When high quality books matter!

By EVANS ONGWA

Education, being the backbone of our economy, requires quality and relevant books as an integral part of the success equation. It is imperative for all education stakeholders to have a keen eye for quality when choosing the right school materials.

Spotlight Publishers (EA) Ltd, formerly Target Publications Ltd, is one of the leading book publishing firms in the East Africa region. The company, established five years ago, has grown tremendously due to its wide variety of popular educational books.

Currently, it has over 125 titles in the market and virtually all of them have been approved by Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). The Ugandan Government has also approved its English, Kiswahili and Science course books for use in all her public schools. The books strictly adhere to the Primary and Secondary School Syllabuses, penned by prominent authors, mainly practicing teachers and examiners who understand the challenges facing learners.

The content is well-sourced and written in a learner-friendly language, making it easy for a learner to use. In addition, the books have a wide variety of well-researched exercises with accurate answers, which help the learners to gauge their own progress. Use of quality paper as well as quality binding make the books attractive and durable.

The leading brands include Spotlight Quick Revision Series, Spotlight Question and Answer Series, KCPE Mirror series, KCSE Mirror series, Torch Encyclopedia Series, Kamusi Fafanuzi ya Misemo na Nahau and Kamusi Fafanuzi ya Methali.

The Spotlight Quick Revision series, covering all examineable primary and secondary school subjects, is doubtlessly the most outstanding brand to emerge from the company. This unique series has revolutionised the style of revision in both primary and secondary schools. The content of each book is divided into Terms I, II and III – making the series highly indispensable. It is presented in bullet points revision notes, Topical Revision Questions, Practice Exercises, Termly Test papers, KCPE and KCSE Model Test papers and answers, all in one book.

“The books are convenient for revision because they are four-in-one books,” says Managing Director, Simon Sossion. “Each title is a summarised course book, a workbook, a revision book and a model test paper book all rolled into one,” he adds. He also confirmed that all the top 10 primary schools in KCPE 2013 use the Spotlight Quick Revision and KCPE Mirror books. Sossion affirms that the firm’s books have won wide acclaim among teachers and students across the country because each title is invaluable.

Currently, the firm has reached a milestone as a top-notch publisher by introducing a one-stop revision book series in Torch Encyclopedia for primary schools. Already available in the market are combined volumes of all subjects for Classes 5, 6 and 7. Later this month, Encyclopedias for Classes 4 and 8 will be launched into the market while those for classes 1, 2 and 3 are in the pipeline.

To ensure continuity of quality revision books, KCSE Mirror and Spotlight Quick Revision series are highly sought after titles in secondary schools. Spotlight Publishers (EA) Ltd enjoys the rarity of being a publisher with two of its literature books approved as KCSE set books by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), Kidagaa Kimemwoozia, by celebrated author and journalist Ken Walibora, is approved as a Fasihu ya Kiswahili text for KCSE students. Another set book published by the firm as a school edition is Bertolt Brecht’s classic drama, The Caucasian Chalk Circle.

Sossion advises parents not to buy poor quality counterfeit copies of these books from the streets or some unscrupulous booksellers. Trading in or possessing counterfeit copies attracts long jail terms, hefty fines or both.

To signify its regional intent, Spotlight Publishers (EA) Ltd has opened subsidiaries in Uganda and Tanzania. The books are now available in all leading bookshops in the three East African countries.