



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, MARKETING, INDUSTRY, CULTURE AND TOURISM
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97th Edition of the Kenya Music and Cultural Festival (KMCF)

1 Invitation

The Directorate of Culture, Music and the Arts in collaboration with the State Department of Culture, the Arts and Heritage welcomes all eligible persons (out-of-school youth and music and cultural groups) and institutions (tertiary education institutions) from Makueni County to the Kenya Music and Cultural Festival (KMCF) 2024. The festival involves a wide variety of traditional, contemporary, secular, gospel and classical music, drama, theatre arts, film and other emerging arts.

We welcome well-wishers to partner with us towards the success of the festival. Partnership may include donation of trophies for awards and sponsorship of the festival and/or exhibitions.

2 Festival Objectives

The objectives of the Kenya Music and Cultural Festival are:

- a) To identify and safeguard Kenya's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- b) To promote and enhance learning, practice and appreciation of the arts, culture and cultural and creative industries.
- c) To promote cultural exchange at national, regional and international levels.
- d) To promote peace and national values of integrity, inclusivity and cohesion amongst the Kenyan communities.
- e) To enhance livelihoods and contribute to the realization of Kenya's development through the promotion of cultural and creative industries.
- f) To entrench culture in climate action by enhancing the participation of communities in preservation of the environment.

3 Rules and Regulations

The Kenya Music and Cultural Festival (KMCF) is ideally organized at the Ward, Sub County and County level to select teams to represent the County at the National level festival. However, due to the failure by Makueni citizens to allocate funds for KMCF at the ward level, we will not have Ward and Sub County Music and Cultural Festival in 2024.

3.1 Makueni County Music and Cultural Festival

The Makueni County Music and Cultural Festival will be held on **Friday, 1st November 2024** at the **Wote Green Public Park, Wote** (Social Hall and Amphitheatre).

97th Edition of the Kenya Music and Cultural Festival (KMCF)-Guidelines for Participation

Selection of performing groups for the national festival is based on the adjudication at County level. County results that are duly signed by at least 2 Adjudicators and the County Director of Culture will be forwarded to the national KMCF Organizing Committee by **2nd November 2024**.

3.2 The National Kenya Music and Cultural Festival

The National KMCF will be held from **1st to 10th December 2024** at the **Taita Taveta National Polytechnic, Voi, Taita Taveta County**.

While each County is allowed to present positions 1, 2 and 3 per class to the National Festival, due to the prevailing budget cuts it will be at the discretion of the Department of Trade, Marketing, Industry, Culture and Tourism, guided by the Adjudicators, to determine the best performing teams to present to the National Festival.

Eligibility

Participation shall be open to all cultural practitioners, performing groups and individuals from the various communities, parastatals, companies, religious groups, clubs, cultural groups, government departments and staff of tertiary learning institutions in Makueni County.

All teams **MUST** participate in the County Music and Cultural Festival in order to qualify for the National Festival.

An item once performed in one category/class **MUST NOT** be repeated or performed in another category/class in the festival. This will lead to **disqualification** in both categories/class.

Registration

Registration to participate in the Makueni County Music and Cultural Festival is **mandatory and free**. All performers **MUST** register through SMS to 0797171717/0782171717 or e-mail: culture@makueni.go.ke by **Friday, 18th October 2024**.

Group leaders are required to submit a verified list of their performers as they register.

NB: **No entry fee will be charged** for the Makueni County Music and Cultural Festival.

Awards

Where available, trophies will be awarded to winners who score 90% marks and above at the discretion of the Adjudicators.

Trophies awarded to winners of the previous festival must be returned in good condition to the **respective Sub County Administrator's Office or to the Director of Culture** not later than **18th October 2024**. Participants will **NOT** be allowed to perform until all trophies in their possession are returned. A lost or damaged trophy must be replaced by a trophy of similar quality and value.

All performers are advised to collect their adjudication reports from the festival officials after release of the results.

Organization and Discipline

Every eligible participant at the County Music and Cultural Festival will be provided with a programme showing the **class, venue, date and time** of performance. This **MUST** always be adhered to and participants are not allowed to reschedule arbitrarily.

Participation may be withdrawn or deferred due to unavoidable circumstances with direct approval of the organizers.

The order of performance will be consistent with the order of entry in the programme. Failure to respond or proceed to perform when called upon **three times** will lead to **disqualification**.

Any individual who incites or joins any group in contravening the rules and regulations of the festival or undermines the smooth running of the festival in any way, will, together with the group, be suspended from the festival for a period to be determined by the County government.

Rehearsals that distract the flow or clarity of the ongoing performances on stage are prohibited. Consumption and sale of intoxicants at the festival premises is strictly forbidden.

Each participating individual or group shall be duty bound to uphold and maintain peace and respect for fellow participants at the festival.

Exceeding the prescribed time allocated for a performance will attract a penalty. A mark shall be lost for every minute exceeded.

Indemnity

The organizers shall not be responsible for any losses, injury or damage suffered by any participant, at all levels of the festival.

Transport, Accommodation and Up-keep

The participants will be responsible for their own transportation, accommodation and general up-keep during the County Music and Cultural Festival.

Number of Performers

A Chamber (**small**) **choir** shall consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 performers, excluding the conductor and the instrumentalists.

A **standard choir** shall consist of a minimum of 24 and a maximum of 42 performers excluding the conductor.

The advanced **choir** shall consist of a minimum of 43 performers.

A **dance troupe shall not** exceed 30 performers including the accompanist.

Storytelling/narrative shall not exceed 5 performers.

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Films, Plays, Bands, Taarab and Jazz Bands will consist of the appropriate number of performers the particular presentation may require.

Submission of Works

Neat and accurate music scores (preferably in staff notation) for own choice, original composition, adaptation and arrangement as well as relevant scripts in the case of plays, dramatized dances, narratives and poems should be submitted to the organizers at least two weeks before the festival commences. In case of any changes in the scores or scripts, the competitors shall be required to notify the organizers before the performance.

All compositions and arrangements presented to the festival will remain in the custody of the County government because these may be identified as set pieces for subsequent festivals. The composers are required to add their contacts to the pieces entered in the festival.

Submitted works should contain all necessary information that will enable the adjudicators to adjudicate the performance. Such information should include the title of the work, the name of the composer, arranger, author, year of composition, the cast, the synopsis and pronunciation guides where relevant.

Films will be submitted in **MP4 format** in a flash/external hard drive or using software/links approved by the organizers.

Pianist/Accompanist

The festival organizers will not be obliged to hire an accompanist for any performer who does not formally request for one before the festival.

Entries

Only registered entries will be allowed to participate in the festival.

No competitor shall be allowed to appear with a different group in the class s/he has already participated in.

Adjudicators

The County government will appoint Adjudicators for the County Music and Cultural Festival in consultation with the National KMCF Executive Committee.

Adjudicators will not be active or passive competitors in the same festival where they are officiating.

Adjudicators appointed to adjudicate at the Ward and Sub County level shall not adjudicate at the County level.

The Adjudicators will write comments in duplicate and award marks as deserved by each performance.

Adjudication comment sheets shall not contain any erasure or change of marks whether countersigned or not.

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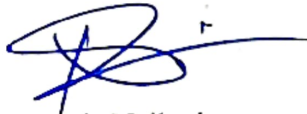
A copy of the Adjudicators' comment sheets in each performance shall be retained by the organizers for reference.

Brief and concise adjudication comments and results will be announced publicly by the adjudicators at the end of the class or festival programme.

The Adjudicators may, with a satisfactory reason, terminate a performance in consultation with the organizers. However, it is expected that this will be administered mainly for the good of the performer and/or the audience.

Recording of Festival Performances

Recording of festival performances by unauthorized persons is strictly prohibited. Only persons authorized by the County government can record such performances. Festival organizers will, however, arrange for official documentation of the festival events for posterity. All recordings done at the festival will belong to the County government.



Dr. Sonnia Nzilani,
**County Executive Committee (CEC) Member,
Trade, Marketing, Industry, Culture and Tourism,
Government of Makeni County.**