



**SPEECH BY HON. EZEKIEL MACHOGU OMBAKI, EGH, CAV,  
CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, DURING THE  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> KENYA UNIVERSITIES  
PERFORMING ARTS & FILM ASSOCIATION NATIONAL FESTIVAL  
HELD AT THE JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MAIN CAMPUS, BONDO ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2022.**

*Principal Secretary, University Education and Research*

*Chairman, Kenya Universities Performing Arts Association (KUPAA)*

*Secretary General, KUPAA*

*Staff from Department of Arts and Culture*

*Host Vice Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and  
Technology, Prof. Stephen Agong'*

*Vice Chancellors, Public and Private Universities Present*

*Members of the Global Body, IDEA*

*Deans of Students Present*

*Adjudicators*

*Participants in the Fourth National KUPAA Festival*

*Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen*

I am so delighted to join you in the 4<sup>th</sup> National Kenya Universities Performing Arts and Film Association (KUPAA) Festival. I am aware that KUPAA was recently accepted at a workshop held in Nakuru as the body that will work closely

with the Kenya Universities Deans of Students Association (KUDSA) and the State Department of University Education and Research, to run universities activities mostly in drama and music. Hence from now henceforth all universities can now effectively and conveniently participate in the festival. We are therefore hoping that all Universities will be able to align their calendar to conform, taking into account the dynamics involved.

I believe all of you will agree with me that participating in performing arts and film in whatever role among the University community is a special way to refine our intellectual and social interactions. By playing the roles of different characters in different dramatic contexts, we are also setting the actors ready to communicate more effectively in real life contexts. The KUPAA 2022 Theme speaks it loud and clear: ***“Shaping Societal Development Through Performing Arts”*** ***#Tekeleza”***

For this reason, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to congratulate all the participants, organizers and sponsors who have made sure that this event is realized. Taking part in this event is not only as a result of hard work but also sacrifice by many actors in various capacities to ensure its’ success. Through this initiative, our young men and women are accorded an opportunity to display their hidden talent, share and exchange ideas, which are key in inculcating National Values among university students and the general public.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

This 4<sup>th</sup> National Universities Performing Arts and Film Festival signifies that Universities have now matured, can lead from the front and are keen to develop all round intellectualism through the performing arts, among other co-curricular activities. The Ministry would like to encourage all universities to participate in KUPAA Festival to ease congestion at the Kenya National Drama Festivals

(KNDF) which has expanded tremendously since it started decades ago. This will also enable universities to be independent and become role models for the younger artists without inhibitions. I am informed that not only do we have stage and film items but for the first time KUPAA has included Beauty Pageant and Visual Arts in its menu, this will go a long way in ensuring diversity in terms of talent development and growth.

**Mr. Chairman**, participation in all events of performing arts at university level can effectively cultivate many attributes in the actors, which include:

- Confidence
- Self-presentation
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Time management and organizational skills
- Self-awareness
- Self-discipline
- An open mind and the ability to move beyond boundaries and experiment with different ideas
- Communication skills
- Analytical, critical and research skills
- The ability to cope with criticism and learn from it
- Stamina

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

In this regard, I would like to appreciate ALL the Vice chancellors of the participating universities for availing funds to students and staff to come and take part in this very important activity especially in the young adults' lives. This at a time when many universities are facing funding challenges. It is upon you students to reciprocate by working hard and maintaining discipline to justify value for money. This investment which is geared toward development of talents in performing arts has a long and sustainable payback to you and the nation. In the same vein, I wish to express my gratitude to the student actors for sparing time for

training so hard in order to prepare for the various categories of items that you will be presenting in the next 10 days.

I particularly wish to recognize Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of science and technology (JOUST), for taking the bold step to host the 4<sup>th</sup> National KUPAA festival. It is not easy. I also wish to recognize the Ministry of Sports and Culture for taking the initiative to register KUPAA, in order to provide unlimited opportunities to our young artists.

This is a great investment. Arts can help cities attract talent, spur innovation, and grow their economies. I want to remind the young artists here that by participating in this festival you have shown commitment to creating art within a societal context, supported and cushioned by the conditions of current times that include—availability of resources, the existing technology, intelligence, the knowledge, economic, political, social, cultural and religious or philosophical conditions of the moment.

I must not forget to congratulate you for your creativity and innovativeness alongside your trainers who have taken time to guide and mentor you to this extent.

**Finally, Ladies and gentlemen,**

I want to wish you a successful festival and remember to enjoy yourselves to the fullest as you share ideas because participants in such a festival are not competitors but companions in pursuit of artistic excellence.

I now declare **the 4<sup>th</sup> National KUPAA drama, beauty pageant, visual arts and Film, 2022 Festival**, officially opened.

**God Bless You All, God Bless All Our Universities and God Bless Kenya.**