



The Kenya Scouts  
Association

**THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
PATRON'S DAY HELD AT THE STATE HOUSE GARDENS NAIROBI ON 24<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2019**

Your Excellency, Sir, the President of the Republic of Kenya and the Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces;

The Cabinet Secretaries present;

Their Excellences the Governors who have come to celebrate with us;

The Principal Secretaries and all the senior government officials present;

Friends and partners of the Kenya Scouts association

Members of the National Scout Board

County Scout Commissioners from across the country and the entire county leadership

Scouts and Scout Leaders

**BRAVO!**

Your Excellency sir, this year, we once again feel privileged to be granted this special opportunity to celebrate with you the Patrons day as we mark 109 years of Scouting in Kenya. . The Kenya Scouts Association regards this occasion with high esteem because it is the day we recognize scouts who have excelled in various fields, and other individuals who have supported our initiatives over the years. Every year the scout fraternity, children and adults alike, look forward to this day, so that they can meet and share with their Patron what they have been doing in the course of the year.

Your Excellency sir, let me take this opportunity to convey the apologies of our Chief Scout Amb. (Prof) Jacob Kaimenyi who is not able to be with us due to unavoidable circumstances. He sends his heartfelt greetings to all the Scouts on this auspicious occasion.

From the onset, Your Excellency, allow me to heartedly appreciate you for your exemplary leadership and commitment as the Patron of this Movement. Last year we requested you to host this occasion annually and you agreed and here we are, on the same date as last years. Indeed, you are a real good leader by example, with demonstrated allegiance to the first part of the scout law which states "A scout's honor is to be trusted".

*Your Excellency, sir,*

Going by the biblical 'parable of the talents' in Mathew 25, we came last year with an empty basket which you filled. This year round, your Excellency, we have not carried an empty basket. Instead we have brought you the proceeds of the talents you gave us. We have utilized the support you gave us through the various State Departments, to ensure that we grow from strength to strength.

We committed to grow the number of scouts to 4 million by the end of 2020. I want to report that working with the newly appointed County Scout Coordinators, County Scout Commissioners and the Ministry of Education we have registered 2.1 million and are positive that we will reach our target by the end of 2020. **Bravo!**

*Your Excellency sir,*

During the last Patron's Day you granted us all that we asked for from you. I am glad to report that the Teachers Service Commission put 47 teachers on partial secondment to work for Kenya Scouts Association. Despite the shortage of teachers in schools these teachers are allowed one day in a week to work for the Association. I want to thank the CEO of TSC Dr Nancy Macharia for finding a win-win situation in this.

You also directed that the government grant in aid be doubled. The grant was not doubled but your Government has been kind enough to give us a 20% increase in the 2019/2020 financial year. It is our prayer and hope that this was a temporary measure and your directive shall be implemented in full as we move on.

I am also very happy to report to you, our dear patron that as a way of enhancing security for the young people who frequent Rowallan Scout camp a police post has been established in the camp. Parents of Scouts now feel that Rowallan Scouts camp is safe for their children to explore especially during this long holiday.

*Your Excellency, sir,*

On the other hand, I am sorry to report that two of the areas you directed have not been achieved even to a small degree. Top among them is the issue of title deeds for all parcels of land that belong to KSA. Not a single title deed has been issued since.

The second one was the development of the scout centres to standards that make them attractive and safe for use by both local and international scouts. The process began but ended at the point of funding. In scouting we teach the young people to be hopeful and to develop the power of positive thinking. We know that these are just but hiccups and that all that you directed but have not been achieved will be done. We continue to serve our mandate and do the best that we can to improve the young people of this country and to hold their hands as they grow into young adults.

*Our dear Patron,*

Today you will be giving certificates and insignias of recognition to children who have gone through the Scout Curriculum and have become better prepared to live in and serve their communities better, children who are more teachable in school because they understand the need to be prepared for adulthood, children who understand the value of keeping their environment safe from destruction. The scout curriculum aligns well with the Competency Based curriculum whose objective is to train the learner to practically apply, knowledge, skills, attitudes and values acquired during the learning process. In this regard, Your Excellency, allow me to applaud the CS for Education Prof. George Magoha, whom I believe must have been a Scout, when he said, "The CBC train has already left the station and has no reverse gear". We have been aboard this train for a period of time through the Scout Method and we understand and know quite well what a practical, value based system of education entails especially for our Big 4 agenda, Vision 2030 and the SDGs.

*Your excellency, sir*

We are aware that on many occasions you have reiterated the importance of responsible use of media and cyber spaces by the youth especially youth in schools. We as an Association took up this challenge in collaboration with our partner Code-IP Trust and Google. We have embarked on an aggressive campaign to educate as many young people as possible on child online safety. It was obvious that the young people had already conquered the physical space and moved on to explore the cyber space. We therefore took it as our duty to follow them there and guide them safely through that cyber space showing them the dangers therein such as cyber bullying, radicalization, among others.

Working with Code-IP Trust we have trained over 60,000 young people whom we refer to as Web Rangers. These Web Rangers in turn guide their peers on safe use of the internet. We hope to train at least 700,000 more in the next two years.

*Your Excellency, Sir,*

As a way of creating a youth that is exposed and has a global focus the Association sent 25 Scouts to the World Scout Jamboree in the United States of America last August. This was an event that was attended by 50,000 young people aged between 14 and 17 years from across the world. Kenya presented the largest number compared to other African countries.

I also want to report that between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December this year, the Association will send another 200 young people aged 12 to 26 years to Kigali, Rwanda to participate in the Eastern Africa Zone Education Camp that will consist of Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania.

*Your Excellency,*

We are still committed to educating young people to be the champions of environmental conservation. We want them to understand that to achieve food security and generally a healthy nation in the future they need to do something about the environment. This they are achieving through tree planting and reduction of plastic on the ground through a program referred to as 'the Plastic Challenge'.

I want to report that towards this endeavor we are working very closely with two organizations: 'Trees for the Future' and 'World Wide Fund'. With these organizations Scouts are growing hundreds of thousands of seedlings that they distribute to other citizens to plant. I also want to report that the County Government of Kilifi, working with the scouts and the WWF plans to plant a million trees within an hour during the next long rainy season.

Indeed the environmental conservation efforts being made by the Scouts received global recognition when a Rover Scout from Nyandarua, Mary Wanjiku received the Messenger of Peace Award for conservation at an event that happened in Kuwait on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

*Your Excellency,*

Going forward therefore, we want to forge very close working relationships with both the county governments and the national government based at the counties so that we can together deal with the youth agenda. We want to develop a youth that does not complain incessantly for attention and inclusion but that which is well integrated and include themselves by being useful.

*Your Excellency sir,*

Let me conclude by thanking all our partners with whom we are serving the young people of this country. I want to thank the Teachers' Service Commission and the Ministry of Education for their continued support to the Association in enabling non formal education to complement core education curriculum. I also want to thank the various county governments that have found value in working with the scouts at the county level.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association and the Kenya Primary Schools Heads Association for allowing scouting to happen in their institutions. It is them who can really tell the world the value of scouting to a growing child. Indeed this story cannot be told better than by St Andrews, Turi in Nakuru county and Marion Academy in Kiambu county where all children and their teachers are Scouts and proudly wear Scout uniform every Friday.

I also want to thank all the parents of scouts and potential scouts. Keep supporting and holding the hands of these young people as they journey through the turbulence of growing up.

I want to congratulate all the awardees for working so hard to reach a level they can be recognized at the State House. Not everybody has this opportunity. Receive my big Bravo!

*Your Excellency, sir,*

Before I conclude my speech allow me to recognize the Board of the Kenya scouts Association that has steered this Association for the last three years.

*Finally, Your Excellency,*

I want to thank you very much for changing the lives of these young people, making them feel valued by none other than the President of the Republic of Kenya, their Scout Patron..

God bless our Patron

God bless you all.

BRAVO!