



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD - KENYA

Proud to be

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD
in Kenya

Patron - His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya

REMARKS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS, HON. SALIM MVURYA, E.G.H. DURING THE GOLD AWARD 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 present, CEO 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, Strategic Partners, Award participants, Ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellency,

Today, we come together to celebrate excellence, recognize achievement, and reaffirm our government’s unwavering commitment to youth development through The President’s Award–Kenya.

We gather not merely to present awards, but to celebrate the embodiment of values that define the Kenya we aspire to build. Our Gold Award recipients represent the very best of Kenyan youth - young men and women who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to personal development, service to their communities, and the advancement of our nation.

Your Excellency,

These remarkable young Kenyans have completed rigorous programmes in physical recreation, skills development, community service, and adventurous journeys. More importantly, they have developed the character traits that will serve them and our nation for decades to come: resilience, integrity, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to service.

I therefore, stand before you today with immense pride in what we have collectively achieved and boundless optimism for what lies ahead for our young people.

Your Excellency,

Allow me to state that, your visionary leadership has transformed The



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President's Award from a recognition programme into a powerful instrument of national development. The historic presidential proclamation you issued in April, 2025 has fundamentally elevated the status of Gold Award holders within our public service, creating meaningful pathways for these exceptional young leaders to contribute to national development.

This policy directive demonstrates your government's recognition that investing in youth character development is not just about individual achievement rather a strategic investment in our nation's future leadership pipeline.

Your Excellency,

To this end, I am pleased to report that your commitment to youth development extends beyond policy to tangible resource allocation. I must candidly report on both our achievements and our challenges.

The President's Award-Kenya perfectly aligns with your administration's key priorities:

Bottom-Up Economic Transformation: Our participants develop entrepreneurial skills and community development capabilities that drive economic growth from the grassroots level.

Digital Transformation: We are leveraging technology to enhance programme delivery, making it more accessible and efficient for young people across the country.

Social Cohesion: The Award brings together young people from diverse backgrounds, fostering unity, understanding, and shared national values.

Skills Development: Through the Skills Development component, participants acquire practical capabilities that enhance their employability and entrepreneurial potential.

Your Excellency,

The President's Award-Kenya continues to deliver exceptional developmental outcomes with remarkable efficiency. Currently operating on an annual government budget of Ksh. 35 million, the programme has demonstrated extraordinary value for money in transforming young lives and building national character.



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However, Your Excellency, this allocation remains insufficient to fully support the scope and scale of our national mandate. While we have maximized every shilling to achieve impressive results, the gap between the potential impact of this transformational programme and current capacity is significant.

Your Excellency,

I therefore humbly request your consideration for a grant to The President's Award–Kenya. This support would enable us to further realize the vision outlined in your presidential proclamation and effectively respond to the growing needs and aspirations of our youth by:

- Expand the programme to all 47 counties, with a strong focus on reaching marginalized and underserved communities.
- Strengthen organizational infrastructure and enhance technological capacity.
- Enhance training and capacity-building programmes for Award Leaders and assessors, recognizing their critical role in programme delivery.
- Improve the availability and quality of equipment and resources for participants.
- Establish regional coordination centres to decentralize operations and bring the programme closer to young people nationwide.

Your Excellency,

I am confident that, under your continued leadership and support, The President's Award–Kenya will play a vital role in advancing our nation's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, empowering young people with the skills, values, and character needed to drive inclusive growth. The programme will continue to nurture responsible, innovative, and patriotic citizens who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to our shared prosperity, the realization of Vision 2030, and the building of a united, resilient, and transformed Kenya.

To our Gold Award recipients, you have shown us what is possible when young people commit to excellence. Now, go forth and show the world what Kenya's youth can achieve.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Without much further ado, let us all be upstanding as I invite H.E the President to speak to us and give his words of encouragement to the young people and confer the certificates to the Gold Awardees and Alumni.