

**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FORESTRY AND
WILDLIFE, HON. DR. NOAH WEKESA,
DURING THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY
OF THE KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES ON 14TH OCTOBER, 2008 AT
KWS HEADQUARTERS, LANGATA**

- ***Permanent Secretary Ministry of forest & Wildlife
Mr. M.A. M. Wa - Mwachai***
- ***Chairman Board of Trustees Hon. Daudi Mwiraria***
- ***The Director KWS Dr. Julius Kipngetich***
- ***Members of the Board of Trustees***
- ***Staff members***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen***

It gives me great pleasure and honour to be here today to inaugurate the Board of Trustees for this prestigious institution that is mandated with the responsibility for wildlife conservation and management in Kenya.

However, first I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you for your appointments to the board and cordially welcome you and your Chairman. I notice some of you have been reappointed, I welcome you back.

It is my hope that you will uphold the KWS Value Statement of working with integrity, recognizing and encouraging staff creativity and continuous learning and teamwork in partnership with communities and stakeholders.

I am informed that you will be taken through a series of trainings in Corporate Governance – systems, processes and procedures by which corporations are governed. After these inductions you will be ready to discharge your duties and responsibilities effectively.

This institution has operated without a Board of Trustees for several months and it is my hope that you will perform your oversight role to the expected levels in wildlife conservation and management to the satisfaction of all.

My Ministry and the government as a whole will continue offering you support by creating an enabling environment for you to discharge your core mandate.

We do appreciate the support given by our development partners as a support to conservation initiatives. I wish to assure you all that the government highly recognizes the many challenges facing conservation of our forests today and we are placing mechanisms that will ensure our forests are protected, and we shall enhance upper catchment conservation, and conserve our wildlife.

We as a government are also increasing our support to Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Service to meet all their obligations to restoring the habitats that they manage.

Finally **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I advise you to always engage the Ministry and in particular the Permanent Secretary who is a member of your board for effective administration and enhanced service delivery. I must say that I am confident that with an able team like yours, you will endeavor to seek diversification of our product and service range.

Today was not a day for many words, but a day to welcome you into our family of wildlife conservation and management. My time for more will come when you are fully inducted as a lot needs to be discussed.

Once again, I congratulate you for your appointments and declare the Board of Trustees for the Kenya Wildlife Service officially inaugurated.

Thank you