



*SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY DR.  
DEBORAH M. BARASA DURING THE MEDIA*

BREAKFAST ON MT. ELGON RESTORATION HELD ON

4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2025

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*Principal Secretaries Present;*

*PS Gitonga Mugambi, Forestry*

*PS Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno, Environment & Climate  
Change*

*PS Harry Kimtai, Mining*

*Chief Executive Officers,*

*Heads and Representatives of Development Partners,*

*Officers from MDAs,*

*Members of the Media,*

*Distinguished Guests,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Good Morning*

*It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this breakfast meeting. This is a special gathering where we*

want to focus our attention on the restoration of one of our key water towers-Mount Elgon.

To underline its significance, in 2023 the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) International Coordinating Council designated the Mount Elgon Ecosystem as a

Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR), the second of its kind in Africa.

This remarkable achievement opens numerous opportunities, in funding, conservation projects, sustainable livelihoods, research, and scholarship, among others. However, this designation is not permanent. Continued degradation of Mount Elgon could lead to the

degazettement of its Transboundary Biosphere Reserve status.

Mount Elgon has suffered the effects of deforestation and unsustainable land use practices, leading to declining water levels and reduced ecosystem services —

reminding us that the cost of environmental destruction is too high to bear.

In response, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry has designated 7th November 2025 as Mt. Elgon Day, to rally various stakeholders, partners, conservationists, and local communities

towards the conservation and protection of this vital ecosystem.

Further, the Ministry has appointed the Principal Secretary for Mining as the Patron and Champion for the Restoration of the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem.

This initiative seeks to foster collaboration, partnerships, and stakeholder coordination, while improving access to clean energy and water, promoting sustainable livelihoods through the creation of green jobs, upscaling agricultural value chains, and increasing awareness and conservation initiatives in schools and institutions of higher learning. It will also promote research, technology,

and innovation, support sports and talent development among the youth, and preserve our culture and heritage.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry invites your partnership and collaboration to

prioritize the restoration of 103,000 hectares of degraded Mt. Elgon Ecosystem.

This 10-year programme aligns with the Presidential Directive to grow 15 billion trees by 2032, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and the National Climate Change

Action Plan (NCCAP). As a Ministry, we remain committed to working closely with all partners to enhance coordination, promote restoration, support

sustainable livelihoods, and ensure the long-term protection of the Mt. Elgon ecosystem.

Let Mount Elgon rise again — green, vibrant, and full of life.

Thank you. Asanteni sana.