

**CHIEF GUEST SPEECH BY**  
**ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL—FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**DR. B.R SHIUNDU, PhD.**

Invited guests, industry partners and sponsors, KAFUCO staff and students, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to our third Annual Cultural Week popularly known as Tamasha. Our Tamasha event of this year is anchored in the University College's vision of becoming a university of academic excellence in teaching, learning, research, innovation and holistic development. These cultural activities will be geared towards innovation and holistic development. Our University College has a role to play not only in preserving that which is best in the African culture, but in furthering cultural innovation and cultural dialogue in Kenya. The university in Kenya, and Africa by extension, is well suited to bridge the gap between the technical and humanistic cultures, humanizing one while making the other rigorous. I mean, these cultural activities bridge the gap between the sciences and the arts and even remarkably improve the arts. The festival is also expected to bridge the gap between popular and academic culture. In fulfilling its role worldwide as a preserver, transmitter, synthesizer and innovator in the realm of culture, the University College will contribute greatly to the accomplishment of the universal mission of universities.

This year's festival will enable participants to come together and connect more deeply with the diverse cultures of their country, Kenya. The aim of this event is to allow us celebrate our varied cultural identities. Tamasha provides a perfect platform for us to imbibe each other's cultures, enjoy and appreciate the beauty of our diversity, but still bond as a community. KAFUCO is a cultural melting pot with representation of students from diverse communities. This year's theme "Mainstreaming Unity in Cultural Diversity" espouses the uniqueness of our cultures and underscores the fact that no culture is superior and none is inferior because each culture serves similar purpose. Our cultures are defined by our language, cuisine, music, arts and social habits. During this cultural week, we hope to witness a showcasing of our diverse cultures in dress, dance, music and other performances. This is itself a way of preserving cultures—for, to abandon one's culture is to abandon oneself!

Having said that, we also should be cautioned against being prisoners of retrogressive aspects of some cultures. This is also the occasion to repudiate such culture. We therefore all need to tap into only the best of each other's cultural worlds. Remember, culture is dynamic as the human race continuously seeks ways of living harmoniously with each other in this fast globalizing world. I, in the same vein challenge the KAFUCO community to use this cultural week to coalesce and evolve our unique culture that embraces the beauty of our diverse ecosystem.

May I end by thanking the organizing committee of the Tamasha event for ensuring that it takes place. I recognize all our well-wishers who have supported us financially and materially. Please know that your kind and generous gesture is not lost on us. We are sincerely thankful. I also wish to promise that the Principal, Prof. Nandi, and the University College Management are supportive of this event and are keen to see it end successfully and fruitfully. With those few remarks, I now declare the cultural week (Tamasha) officially opened.