



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD - KENYA

Proud to be



Patron - His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD-KENYA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MARGARET KIOGORA, DURING THE GOLD AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21st JANUARY, 2026, AT STATE HOUSE, NAIROBI.

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander –in Chief of the Defence Forces and Patron to the President's Award-Kenya, Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto C.G.H, Cabinet Secretaries, Government officials, Board of Trustees of the President's Award-Kenya, Global Operations Director, The Duke of Edinburgh's International, Award Foundation, Vice-Chancellors, Members of the Award Holders Alumni-Kenya, Principals and Heads of Institutions, Donors and Supporters, Award participants, Ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellency,

On behalf of The President's Award-Kenya, I would like to express our deepest appreciation for your exemplary kindness in ensuring that you personally celebrate and award these outstanding young people today.

We are truly touched by such a noble gesture, as you have created space and opportunities for young people during this challenging period, when they are trying to find their purpose, passion, and place in the world. To this, we say "Asante Sana"

The Presidency, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, the Ministry of Education, the Treasury, alongside other state actors, are playing a critical role in propelling our Organization to deliver on its mandate.

Your Excellency,

Today, we recognize and celebrate the achievements of **over 1,000** young people who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, perseverance, and excellence in attaining the President's Award Gold level.

Those who achieve a Gold Award must volunteer, learn a new skill, get fit, take part in a week-long residential project, and plan and undertake an expedition in an unfamiliar area.

I am also pleased to present before you **5 Award Holders**, Alumni Life members.



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Members of the alumni also form part of our pool of volunteers who support the growth and development of the Award Programme nationwide. Some of them are men and women engaged in various spheres of our country's transformation, both within and outside the diaspora, as employees, employers, entrepreneurs, students, and young people who are out of school but still propagate national values.

Your Excellency,

Allow me to share with you some of our key highlights on the national scene.

1. Since its inception in 1966, over 500,000 participants have gone through the Award Programme. A majority of them are now in their adult stages and are serving the country in various spheres of development.
2. The Award participants from various Award centers across the country are investing thousands of hours every week through community service and residential projects to positively contribute to development solutions in communities. In the last **4 years**, Award participants have invested an estimated **4.5million** hours in community service.
3. The Award has a presence in over 130 countries and territories globally under the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation. The President's Award – Kenya ranks 1st in the Africa Region and 2nd globally for its participation levels and impact in society.
4. Regionally, Kenya serves as the designated Africa-Asia Hub, reinforcing its standing as a continental and intercontinental leader in youth development.

Your Excellency,

In the past year, we have achieved several key milestones:

- Expanded participation to over 10 institutions in the North Eastern region, promoting inclusion and diversity.
- Strengthened our partnerships with organizations and county governments, enhancing the growth of the Award and environmental sustainability efforts.
- Improved monitoring and evaluation to ensure quality and accountability in programme delivery.
- Launched targeted leadership and skills development workshops for



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enhanced youth capacity building.

Even with the remarkable successes I have shared, we have also experienced challenges in the delivery of the Award. One of the challenges, I feel, is worth sharing is the limited awareness and recognition of The Award, specifically, by Administrators in the Education sector.

In this regard, I am requesting the support of the Ministry of Education and school administrators in advancing the cause of the Award so that many more students and adult helpers can participate and benefit from the Award experience.

I also wish to inform our young people not in the Award that the President's Award is open to all, whether in an institution or not. It is a programme that helps young people along the path to a productive and prosperous future. As many of our participants would say, "It is life-changing."

Today, as we honor these extraordinary souls, let us remember that their achievements are not solitary endeavors. They have been supported by a network of mentors, family, friends, and colleagues who have nurtured their talents, believed in their dreams, and provided unwavering support throughout their journeys. To all those who have played a part in shaping the lives of our honorees, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication and guidance.

Finally, Your Excellency,

The President's Award – Kenya is committed to strengthening partnerships so that we can collaboratively expand the avenues for strong positive character formation for our young people.

On behalf of The President's Award-Kenya, I sincerely thank all partners, mentors, families, and especially Your Excellency for your continued support and belief in the potential of our young people.

To our Gold Award recipients, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. May your journey ahead be filled with continued success and service to our nation. This is an achievement that you should be proud of for the rest of your lives.

Thank you!