

**SPEECH BY PROF. WILSON KIPNGENO, VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF KABIANGA ON TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019  
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> CULTURAL WEEK HELD FROM 25<sup>TH</sup> TO  
2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2019**

Deputy Vice-Chancellors,  
Deans,  
Directors,  
Heads of Departments,  
Student Governing Council,  
Organizing Committee,  
Students, and  
Staff,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to be part of this 6<sup>th</sup> Cultural Week. The University of Management Board in collaboration with the 4<sup>th</sup> SGC is pleased to host and welcome all of you to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> Cultural Week of 2019/2020 academic year.

The Cultural Week is an event that is held annually every second semester of the academic year. It is an event to celebrate the diversity among the university community and to appreciate other cultures, for cohesion and integration.

Ladies and gentlemen, this Cultural Week is not only for entertainment; but is as well anchored on some objectives; which are key as to:

- a) bring together all stakeholders to interact freely
- b) promote cultural diversity by showcasing different types of cultural expression
- c) promote entrepreneurship skills
- d) encourage inclusive, equitable and vibrant participation by communities in the arts , culture and heritage sectors
- e) share values across cultures

Celebrating our cultures is a way of achieving some of the educational goals in our country; which is to :

**a) Foster nationalism, patriotism and promote national unity**

*“Kenya's people belong to different communities, races and religions, but these differences need not divide them. They must be able to live and interact as Kenyans. It is a paramount duty of education to help the youth acquire this sense of nationhood by removing conflicts and by promoting positive attitudes of mutual respect, which enable them to live together in harmony, and foster patriotism in order to make a positive contribution to the life of the nation”.*

**b) Promote respect for and development of Kenya's rich and varied cultures**

*“Education should instill in the youth of Kenya an understanding of past and present cultures and their valid place in contemporary society. The learners should be able to blend the best of traditional values with the changed requirements that follow rapid development in order to build a stable and modern society.”*

I appreciate the Council and the Management Board for providing funds towards the successful hosting of this occasion. As we celebrate our diverse cultures this week let's remember that the same gives us the strength that makes us a nation.

Through such an event, we preserve our roots through engaging the youth as we celebrate the uniqueness of each culture with unity in diversity.

In conclusion, Ladies and gentlemen, the Cultural Week is not only a learning experience for all of us but as well promotes wellness through games and sporting. It also enables the Management Board to make appropriate decisions based on the feedback obtained

from such an activity.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my humble duty to declare this 6<sup>th</sup> Cultural Week officially launched. Once again you are welcome as we celebrate the diverse cultures exhibited at the University.

Thank you and may God bless UoK.

**PROF. WILSON KIPNGENO;  
VICE-CHANCELLOR.**