

Narok

American IT expert whose mission is to spread love for books

BY ROBERT KIPLAGAT

Seeing her daughter enjoy reading at a local library inspired American IT expert Barbara Macraz to spread her love for books across the world.

When she arrived in Kenya four years ago, Ms Macraz, aka Barbs to locals, strove to replicate the reading culture back at home to rural schools in Narok. She spoke during the reopening of the Sh1.8 million modern library at Aitong Boarding Primary School.

She first arrived in Kenya in 2017 while working with Marcus Leadership School. She later established the Olive Seed Foundation, a charitable organisation involved in building and stocking school libraries in the Mara.

"I was born in California and there's a beautiful library down the street that my daughter and I used to frequent. I always dream that all children in the world could enjoy such privileges," Ms Macraz said.

Their own stories

She has partnered with Mr Amos Kipeen, a local, to build five libraries in public schools.

Mr Kipeen said they realised that teachers can't teach everything and that learners ought to have a [library] to broaden their knowledge. Ms Macraz's foundation also encourages pupils to write their own stories for publication.

"We recently published a compilation of short stories of how the children spent almost eight months at home during the Covid-19 period," she says.

Aitong Primary head Julius Kuyoni and board chairman Jonathan Sadera lauded the initiative.

"We thank Olive foundation for helping us overcome one of our challenges, which was lack of a library. The library is a special gift that we have always yearned for," Mr Kuyoni said.

Uasin Gishu Dept

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Kesses MP Swarup Mishra at a meeting of churches in Chebolol, Uasin Gishu.

Winners will first they beat in the

BY BARNABAS BIRIR

Will Kesses Mishra overcome the hurdle of rural independent

in a region where the Democratic Alliance's support faces incumbency jinx rarely seen a sitting MP

The jury is still out on who will win in the August 2022 polls. Dr Mishra, who will have made political

Dr Mishra, who is on a Jubilee ticket, will become the first MP

of Asian origin in the Uasin Gishu constituency. It is a political jinx of one-term MPs

winning the seat. If he wins, he will become a legislator to do so

Changwony Muriuki between 1969 and 2017.