

SPEECH BY HON MORRIS DZORO, EGH, MP, MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND WILDLIFE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 9TH KWS RANGER RECRUIT PASS-OUT PARADE ON JULY 6, 2007 AT KWS FIELD TRAINING SCHOOL-MANYANI.

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Assistant Minister for Wildlife, Hon Kalembe Ndile;
The PS Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Madam Rebecca Nabutola;
The Chairman Board of Trustees, Mr. Daniel Ndonye;
The Director of Kenya Wildlife Service, Mr Julius Kipng'etich;
Religious and political leaders;
Parents, relatives and friends;
Graduating ranger recruits;

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like to congratulate the 421 ranger recruits graduating today for successfully completing the rigorous six-month paramilitary course. That all the young men and women completed the course proves that the recruitment was done professionally.

Before us today stands a force of Kenya Wildlife Service Recruit Rangers whose shining faces and stately image, is a mark of their dedication to the task ahead. As I behold this new set of trained rangers, I recall the famous words once uttered by the legendary US Army commander, General Douglas Mac Arthur: **'Duty, Honour and Country'**.

Today's event is evidence of the fact that these 343 men and 78 women have stood the test of time; they have endured the pain and strain of training and above all, they have kept their faith.

This event also marks the beginning of a new chapter in your lives and careers. Indeed, it is the unfolding of a completely new horizon of which I am confident that you have the drive to deliver in your various stations that you will be deployed. If you all continue in the same spirit, no hurdle will defeat you; no mountain will be too hard to climb, and no trial will be too difficult to overcome.

As you now head to your different areas of operation, I urge you to remember that what we have placed on your shoulders is a heritage that is priceless. It is a resource that cannot be replaced. As you leave here to go and serve, always bear in mind the guiding principles; **'Duty, Honour and Country'**. Further, do not forget the motto of Manyani Field Training School: **Train hard – fight easy**. These should be your rallying points; to build your courage whenever everything else seems to fail and to rejuvenate your faith, when you find yourself in conditions that call for a little hope.

Ladies and gentlemen. The whole world has come to appreciate the firm commitment Kenya has towards protecting and managing wildlife. Three weeks ago at the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) in The Hague, we negotiated very hard for the survival of our wildlife confident of a well-equipped security team. I was very encouraged when a KWS ranger Samson ole Sisina who lost his life while on an undercover operation against illegal game meat, was among eight other people awarded the 2007 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award.

Ole Sisina was internationally recognised for “fighting wildlife crime with diligence, professionalism, trust and integrity and in remembrance of his ultimate sacrifice in protecting the wildlife of Kenya”. This award should serve as a motivation and inspiration to all of you.

Having undergone this paramilitary training, I am confident that you are well prepared for the duty ahead. Some of you will go to operation areas to keep poachers away from our protected areas and wildlife dispersal zones. Others will head to human-wildlife conflict prone areas and they will be expected to protect not only wildlife, but also human life and property. The rest will be posted to parks for general conservation duties. In all these places, we expect you to make a difference.

Today’s graduation ceremony Ladies and gentlemen, marks the 103rd course being offered at this training school since its inception in 1990. It is an institution that has served us well and we will keep it on the path of continuous improvement so that it keeps up with the changing needs.

This afternoon I am commissioning a number of investments in the expansion of the school that includes barracks, classrooms, a chapel, a mosque and a kitchen. There are other physical improvements on the way including tarmacking the drill square. As a ministry we are happy to see that the money we allocate to KWS has been well spent and pledge to continue supporting these efforts.

Closely linked to this is the branding programme that has seen 14 parks being refurbished. This has improved staff welfare and visitor experience. As you go to the various parks, you will enjoy better facilities, including access to DSTV, better housing, uniforms and weapons.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to appreciate the launching of the KWS Band which is indeed a notable milestone in the history of the organisation. I would like to thank the Kenya Army School of Music for the support it has provided in the recruitment and training of the band personnel.

On this note, **Ladies and gentlemen** I would like to conclude my remarks by declaring the KWS Band officially launched and wishing all our new rangers success in their new career.

Thank you and God bless you all.

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