

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, HON.  
DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE OCCASION OF  
MADARAKA DAY, 1st JUNE, 1984**

MY DEAR KENYANS,

Today, we are gathered here to mark the first Madaraka Day of the third decade of our independence. I wish to begin my address by sending warm greetings to all Kenyans wherever they may be. Every Kenyan here in the Republic and abroad is justified in feeling proud of the achievements we have made since the day we assumed responsibility for Internal Self-Government, and subsequently took our rightful position among the independent nations of the world.

The task of building a truly independent and prosperous nation has, over the years, been difficult but rewarding. There have been tremendous achievements. There have also been instances of shortcomings and some disappointments. This is to be expected in all areas of human endeavour. The important factor is that we have never at any time lost hope in the future, and in our ability to deal with the problems that we face as a nation.

Along with other developing countries, Kenya is faced with diverse challenges. Although our balance of payments position has improved considerably during the last one year, the economy has not yet reached a satisfactory level of recovery. This therefore means that Kenyans cannot afford to be complacent or relax the austerity measures we have so far introduced to control inflation and revitalize our various economic sectors. In this respect, it is the duty of all leaders to tell our people the truth about the problems that we must overcome. The leaders should also appreciate that telling wananchi the truth about the hardships the country is facing is not enough by itself. They must lead the way towards Kenya's economic independence.

The last twenty years of independence have demonstrated that through determination, commitment to our aspirations and goals, Kenyans can achieve great strides in developing within a relatively short period. Our development efforts will continue to lay emphasis

on agricultural sector, and the entire export industry which should benefit from the upturn in the world economic recession. For this reason, I am pleased to record that our farmers continue to respond positively in support of our major objectives in agriculture. It is also gratifying to witness the success of our agricultural research activities. Already, high yield and disease resistant seeds for maize, wheat, beans, sorghums, and seedlings for upland rice, cassava, coffee and sugar-cane have been developed.

These research efforts cannot, however, be an end in themselves. They can only be useful, if they are matched by improved farming methods by our farmers. Unfortunately, reports continue to be received of complaints by some of the farmers that they are not receiving efficient services and facilities. This trend must be reversed with new attitudes, and practices by extension staff who have the responsibility of translating research findings and new agricultural knowledge into action by farmers.

Efforts of the Government in this area are related to our appeals for urgent and intensified attention to the objective of self-sufficiency in food. It is important to stress that any plans on food production must take due recognition of the unstable climatic conditions in many parts of the Republic. We are all concerned to note the apparent failure of the long rains throughout most of the country. As we are all aware, rain failure has caused drought in many countries of Africa. This unexpected change in climate serves to remind us of the problems that we must encounter in our drive for adequate food production to feed our people. In particular, I would like to refer to the necessity of maintaining in our stores sufficient buffer stocks to see us through bad times. For now, my Government is watching the situation closely and everything will be done to deal with possible food shortages.

Turning for a moment to industry, the country is faced with the challenge of rejuvenating an industrial sector hampered by limited demand for manufactured items and rising production costs. Assistance has been offered by the Government to our manufacturers and businessmen to make the 1984 export year a success. I must, however, caution that the fight for increased volumes of our exports has to be waged by the manufacturers and exporters themselves. They must take measures to diversify export products

and seek new markets. The manufacturers must also aim at producing goods which conform to the required international standards and to price them favourably. To this end, expansion of the Kenya Bureau of Standards will be continued in order to enable it to set and supervise a wider range of standards for increased Kenyan products.

The improved relations in our region together with the wider preferential trade area arrangements, should provide increased outlets for our manufactured and processed products. Exporters must therefore be more aggressive in exploiting these markets.

One of the biggest challenges of our time relates to the question of unemployment. Unemployment is neither new nor unique to Kenya. The industrialized countries which in the past enjoyed high levels of employment have, recently, been also hard hit by low employment, unprecedented in post-war times. For a developing economy like ours, the situation is more complicated by other factors of underdevelopment. Appeals for greater efforts, tolerance, patriotism and avoidance of tribalism are not empty slogans. Alleviation of unemployment problems must certainly be seen as a co-operative effort between the Government, the private sector and the wananchi.

For a long time to come, most Kenyans will continue to depend on the rural countryside for their livelihood. It is essential therefore, that we divert increasing resources to these areas as we seek to increase the productivity of existing investments and the labour force. It is imperative that implementation of development projects in the rural areas must be accelerated. Indeed, the single most important factor that motivated the establishment of the district focus strategy is our appreciation of the fact that faster development of the rural areas is the key to solving some of our unemployment bottlenecks.

The setbacks that are being experienced in the implementation of the district focus approach to development must be overcome without delay. There should be no more hesitation or failure to take positive and effective steps in this direction. Action is the key to this countrywide programme and all must co-operate fully.

Our commitment to develop the rural areas, including provision of the necessary infrastructure and the appropriate social amenities, will make the rural areas more attractive to both investors and workers. The Kenya Industrial Estates investment activities will continue to be geared towards helping small-scale labour-intensive industries. They will also continue to favour those who rely on domestic raw materials. Elected representatives, local leaders and civil servants must therefore work even more closely. This will ensure that these projects and programmes are implemented without undue delay and in line with priorities set by the district development committees.

In the development of the rural transport system, our attention should be turned more towards developing our secondary and minor road networks. The long-range objective is to facilitate all weather transport operations and regular access to production and distribution centres. Rural access roads have, in the past, been successfully constructed using labour-intensive methods. The Ministry of Transport and Communications must, therefore, continue to ensure that local labour from the areas through which rural access roads pass, is fully utilized.

I now wish to speak briefly about labour. Most of us will recall that Cotu elections were recently held in a peaceful and mature atmosphere. This responsible conduct clearly demonstrates a welcome sense of responsibility among our workers and their trade union leaders. I would like to commend them and the employers, for making proper use of the labour law system in Kenya. At a time when we are striving to achieve growth against the odds of economic recession and stagnation, industrial strife must not be permitted to take root. We have a duty, each one of us, to discharge our responsibilities, however small they might be, with total dedication. We dare not leave for tomorrow what we can accomplish today.

It is for this reason that I am concerned at the noticeable decline in the output and commitment of some sectors of our public service. There have been instances of laxity manifested by failure to implement projects in time. There have also been reduced services to those who seek assistance from public offices. The country can hardly afford to keep unproductive workers in the public service.

Those who fall below expected levels of performance will therefore have to leave. It is important to add that leaders and workers of all types must resolve to serve better and produce positive results. It is their duty to ensure that the trust bestowed upon them by wananchi is not abused or neglected.

It is necessary to remember that development depends on the maintenance of peace, law and order. While the vast majority of Kenyans are striving to create an atmosphere of peace and stability, there are a few who concentrate their energies on disrupting progress. I therefore wish to reaffirm the continued determination of the Government to fight crime in our society. Efforts to strengthen and equip our law enforcing agencies will be maintained in order to ensure that law and order is enhanced. These efforts cannot, however, succeed without the co-operation of all wananchi. It is the responsibility of every patriotic Kenyan to ensure that criminals who exist in our midst are promptly exposed to the appropriate authorities. Maximum trust and co-operation should be established between our police force and the people. Only when this is done can Kenyans work and rest in peace without fear of being molested by those who have no respect for law and order and human life.

Our ruling party, Kanu, must also concern itself and be fully involved in these matters. Indeed the party should be at the forefront of the fight against crime and anti-social practices. For this reason, Kenyans should all respect and do everything possible to strengthen the party. We should all support the party by enrolling as members. The ongoing membership recruitment drive should be accelerated as a prelude to party elections.

Our youth have a vital part to play in the process of orderly and peaceful development of our society. In order to become responsible citizens and leaders of tomorrow, the youth must be prepared to learn and cultivate respect for our institutions and traditions. The country's system of education will continue to be reviewed in accordance with the nation's needs, cultural values and traditions. Our education system must always be geared to preparing our youth to face the present and future challenges of development and self-fulfilment.

The recruitment of the pre-university students into the National Youth Service is aimed at giving our young men and women an opportunity to experience the challenges of practical involvement in matters of development. The programme will also develop personal qualities and special skills and enable participants to understand and appreciate the type of society they live in. I am glad to note that the first group of 1982 "A" Level students who were recruited into this scheme in early May this year, have settled down to serious business.

I have on many occasions declared my faith in the youth of this country. The future lies in them and we must therefore expect them to work in anticipation of what lies ahead of them. Students in our universities are leaders in this respect and should show the way for those lower down in the ranks. I am encouraged by the new attitude and spirit of co-operation which prevails in our university and colleges.

I wish now to shift my remarks to the relations with our neighbours and the international community. In these matters, Kenya has always been guided by the basic policy and practice of brotherhood of mankind and peaceful co-existence and co-operation between states. It is our firm belief that no country or region can attain and sustain economic growth in the absence of peaceful, stable and friendly co-operation with neighbouring countries and even those far beyond.

Since the last Madaraka Day, the East African Region has experienced important and welcome changes. There has been the successful completion of the protracted exercise concerning the division of assets and liabilities of the defunct East African Community. A new spirit of friendly and fruitful co-operation has been revived. The recent Arusha agreement opens up several areas of renewed co-operation in the promotion of trade relations, tourism, and communications. There are many other areas of co-operation that we shall continue discussing with our brothers in Uganda and Tanzania. To this end, Kenya is committed to ensure that this spirit of brotherhood continues to grow and expand for the mutual benefit of the people of East Africa.

Beyond this region, Kenya has pledged her total commitment to support the liberation struggle in all parts of this continent until colonialism and racial discrimination are totally eradicated. We stand by this pledge today just as we did twenty-one years ago. On the question of Namibia, Kenya rejects all manoeuvres by the Pretoria régime which has used devious means and irrelevant issues to delay the independence of Namibia. Africa and the world should remain united and resolute on this important matter. The commitment of the international community to the requirements and provisions of Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council must remain unshaken.

Inside South Africa itself, Kenyans are confident that our valiant and determined brothers will continue undaunted with their legitimate and worthy struggle. It is our hope, and indeed that of the entire world community, that victory will come sooner than later.

In conclusion, I urge all Kenyans to continue to cherish unity of purpose in all we say and do. We must especially oppose and condemn tribalism, crime and corrupt practices within our society. Unity, loyalty and unfailing commitment to our national goals and aspirations shall surely lead us through these difficult times and assure us a better future. We have established a system that works and are truly in charge of our destiny. Let us all resolve today, to re-dedicate ourselves to the Nyayo spirit of peace, love and unity.

Thank you.

STATE HOUSE,  
NAIROBI.

29TH MAY, 1984.