambian curriculum materials rather than donate surplus textbooks from other countries that do not match the local curriculum.

Funding for construction of the kiosk was provided by Harriet McGuire who was Cultural Affairs Officer at the American Embassy in Zambia from 1983-86. Harriet is now Vice President of Africa Access, an organization that honors outstanding books on African themes for children and young adults, the Children’s Africana Book Awards. “I volunteered to fund the construction of this kiosk to showcase books published in Zambia the moment Jane asked. I remember how hard it was to find books written by Zambians when I lived in Lusaka more than 30 years ago,” Harriet recalled. “I hope the opening of this ZEPH kiosk is the first of a chain of outlets throughout the country, and that school textbooks will be supplemented by anthologies of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama written by Zambians for Zambians. I look forward to ZEPH’s future submissions for the annual Children’s Africana Book Awards!”

LLP and ZEPH will inaugurate the new sales kiosk at an event at the Ngwerere Lubuto Library on Monday, 22nd May. The public is cordially invited to attend the opening ceremonies which will commence at 14:00hrs.

ABOUT LUBUTO LIBRARY PARTNERS

Lubuto Library Partners (www.Lubuto.org) is an innovative development organisation that builds the capacity of public libraries to create opportunities for equitable education and poverty reduction. Its
mission is to enlighten and enrich the lives of children and youth in sub-Saharan Africa, especially those not in school and highly vulnerable.

LLP constructs enduring, indigenously styled open-access libraries stocked with comprehensive collections of well-chosen books and appropriate technology. These libraries serve as safe havens and are the center for Lubuto’s programs, which offer education, psychosocial support and self-expression through reading, music art, drama, computers, mentoring and other activities.

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