

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,  
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE  
OCCASION OF MADARAKA DAY ON MONDAY,  
1st JUNE, 1987**

BELOVED KENYANS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

There are many important events that occur during the growth and development of a nation, and on Madaraka Day, we assemble to commemorate two important things. We pay tribute to those Kenyans who lost their lives in the bitter struggle for independence, and we honour the day when we finally regained our right to govern ourselves, and to shape our own future and destiny as a nation.

The policies we pursued since independence have enabled us to advance in all fields of human endeavour. For example, our economy has grown steadily, and Kenyans can see clear evidence of the progress we have achieved since our first Madaraka Day, 24 years ago. To mention but a few examples, Kenyans are today able to live longer, while a larger percentage of children born are able to survive to maturity. This is the result of improved health services. Also, education is available to all children who reach school-going age.

Our policies in agriculture, likewise, have strengthened that sector, so that we have achieved self-sufficiency, in most agricultural products. It is also clear that the performance of our economy, during the past twelve months, indicates good trends. The strong foundation we have laid for development has worked well for both output and employment opportunities have grown, at satisfactory rates. Also, in the twelve months, rates of saving and investment increased substantially. On the other hand, the rate of inflation has declined markedly, while 1986 shows a growth rate of 5.7 per cent of the economy.

With these favoured trends, when population growth rate is considered, achieved growth of the gross domestic product implies that the standard of living of the average Kenyan improved by over 1.3 per cent during the year. In addition, we benefited from a significant improvement in our external terms of trade. Thus for a given volume of our commodities sold, we acquired more goods and services from outside. Altogether, the real per capita income has improved by 4 to 5 per cent in the year.

As in the past, my Government will continue to pursue policy measures aimed at achieving higher productivity and growth. We shall also strive to improve internal regional balance and more equitable distribution of economic development in the country. And, strategically, our long-term policy measures must be those to raise our earnings, from non-traditional exports, while reducing our dependence upon earnings from tea and coffee, which are plagued with perennial price fluctuations.

On this occasion, I want everyone to record and appreciate the fact, that we have reached a critical stage in our socio-economic development. So, we cannot afford to slow down the pace of development, so far achieved. On the contrary, we must exert maximum effort to sustain and enhance the rate of economic growth.

There are many other challenges to overcome, as we continue the difficult task of national development. Therefore, once again, I urge the nation to continue with those measures which reduce the rate of population growth. We should only raise the size of families we can support effectively. We must all co-operate to resolve the population problem. Similarly, unemployment will only be solved with the co-operation of everyone, in the programmes of Government and the private sector to improve productivity. Thus, as part of the strategy to increase employment opportunities, and to maintain rapid economic growth, we must re-emphasize the continued need to utilize maximum capacity of existing facilities and services, to promote small-scale industries and to assist small-

scale farmers. We should also assist rural non-farming activities. But for these policies to achieve the intended objectives, the support of everyone is essential.

With regard to the provision of adequate human shelter and settlement, the Government will continue to invest funds in the construction of housing for our people. So that, under the Second Urban Housing Project, nine hundred and fifty million shillings have been set aside, to provide housing for wananchi in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu. Four hundred and fifty-one million shillings will cater for the municipalities of Nyeri, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kitale and Thika; while twenty-eight townships will share three hundred million shillings for residential housing.

The co-operative movement remains a very important process playing a major role in the development of this country. Thus, the movement continues to play a key role in the indigenization of the economy. Therefore, the Government has undertaken an extensive review of the co-operative movement, to enable it to be even more effective. The policy measures and strategies have already been integrated into a sessional paper called "Renewed Growth Through the Co-operative Movement". That paper will be presented to Parliament in due course. Similarly, the Government re-emphasizes the guiding philosophy and motive force which have been beneficial to other economic spheres in the country. Thus, the Government encourages formation of "Kazi" and "Jua Kali" co-operatives, to provide impetus for growth in these activities of the informal sector.

The transport sub-sector has performed well, in the collection and distribution of goods, enabling the economy to grow fast, for the benefit of the nation and markets of the region. It is, therefore, pleasant to note that, during the year, over five hundred kilometres of roads have been up-graded and rehabilitated. But, the deaths, loss and suffering due to road accidents remain a grave concern. I urge that our national philosophy be reflected on the roads by all road users. Be mindful of the welfare of others. From

the Government side, hazardous sections of roads will be improved, and the Traffic Code will be reviewed, to deter traffic offenders. The Government has also been actively concerned with the welfare of the disadvantaged; for example, hearing and walking aids have been provided. Also KSh. 1.2 million has been used to assist the disabled settle in business. Rehabilitation centres have trained large numbers of the disabled, and helped them to be gainfully employed.

On other fronts of national effort, over 12,000 needy wananchi and families have been helped, to be self-reliant, to relive distress and to educate and raise their children. In all, large numbers have found solutions to perennial problems.

Once again, I stress the role of personal and national discipline, to help us achieve national objectives. We should conduct our affairs in a disciplined manner, in order to realize the objectives of the year of discipline, and thereafter. To cite one example: it is necessary for law enforcement officers to cultivate good public relations, in order to win the trust and confidence of wananchi. For the security of the nation is everyone's business. We cannot afford to leave security matters to the police and the administration alone. For all wananchi have an important part to play, to ensure that all of us live in peace and harmony. All of us should be deliberately concerned with security.

The ruling party, Kanu moreover has a vital role in creating an atmosphere conducive to economic growth and prosperity. The party has been revitalized to act purposefully and decisively. Wananchi should therefore, be part of that new constructive energy, by joining Kanu. Thereafter, ordinary members and party functionaries should abide by the Kanu Code of Discipline. That way, as a team, Kanu will continue to work for consolidation of our dear independence and national integrity, to build one Kenya, one people, one nation.

On our relationship with others, may I only repeat, that we shall remain steadfast on our policy of good neighbourliness. We shall practise our philosophy of Peace, Love and Unity, while respecting the sovereignty of all states. Our policy remains unchanged.

But, on the sorry state of southern Africa, I believe that the only sane and rational course for the rulers of South Africa is a three-fold programme of urgent action—

- (i) abolish the state of emergency at once;
- (ii) release Nelson Mandela, and
- (iii) have a truly effective and purposeful round-table conference, with real representatives of all South Africans, from all races and shades of opinion, including the A.N.C.

For the A.N.C. should not be excluded from any realistic discussions, on the pretext that it is terrorist organization. On the contrary, between the Afrikaners and A.N.C., who is terrorizing the other? The truth is, that ever since the Afrikaners invaded South Africa, 330 years ago, they have terrorized and down-trodden the African. They are the leading terrorists—using the whole national apparatus to achieve their selfish aims, by official terrorism. The A.N.C. is a spontaneous response against the Afrikaner terrorism, an attempt for the African to regain his dignity and freedom, from the Afrikaner terrorism.

In support of the liberation struggle, you workers and wananchi on Labour Day, last month, decided to make material contributions to the workers of Namibia and South Africa. To-date, the fund has reached KSh. 4 million.

Let us assure the world that workers of Kenya, and all wananchi, will continue to support our brothers and sisters, oppressed in southern Africa. We shall give moral and material support. We shall not turn back. We shall support the course of peace, justice and freedom in Africa, and the world.

Finally, may we remember that peace and prosperity do not descend automatically from outer space. They only result from purposeful efforts, blessed by God. Therefore, while we peacefully celebrate our 24 years since the first Madaraka Day, let us rededi-

cate ourselves to the cause of Peace, Love and Unity, coupled with committed hard work. That way, we shall build a strong, united and prosperous Kenya.

*THANK YOU.*