

Drop Everything And Read!

es! 'Drop Everything And Read.' That is the latest reading campaign promotion with the endearing tagline of 'DEAR Moment' initiated by Dr. Udeme Nana, the founder of Uyo Book Club. Nana disclosed this on Saturday, January 29 2022 at Shakespeare's Hall, Watbridge Hotel, Uyo during the January meeting of Uyo Book Club while welcoming members to their first meeting in 2022.

Providing insights into the meaning of the acronym 'DEAR', Nana explained that the moment should be a period where individuals and family members should "Drop Everything And Read". He said that it should be a special moment for individuals and households to gather and dedicate time just to read books on any subject matter. He noted that when people read, they will



become enlightened and better informed to make contributions to the development of their society.

The 'DEAR' MOMENT will also create an avenue for bonding among family members, he said. According to Nana, who has inspired the setting up of several book clubs in Akwa Ibom State so far, "things will change in Nigeria for the better while a mental and attitudinal revolution will occur when families include a time for reading in their daily routines."

Many have welcomed the idea of the 'DEAR Moment,' endorsing it as brilliant and apt at this time particularly in our country

Continued on next page

News Flash!

Uyo Book Club is set to mark the *World Book and Copyright Day* on 23rd April 2022 with an elaborate event and outreaches to schools in the three senatorial districts of the state.





Vatbridge



EDITORIAL Education Elevates

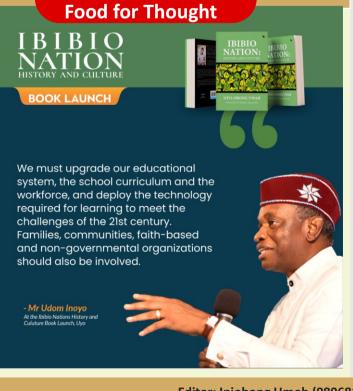
simple meaning of education is the preparation and empowerment for functional and useful living. Conventionally, education incorporates school enrolment, classroom attendance, and a structured system for passing on and receiving formal training. The ultimate aim is to certify the student as having attained a certain level of formal learning and character formation. Education in broad terms is more than what you acquire from a formal school system. At best one is furnished with formal learning tools at school. How much of what you imbibe, adapt, use and apply in the real world defines your effectiveness and impact. Life provides unceasing learning theatres and opportunities. The education that we continue to acquire in life informs and provides the tools with which to change our individual world and the world at large. "Education," according

to Nelson Mandela, "is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world."

Education plays a critical foundational role in the development of a progressive society. The significance of education in increasing the productive capacity of people is clear from the fact that education equips human resources with the needed knowledge, skills and competencies which would make them functional and contribute to the all-round development of the nation. The debate and deliberate acts of denigrating education as irrelevant in the equation of success is futile, morbid and idiotic. Their proponents and sponsors are inspired by ignorance, illiteracy, and a warp, corrupt and bankrupt scale of reference. Sadly, Nigeria seems to have a surfeit of such characters in critical positions of influence and in

high places. Little wonder the nation is wobbling on virtually all fronts. Many Nigerians possess certificates from various institutions (some of doubtful intents and purpose) yet remain functional illiterates. And because of the disproportionate emphasis on certificates to the near total neglect of skills and character formation, there are examination leakages, certificates forgery and admission (school) rackets.

In spite of the belittling of education in Nigeria, the fact and truth remains that education elevates. We ought to as individuals, corporate citizens and government accord education its rightful place to ensure "the integration of the individual into a sound and effective citizen..." as intended and enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution and the 1977 National Policy of Education. This is our stand and our plea.



Drop Everything And Read! contd.

Nigeria with a deplorable reading habit among the citizens. In line with this laudable initiative, Udom Inoyo added his endorsement. Speaking at a book launch in Uyo recently, the retired Vice-Chairman of Exxon Mobil Companies in Nigeria noted, "I must...salute the incredible efforts of Dr Udeme Nana for pioneering the Uyo Book Club and I hope wellmeaning individuals and corporate organizations will lend support to the initiative." Indeed, if Nigerians adopt the 'DEAR Moment' as an enduring practice, it would transform the reading culture with all the attendant benefits to the people and the nation.

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NEWS

Uyo Book Club receives books donation

yo Book Club has taken delivery of 100 new books. These books were donated by a patron of the club, Chief Ndueso Essien, former minister of Lands, Housing & Urban Development. The book titles cut across different fields of Novels, Poetry, Leadership books,

Management books, Financial books and Socio-political and Children's books. Receiving the books on behalf of the Club, the Founder, Dr Udeme Nana thanked the donor and appealed to Members of the public to emulate that gesture.

Raffia City Book Club Opens Year with Amu Nnadi's love Performance

t was a time of shared intellectual romance and a moment to read in pidgin. The first Reading session of the Raffia City Book Club in 2022 was a mix of the book Sundance and love fair, as Chijioke Amu Nnadi, performed the poems from his latest book 'the love canticles'.

Iquo DianaAbasi, a Lagos-based poet and writer, took the stage in amusement as she shared two of her several stories from her book 'Efo Riro', one of which was a pidgin narration. The book of the month 'Purple Hibiscus' written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, was given a thorough review by Dcns Mary Jonah. Dignitaries who graced the January reading included the local government Chairman of Ikot Ekpene, Mr Unvime Etim, the founder of Book Clubs in Akwa Ibom. Dr Udeme Nana. Patrons of RCBC, Mr Nsikan Essien, Abom Tony Esu and Dr Collins Edet. Others were representatives of Tower of Ivory Schools.

Topfaith VC tasks students on reading as Raffia City Book Club ends February session

he Vice-Chancellor of Top Faith University, Professor Patrick Ebewo, has tasked students across borders to embrace reading and count it a privilege to be part of literary clubs. Ebewo, made the call during the February reading session of the Raffia City Book Club (RCBC), held recently at The Esu Centre, Ikot Ekpene.

The VC who was represented by Dr Vincent Iwunze commended the leadership of the club for keeping the flag flying and urged them to continue in the good work.

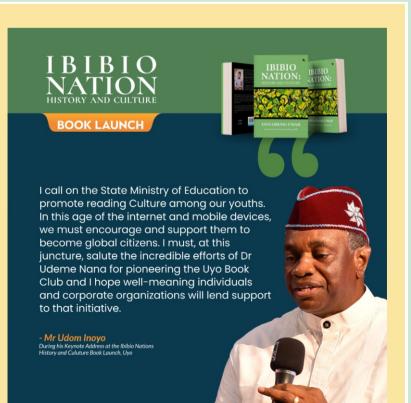
The session featured special reading with the visiting school, Notre Dame Girls School, Essien Udim; review of the book '3Ds of Purpose' by the author, Aaron Solomon, and more.

The high point of the event was the presentation of books to the visiting staff and students of Notre Dame Girls School, Essien Udim, adornment of the VC and the book reviewer with the Club's vest.

Uyo Book Club marks the first anniversary of Village Boy

ast-growing intellectual community, the Uyo Book Club has called on Nigerians to return to our traditional values and norms to stem the decline of

the moral fabric of our society. This was part of the recommendations at the event to mark the first anniversary of the publication of 'Village boy', a



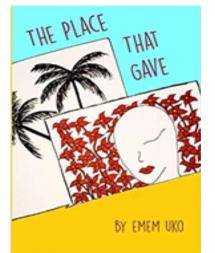
novel by ace journalist, Anietie Usen.

The book, which has so far won several awards and gotten recognitions, including its adoption by the prestigious United Nations SDG Millenium Goals for translation into four international languages, has been adopted as a textbook in three departments of the University of Uyo as well as a play by both the departments of Theatre Arts and film studies of the same university.

The book reviewer, Dr Arnold Udoka, former Director of the National troupe and a lecturer at the department of theatre arts, University of Calabar took time to give a detailed review of the book. Comparing the story of Akan in Village boy, to that of his personal experiences in life, Dr Udoka brought a sense of nostalgia among the attendees at the event as he recalled the lifestyle of the people in the olden days. He stated,

"Village boy is a portrait of the harsh realities of existence common in all communities not necessarily in villages. It celebrates the strong will to surmount all odds and attain self-development by legitimate means".





he Place That Gave is a novel by Emem Uko. The story is set in USA and Akwa Ibom. Theana Green, a beautiful young lady is the brand ambassador and public face of Health Trix, a healthy snacks brand. Idolized by the public, fame and fortune flows in for the young lady till a secret is revealed: unknown to her, Illegal additives are being added to the snack she is promoting. The news gets into the public space and she falls from grace to grass, becoming the fall guy for the company. Her boyfriend, Lionel chooses the same period to break up with her, taking her back to the familiar phase of poverty and heartbreak. Theena flees to Nigeria to clear her head and start life afresh.

Popular Nigerian-American musician and Playboy, Ramsey Edet leave the United States of America for a short vacation in Nigeria to avoid the bad press in the wake of his brother's death from drug addiction and to work on a music project with some local artistes. A chance meeting in a bar in Akwa Ibom brings Theena and Ramsey together and sets the stage for a whirlwind romance that will either make or break them.

The Place that Gave explores the themes of heartbreak, loneliness,

The Place That Gave by Emem Uko.

reconciliation and adventure. The author being of Akwa Ibom origin, with her picturesque descriptions markets Abak local government area to the reader and makes the reader want to visit.

Theena and Ramsey are two polar characters with conflicting personalities as Theena states on Page 107, "I went to college so I could become a writer. My mission in life as you have falsely stated isn't to be the centre of attraction or in the limelight" But Ramsey lives for the limelight and his opinion of Theena on Page 147 is quite blunt, "I think you're too stiff. You're young and should learn to just live. Breathe a little and be spontaneous."

As you turn the pages of the novel, you get to see the conflict between Theena and Ramsey building up to a climax that would either bring them together or cut them apart.

The relatability of the characters is one of the strong points of the novel. Many a man can identify with Ramsey's honest declaration of seeking a good woman despite his imperfections on page 331. Similarly, the troubled marriage between Frank and McKenna will resound with married folks.

The novel has 337 pages and is divided into 24 chapters all titled with words beginning with the letter 'E'. From Exploded to Entwined to Exxagerated, the author keeps the reader hooked as the story progresses.

(oca:601

Although some of the characters in this book have Akwa Ibom names, it is evident that the book is written for the American audience. I couldn't help but sigh at the italicization of Nigerian words and places. Akara is described on page 72 as "an oily, spicy, shapeless pastry like thing in a nylon bag".

This description will not sit well with any Akara lover as it downgrades the delicious everyday Nigerian cuisine/snack. Similarly, Abak, Akwa Ibom, Annang, Uyo are italicized in the novel while western meals and American cities are not italicized. From a pan-African perspective, one wonders when we Africans will stop having to explain ourselves to the west in our literature and allow them to make the effort to figure out things for themselves.

A love story with its steamy scenes can become very predictable and monotonous but that is not the case here as the author cleverly introduces a supernatural theme in the plot, weaving a narrative of the villagers in Abak digging the grounds for a mysterious and elusive item which they are desperate to keep secret from Ramsey and Theena.

Aside from two confusing scenes, The Place That Gave is beautifully written and makes for a good read.

Written by Iniobong Umoh



POEMS

A Market Outside the Market Place

By Dr Ekong Sampson

The market has left the market-place Unknown to the owner The lead dancer is dancing Outside the rib of the rhythm. From silent murmurs the Wares wail from strange isolation Unheard by the merchant who has since gone deaf Where were the cheer leaders yesterday When soldier ants looted the palace And ate away the king's plates? Flee, fair weather winds The king is gone. Captured. Betrayed by receding footfalls. Chant no more lullaby Feast. No more rivers to cross No axe to grind Only debris to pack

© Ekong Sampson

HOLY BATHE

By Abasifreke Dan

Drag us to thy tent when thy master is out and strip us of our loved most sinful rags. Unclad us our shameful blouse and strike us down to thy bed of sanity.

||

Or take us for a bath in Jordan's River, where the great Baptist washed rags that were stained and filthy than ours or shall we wait for thy master to come and baptise us with the holiest spirits.

||

Pray! Wash and purify us like crystal gold so our pens may bleed eternal lest darkness cast its stones on us and push us into an abyss of thorns with doors of ancient buried keys.

© Abasifreke Dan

Prisoner of hope By Yvonne Ebbi

I am enslaved. Confined. Locked up Bound by hope Restrained; Constrained... Restricted by a rein In-much-pain!

I peep through the prison bar I perceive freedom from afar I see loopholes in the bars Break jail and sustain scars?? ELOPE?

I am barred – but I can cope I am a prisoner of hope!

A prisoner by choice No force; no hoax Bound for a purpose Caged. Confined. Cramped Incapacitated by hope

I am aware of the fast lane ...The familiar terrain Filthy scam & dirty game Falsehood. Deception. Lies. Pretension. But I am restricted; limited

Confined, deterred...barred by virtue's rope Jailed yet free - I am a prisoner of hope!

I wait, yet not in vain Conscious of the narrow terrain This pain will end & soon I will attain My portion – reaffirmed Preserved times ten

Enviable increase...superfluous Pressed down...stupendous Honour is by the corner Double honour...running over

Though Bound. Deterred. Caged and Enveloped I rejoice extraordinarily... I am a prisoner of hope!!

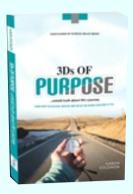
© Yvonne Ebbi

Quotable Quote

Reading maketh a man. That is why it is often said that readers are leaders. You can do nothing without books. Reading is one of the most serious things anybody can do. As a Medical Doctor, I interact with my patients through words as a form of cure. Some of them come to me for drugs but I present words to them and they become okay".

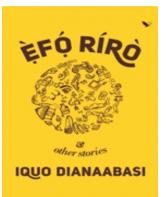
Dr Martin Akpan

3Ds of Purpose by Aaron Solomon



The book; 3Ds Of Purpose is a rich exposition on purpose, and a powerful tool to deal with identity crisis. In this book, the author gives clear insights on how you can discover, develop and deploy your potentials, as you walk the path of fulfilling your purpose on earth. The entire book is a product of research, revelation and experience, making it very inspiring, provocative, spiritually invigorating and mentally stimulating.

Eforiro and other stories by Iquo Dianabasi



Radio Sunrise by Anietie Isong

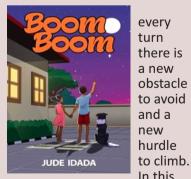


Ifiok, a young journalist working for the government radio station in Lagos, Nigeria, aspires to always do the right thing but the odds seem to be stacked against him. Government pressures cause the funding to his radio

drama to get cut off, his girlfriend leaves him when she discovers he is having an affair with an intern, and kidnappings and militancy are on the rise in the country. When Ifiok travels to his hometown to do a documentary on some exmilitants' apparent redemption, a tragi-comic series of events will make him realise he is unable to swim against the tide. Radio Sunrise paints a satirical portrait of (post) post-colonial Nigeria that builds on the legacy of the great African satirist tradition of Ngugi Wa Thiongo and Ayi Kwei Armah.

Boom Boom by Jude Idada

Osaik is an eight-year-old boy. He is charming and has an unusual ability to hear things no one else hears. His world is thrown into disarray when a debilitating disease takes his mother from him. Despite his grief, he has to find a way of saving his little sister, Eghe, from the same disease. Alongside his dad, and Kompa his dog, they begin a race to get her all the help she needs. It is not an easy one, because at



In this dramatic, fast-paced story of loss, faith, and hope, the limits of love, sacrifice, friendship, loyalty, and family ties are tested as the struggle to save his sister's life brings Osaik and

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This collection is set primarily within Nigeria, and the stories here cover varied social themes including spousal abuse, religious dogma, love, bravery, betrayal and vengeance. It speaks of the untamed resilience of the everyday Nigerian who is faced with the vicissitudes of life. We meet Sixtus the driver whose love of a particular delicacy has him biting off more than he can chew, and we laugh to our heart's delight. But all is not humorous in this collection; anything can happen in the city of Lagos, a man disappears after a Champions League semi-final and we are drawn into his wife's travails, we shine light on paedophilia through the keen eyes of a gossip, we take a peek at what love and lust looks like on the internet. then we head to Oguta where a ritual to revive a sick husband takes an unexpected turn. Despite the human tendency to betray and disappoint, we encounter stories that show how people tread life on a carpet of love and hope.

those around him to a new knowledge of the world they can see, the world they cannot see, and the part of themselves they never knew existed.



PERSONALITY PROFILE

Nsikak Essien The engineer who became a Super Editor

eteran journalist Nsikak Essien is the former editor of the now rested but formidable National Concord newspaper. He is also a fellow of the Nigerian Guild of Editors. He is a renowned personality in the field of journalism in Nigeria and is one man with a good story. Engr Essien is from Ikot Ekpene in Ikot Ekpene local government area of Akwa Ibom State.

Unknown to many people, journalism was not his first love, he holds a first degree in electrical engineering from the University of Nigeria Nsukka and a postgraduate diploma in Microelectronics from the University of Wales, Cardiff in United Kingdom.

How did an engineer veer off into the rugged field of journalism? You might wonder. Here's what Nsikak Essien has to say:

"When I returned from the United Kingdom, I became a major part-time writer on Consumer related issues, industrial and technology matters for Daily Times newspaper. I took interest in journalism from my late medical doctor father who loved radio iournalism. When my friends started Business Concord newspaper I was invited to join as a full-time staff at a higher salary. I later became the Editor and later promoted Editor of National Concord newspaper. Both were titles in Concord Press group. National Concord newspaper, owned by late MKO Abiola was among the three best newspapers in the country then."

Engr Nsikak still practices engineering in his own way, according to him:

"I was in full-time engineering practice for six years, rising to senior engineer rank. As a manager in every endeavour,



there's no way I can't be part of a team sorting engineering challenges."

The foremost journalist is a reader and specialist writer in technical areas, including management. He read books and publications all the time in the areas of his specialization. But he is not into literary works, however, he is an avid reader and believes that without books he wouldn't have gone this far in the professional ladder.

Nsikak Essien doesn't have any favourite authors. He states:

"In the technology and technical areas, we don't have writers for that kind of selection. In ICT we chew everything we can get to update our knowledge on current trends. We read whatever we can get on Management and new developments. There are no favourite authors." This Akwa Ibom born journalist is relentless and passionate in his field and has become a beacon and mentor to many people who look up to him.





INSPIRATIONAL

Otobong Uwah: Persistence is the tonic for writers

Please introduce yourself

My name is Oto-Obong Aniefiok Uwah. I am an accountant by training with over 18 years of practice. I attended Christ the King Nursery/Primary School, Federal Government College Warri and the University of Uyo, Uyo for my Primary, Secondary and First Degree certificates. I am a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and I am well trained locally and internationally. However, I switched to management as a Human Resources professional and I have been happier for the switch, as I have learnt a lot about the science and art of human social dynamics. I am a Christian, happily married with three beautiful daughters. I am the second son and third child in a family of four, with only a female sibling.

What was your upbringing like?

My upbringing was very lovable, though my late father, Obong Aniefiok Uwah was a very strict disciplinarian. We grew up with the good provisions that a successful middle-class family could provide, but the environment of love and care was what influenced my upbringing the most.

When did you start reading books?

I started reading books out of compulsion from my primary three but fell in love with books from my J.S.S. 1 after being introduced to literature. Some of the books were Passport of Mallam Ilia, Chike and the River, Lamb Tales from Shakespeare, An African Night's Entertainment, etc. From thence, I graduated to non-literature, fiction, motivation, history, governance and religion...And I never looked back.

When did you start writing?

At about the same epochs of my deepened interest in reading, my love for writing was birthed. I had the luck of having sound English teachers along the way, and this helped in large measures.

Who is your favourite author?

My favourite author is Robert Greene.**Do you** make money from writing?

Not yet, but passion is what drives me and gives me satisfaction. Money will come in future, but for today, let's nurture and spread the passion around.

What advice can you give to aspiring writers?

Persistence! Persistence!! Persistence!!! It is the



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biggest self-support a writer can give themselves. There will always be nay-sayers, never-mean-wells and also moments of discouragement from mood swings and a general disconnect with writing. Persistence on the path of the first love for writing is the tonic I recommend.

What are your future plans regarding writing?

I love writing and will continue writing. I hope to publish four books on Ibibio culture preservation studies and two books on power and governance. Two of the books on culture are in advanced stages asides from *Ibibio Nation: History and Culture.*

WINNER OF CROSSWORD PUZZLE, THE BROOK, JAN-MARCH, 2022 EDITION

Abasiaba Okono

email: okonoabasiaba@gmail.com

Dairtel Brain Teaser

CROSSWORD PUZZLE on UBC EVENTS and WORLD BOOK DAY April 2022

- WORLD BOOK DAY UYO
- DEAR MOMENT
- EDUCATION ELEVATES
- UKO UDOM
- PATRICK EBEWO
- VINCENT IWUNZE
- NOTRE DAME GIRLS
- PURPLE HIBISCUS

- CHIMAMANDA ADICHIE
- UNYIME ETIM
- NSIKAK ESSIEN
- AARON SOLOMON
- NDUESO ESSIEN
- IBIBIO NATION
- OTO-OBONG UWAH
- UDOM INOYO

- BOOM BOOM
- JUDE IDADA
- EKON NKE
- INI ITE UBONG
- MARY JONAH
- IQUO DIANAABASI
- NNADI AMU
- DROP EVERYTHING & READ

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0 ₂₁₁	A ₂₁₂	0 ₂₁₃	0 ₂₁₄	T ₂₁₅	0 ₂₁₆	O ₂₁₇	U ₂₁₈	S ₂₁₉	D ₂₂₀	C ₂₂₁	G ₂₂₂	0 ₂₂₃	M ₂₂₄	D ₂₂₅
0 ₂₂₆	C ₂₂₇	O ₂₂₈	0 ₂₂₉	O ₂₃₀	B ₂₃₁	R ₂₃₂	Q ₂₃₃	N ₂₃₄	U ₂₃₅	H ₂₃₆	& ₂₃₇	0 ₂₃₈	A ₂₃₉	I ₂₄₀
K ₂₄₁	U ₂₄₂	0 ₂₄₃	0 ₂₄₄	D ₂₄₅	0 ₂₄₆	A ₂₄₇	l ₂₄₈	0 ₂₄₉	0 ₂₅₀	I ₂₅₁	R ₂₅₂	0 ₂₅₃	I ₂₅₄	E ₂₅₅
0 ₂₅₆	D ₂₅₇	0 ₂₅₈	L ₂₅₉	E ₂₆₀	К ₂₆₁	A ₂₆₂	N ₂₆₃	N ₂₆₄	К ₂₆₅	E ₂₆₆	E ₂₆₇	0 ₂₆₈	D ₂₆₉	D ₂₇₀
0 ₂₇₁	E ₂₇₂	R ₂₇₃	A ₂₇₄	R ₂₇₅	N ₂₇₆	0 ₂₇₇	L ₂₇₈	D ₂₇₉	U ₂₈₀	D ₂₈₁	A ₂₈₂	K ₂₈₃	A ₂₈₄	U ₂₈₅
B ₂₈₆	0 ₂₈₇	0 ₂₈₈	M ₂₈₉	B ₂₉₀	0 ₂₉₁	0 ₂₉₂	M ₂₉₃	0 ₂₉₄	0 ₂₉₅	O ₂₉₆	D ₂₉₇	0 ₂₉₈	N ₂₉₉	J ₃₀₀
W ₃₀₁	S ₃₀₂	L ₃₀₃	R ₃₀₄	305	G ₃₀₆	E ₃₀₇	M ₃₀₈	A ₃₀₉	D ₃₁₀	E ₃₁₁	R ₃₁₂	T ₃₁₃	N ₃₁₄	N ₃₁₅
A ₃₁₆	N ₃₁₇	I ₃₁₈	E ₃₁₉	K ₃₂₀	A ₃₂₁	N ₃₂₂	U ₃₂₃	K ₃₂₄	P ₃₂₅	A ₃₂₆	N ₃₂₇	A ₃₂₈	H ₃₂₉	A ₃₃₀

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TASK:

• Trace the listed NAMES and EXPRESSIONS by <u>listing the corresponding numbers of the alphabets</u> that matches them.

E.g. **EKON NKE** (260,261,262,263,264,265,266)

For the purposes of this CROSSWORD PUZZLE, please ignore the usual spacing between words or letters. Send your compilation by **SMS to 08029295533** or email to <u>uyobookclub2@gmail.com</u>. **THERE ARE PRIZES TO BE WON FOR PERFECT SCORES AND EARLY SUBMISSION** TIP: *Trace Horizontally, Vertically, Diagonally and in Reverse Direction*.

FIRST QUARTER EVENTS **IN PICTURES**



Presentation of a Prize to miss Eti-IniAbasi Paulinus Nnah, one of the winners of the Brook Newsletter Crossword Puzzle



Dr Martin Akpan addressing the UBC members at the January reading session



Dr Arnold Udoka reviewing Village Boy by Anietie Usen



Iquo DianaAbasi reading from her Book, Efo Riro and other stories at Raffia city book club



Poet, Chikoje Amu Nnadi performing a poem at Raffia City Book Club

Raffia City March Session with students from Greenfield schools, Ibiakpan Ikot Ekpene.





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...powering intellectualism in hospitality

Watbridge HALL OF FAME