



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD - KENYA

Proud to be



Patron - His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya

## **REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY - STATE DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & CREATIVE ECONOMY, FIKIRINI JACOBS DURING THE GOLD AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> 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, 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, Donors and Supporters, Award participants, Ladies and gentlemen.

### **Your Excellency,**

I am honored to join you today at this esteemed ceremony where we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our young men and women through the President’s Award program. This event is more than just a formal presentation; it highlights dedication, resilience, and the inspiring spirit of youth who are shaping Kenya’s future.

To all our Gold Award recipients, congratulations. Your commitment to the rigorous standards of this programme, including community service, skill development, adventurous journeys, and personal growth, shows the true meaning of leadership and determination. You have not only completed a challenging journey but also set a standard for your peers and inspired your communities.

This Award proves the power of youth engagement and empowerment. It reflects our nation’s vision for a generation that is innovative, responsible, and actively involved in building our nation. The skills and values you have acquired go far beyond certificates and medals; they are the foundation for lifelong success and service.

### **Your Excellency,**

The State Department remains committed to supporting initiatives like the President’s Award that nurture talents and build resilience among young people. We recognize that youth are Kenya’s greatest asset, and programs like



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this reinforce our commitment to creating environments that support your growth and creative potential.

I encourage all awardees to view this achievement as a beginning, not an endpoint. Let the values you have embraced guide your future endeavors. Whether you pursue further education, entrepreneurship, creative arts, or public service, carry with you the discipline, teamwork, and courage you have developed through this Award.

To the families and mentors who have supported these young achievers, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your encouragement and belief have been vital to their success.

I call upon all stakeholders to continue investing in youth empowerment platforms. Together, we can ensure that Kenya's youth remain at the forefront of innovation, creativity, and social change.

As I concluded, I would like to sincerely thank H.E. the President for his visionary leadership in investing in the next generation. Through your unwavering commitment to youth empowerment, education, and skills development, you are opening doors of opportunity for young people to thrive and contribute meaningfully to our nation's progress.

Thank you.