



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA

PRESS RELEASE

2017 KENYA MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Ministry of Education yesterday launched the 91st Edition of the Kenya Music Festival. The Festival, which attracts learners from Early Childhood Development, Primary and Secondary Schools, Middle Level and Vocational Colleges and University students, was launched at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, and the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), Dr. Patrick Njoroge. The theme of this year's Festival is "*Enhancing National Unity, Cohesion and Integration through Kenya Music Festival*".

For the second year running, CBK is the *Title and Thematic Sponsor* of the Music Festival. CBK's partnership with the Ministry of Education is in recognition of the growing need to provide inspiration and opportunities to the youth and aims to demonstrate the value that the CBK places on the nurturing and development of youth talent. In particular, CBK's sponsorship of this Festival provides an opportunity for the youth to grow their financial literacy knowledge and enhance their artistic talents through music and poetry. CBK has composed a special song, "Twajivunia Benki Kuu Ya Kenya" under the theme "*Promoting Price Stability, Sound National Payments System and a Vibrant Financial Sector.*"

This year's Music Festival will begin at the zonal, sub-county and county levels, to be followed by the regional level on **June 4 - 17, 2017**. The national level competition is slated for **July 10 - 22, 2017** at the Masinde Muliro University, Kakamega.

As a co-curricular activity in the Ministry of Education calendar, the Kenya Music Festival provides an opportunity for gifted students to develop and showcase their talents on a national platform. The Festival is a forum for children to interact, learn, practice and appreciate their culture and that of other communities' to foster national unity, the Kenyan identity and global recognition among other objectives.

Present during the launch was the Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang, and Director General, Mrs. Leah Rotich. Also present at the colorful ceremony were students from the Pupils Reward Scheme (PURES) mentorship programme run by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta and H.E. the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta. The Governor interacted with the students and advised them to make use of opportunities availed to them to expand their talents beyond academics. The Cabinet Secretary counseled the students to focus on honest, hard work in order to succeed in their endeavors.

May 11, 2017