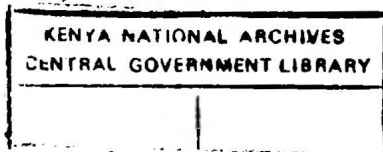


**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE
OCCASION OF MOI DAY, ON TUESDAY,
10TH OCTOBER, 1995**

MY FELLOW KENYANS,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



I send my warm greetings to Kenyans wherever they may be as we celebrate this day. This is a day for rededication and commitment to the ideals that form the basis of our nationhood. It is also a day of thanksgiving, and renewal of the spirit of community service, for the well-being of this nation and her people.

May I on behalf of all Kenyans take this opportunity to thank our friends and well-wishers who have sent messages of greetings and good-will.

Today, we direct our thoughts and energies to activities which portray our being mindful of each other in society. In observing this day, let us reflect on our performance and national effort to improve on the status and welfare of the less fortunate.

Fellow Countrymen,

The on-going implementation of economic reforms coupled with the recent drought and unfavourable terms of trade, have adversely affected the majority of the vulnerable groups in our society. In order to counter those adverse effects, my Government has implemented programmes and projects designed to assist such groups. Already, a social dimensions of development secretariat has been set up to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the development programmes and projects by the relevant ministries. Since these programmes and projects target a large proportion of the population, they have been accorded high priority status by my Government.

Furthermore, the social dimensions programme, seeks to sharpen the focus and enhance the priority rating of the poverty alleviation effort. It will also ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services to the intended beneficiaries. Our main

focus is, capacity building through mobilization of the local community and resources needed for development. In this respect let us always remember that as a nation, we are ultimately responsible for our own development. We should not, expect donors to set or define for us our development priorities or needs.

In fact, the implementation of the social dimensions of development programmes is being undertaken by management committees from the grassroots to national level. The management committees incorporate local elders, women and religious leaders, civic leaders, non-governmental organizations, Members of Parliament and the local administration who are conversant with the individual families and their community development needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It must be emphasized that the provision of community services and assistance is a collective effort. In this regard, I would like to thank individuals, private companies and charitable organizations who have, in one way or another, continued to provide support to the needy members of our society. Besides alleviating the suffering of those who have benefited from such help, your support has supplemented Government's efforts and resources.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank all Kenyans for their actions and programmes in the last six days which are an indicator of "being mindful of other people's welfare". This appropriately puts into practice the true meaning of this day. I would, therefore, like to appeal to more Kenyans, especially those with the ability and resources, to show greater compassion in the service of the less fortunate members of our society.

The social dimensions of development, the drought recovery, and the district focus strategy for rural development programmes are founded on the family and the community who are traditionally expected to identify and provide service to the needy either through Harambee, self-help resource pooling, or direct assistance.

My Fellow Countrymen,

This year, my Government has allocated over seven billion shillings to a wide range of projects involving health, education,

Civil Service reforms and community based development initiatives. In addition, my Government has since 1992 spent about two billion shillings in drought recovery and rehabilitation programmes. This has benefited about 5 million people in arid and semi-arid areas.

In the recent past, Kenya experienced a severe drought resulting into serious food shortages. In 1994, we had to import 200,000 metric tonnes of maize. At the height of the drought, we were feeding more than five million people. Although favourable weather conditions have resulted in reasonable harvests in most parts of the country, some areas are still suffering from drought related problems. Currently, the Government is still assisting more than one million people. As you are all aware, weather conditions in this part of the world are highly unpredictable. Therefore, there is need to plan ahead through reliable safeguards such as proper food storage, realistic marketing strategies and emphasis on traditional food crops.

My Fellow Kenyans,

Today, the loss of life through road carnage has become a source of great concern to my Government. Needless loss of life continues to rob this country of vital human and material resources necessary for development. In this regard, steps are being taken to make the newly established road safety authority fully operational.

Similarly, moral decadence in our society is another subject I would like to touch on. Today the growing misuse of drugs, the AIDS epidemic and other related diseases which result from loose morals continue to weaken our human resource base. To avoid this costly loss, I urge religious organizations, particularly the church, to work closely with the Ministry of Education in teaching and counselling the youth in upholding our cherished moral values. We must strengthen our social values especially the role of the family unit in the face of corrupting external influences.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The task of fighting illiteracy is immense. My Government spends 30 per cent of its Budget on education. As a result of

inadequate funds, it became necessary for cost sharing to be introduced. The provision of a bursary fund has, however, continued to ensure that the school dropout rate due to non-payment of fees is manageable. Over the last two years the Government has spent KSh. 500 million in the provision of bursaries. A further KSh. 200 million will be spent this financial year. In recognition of the need to promote special education, my Government gives grants to 36 special schools and related programmes. Similarly my Government puts great emphasis on the provision of vocational training in order to equip the youth with relevant skills necessary for self-employment.

Today, I am confident that the future of our country is bright. This has largely been due to the prevailing peace and social stability. As I have stressed on many occasions, our strength as a nation lies in our unity. Our basic national values of peace, love and unity must continue to be upheld as the foundation of our nationhood. Therefore, let us at all times put our national interest, service, and the welfare of our people above all other considerations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding, and as we observe this day, the programmes I have mentioned need not be confined to commemoration of this occasion only. Service to the needy is an integral part of our values and should, therefore, always be the basis of our duty to our fellow man.

May God Bless You.

THANK YOU.