



StartaLibrary  
Reading is Cool

STORYMOJA READ ALOUD REPORT  
NEW YEAR EDITION  
29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016

## **1.0 About Storymoja Read Aloud**

This is Africa's largest gathering of children reading aloud from the same text and at the same time in multiple locations. The event is conducted bi-annually; the last Friday in January and on the Day of the African Child in June every year. It is a 15-minute expressive and interesting reading exercise, where children from different schools from across the country read the same text at the same time. Reading aloud to students provides an enjoyable, shared experience of written language, which can form the foundation for further language and reading development.

### **1.1 Objectives of Read Aloud**

- To promote and stimulate peace and ethnic tolerance messages and conversations about sensitive themes such as ethnicity, equality, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.
- To present reading as an enjoyable and shared experience with an aim of encouraging reading for pleasure and enjoyment.
- To collect data about reading and the state of libraries in schools.
- To break the world record for the most people reading aloud simultaneously in multiple locations. This will help to change attitudes and position Kenya as a reading Nation.

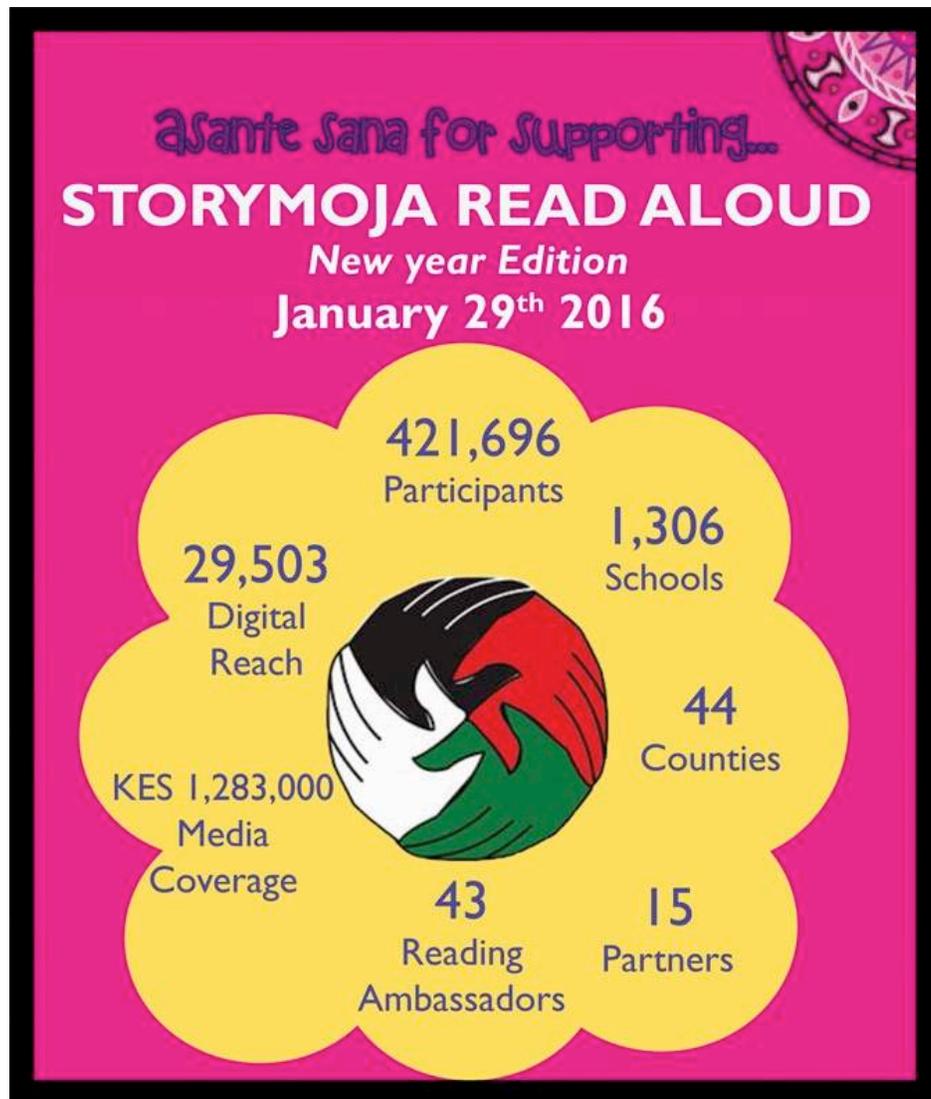
## **2.0 About the Read Aloud recommended book**

Attack of the Shidas is a powerful science fiction story that was commissioned by the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) to teach Kenyan children ethnic tolerance. The 2011-12 Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) study on *equality/non-discrimination*, revealed that *6 out of 10 school children in Kenya are aware that tribalism is a form of discrimination but say they are under pressure from their parents to discriminate on ethnicity*. The study was inspired by the realization that children were not only affected by the 2007/8 post-election violence, but in some cases formed part of the perpetrators. *Children aged 15 years and above formed part of the youth militia that spread inciting messages and meted out violence following the 2007 elections*, and there was need to incorporate material in school that would act as intervention to promoting peace and patriotism.

The book is approved by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and has been translated to Kiswahili and transcribed into Braille to enhance access to marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

## **3.0 Highlights of the January 2016 Read Aloud**

In addition to thousands of schools and reading ambassadors, we also received support from County Education Executives from Mombasa, Makueni, Kitui, Laikipia, Machakos and Meru. First ladies from Makueni, Kitui and Murang'a championed the recruitment and actively participated in the event. This enhanced on-the-ground appreciation and support for the event and other similar initiatives. We will be reaching out to other counties to participate in the Day of the African Child edition of the event on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.



We also witnessed increased enrolment of reading ambassadors from across the country. This facilitated participation of far-flung counties such as West Pokot and Turkana. In the spirit of inclusivity we will continue to make deliberate efforts to reach out to marginalized and special communities. Our partner base grew significantly and this in turn impacted our reach and penetration capacity. Various partners purchased books for donation to schools, lent us their network of schools and shared information about the event.

In addition to participating in the Read Aloud event, State House primary school in Nairobi received a fully functional library. Property Development Management (PDM)-the property arm of Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) turned their dream into reality after 36 years of existence. This is in line with our objective of ensuring that all public primary schools in Kenya have libraries.

We incorporated a library pre-installation form in the communication to schools in an effort to collect data about the state of libraries in schools.

# Event in Pictures



# Event in words

**“Pupils showed confidence, participated fully, answered questions and pointed the moral lessons from the extract”**

**- Pauline Muthama, Deputy Head teacher Kyemwole, primary school,  
Makueni County**

**“The teachers are eager to read, this was a good opportunity for them to participate in breaking a world record”**

**- Esther Karomo, Karen C primary school,  
Nairobi County**

**“The learners learnt from the story that unity is strength”**

**- Sheila Onyango, teacher, Kochieng primary school,  
Siaya County**

**“It was indeed a school affair as the teachers joined the students to listen the story”**

**- Jacqueline Wanjiru, Head teacher, Kalalu Secondary school,  
Laikipia County**

**"The event is a wonderful exercise as it promotes the reading culture among the youth which promotes development of talents and skills which are useful to their careers"**

**- Reuben Cheruiyot, Headteacher, Oljarai Primary school  
Nakuru County**

**"It was highly successful event. The school enjoyed and would love a repeat of the same"**

**- Muchemi Gutu, Thugunui primary school  
Nakuru County**

**"It was very exciting and a boost to our efforts in the teaching of English language"**

**- Benard Nzioki, Kyeleni primary school  
Machakos**

**"It was a good event that should be done more frequently"**

**- Lucy Wanjira. Meru Primary school  
Meru County**

## Areas of partnership

1. We acknowledge that our country is currently on 'pre-election campaign mode' that is largely characterized by tribalism and hate messages. The recent occurrences in our neighboring countries Burundi and Uganda, have awakened the fear of a repeat 2007/8-post election violence. *We are actively seeking partnership with organizations involved in peace projects to design strategic interventions such as peace workshops for children, parents and teachers.*
2. Bulk purchase of the recommended book in schools, we recommend 10 library copies per school at a cost of KES 3,780. *We currently have a database of more than 1,300 schools across the country.*
3. Development of Attack of the Shidas workbooks for students, teachers and parents that will guide conversations and engagement around ethnic tolerance, equality/non-discrimination and National unity.
4. Signing up schools to participate in the Day of the African Child edition of the Read Aloud on 17th June 2016.
5. Signing up as a reading ambassador to support the Read Aloud event in a school.

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Thank you our partners



Government of  
**MAKUENI COUNTY**  
*Andu mbee, O kila nyumba kalia*



Mombasa County  
Government



County Government of Meru  
*The Official Website of The County Government of Meru*



Ingredion.



**PDM** | Property  
Development  
Management



Kenya Alliance  
for Advancement of Children



GOVERNMENT OF MACHAKOS



**eKitabu**

**Bridge**  
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIES



County Government of Laikipia

**KNLS** | kenya national  
library service  
Read. Know. Empower

**BRITISH  
COUNCIL**