



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**SPEECH FOR H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, DEPUTY
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE
62ND EDITION OF THE KENYA NATIONAL DRAMA AND
FILM FESTIVAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU AND
KANGARU SCHOOL, EMBU COUNTY, ON APRIL 16, 2024**

**The Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu;
Principal Secretary State Department for Basic
Education Dr. Belio Kipsang;
Governor Cecily Mbarire;
Senator Alexander Mundigi;
Woman Representative Njoki Njeru;
Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji;
Lang'ata MP Phelix Odiwuor aka Jalas;**

Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie aka KJ;

UDA Secretary General Cleophas Malala;

Other Political Leaders;

The University of Embu Vice Chancellor Prof. Daniel Mugendi;

The Chairman of the Kenya National Drama & Film Festival, Prof. Christopher Odhiambo;

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development CEO Prof. Charles Ong'ondo;

**Distinguished Judges and Adjudicators;
Esteemed Teachers and Students;**

It is exciting to join you for the 62nd National Drama and Film Festival here in Embu County. No doubt, I have enjoyed potent performances from Kenya's finest, vibrant and energetic students.

We have talent. I am deeply impressed by the infinite creativity of these youngsters. The creativity is highly thought-provoking.

**Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Teachers and Students;
The Creativity displayed over the past week has been top-notch. The themes featured are spot-on. They mirror our society.**

Particularly, I am inspired by how the pupils and students have effectively captured issues that the family unit is facing.

Sexual and other forms of exploitation of children- both girls and boys, domestic violence, illicit brews, drugs and substance abuse- a menace that has shattered the family and societal structure, have stood out.

The poisonous destructive brews and drugs, sadly, have permeated our learning institutions up to Primary Schools.

The renditions have also vividly painted the picture of threats to the socio-economic development of our Nation, and by extension, a threat to our very existence.

These include banditry, terrorism and other forms of insecurity. It is impressive that matters Climate Change and its impact have also prominently featured.

The youngsters go further to suggest solutions. We have heard you.

We are taking resolute and drastic measures.

**Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Teachers and Students;
Girls are children; they must be in school, not in
marriage. Equally, boys must be in class, not working as
labourers.**

**Any form of exploitation of our children, including digital
spaces, will be firmly dealt with.**

**We invite the public to work with us in highlighting such
crimes for swift action.**

Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Teachers and Students;

In a reflection of contemporary Kenya, young people are under immense pressure to perform and join careers considered colourful and high-flying.

But, the Creative Industry is another powerful avenue to earn a dignified life and a vehicle to unlimited success.

Examples of this success are right here. Hon John Kiarie, KJ, the MP for Dagoretti South in Nairobi County, earned a name from stand-up comedy.

The two-term MP, a former student at Dagoretti High School, is a product of the Kenya National Drama Festival.

Hon Cleophas Malala, the former Senator of Kakamega County, and the Secretary General of our Party, UDA, is a household name in the annals of Drama Festivals.

Senator Malala is a prolific script writer- with footprints in this year's Festival.

Hon Phelix Odiwuor Jallas, the MP for Lang'ata in Nairobi, is a self-made stand-up comedian.

That is how he made his way to fame.

**Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Teachers and Students;
These Drama and Film Festivals, therefore, allow us to
identify, incubate and prune potential talent to the
highest yields.**

**It is the epitome of the CBC System, where a gifted
student in the Creatives is supported to focus on
strengthening their talent to full exploitation.**

**I am glad that the organisers of this Festival have
introduced a unique category for Junior School.**

We look forward to more fresh trends that will enrich the Festival.

**Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Teachers and Students;
We are excited to ignite the Creative Economy, a Sector that was neglected despite its vast opportunities, through the Talanta Hela Initiative.**

I am glad to note that the theme of this year's Festival is *Unlocking opportunities for socio-economic transformation through drama and film.*

The Creative Economy contributes 3.1% to the global GDP- with the Cultural and Creative Industry absorbing more youth between 15 and 25 years- the same age bracket as most of those in this auditorium today.

Fifteen years ago, the Sector was worth 85 Billion Shillings, equivalent to 5.3% of our country's GDP.

Riding on this potential, the Government aims at doubling the earnings.

We are promoting and protecting the industry against predators benefitting from the sweat of our artists.

Already, the Ministry of Education and KICD have rolled out monetisation of Drama and Film Festival content through YouTube and other channels.

This is progress.

**Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Teachers and Students;
On this note, I congratulate you all for planting more
than 20,000 trees during this year's Drama and Film
Festival.**

**This is key to meeting our target of 15 Billion Trees by
2032.**

I commend the Ministry of Education, the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services, the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Communications Authority, the KICD, Kenya National Drama & Film Festival, the County Government of Embu and other partners for a highly successful Festival.

We deeply appreciate the Judges, Adjudicators and students for the electrifying performances.

**As for the participants and winners, it is Hearty
Congratulations!**

We are all winners.

ASANTENI SANA