

Increase Use of Library at National Polytechnic Bambui

The Registrar of National Polytechnic Bambui (NPB) - Bamenda in North West Region of Cameroon

Dr. John Suh Che disclose this in a chat with ASEC-NW News editor, Tume Amos Nsawir. Excerpts.



Dr Suh, NPB Registrar

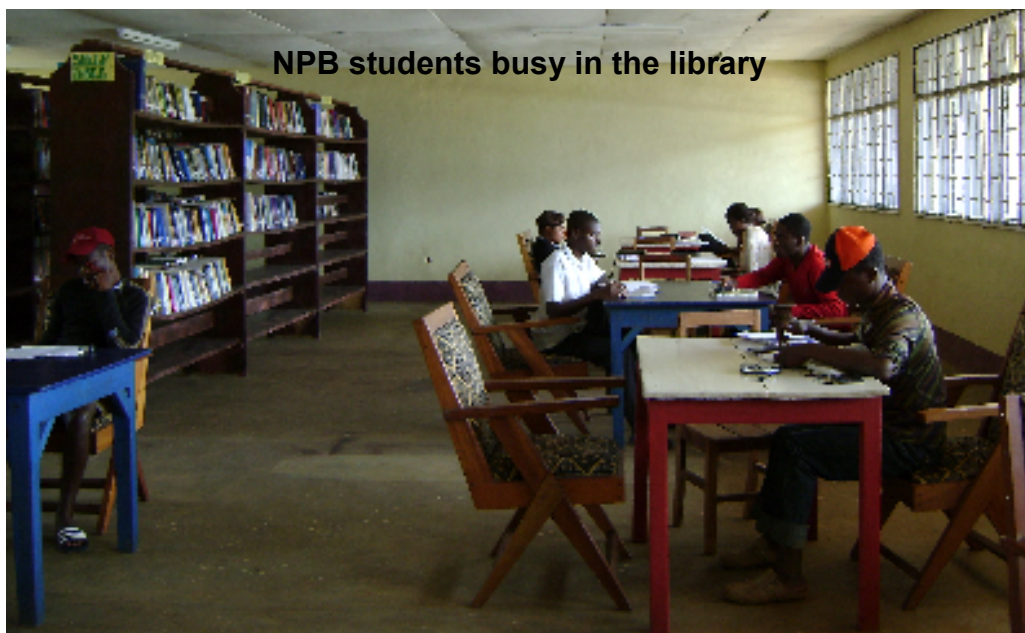
1. Sir, how did you know about ASEC-NW and its books project? ASEC-NW and its books project with Books for Africa were introduced to me by its Coordinator Mr. Njamnsi Nelson Ndi who came to me with his Secretary and presented the association and its activities including the books project. They kept with me literature relating to the association. Among which was the association's newsletter (ASEC-NW News) with a

lead story "ASEC-NW Distributes 25,000 Books to 32 Schools in the North West". This was quite captivating. I read through the article; it was quite interesting. I also read the interview with the different principals whose schools received books. I also discovered that the books come from Books for Africa based in Minnesota, where I had lived and studied.

After reading the literature about the association, I called the coordinator to meet me for further discussions on how NPB can be part of the books project. He came and since then we remained in touch with each other. Now the books are here in the hands of students.

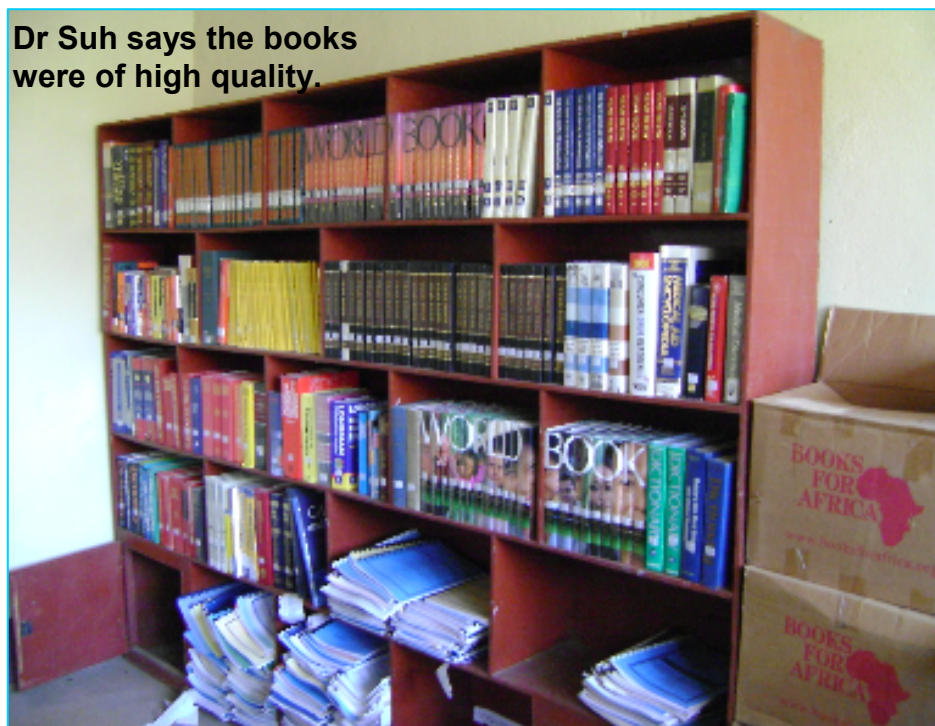
2. How many books did your school receive? We received 4,000 books. ASEC-NW Coordinator explained that the books for some of the fields we requested were not available and others in limited quantities.

3. Are the students making use of the books? I will say yes with no hesitation or doubt. According to the register of NPB library users, there is a marked increase in the number of books signed out by students. Also, when I visit the library, I see for



myself many students reading in the library, many coming in and out of the library. In short, the library is now quite busy.

4. How do you appreciate the quality of these books? The quality of the books is wonderful



and from a system I know very well. Some of them are written by my lecturers in Minnesota. The use of full colour, good illustrations and simple English for the understanding of all give the books a high quality. Especially in this era where students have many things to distract them, the books are attractive and friendly for them to read with understanding.

5. Are the books relevant for the courses you offer? We have seven (7) schools or call it faculties namely; Business, Finance and Management, Engineering and Technology, Journalism and Media, Medical and Biomedical Sciences, Law, and Education and Professional Development. The books are very relevant for the courses we offer considering that our curriculum for these 7 fields are highly oriented towards business, science and technology. They thus fit squarely into the courses we offer especially for courses in the school of Business, and Medical and Biomedical sciences where we had a good number of books. Books for the different branches of Mathematics studied by the different schools also fit well into our curriculum. At this level, the different schools study different areas of Mathematics relevant for their fields.

6. Have the books affected the teaching methods of the schools? Well, I will not say yes or no because I have not talked with the lecturers or students to find out but if I can use the library register as an indicator, I will say it has affected as the library is now very busy.

7. What has the school done to encourage students to use the books? As soon as the books were arranged in the library shelves, we announced to students the availability of books in the library for them to read, do their assignments and make research. With their library cards, they can borrow books and read at home.



8. What is the competence of your librarian to manage this increasing library? We have sent our librarian on a number of courses on library management. We also sent our librarian to that of ENS Bambili who is a professional to acquire more knowledge and skills to manage the increased library of NPB. With this, we are assured the library is in good hands.

9. Do you wish to have more books? Yes of course. We had 1500 books and then received 4,000 books from ASEC-NW in collaboration with Books for Africa. This gives us a total of just 5,500 books for the library of a higher institution of learning which is of course grossly insufficient. Our library has a capacity to accommodate more than 10,000 books. We are still highly lacking in books for Engineering, Law, Home Economics, and Journalism. You will see for yourself that we still need many more books. We have books for Business studies, and Medical and Biomedical studies but still need more because not books for all specialties are available. Also, students need to read a particular topic from different books by different authors in the different generations. We are still relying on ASEC-NW and her partner for books on the different fields.

10. Any last word? We are very pleased with ASEC-NW and her partner Books for Africa for the books now in the hands of our students. We are still willing and ready to collaborate with ASEC-NW for more books in the different fields and other assistance. Our library is still at infancy and we shall be delighted to receive a delegation from Books for Africa visiting us to see what we are doing. That's all.

National Polytechnic Bambui (NPB) is a broad based institution of higher learning with main purpose to encourage, promote and facilitate the advancement of academic, professional, and technical achievements for all.



Partial view of National Polytechnic campus

The academic programmes of NPB are highly oriented towards business, science and technology. The programmes offer students excellent opportunities for acquiring academic, professional, technical, and vocational skills, which are necessary to meet up with the challenges of developing nations in the 21st century. The interdisciplinary nature of the programmes offers wider horizons to meet student aspirations in agriculture, industry and tertiary services.



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