



**Speech delivered by Dr. Eduardo Missoni, The Secretary General, World
Organization of the Scout Movement, at the Investiture Ceremony
State House, Nairobi, Kenya
10th July 2004**

Your Excellency,

Let me sincerely congratulate you on this special day of your investiture as the
The Patron of Kenya Scouts.

The Scout Movement will soon celebrate its first century of life. Hundreds of
millions of girls and boys have pronounced their Scout Promise since those days
of August 1907 when, on the British island of Brownsea, Robert Baden-Powell
and 20 boys of various ages and different social classes sang together around
the first Scout campfire, dreaming a future of brotherhood and peace for the
whole humanity.

Today, with you, we renewed the same promise, committing ourselves – on our
honour - to do our best to make that dream become reality. As Scouts we
assume the responsibility that comes with that commitment: in Scouting, in the
community, in our professional life, as well in our social and political
engagement. Forever.

Your Excellency, thanks to this commitment, today Scouting is making the
difference in Africa. Not only offering to an increasing number of young people
the opportunity of an extraordinary educational experience, but also through
the active role they are playing serving their communities.

In the fight against diseases – like for example in Angola, where collaborating
with UNICEF, they immunized over 500,000 children against polio; or in Zambia
contributing with WHO to the Roll Back Malaria campaign; or in the phenomenal
role they are playing in the war against HIV/AIDS in the whole continent, in
alliance with other six major youth organizations.

And Scouts are reaching out to children and young people in very difficult
circumstances in Tanzania, Rwanda, Madagascar and here in Kenya, where
Scouts are active in the social rehabilitation of street children.

Scouts are protecting the environment – everywhere cleaning-up and planting
trees; as in the Sahel countries where they are involved with UNEP in a
determined campaign to halt the advance of the Sahara.

In the Great Lakes region Scouts have been widely acclaimed for being the first
to organize activities bringing together communities that only a few months
before were killing each other. It is the same task in Cote d'Ivoire, and in the
rehabilitation of child soldiers in Sierra Leone. (continues)

But African Scouts are not alone. Extraordinary links and concrete actions of solidarity and brotherhood join Scouts from all over the world. Breaking cultural, social, political, economic barriers. Scouts are sisters and brothers. Scouts are builders of Peace.

But Scouts need also the support of the wider local, national and international community and their leaders.

Let me thank you therefore for your continued support to our African Office, which cares for over 2 million Scouts in 47 countries. Having our African Office hosted in Kenya is important for world Scouting, only partly because this is the country where our Founder is resting.

Through our African Regional Office, the World Scout Bureau will continue to give significant assistance to Kenya Scouts in training, curriculum development as well as financial assistance. Through this support Kenya is receiving 14 million shillings from DANIDA for the development of young citizens through Scouting. Another 1.5 million shillings has been provided through the support of Scouts in the United Kingdom to improve the burial place of Lord Baden Powell in Nyeri.

Let me underline our appreciation also for your significant support to Kenya Scouting. Invested as their Patron, the Scouts of Kenya as well as their sisters and brothers from the rest of Africa, will now expect from you even more support and moral leadership.

Now, on behalf of the largest youth movement in the world, and in recognition for what you are doing for Scouting in Africa, confident of a renewed commitment, it is my honour to present you with a certificate proclaiming you an Honorary Patron of World Scouting.



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