

**SPEECH BY HON. MORRIS DZORO, EGH, MP, MINISTER FOR TOURISM & WILDLIFE DURING THE FIFTH GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTE ON FRIDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2007 AT THE KWSTI NAIVASHA**

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Assistant Minister, Hon. Kalembe Ndile,  
Permanent Secretary, Ms. Rebecca Nabutola,  
Chairman, Kenya Wildlife Service Board of Trustees, Mr. Daniel Ndonye and Members of the Board,  
Director of the KWS, Dr. Julius Kipng'etich,  
Principal, Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, Prof. Owiti,  
Graduands,

**Ladies and gentlemen**

I want to begin by thanking of each one of you for joining me as we celebrate the 5th graduation at Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute.

Secondly, I wish to congratulate all the graduands who have successfully completed their respective Certificate and Diploma programmes. This demonstrates that you are now able, willing and competent to make valuable contribution in the service of your nation.

This is my second time to preside over a similar occasion and I have noted that this institute is fast becoming a centre of excellence in natural resource management and tourism development. This is important when one takes into account how the rising human population is increasingly threatening our environment and natural resources.

The causes for this are many but key among them are inappropriate land use practices, lack of appropriate policies and legislation, inadequate education, lack of awareness, over utilization of resources, low technology and lack of technical skills to implement sustainable development policies and plans.

As you know **Ladies and gentlemen**, conservation of the environment (especially as a home for wildlife) is a very noble venture. Therefore, degrading such an entity which is what sustains both terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora should not only be checked but should never be allowed to happen. However, once the people are involved and have the knowledge and skills which are cultivated through education and training, then the functional attributes of the environment are in control. This is what I believe, the students graduating today have attained in their respective disciplines on managing our environment.

It is the policy of my Ministry not to compromise on the protection of Kenya's rich

natural heritage of wildlife and their habitat legally and scientifically. That is why, through training as is being offered here, we aim to help the KWS realize its vision of becoming the world leader in the conservation of biological diversity.

In order to build the capacity needed to fulfill our goals, it would be important to accredit this Institute's training programmes as a major step towards facilitating adequate protection of our ecosystems. This will also enable effective execution of technical degree programmes in natural management and tourism development in collaboration with other key tertiary institutions.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

We all know and appreciate the significant contribution that the wildlife industry in Kenya makes to the national economy especially through tourism. That makes it critical to nurture it in all ways and especially through training to enable us keep pace with emerging global challenges in wildlife management and conservation. Today's event reaffirms this commitment by our Government that we are keen to lead in wildlife conservation globally.

To conclude, I once again congratulate all the grad ands for the successfully completing your studies and achieving your graduation credentials. What you have learnt here should be put into practice immediately in pursuit for a better world for animals and people. This ceremony does not mark the end of your education, but a beginning of a new phase of practical learning. You must therefore be avid readers.

My Ministry will continue supporting the Kenya Wildlife Service in its endeavours to become world leader in wildlife conservation and management. In this effort, I know that we can also count on the continued support of our partners and stakeholders.

Finally, I want to commend the Principal, the lectures and members of staff who devoted their time to produce these wonderful graduates that are passing out today. I also want to thank all those who have taken time to be here from the Government, Universities, conservation agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and the general public for your support.

I wish you all a happy Easter and safe journeys to your destinations.  
Ahsanteni Sana!

Hon. Morris Dzoro, EGH, MP  
MINISTER FOR TOURISM & WILDLIFE