

**KENYA SCOUTS ASSOCIATION**

**ADDRESS BY MR. RAY CHARLES MUSAU**

**CHIEF COMMISSIONER**

**DURING THE FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS**

**ON 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**BADEN POWELL PARK NYERI**

## **Fellow Scouts**

Lord Baden Powell realized that in order to change the world, the best focal point was the youth because once molded; their character would influence their personal lives, their communities and ultimately create a better world.

Founder's day is therefore about reflection, making us to look back and reflect on our achievements individually and as a movement, and especially how we have stayed true to the principles of the founder which are the Duty to God, Duty to others and Duty to self.

## **Fellow Scouts, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen**

I am delighted to join all of you as we celebrate the life of Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Scouting Movement.

BP was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1857 and died on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1941 aged 83. Today marks his 158<sup>th</sup> birthday. We celebrate his birth not his death, because death never really took him away from us.

Great personalities like BP or Lady Olave Powell do not die in the hearts of the humanity they served. Their ideologies, principles and life experience are constant reminders of who they were as they shaped the destiny of future generations.

The remains of Lord Baden Powell and Lady Olave lie here in Kenya, and we celebrate them more today than when they were alive because their legacy lives on in the more than 35 million Scouts in the movement today. Let us remember their lives as we lay wreaths on their grave.

I am proud at this point to notify you that the membership of scouts has grown to 1,307,882 boys and girls, representing the largest scout organization in Africa and sixth largest in the world.

In order to effectively serve the increased membership, KSA is looking at its internal structures, financial and human resource capacity as a priority for the first half of year 2016. The Association therefore purposes to work closely with the Africa Regional Office (ARO) especially to achieve the NSO establishment framework proposed under the Global Support Assessment Tool (formerly SGS) that seeks to improve governance within the KSA and youth program delivery.

## **Founder's Day 2016**

Devolution is surely here to stay and we at KSA shall embrace it fully in line with our new constitution. A number of KSA activities, which were previously centralized and managed at national level shall henceforth be planned and implemented at county level including program and adult training activities.

This year's Founder's day represents yet another paradigm shift from other years' events. Previously we have invited all scouts who could make the journey, to celebrate the day at Nyeri. However effective 2015, the national leadership of KSA decided to devolve the Founderee event.

Different counties will henceforth host Founder's day celebrations in their respective counties giving opportunity to more Scouts to attend the event within safe and manageable distance. Devolved Founderee camps have been organized by County Scout leaders and are taking place simultaneously with this event in Nyeri. The events are expected to bring visibility to scouting in their respective communities. KSA has also entered into partnership with county governments and we have witnessed a number of county governors being invested as Scouts and as Patrons of their respective counties – For these counties, KSA is expected to excited to partner with the county governments to deliver on the county youth agenda.

The Nyeri Founder's Day celebration is expected to remain a national event but with a difference perspective. KSA national leadership shall invite the best scouts in the country to participate and showcase their scouting skills i.e. a National Scouting Competition.

In time, we plan to make the Founderee camp and eventually the Founder's day an international event that is organized annually. We will

expect delegations coming from around the world in February every year to celebrate with us the life and times of Lord Baden Powell.

### **Fellow Scouts,**

During this year's Founderee camps and founder's day celebrations across the country a number of partners have come on board to educate and exhibit to our scouts on different fields which are important to our youth program. The partners include NACADA, NCIC, NBK, KFCB, Code-IP, SEMA, KFS, KWS, HIV/AIDS, Liverpool VCT (USAID), the county governments and the WSB/ARO, just to name but a few.

From these exhibitions, Scouts have been exposed to knowledge on contemporary issues related to peace, health, the environment and financial knowledge for personal development. The Scouts have been awarded various trophies from our partners and we thank them sincerely for their support and for choosing our association and as a valued partner.

### **Brother & Sister Scouts,**

Our future depends on the way we carry out our activities today and the continued relevance of the scouting movement to the youth of Kenya. It is important at this time to evaluate the nature and structure of scouting activities, and their impact on the lives of young people.

Our efforts as scout leaders will be futile if the desired attributes cannot be seen in Scouts who have gone through the youth program.

We need to ask ourselves a few hard questions if we are able to survive another 100 years:

- What is benefit of being Scout i.e. does scouting add value to the youth of today i.e. is scouting relevant?
- Is the Scouting program in tandem with our current youth issues?
- Are adults adequately equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and attitude, to deliver on the youth program?

Our Survival as a movement is dependent on facing these questions and addressing them candidly.

Further, our lives as Scouts - both young Scouts and the leaders - must always reflect the law and promise of scouting in order to show our value to others, and for more youth to aspire to join the movement and proudly wear our uniform.

Let us challenge ourselves each and every one of us, to be better scouts, to be people of integrity and above all, people who can be TRUSTED.

### **In Conclusion,**

I sincerely wish to thank our Patron, His Excellency the President, for his patronage and continuous support to the Association, demonstrated in

much needed support for the scout youth program, through annual government grant-in-aid.

I also thank the Chief Scout, Hon. Francis Ole Kaparo who has tirelessly served this movement since he was first elected as the Chief Scout in 2003.

I thank the Ministry of Education, and all other partners who have heeded our call to serve the youth of this great country. Through their support we have achieved much and are jointly bound to achieve more in positively impacting our youth.

I specially thank the World Scout Bureau – ARO who have continued to support our NSO towards improving our standards for better service delivery to our membership.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow scout leaders who have selflessly given their time and effort to manage KSA and guide the scouts through the exciting and sometimes challenging games of scouting.

Most of all, I wish to appreciate all the youth who have chosen to live their lives as scouts and are our most ardent ambassadors. We are humbled and privileged to serve as your leaders. BRAVO !

Finally, I thank our God for enabling us to stand firm as a movement for over a century, and all the leaders and scouts who have served to keep the movement alive throughout this time.

I wish you a fruitful Scouting in the remaining part of the year as we endeavor to "BE PREPARED" to "CREATE A BETTER WORLD" AND to DO OUR BEST to leave the world a better place than we found it!

God bless you ALL, and God bless Scouting.