**ALIYU MOHAMMED RESEARCH LIBRARY (AMRL) BOOK PRIZE FOR AN UNPUBLISHED HAUSA MANUSCRIPT**

**BACKGROUND**

The Aliyu Mohammed Research Library (AMRL) Book Prize is an annual award, open to new works of fiction or non-fiction written in Hausa. The prize is the Gusau Institute (GI)’s contribution to the encouragement of writing in Hausa, the most populous Chadic language, and the major language of West Africa. It is both the first language and/or the *lingua franca* of millions in the region, and the award is meant to celebrate the cultural richness that Hausa lends to several populations across state borders.

Entrants to the Aliyu Mohammed Book Prize competition are asked to submit an excerpt of their manuscript, along with a 500-word synopsis, by the 31st of January of the year of entry. The five writers who make the shortlist, announced in mid-March, will be asked to submit a completed manuscript before the end of April. Three winners will be selected from among these five manuscripts by the end of August. All entrants remain anonymous until after judging has been completed. The competition is judged by a rotating panel of three judges, and it also offers editing, design, and layout assistance for the winning entries.

The three winning entries each receive a cash prize as set out below, and two printed copies of their edited books, as well as a soft copy:

* 1st Prize: N200,000 (two-hundred thousand naira)
* 2nd Prize: N100,000 (one-hundred thousand naira)
* 3rd Prize: N50,000 (fifty thousand naira)

**COMPETITION RULES**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Hausa writers are invited to enter. For any contestant who has not reached the age of majority in his/her state or country of residence, parental or guardian consent is necessary to enter the contest. Employees of the GI and their immediate family (father/mother, brother/sister, son/daughter) and persons living under the same roof, are not eligible to enter this competition. Previously published authors may submit texts providing that the submissions are unpublished works. There must be only one author per entry. All works that have already been published or broadcast are considered not eligible for the competition.

**RIGHTS:** Entrants warrant they have created the work they are submitting and that they own all rights to it. They will indemnify and hold the GI harmless from and against any and all loss, damage, costs and other expense arising out of claims, whatever their nature, resulting directly or indirectly from breach of this warranty.

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** Before or on the 31st of January of any given year an excerpt and a 500-word synopsis of the manuscript must be submitted. The three shortlisted authors must then submit their full manuscripts by the end of April.

**MANUSCRIPT DETAILS:** Only unpublished manuscripts between 25,000 and 30,000 words are accepted. Collections of original short stories written by a single author are eligible, but anthologies will not be considered. Poetry is not eligible. The decision of the judging panel as to whether a book is eligible shall be binding and no correspondence shall be entered into.

**JUDGING:** Manuscripts are judged anonymously based on the author's use of language, originality of subject, and writing style.

**GENERAL RULES:**

* Should participants make any false statement, they shall be automatically disqualified from the competition. If plagiarism is alleged, the jury shall conduct a reasonable inquiry in the circumstances, and if it determines that plagiarism has occurred, the participant concerned shall be disqualified and shall return the prize money. Such a decision by the jury shall be final and cannot be appealed.
* All personal information, such as your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, is collected solely for the purposes of administering this competition and shall not be used for any other purpose without your consent. By providing this information, you consent to it being used for the stated purposes.
* By entering, participants agree to abide by the competition rules. All decisions of the judging panel are final and without appeal.

**HOW TO SUBMIT:**

Each entrant must forward the following information/documents to [info@gusauinstitute.com](mailto:info@gusauinstitute.com) or [gusau.institute@gmail.com](mailto:gusau.institute@gmail.com) before or on the 31st of January:

1. A 10-page excerpt (12-point font, 1.5 line spacing, 2.54cm page margins) and a 500-word anonymous synopsis of the manuscript (*the name of the entrant must not appear anywhere on the text to ensure the objectivity of the jury*);

2. A résumé, including full names, date of birth, passport or ID number, permanent address and contact details; and

3. Parental permission if applicable.

(*Note: The three shortlisted authors will be informed by mid-March and will be required to submit their full manuscripts via Dropbox by the end of April*.)

**RESTRICTIONS:**

* All submissions are final: no changes or substitutions are allowed.
* No handwritten manuscripts will be accepted.
* Works will not be returned, and editorial comments will not be given on the works.

**Thank you for your interest – we wish you all the best!**