



Agnes Kola and Hillary Mitini of the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication perform a play, 'Sultan', produced by Wycliffe Buhere during the Nairobi County Kenya Schools and Colleges Drama Festival in Ruaraka on Sunday. [PHOTO: GEORGE ORIDO/STANDARD]

Young actors depict a society in need of transparency and better management

NAIROBI

By GEORGE ORIDO

The college edition of the annual Kenya Schools and Colleges Drama Festival, Nairobi county, showcased a spectacular display of talent and skills.

There was an improvement in cultural dances and mastery display of plays, verses, narratives, and comedy at the competitions that came to a close at the National Youth Service Engineering Institute in Ruaraka.

Defending champions Kenya Institute of Mass Communication did not disappoint with their play, *Sultan*, produced by Wycliffe Buhere that depicts an authoritarian regime insensitive to the people's needs.

The sultan, Nassar Hajji (Kennedy Sirengo), is swimming in opulence supported by his court-poet-in-chief, Said Seyyid (McCarthy Benedict), and his military chief, Claus (Dennis Lugendo).

But the subjects cannot persevere anymore; the rundown is affecting their lives and they live like slaves in their own land.

One of the vocal representatives uses her charms to make the military chief to reveal his secrets, reminiscent of the biblical story of Samson and Delilah, or better still, the one of Lwanda Magere, the rock man whose cat is let out of the bag because of his passion for a particular beauty.

Buoyed by the revelation that the sultan is in office illegally, the woman revolutionary, Agnes Kola, leads a rebellion that sees the man overthrown, giving room for free, fair, and democratic elections.

The Kenya Utalii College students stepped out of their busy kitchens into their costumes to present a beautifully rendered modern dance that depicts a young couple searching for love. The two go through the hurdles that come with passion and end up contracting sexually transmitted diseases. The team, directed by Washington Oduor and Francis K'Otieno, also

presented a well-articulated cultural dance, *Ywagruok* (Regret).

NYS Craft came in with a Luhya dance that told the story of a young KCPE candidate who had scored a "Matiang'i E" in the exams.

His father is against his decision to join the local vocational institute to train as a tailor and instead prefers that he help him on his farm.

But someone prevails upon him to allow his son to join the tailoring class. After excelling in class, the son starts an apparel firm, making fashionable clothes.

Kabete Technical Training Institute used interesting figurative language to depict pregnancy in their play, *His Excellency The Governor*.

The Nairobi Technical statute entertained with a dance depicting human-wildlife conflict and proposed joint efforts to eliminate the problem.

Njoro Joseph from the Railway Training Institute moved the crowd when he presented a solo verse depicting the tribulations of a young man in jail.