



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

**SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY,
DR. DEBORAH BARASA, DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF
KENYA FORESTRY COLLEGE, LONDIANI,
HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER, 2025**

OCTOBER, 2025

- Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs,
- Principal Secretary, State Department for Forestry,
- Governor, Kericho County,
- Member of Parliament, Kipkelion East,
- Chairperson and Members of the Kenya Forest Service Board
- Chief Conservator of Forests
- County Commissioner, Kericho County
- Principal and Staff of Kenya Forestry College
- Graduands, Parents and Guardians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

1. It gives me great pleasure to join you today for this important occasion marking the graduation ceremony of Kenya Forestry College, Londiani. This event represents the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice by our graduands, and the unwavering commitment by the College's administration and faculty to train and nurture professionals for the forestry and environmental sectors.
2. Today we celebrate not only your academic achievement, but also the critical role you will play in shaping the future of Kenya's forests, ecosystems, and environment. Your graduation comes at a time when the forestry sector stands at the heart of national and global efforts to combat climate change and to restore degraded landscapes for a sustainable future.
3. To sustain the momentum on ecosystem restoration and economic empowerment, our ministry has made significant policy and legislative advances in forest conservation and sustainable land use. We are finalizing the Forest Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, alongside eight regulations to promote investment in sustainable forestry, bamboo, and fruit tree value chains. We have also developed and launched, the Kenya Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050, the National Bamboo Development Strategy and Implementation Action Plan 2025-2035 and the Agroforestry Strategy 2025-2035, all aimed at expanding tree-based enterprises, improving livelihoods and strengthening community resilience to climate change. In

addition, the Ministry has operationalized the National REDD+ Registry and its accompanying nesting guidelines, unlocking access to climate finance and carbon investments and positioning Kenya as a continental leader in forest-based climate solutions. Working closely with Parliament, we successfully advocated for an amendment to the NG-CDF Act, increasing funding for greening initiatives from 2% to 5%, and ensuring seedling production in schools becomes a national priority.

4. As you step into the world of work, remember that you are the new custodians of Kenya's natural heritage. You carry the responsibility of advancing sustainable forest management, climate resilience, and community empowerment. The government relies on your expertise to design and implement Participatory Forest Management Plans, lead restoration initiatives, and innovate solutions that balance conservation and development.
5. Congratulations to all the graduands for your hard work and perseverance. The Ministry is proud of you, and we look forward to your contribution in building a greener and more sustainable Kenya.

Thank you

May God bless you all, and may God bless Kenya