

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Speech by

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VICE-CHANCELLOR

During the

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE

2019 CULTURE WEEK FESTIVITIES

Held at

BISHOP SQUARE

On

TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER, 2019

- ✚ The Chief Guest - Hon. Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts;
- ✚ Members of Kenyatta University Council Present;
- ✚ Members of Management Board Present;
- ✚ Distinguished Guests;
- ✚ Members of Staff Present;
- ✚ Our Dear Students;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good afternoon!

Our Chief Guest, Ladies and gentlemen; I am delighted to welcome you to the official opening ceremony for the 2019 Kenyatta University Culture Week. I particularly thank the Chief

Guest, Hon. Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts for finding time out of your busy schedule to be with us this afternoon as we celebrate our rich and diverse cultures. We consider it a privilege to host you today and are greatly honoured by your presence. I wish also to warmly welcome our other invited guests, partners and sponsors and sincerely thank them for honouring our invitation to this year's celebrations.

Ladies and gentlemen, the KU Culture Week is a valued event which we always look forward to every year. Regionally and globally, Culture Week has become part of our identity as a University. It has always been a great joy to celebrate and showcase, with great pride, our country's diverse cultures, and some of our

values as an institution. Through this event, we have been able to integrate as a community, understand each other, encourage peaceful coexistence and face the future united in diversity.

This year, we celebrate the 27th Edition of the annual Culture Week themed '**Culture for the Big Four Agenda**'. This comes at a time when the Government of Kenya is focussed on delivering food security, affordable housing, manufacturing, and universal health care. Through the Culture Week, the University will focus on our complementary role in supporting the delivery of the Big Four Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, Kenyatta University will continue to celebrate this spirit of oneness, guided by the conviction that we are stewards of

our nation. This year's festival, like many previous editions, will contribute in enriching the cultural life of Kenyatta University through the marvellous performances that we have witnessed today and those which will be displayed in the course of the week. Undoubtedly, as it has been in the past, the artistes will deliver their different and diverse performances with passion, energy and enthusiasm, to make this a truly stimulating and fruitful week of both learning and entertainment.

Kenyatta University supports the nurturing and growth of various talents among students. We always provide an enabling environment for the students to discover and display their talents. The University choir, drama, film and sports teams are some of the avenues through which

the students develop their talents. I have observed these groups with great pride as they register impressive performances in the local and regional festivals and competitions year after year, and in the process cementing KU as the unassailable regional powerhouse in these fields.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the international guest performers who joined us this year for the Culture Week celebrations. I note with much delight that we hosted a group from Colombia in the run up to 2019 Culture Week festivities. The cultural exchanges between Kenyatta and the international community have helped to bring us closer as a global community and contributed towards fostering better understanding among the different cultures of

the world. We at Kenyatta University thank you, our international partners, for sharing your cultural wealth with us. It is my hope that the experience has been rewarding for you and that in the process, you have made new friends and strengthened your international networks.

I acknowledge the concerted efforts of several people who were involved in the painstaking planning process, provision of different services and participation in performances to make this event a success. In a special way I applaud every performer who took the stage to share with us their talents. I would also like to convey special thanks to the Culture Week Planning Committee for their diligent work, devotion and meticulous planning to make this event successful.

As I conclude, I would like to particularly recognize and appreciate our friends and partners for the support they continue to give us in the realization of our annual Culture Week Festivities. Indeed, without your support, our festivities would not be as successful and memorable. We look forward to continued partnership and more rewarding engagements in future.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite our Chief Guest, Hon. Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts to make her remarks.

Thank you and God bless.