

**SPEECH BY HON. DAVID MWIRARIA, EGH, CHAIRMAN KWS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF  
THE KWS RANGER RECRUITS AND KAA SECURITY WARDEN  
RECRUITS COURSE AT KWS FIELD TRAINING SCHOOL-  
MANYANI  
28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

- The Director KWS, Mr Julius Kipng'etich.
- The Managing Director of Kenya Airports Authority represented by the Deputy Managing Director, Mr Matthew Wamalwa
- Invited guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to be with you today, to preside over this important ceremony for both Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Airports Authority.

It is a proud moment for me, being the first time I am presiding over the opening ceremony for a recruits' course. The continued collaboration by the two sister institutions in both the recruitment and training of our security personnel demonstrates how much we can achieve through good working relationships, which strengthen the government spirit of working together. We are indeed proud to be part of this cooperation.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The recruitment was done in a transparent and diligent manner. Kenyans were given equal opportunity to openly compete for the few slots. The recruitment exercise was also witnessed by various independent organizations, including the media. This has been confirmed from several congratulatory letters and messages received from observers and members of the public at large. The whole process was done in an exemplary manner. Congratulations to the recruitment teams for a job well done.

For the Kenya Wildlife Service, recruitment and training of new rangers is a key requirement of our commitment to continuously improve our capacity to deal with emerging wildlife crime, and to provide efficient service. A total of 500 Kenya Wildlife Service ranger recruits and 137 Kenya Airports Authority security wardens were recruited from all counties in the Republic of Kenya. It is unfortunate that after further vetting during the admission process, eight recruits from Kenya Wildlife Service and four from Kenya Airports Authority had to be discontinued from

the course due to various legitimate reasons. However, as a matter of policy, they cannot be replaced.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Kenya Wildlife Service plays a critical role in the economy of our country through wildlife tourism. This makes rangers' duties to be wide-ranging and demanding. Rangers not only protect wildlife but also people and their property from wildlife damage. They also guard vital water catchment areas. The training you are undergoing is geared towards your contribution to the country's development needs. Therefore, I am glad that your course has been enhanced with necessary skills that will enable you to face emerging wildlife conservation challenges. We, therefore, look forward to having a well-trained and efficient ranger force.

As for the Kenya Airports Authority security wardens, you are manning our Airports which are now part of our national defense infrastructure. Airports play a key role in the economy of our country. You are the first people to be met by visitors to

Kenya; hence you create the first impression of this country as you interact with foreigners. Your curriculum has also been enhanced to ensure you acquire the skills you need as you interact with our visitors.

For you the recruits, you must know that the training is rigorous, and quite different from other trainings that you may have undergone before. The course is also designed to enable you acquire ethical values, the physical fitness and alertness which are vital for every security personnel. I, therefore, urge you to take it seriously and make sure you extract as much information as possible from the instructors.

Once again, I would like to thank the two institutions for an excellent job of recruitment. I also wish to thank the instructors, the management of Kenya Wildlife Service Field Training School - Manyani, Kenya Airports Authority and the management of Kenya Wildlife Service as a whole for coming together to develop the capacity of these fine young men and women.

As for you recruits, I wish you all the very best: Make the most of this opportunity, and ensure you excel in your career. Your job is well cut out for you as the nation will depend on your skills to secure our wildlife and airports.

It is now my great pleasure to declare this course officially opened.

Asanteni sana

Mungu awabariki