

# Primary schools record improved standards in ongoing music fete

BY ANTHONY NJAGI

Primary schools' standards have improved compared to the previous years as evidenced in the ongoing Kenya National Music festivals.

Leading the pack yesterday was Aga Khan Academy Mombasa who dominated the classical music categories during day three of the fete at Kabarak University.

They won in the best duet class with Abigail Obiero and Hilda Wambui in the song titled "Oh Dear what can the matter be." Second position in the category went to Harti Primary from coastal region and third place went to Utafiti Primary from Nairobi County.

On the trio category; Soakshi Roy, Abigail Obiero and Hilda Wambui carried the day with a song titled "All I have to do is dream" by the Everly brothers. They were followed by Kondele Primary and Hill school in second and third places respectively.

Soprano solo-upper primary class saw Abigael Obiero of Aga Khan top. She was followed by Shannah Manjeru and Sonakshi Roy.

In the upper primary-boy solo category, Abednego Wanyonyi clinched the first position while Ayaan Allarakhia was runners up.

Trainer Phillip Mbinji from Coast Chorus Music Academy in collaboration with Mr Francis Nyadida the Music Director at The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa said the level of solo performance this year has been outstanding.

"Through rigorous practice and pa-



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Shimo Bristal Correctional School from coast region presents a folk dance during the Kenya National Music Festivals at Kabarak University.

tience, we managed to defend the trophy we won in last year's National festival in the duet class," said Mr Nyadida.

Jabili Christian schools from Nairobi's Imara Daimia with their poem

"Tushangilie" by Wilson Kakai received a standing ovation as its message of children's safety while browsing the Internet kept the audience glued to their performance.

The poem blasted the adults who expose children to pornographic content. The category is sponsored by Communication Authority of Kenya. In their strongly worded message,

they encouraged children to embrace technology in a positive way.

"Parents, teachers and the society play a major role in guiding the young ones to do good," said Mr Kakai Wilson who is the script writer and trainer.

This year marks the 93rd edition of the Kenya National Music Festival. The festival has continued to grow from strength to strength making good use of the new energies and opportunities that are available to the pupils.

This year's theme is "Enhancing national unity, cohesion and integration through Kenya Music Festival."

"This theme had been running since 2017 and remains relevant since it is our constant desire to put our country's people together," said Kenya National Music Festival executive-secretary, Ruth Agesa.

"We have continued to enjoy stability and peace as a nation and we in the Kenya Music Festival are proud to continually perpetuate this theme," said Ms Agesa.

UNICEF has for the second time accepted to take the leading role as the festivals main partner with their theme "No violence against children is justifiable."

Other partners include National Security Social Fund which according to its corporate Affairs manager Dr Christopher Khisa will expose the students, teachers and the general public across Kenya to the importance of social security through the theme "NSSF Glowing You For Good."