

**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HON. DR. NOAH WEKESA, EGH,MP ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN, AWARD OF ISO CERTIFICATE AND RELEASE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009 AT THE KWS HEAD QUARTERS AT 10.00 A.M.**

---

**Assistant Minister, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife,  
Hon. Josphat Nanok**

**Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife,  
Mr. M.A.M Wa-Mwachai**

**The Chairman, Kenya Wildlife Service Board,  
Hon. Daudi Mwiraria**

**The Director, Kenya Wildlife Service,  
Dr. Julius Kipng'etich**

**Board Members Kenya Wildlife Service**

**Kenya Wildlife Service Staff**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to join you here today to launch the Strategic Plan 2008-2012 and award of ISO certificate that marks the beginning of a new road-map for wildlife conservation in Kenya. This occasion is also a celebration of the recognition that, Kenya Wildlife Service has committed to undertake as global acceptance to modern quality management practices.

At the same time, the release of the Annual Report 2008 serves as a platform to not only account for the use of public resources but also to reflect on last year's challenges and achievements and forge a way forward. This alignment of the Strategic Plan 2008-2012 to the economic development blueprint vision 2030 is testament.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** In line with the goals of Vision 2030, the government has sought to set up systems to catalyze the achievement of the vision within the estimated time frame.

Key among these systems is the certification of all the agencies under the support of the ISO family and the adoption of strategic plans as a means of addressing current challenges while at the same time focusing on the future.

It is the government's policy that our nation attains middle income status by 2030. This can only happen if the whole fabric of governance is working in cooperation with the global management expectations. At the same time taking into account local realities and gradually improving on the same.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, the Kenya Wildlife Service will be a key player in achieving these goals. Its mandate cuts across all the three pillars of the vision: economic, social and political development. If we are to achieve the 10 per cent yearly economic growth our planners envision, we will need to welcome 3 million international visitors 2012—nearly twice as many as they came in 2006.

In addition to safeguarding our precious wildlife resources—the basis for the tourism industry KWS in collaboration with other agencies is charged with protecting the ecological system and environmental services, such as water catchments and forests, on which the entire economy depends.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** Wildlife resources in Kenya are variable natural endowment that must be sustainably managed for present and future generations. They offer a wide range of benefits and opportunities for local and national development. The proposed Wildlife Bill 2009 gives a broad range of measures and actions responding to the wildlife conservation challenges. It also seeks to balance the needs of the people of Kenya. It is through cooperative management that we will be able to address the immense threats and challenges facing wildlife conservation.

Therefore, this Strategic Plan comes at an opportune time. Its emphasis on people and institutional development, technology and efficiency, based on past performance, I have confidence that the KWS management will achieve current objectives.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** we are all aware that conservation of Wildlife is currently faced with many challenges. The human wildlife conflict has been a major source of concern for the government. Construction of electric fences has been done in various conservation areas such as Tsavo and Laikipia though other methods of containing human wildlife conflict are being explored and implemented. The long drought period has also enhanced the problem. My Ministry should do everything possible to ensure safety of local communities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** KWS officers have been exemplary, attracting national recognition. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who received the various Head of State commendations.

It is noteworthy that in the last four years, 51 officers have been awarded medals in categories from Head of State Commendation (HSC), Elder of Burning Spear (EBS) Order of the Golden Warrior (OGW) and Silver Star (SS).

The list of officers cuts across the different cadres within KWS, including rangers, scientists, and all those who have played a significant role in the protection and management of our wildlife. Congratulations to you all. I urge you to continue being committed to this noble course. Finally, I wish to congratulate the KWS management for the continued concern over the welfare of staff. I remember during my last function here, I commissioned a set of flats near the workshop. Today I have commissioned another 12, which were built using government funding. Housing staff is one of the ways in which we can motivate staff as we look into their welfare. With these remarks I declare the Strategic Plan officially launched.

**Thank you.**