

# Keep The Faith

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## First library to open in Kalebuka, DRC

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*Malaika School to launch library on International Women's Day*

Malaika will open the doors to the very first library in Kalebuka, DRC, in March 2016. The brand new building is part of the Malaika School and will be the only library within a hundred mile radius. It will feature both e-books and print books in the English and French languages. The state of the art facility is set to have Android tablets and an interactive whiteboard, all of which have been donated to the non-profit. This new access to resources and technology will open up a world of learning opportunities for the students.

Malaika founder, Noella Coursaris Musunka, will officially inaugurate the library on International Women's Day. Noella is an international model, activist, philanthropist and humanitarian who founded the non-profit organisation in 2007. Actress and Grammy Award-winning hip-hop recording artist, Eve, will join her on the day. Eve states "I am a huge supporter of initiatives that will have a positive impact on young girls' lives and education is an obvious foundation for advancement. It not only increases their self-esteem, but also provides them with a broader path of choices in life".

Malaika is a grassroots organization with a mission to empower Congolese girls and their communities through education and health programmes. The foundation operates in the village of Kalebuka, in the Southeastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Built in 2011, the Malaika School is a free, accredited school that provides a comprehensive and high quality education to 230 girls. The goal is to cultivate the leadership potential of each student so that she is empowered to give back to her community and has a positive, long-term impact on the future of the DRC. The curriculum is structured around daily classes in French and English, on subjects including math, science, information technology, health and civic education. Art, music, theatre and physical education classes are also a key part of the robust educational programming. Additionally, each girl receives two healthy meals a day – often her only ones.

At the same time, Malaika impacts the surrounding Kalebuka village through its Community Centre, which provides education, health and sports programming to approximately 7,000 youths and adults per year. Malaika also provides essential infrastructure development by building 5 wells that supply fresh water to 10,000 people, greatly reducing disease and illness.

Noella believes strongly in the power of education to transform the youth of the DRC. "I am so excited to launch this project", Noella said, "it is amazing to know that the students will now have a warm and welcoming environment where they will feel comfortable and eager to learn".

The new library in Kalebuka will enhance Malaika's mission of building the leadership capacity of each student so that they have a brighter future.

<http://www.malaika.org/>

*Malaika/Noella*