

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, HON.  
DANIEL ARAP MOI, E.G.H., M.P., ON KENYATTA DAY,  
20th OCTOBER, 1978**

**MY FELLOW KENYANS, OUR FRIENDS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES,**

Before I begin my speech to you on this Kenyatta Day, I ask all of you to stand up for one minute's silence in memory of our late Father of the Nation and the First President of our Republic, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is one of the most important days in our nation's calendar. It was the day when Mzee Jomo Kenyatta was arrested and started his long and cruel years of suffering and humiliation in colonial jails. The colonialists thought that the arrest and imprisonment of Mzee Kenyatta and other freedom fighters would end the struggle for independence. But, as Mzee Kenyatta used to say: "Ya Mungu ni Mengi". The struggle for Uhuru, far from slackening, intensified—for Mzee Kenyatta had convinced all of us that independence would never come on a silver platter, and that we had to fight for it and be prepared to make any necessary sacrifices. By ceaselessly fighting for Uhuru and refusing many temptations to lead an easy life, Mzee Kenyatta was put into prison and thereby set a personal example of the extent to which the Kenyans should be prepared to make sacrifices for their country. His complete conviction of the noble nature of the cause he was fighting for, and his firm belief in God, enabled Mzee Kenyatta to endure the hardship and humiliation of prison life knowing that in the end his sacrifices, and the sacrifices of other Kenyans, would not be in vain.

Today we are here, sadly without Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, as a free, united and developing nation. As I have said before, there are no words which can describe our sadness at his passing away. It is also impossible to find suitable words to express our gratitude for all he did for us. But there is one thing we must continue to remember: Mzee Kenyatta used to tell us that Kenyatta Day was not a day to honour him. He stressed, time and again, that Kenyatta Day was a day for all Kenyans, regardless of their status

or occupation, to rededicate themselves to the service of our country. Therefore, as Mzee Kenyatta dedicated his entire life to the service of our country, so let us today rededicate ourselves wholly to the same cause.

Countrymen, I urge all of you to consider seriously what we mean when we say that we rededicate ourselves to the service of our nation. We must all realize that rededication is not an abstract or theoretical statement. Rededication covers important commitments and moral obligations for all of us. First, rededication means that we must uphold the love for our country and for one another. Love for our country and for one another are inseparably linked together. If you love Kenya, then love your fellow Kenyans. This is one of the important principles which must continue to guide all of us. We must remember all the time that those Kenyans who died during the struggle for Uhuru were giving their lives for us and future generations. Today and in the future, we too must be prepared to make any necessary sacrifices for our country. In particular, those who are more fortunate must accept the sacrifices necessary in improving the welfare of the less privileged members of our society. It would be unforgivable hypocrisy for one to say he is dedicated to the service of our country when, at the same time, being not prepared to play his full part in ensuring that the welfare of his less privileged brothers and sisters is steadily improved.

A second element in the meaning of rededication is the principle of unity. There are many problems which will continue to confront us. Indeed, some of the problems might become even more difficult in future. Rededication to the service of our nation means that we must tackle these problems in a spirit of true unity and brotherhood.

As happens in some other countries, there will at times be a few among us who might think that there could be short cuts in dealing with the various problems. I would like to tell all Kenyans that there are no real short cuts to most of the problems facing us. However, there are no problems which we cannot solve provided that we all continue to work in a spirit of true unity. Indeed, the

major asset we have in ensuring a speedy solution to the problems facing us, and any others which will face us in future, is our unity. As history of the world shows, where there is no unity, progress and happiness have always been retarded.

Unity is therefore an essential factor in the development of our nation. It is important to add that unity must not be taken for granted. It must be continuously developed and promoted. All leaders, whether they be politicians, teachers, civil servants or managers in the private sector, must continually ask themselves what they are doing to promote and consolidate our unity.

The third element in the meaning of rededication is recognition that we must continue to work hard. As we all know, there is nothing free in this world. In particular, we must recognize that the responsibility of developing our country is entirely ours. Our friends in other countries might assist, but we have to do the job. Therefore all of us, whether we be farmers, traders, civil servants, factory workers, Government ministers, local authority officers, teachers or doctors must recognize that sustained hard work is absolutely necessary in the nation-building process.

I would therefore like to call again on all Kenyans to take the initiative in promoting the welfare of their families through greater productive effort. The Government will play its part. But without the Kenyans themselves working hard, the task of developing the country, which really means the development of the people themselves, will be impossible. I would like to add that work or employment should not always be seen from the economic angle, important though that is. I believe that work is essential in ensuring self-fulfilment and human dignity. My Government will therefore do its utmost to increase employment opportunities. However, we should all recognize that a good proportion of our increasing labour force will have to be absorbed by self-employment. This is another factor which calls for initiative and enterprise among all Kenyans.

This day also reminds us that we continue to give direct support to our brothers and sisters still under colonialism in Central and

Southern Africa. We sincerely believe that our freedom is not complete unless there is freedom in every part of Africa, and indeed in the world as a whole. It is my most sincere hope that the example of our country since independence will convince those who are doubtful that a prosperous, happy and united multi-racial society can flourish.

My fellow Kenyans, I hope that what I have said today will ensure that your rededication to the service of our nation will have a fuller and richer meaning. I have complete faith and trust in the ability of our people to work hard in unity and in love of our country and one another. On my part, and on this very special Kenyatta Day, I publicly pledge again my total loyalty to our nation and promise to do all in my power to promote the welfare of all Kenyans.

*H A R A M B E E !*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
P.O. BOX 30510,  
NAIROBI.

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