



Patron - His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya

REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TRUSTEES OF THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD-KENYA PAUL MBATHA, DURING THE GOLD AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 2026, AT THE 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, My Fellow Trustees The President's Award-Kenya, Leaders 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,

It is with immense honor and profound gratitude that I stand before you today, barely four (4) months after I was appointed Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of The President's Award-Kenya on 12th September, 2025. Your Excellency, I am deeply humbled by the confidence you have placed in me to lead this transformative organization during such a pivotal moment in its evolution.

Your Excellency,

Today is not just a celebration of individual success. It shows Kenya's commitment to developing leaders who value service, perseverance, and community service. As we give out these Gold Awards, the highest recognition in our programme, we honor young Kenyans who have shown outstanding dedication to their growth and to helping others. Congratulations to all the Awardees.

Your Excellency,

As we gather here today, I am acutely aware that this Board, with five other newly appointed members, represents a fresh beginning for The President's Award-Kenya. We bring different experiences, fresh energy, and a strong commitment to the vision this Award programme represents. We all believe in the powerful role of youth development in shaping Kenya's future.



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The timing of our appointment is particularly significant, coming in the wake of your historic presidential proclamation issued in April last year. This proclamation has fundamentally elevated the status of Gold Award holders, creating a formal recognition in public service. It also opens up meaningful ways for these exceptional young leaders to contribute to national development.

Your Excellency,

As I assume this leadership role, I am guided by a clear and ambitious vision for The President's Award-Kenya, a vision that aligns perfectly with Your Excellency's transformative agenda for youth empowerment.

The Board members have the following as the key priority areas to enable the President's Award-Kenya to deliver on its strategic objectives: -

First, we envision an Award programme that reaches every corner of our great nation. Every young Kenyan, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic background, will have the opportunity to participate in this life-changing journey. We will focus on inclusivity and accessibility, making sure our programme reflects the diversity of our country.

Second, we are devoted to building partnerships with schools, community groups, and both public and private sectors to expand and improve the Award programme.

Third, we will work hard to turn the presidential proclamation into real opportunities for our Gold Award holders. This means connecting better with public institutions and creating clear routes for these outstanding young leaders to use their talents for national development.

Your Excellency,

As we move forward under this new Board leadership, I pledge that we will uphold the highest standards of governance, transparency, and accountability. I am confident that the sustained invaluable dedication of the Board will enable the Organization to grow and positively impact more young people throughout the country.

To our partners, stakeholders, and supporters, we invite you to join us in this mission. The President's Award-Kenya is for all of us, and its success relies on our shared commitment to nurturing Kenya's next generation of leaders.



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I want to thank the PA-K staff, led by CEO Madam Margaret Kiogora, for their hard work in ensuring the Award Programme fulfills its purpose.

Thank you, Your Excellency, for your unwavering support. Thank you to all who have made today possible.

To our Gold Award recipients, congratulations once again; you are now ambassadors of excellence. Carry this honor with pride, but more importantly, carry it with responsibility. Kenya looks to you for leadership, innovation, and service.

Thank you!