

**TALKING POINTS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR YOUTH, MR. JULIUS KORIR, CBS,
DURING THE AWARD GIVING CEREMONY AT THE
KAJIADO MINI SPORTFEST AT EITI PRIMARY SCHOOL,
KAJIADO COUNTY ON 3RD OCTOBER, 2020**

- **County Commissioner Kajiado County- Mr. Joshua Nkanatha**
- **Deputy Governor Kajiado County- Mr. Martin Moshisho**
- **CEO, Kenya Film Commission- Mr. Timothy Osawe**
- **CEO, National Youth Council- Mr. Roy Sasaka Telewa**
- **Director SpreadTruth Africa- Mr. Hamisi Kirenga**
- **Youth Present here today**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good Afternoon!

1. Let me start by registering my pleasure for being part of this important function. It is an honour.
2. Franklin Roosevelt once said, “***We cannot always build the future for our Youth, but we can build our Youth for the future.***” As a State Department, we are in constant engagement with the Youth to ensure that they are positively engaged in activities that mould them and promise a firm founded future.
3. The Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Youth, is making concerted efforts to address Youth Empowerment, Participation and Inclusivity. Our activities seek to ensure that the Kenyan Youth is economically empowered, socially cultivated and is actively engaged in decision making in matters that affect their future.

4. I cannot fail to appreciate Spread Truth Africa for the work they have done and continue to do, to ensure the Youth have a worthy future, not only in Kenya, but across the Continent.
5. The National Youth Council has been our face during the organization and preparations for the Kajiado Mini Sportfest whose aim was to rally the Youth for Empowerment and Engagement, through sports. It is well known that physical activity has very many physical, psychological and social benefits. Ahsanteni NYC!
6. The Youth are at a very special phase in their lives. They are curious, zealous, impatient for change, ambitious, restless and innovative, just but to name a few characteristics.
7. At a time when they have been faced with the quarantine and lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, I am aware that many

have been idle and restless, sometimes making poor choices and decisions to fill their time. This activity could not have come at a better time as it has also engaged many and kept them busy, away from social vices.

8. I note that in the past couple of days, football, and volleyball have been used as the primary sports disciplines to mobilize and reach out to the Youth. Indeed, sports creates a level playground that encourages inclusivity and a sense of community.
9. Sports is also a known effective tool to break barriers of religion, tribe, gender and also steers a mindset change towards embracing persistence, humility, friendly competitiveness and calmness. Our very own Kipchoge Keino is an example of this. I am sure other athletes come to mind too.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The prosperity of this Country depends on our Youth. As we empower our Youth with knowledge and skills, we must not lose sight of the need to inculcate in them values such as obedience, honesty, hard work, respect, humility, tolerance, integrity, love, and self-discipline to enable them fit well in any society and be role models to others.
11. I most sincerely thank Spread Truth Africa for their dedication, over the past three years, since 2018 when we began these annual sports events in Nairobi, for their unfailing dedication in instilling Values to the Kenyan Youth. I note with much pleasure that this year the event attracted **24 football teams and 7 volleyball teams.**

12. I am aware that this event has attracted approximately 3,000 Young people who apart from being sensitized on National Values and Morality, were also engaged in Environmental conservation; civic engagement; sensitization on Affirmative Funds; Sensitization on Drugs and Alcohol Abuse; sensitization on anti-FGM; talent exploitation, Youth Cultural Festival and Prayer Night.
13. To the Youth, it is my hope that the experience sharing from the role models who spoke out to you on issues of Anti-FGM and early marriages have empowered, inspired, motivated and struck a chord in you to speak out, dance, sing and dramatize against these retrogressive practices. Now that you have the spark in you, go out there and light the **fire of change**, and transform the community at large.

14. In these Covid-19 Pandemic times where physical distancing is encouraged, you turned up in impressive numbers- and let me promise you this- *your lives will never be the same again after today!*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. There is wide agreement that resilience, which is the ability to respond positively to life's challenges, is an important asset for positive Youth development.

16. I call on us all, as the people charged with the responsibility of the Youth, to promote and help them increase resilience. Key is ensuring that their mindsets are focused to their own abilities to change and grow.

17. To the Youth present here today, I encourage you to ensure that what you have learnt in the past few days is nurtured in you, and like a seed, grows steadily to bear beautiful fruits. Fruits of economic empowerment; entrepreneurial fruits: fruits of Patriotism and National Values; fruits of morality and social values, just to name a few.
18. Practice what has been instilled in you. Both the mental and the physical. Only through action, do words get meaning.
19. As I conclude, I encourage you to take advantage of the Affirmative Action Funds, which are available and have been redesigned to meet your needs, to grow yourselves economically and achieve financial independence/freedom.

20. Since Wednesday, we have witnessed a lot of talent and potential in all of you. To the winners of the tournaments, may I say congratulations and Hongera sana. You can now attest that Hard work pays. Hard work leads to success.
21. Evangelist Joel Osteen often says, ***when you set your mind right, your life is right too.*** Those are the words I want you to take home with you.
22. You can do anything you set your mind to do. All it takes is Action, perseverance, and getting out of your comfort zone. But remember-
PUT GOD FIRST IN ALL YOU DO.
23. With those remarks, may I now declare the festivities officially closed till we meet again in Migori for the Mega Fest!
24. Vijana, Stay Safe! Covid is real!!

Thank You!