



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Speech

by

His Excellency

Hon. Daniel T. arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P.

President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Republic of Kenya

on the occasion of

The State Opening of Parliament

on

Tuesday, 4th March, 1986

**HOTUBA YA MHESHIMIWA RAIS DANIEL T. ARAP MOI,
C.G.H., M.P., KATIKA SHEREHE YA KUFUNGULIWA
RASMI KWA KIKAO CHA BUNGE, JUMANNE TAREHE
4 MACHI, 1986**

BWANA SPIKA,

Nataka kuanza hotuba yangu leo kwa kuwakaribisha waheshimiwa Wabunge wote katika kikao cha mwaka huu cha Bunge letu la tano. Nina hakika kwamba sote tumenufaika kutokana na mapumziko ya sikukuu ya Krismasi, na kwamba tulipata nafasi ya kushauriana na wananchi katika sehemu tunazowakilisha. Ni matumaini yangu kwamba kutokana na mawaidha tuliyopata kwa wananchi, sasa tuko tayari kutimiza wajibu wetu hapa Bungeni huku tukifikiria zaidi mahitaji ya watu wetu.

Nina hakika kwamba Waheshimiwa Wabunge watafurahiwa na hali njema ya uchumi wetu ambao unazidi kuimarika baada ya kutatizika kutokana na hali mbaya ya kiuchumi kote ulimwenguni na pia hali ya ukavu humu nchini.

Maongezeko ya bei za bidhaa humu nchini yamefunguka na kufikia kiasi kilicho chini ya asili mia kumi. Shughuli za kuuza bidhaa zetu katika nchi za nje zimeendelea vyema. Kutokana na hali hii ya matumaini tumeweza kuwa na akiba ya pesa za nchi za nje katika kipindi cha mwaka wa 1983 na pia 1984. Kwa jumla uchumi wetu unakisiwa kwamba umepanuka kwa kiasi cha asili mia nne na nukta mbili mwaka uliopita.

Hizo ni ishara dhahiri kwamba tumefaulu katika juhudi zetu za kuimarisha hali ya uchumi wetu katika kipindi cha miaka mitano iliyopita. Hata hivyo, tungali tunakabiliwa na matatizo kadha wa kadha. Tatizo moja wapo ambalo inatulazimu tukabiliwane nalo kwa uangalifu ni kupunguka kwa rasilmali yetu. Inatubidi tuchukue hatua zinazofaa kuongeza rasilmali yetu humu nchini. Huku tukiendelea na hatua za usimamizi wa pesa za matumizi ya Serikali, itatubidi pia kuimarisha uzalishaji wa mali.

Katika kutimiza juhudi hii, Serikali itaendelea na hatua za kupanga matumizi ya pesa kwa mahitaji mbali mbali kwa uangalifu. Itatubidi tutumie uwezo wetu kutekeleza mipango michache ya maendeleo, na kuhakikisha kwamba tunatekeleza tu ile mipango iliyo na manufaa makubwa kwa nchi yetu. Tutaendelea kutilia mkazo haja ya kutumia kikamilifu mipango ya maendeleo ambayo tayari tumeianzisha.

Huku tukiendelea kuimarisha viwanda vyetu, inafaa tutilie mkazo upanuzi wa viwanda vinavyozalisha mali kwa njia bora. Inatuzimu tupunguze hatua za kusaidia viwanda ambavyo havina matumaini ya kuendesha shughuli zao bila usaidizi.

Serikali, itaendelea kusaidia viwanda vidogo vidogo, kwa sababu viwanda hivyo ni muhimu katika kutoa nafasi za kazi kwa watu wetu. Serikali itaendelea kuvipatia viwanda hivyo mikopo, usaidizi wa kisheria na vifaa vyenginevyo vilivyo muhimu ili kuviwezesha vistawi ipasavyo.

Bwana Spika, sasa nataka kusema machache kuhusu kilimo chetu ambacho kimeendelea vyema mwaka uliopita. Tulipata mvua ya kutosha na kwa wakati unaofaa mwaka wa 1985, na tuliweza kupata mavuno mema ya mimea mingi kama vile mahindi, ngano, na maharagwe na pia kahawa na chai. Hali hii ya kutia moyo inatarajiwa kuendelea mwakani.

Mavuno ya mahindi mwaka huu yanakisiwa yatafikia kiwango cha juu cha magunia ishirini na tisa milioni. Tunatarajia kupata kilo mia mbili thelathini elfu za ngano, na pia mavuno mema ya Kahawa na chai. Inatupasa sote tushukuru kwa neema hizi. Pia ni lazima sote tufahamu kwamba ingawa kuna matatizo yanayo-ambatana na mwaka wenye mavuno machache, kuna matatizo ambayo yanaweza kutukabili hata tukiwa na mavuno mema.

Tatizo mojawapo ni upungufu wa pesa za kuwalipa wakulima kwa mazao yao. Shirika la Taifa la Nafaka limekuwa likitatzwa na shida ya upungufu wa pesa za kuwalipa wakulima. Serikali inafahamu shida inayoweza kutokea wakati wakulima wanapochelewa kulipwa pesa zao, na hatua zimeshachukuliwa kuliwezesha Shirika la Taifa la Nafaka liwalipe wakulima haki yao.

Tatizo lingine linahusu upungufu wa ghala za kuhifadhia mazao yetu ambazo tunajaribu kujenga nchini kote na pia katika mashamba ya wakulima binafsi. Hata hivyo, tungali tunakabiliwa na upungufu wa ghala nchini. Katika jitihada ya kukabiliana na tatizo hilo, kwa sasa, Serikali imekata shauri kuwaruhusu wakulima wauze moja kwa moja nafaka zao kwa wenye vinu vya kusaga nafaka hiyo.

Nataka kulihakikishia Bunge hili kwamba Serikali itaendelea na hatua za kupanua na kuimarisha kilimo humu nchini. Tutaendelea kuwapatia wakulima bei za juu kwa mazao yao. Mipango ya mikopo ya wakulima itaendelea kuimarishwa na wale walio na wajibu muhimu wa kuwapatia wakulima vifaa kama mbolea na mbegu zilizo bora watahitajiwa watimize wajibu wao kikamilifu. Serikali itaendelea na msimamo wake wa kuwashirikisha wakulima katika mipango ya kujistawisha wao wenyewe kwa kuimarisha kazi za wataalamu wa kilimo na kuwashirikisha wakulima kikamilifu katika kazi za Kamati za Maendeleo Wilayani. Nina hakika kwamba kutokana na ushirikiano huu kati ya wananchi na Serikali yao tutafaulu kutimiza lengo letu la kuifanya nchi hii ijitoshelezee mahitaji yake ya chakula.

Sasa nataka kuzungumza hasa kuhusu mambo tutakayojadilia katika kikao hiki cha Bunge. Waheshimiwa Wabunge wanaweza kukumbuka kwamba nilipohutubia taifa wakati wa sherehe ya Jamhuri mwaka jana, niligusia kwamba Serikali inatayarisha maongozi ya kiuchumi tutakayofuata katika muda unaobakia wa karne hii. Nina furaha kulijulisha Bunge leo kwamba, mipango hiyo sasa imekamilishwa na Wizara zinazohusika. Hivi karibuni Bunge litaombwa lijadilie Taarifa rasmi inayopendekeza maongozi mapya ya kuimarisha uchumi wetu.

Bunge pia litaombwa kufikiria tena jitihada zetu za kuinua hali ya maisha ya sehemu muhimu ya watu wetu. Sehemu yenyewe hasa ni vijana wetu ambao sasa ni zaidi ya asili mia sitini ya idadi ya watu wote humu nchini. Mpango wa kuinua hali ya maisha ya vijana umekuwa ukitekelezwa kwa kustawisha Vyuo Vya Ufundi vya Vijana. Mpango huu utaendelea kutilia mkazo kilimo na ujuzi wa kiufundi ili vijana wetu waweze kujifanyia kazi zao

wenyewe mashambani. Katika kikao hiki, Waheshimiwa Wabunge watapata nafasi ya kutoa mawaidha yao, kuhusu jambo hili muhimu. Serikali itawakilisha taarifa inayoniua kupanga upya na kuimarisha mpango wa maendeleo ya vijana ili waweze ku-shiriki kikamilifu katika maendeleo ya nchi yao.

Waheshimiwa Wabunge wanakumbuka kwamba nilipolihutubia Bunge hili mwezi wa Machi mwaka uliopita, nilitaja hati kadha wa kadha za sheria ambazo tungsahihisha katika kikao hicho. Nina hakika kwamba sote tunafahamu kwamba Wizara za Serikali zina wajibu mkubwa wa kuhakikisha kwamba hati za sheria zinatatayarishwa ipasavyo kabla ya kuwakilishwa Bungeni. Shughuli za kutayarisha masahihisho ya hati za sheria zinazohusu Ndoa, Ngozi na Mashirika ya Serikali sasa zimekamilika, na masahihisho hayo ambayo yalinuiwa kujadiliwa katika kikao cha mwaka uliopita, sasa yatajadiliwa katika kikao hiki cha Bunge.

Bwana Spika, katika maendeleo ya nchi yeyote, huwa ni jambo la kawaida kusahihisha hati mbali mbali za sheria, ili kulinganisha hali ya sheria na mabadiliko ya maisha ya watu. Kwa hivyo, Serikali inakusudia kuwakilisha masahihisho kadha wa kadha kuhusu hati mbali mbali za sheria.

Tume iliyopangwa kuchunguza mishahara ya watumishi wa Serikali mwaka wa 1985 ilipendekeza mabadiliko mbali mbali yaliyowakilishwa Bungeni katika Taarifa Nambari Tatu ya mwaka wa 1985 ya Serikali. Katika juhudi ya kutekeleza mapendekezo ya Tume hiyo yanayohusu kazi za Majaji na Mahakimu, na pia hoja ya kupanga wajibu wa Mahakimu katika kusikiza kesi za uhalifu, na kesi za ugomvi kati ya watu binafsi. Masahihisho ya hati hii ya sheria yatawataka pia Wabunge wafikirie wajibu wa mabaraza ya wazee yanayosuluhisha matatizo mbali mbali yanayowakabili wananchi vijijini.

Mara kwa mara imenibidi nizungumze kuhusu kuimarisha haki katika sheria zetu. Bunge hili linajua wazi kwamba mara kwa mara wananchi wamesumbuliwa na Mawakili na pia Madalali wasiojali na wasiozingatia kanuni za kazi zao. Nina hakika Waheshimiwa Wabunge watafurahi kusikia kwamba Serikali sasa itawa-

kilisha Bungeni masahihisho ya hati za sheria za Mwakili na Madalali. Masahihisho hayo yatapendekeza kuziba mapengo ambayo hutumiwa kuwadhulumu wananchi.

Nikiendelea kuzungumza kuhusu kuimarisha hali yetu kisheria Waheshimiwa Wabunge watakubaliana nami kwamba, kwa sababu wananchi wanaendelea kufahamu haki zao, kumekuwa na kesi nyingi zaidi zinazohusu watu wanaotafuta kupatanishwa katika mahakama zetu. Idadi ya Majaji na Mahakimu tulio nao sasa hawana nafasi ya kuzisikiza kesi zote zilizoko. Kwa sababu hiyo, Serikali itapendekeza masahihisho katika hati ya sheria ya wasaidizi wa Mahakimu ili kuwawezesha Mwakili wasikize kesi hizo.

Bwana Spika, Bunge hili pia litaombwa lijadilie masahihisho ya hati ya sheria ya Ardhi ambayo yatampatia uwezo Waziri amiliki sehemu za ardhi zinazofaa kwa shughuli za kilimo ambazo huwa zinawekwa chini ya milki ya Manispaa na Miji wakati sehemu hizo zinapopanua mipaka yao. Masahihisho mengine yatapendekezwata katika hati ya sheria inayoiwezesha Serikali kuchukua ardhi ya watu binafsi kwa shughuli za maendeleo. Masahihisho hayo yatawawezesha wenye ardhi waondoe mali zao katika ardhi kama hiyo, kabla Serikali hajajaichukua.

Bwana Spika, Serikali itazingatia maongozi ya kuhifadhi mali yetu ya asili yakiwa ni pamoja na maji, udongo, mimea na wanyama wa porini. Tutaendelea kusimamia shughuli za usimamizi wa maendeleo ya misitu yetu ili kutosheleza mahitaji yetu na vizazi vijavyo. Huku tukijitahidi kupanda aina mbali mbali za miti inayofaa kwa kila sehemu, nina matumaini kwamba Wajumbe wa Bunge wataongoza wananchi katika kupanda na kuichunga miti isihari-biwe.

Katika juhudi zetu za kupanga maendeleo yetu, inatubidi tufikirie kwa makini zaidi mambo yanayohusu ukavu na kupanuka kwa jangwa, kwa sababu hali ya ardhi ni muhimu kwa maisha ya viumbe vyote. Kwa sababu hii Serikali imekuwa tayari wakati wowote kushirikiana na nchi nyingine katika sehemu yetu kukabiliana na ukavu na kupanuka wa jangwa. Waheshimiwa Wabunge wanaku-mbuka kwamba nchi yetu ilishiriki kwa kila njia katika shughuli

za kubuni Halmashauri ya Kimataifa ya kukabiliana na ukavu katika sehemu ya Mashariki ya Afrika. Mwezi wa Januari mwaka huu nilisafiri hadi nchini Djibouti kuweka sahihi Mkataba wa kuanzisha Halmashauri hiyo. Kenya pia, ilishiriki katika mkutano wa kimataifa wa "Miti na Misitu" uliofanywa mjini Paris, huko Ufaransa mwezi uliopita. Nataka kulihakikishia Bunge hili kwamba Serikali itaendelea kushirikiana na nchi za nje katika jitihada za kutatua tatizo la kuharibika kwa mazingira, ambalo ni tatizo la jamii yote ulimwenguni.

Bwana Spika, kabla sijamaliza kuzungumzia mambo yanayohusu masahihisho ya sheria zetu, nataka kugusia masahihisho yanayohusu sehemu mbili za sheria zetu. Waheshimiwa Wabunge watakubaliana nami kwamba tangu tuliponyakua uhuru wetu tumefanya mengi kuinua hali ya maisha ya wafanyikazi wetu humu nchini. Wakati wa ukoloni, wafanyikazi walinufaika tu kutokana na sheria iliyowawezesha walipwe ridhaa kwa majeraha yanayowapata kazini. Tangu wakati huo tumeanzisha mpango wa malipo ya uzeeni. Kusudi la mpango huo, ni kuwasaidia wafanyikazi na jamaa zao kunapotokea upungufu wa mapato kwa sababu ya ugonjwa, udhaifu, uzee ama kutoweka kwa maisha ya mchumi wa jamii nzima.

Sheria ya malipo ya uzeeni ambayo ilianza kutumika mwaka wa 1967 ilisahihishwa miaka kumi na mitano iliyopita. Hata hivyo sio kila mtu anayenufaika kutokana na mpango huo. Serikali inatayarisha mabadiliko yatakayowawezesha Wakenya wote walio na nguvu ya kufanya kazi wafaidike kutokana na hazina hii. Kama hatua ya kwanza katika kutimiza nia na kusudi la mpango huu, Bunge hili litaombwa lijadilie masahihisho yanayopendekeza kuundwa kwa Halmashauri ya wadhamini itakayosimamia matumizi ya akiba hiyo. Baadhi ya masahihisho hayo yatawawezesha watumishi wa Serikali na wafanyakazi wengine walipwe sehemu yao, bila kuchelewa, wakati wanapostaafu.

Hati nyingine ya sheria, ambayo imetubidi tusahihishe mara kwa mara ni ile inayohusu uendeshaji wa magari. Wakenya wengi na hata watoto ambao hawajakosea yeyote wamepoteza maisha yao kutokana na ajali za barabarani. Serikali imedhamiria kupu-

nguza vifo vinavyotokea barabarani. Sina shaka kwamba Waheshimiwa Wabunge wataongoza kutoa mawaidha ya kuhifadhi maisha katika barabara zetu wakati tutakapojadilia masahihisho ya hati ya sheria ya uendeshaji magari ambayo imekwisha chapishwa. Hapa nataka kuongeza kusema kwamba, ingawa Serikali itajitahidi kufanya kila juhudi kuimarisha usalama barabarani, ni wajibu wetu sote: viongozi; wanaotunza sheria; na pia kila mtu anayetumia barabara kuhakikisha kwamba tunafuata amri tunazopitisha katika Bunge hili. Kwa hivyo kila mmoja wetu ana wajibu wa kutimiza, ili kupunguza ajali za barabarani ambazo hatuzitaki.

Bwana Spika, nimezungumza kwa muda kuhusu masahihisho tutakayopendekeza katika hati kadha wa kadha za sheria zetu. Orodha hiyo ni sehemu tu ya mambo tutakayojadilia. Kuna hati nyingine kadha wa kadha za sheria ambazo bado zinatayarishwa na ambazo tutazijadilia katika kikao hiki cha Bunge. Kwa hivyo tutakuwa na kazi nyingi kipindi hiki.

Hata hivyo, ingawa wajibu wetu hasa nikujiadilia mambo hayo yalio muhimu kwetu, inatulazimu pia kukumbuka kwamba nchi yetu ni sehemu ya ulimwengu mzima. Kwa hivyo, hatuwezi kupuza mambo yanayotendeka katika nchi nyingine, hasa katika nchi tunazopakana nazo.

Nina hakika kwamba sote tunafahamu umuhimu wa amani na uthabiti kwa maendeleo ya sehemu yetu na pia maendeleo ya bara letu la Afrika kwa jumla. Kwa sababu hii Serikali imejitahidi kutafuta amani katika sehemu yetu ya bara la Afrika. Nina furaha kulijulisha Bunge kwamba katika mkutano wa hivi majuzi huko Djibouti, viongozi wa Ethiopia na Somalia walipata nafasi ya kujadilia mambo yanayowafanya wasiwe na amani kati yao. Sasa viongozi hao wanaweza kuendelea na mashauri yao. Sisi Wakenya tunawatakia heri, na tunatumaini watafaulu kupatana na kuishi kwa amani.

Nina furaha pia kulijulisha Bunge kwamba katika ziara yangu ya hivi majuzi nchini Zaire, nilifanya mashauri yenye mafanikio na ndugu viongozi wenzangu wa Rwanda, , Uganda na Zaire. Baadaye mwezi huu, tutafanya mkutano mwengine mjini Kampala, Uganda kufikiria mambo yanayohusu ushirikiano kati yetu.

Kuhusu hali ya kusini mwa Afrika, ni jambo la kuhuzunisha kuona kwamba Serikali dhalimu ya Afrika Kusini inaendelea kupuuzwa maazimio ya nchi zote za ulimwengu bila kujali. Ikiwa mataifa yote ulimwenguni yatakata shauri kuunga mkono kwa dhati maazimio ya Umoja wa Mataifa, maongozi dhalimu ya Afrika ya Kusini yangalikoma na Namibia ingepata uhuru wake. Tunaamini leo, kama ambavyo tumeamini siku zilizopita, kwamba tatizo la kuwa na majeshi ya nchi za nje nchini Angola halihusiani kwa njia yeyote na swala la uhuru wa Namibia. Tatizo hilo linahusu nchi za Angola na Cuba. Serikali dhalimu ya Afrika Kusini pamoja na nchi nyingine zinazowaunga mkono, zinafaa kufahamu wazi kwamba Kenya imedhamiria kuwaunga mkono ndugu zetu nchini humo. Tuko tayari kuwasadia kwa kila njia katika jitihada zao za kutafuta haki na utu wao.

Bwana Spika, nataka sasa kumaliza hotuba yangu leo kwa kuwakumbusha Waheshimiwa Wabunge, kwamba tuna wajibu mkubwa wa kutimiza tukiwa katika Bunge hili. Ingawa ni rahisi kwetu kujadilia mambo ambayo yatatupatia sifa magazetini, wajibu wetu ni mzito zaidi kuliko kujitafutia sifa ama kuwadhulumu wengine.

Nina hakika sote hapa tunatambua wajibu wetu wa kuwatumikia watu wetu. Tunafahamu wazi kwamba watu waliotuchagua kila wakati wanachunguza jitihada zetu. Tuna wajibu wa kuimarisha na kuhifadhi heshima ya Bunge hili, kwa kufanya kazi kwa bidii kuwatumikia watu wetu. Tunaweza tu kutimiza wajibu huo tukijitahidi kuelewa mambo yote tunayojadilia na kutayarisha hotuba zetu kwa kufikiria kwa makini mahitaji yao.

Nina hakika kwamba nia na moyo huu ndio utakaongoza shughuli zetu katika kikao hiki, tukiendelea na kazi yetu muhimu ya kupanga maisha ya taifa letu katika siku zijazo.

Ahsanteni.

Afisi ya Rais,
Jumba la Harambee,
Nairobi.

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OPENING OF PERLIAMENT ON TUESDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1986

MR. SPEAKER,

I wish to start my address today by welcoming all honourable members to this year's session of our Fifth Parliament. I trust that all of us had a useful Christmas recess, and that we were able to exchange ideas with the wananchi we represent in our respective constituencies. With the fresh ideas from our people, I therefore have confidence that we shall transact the business for which we were elected into this august House with our people's aspirations at heart.

Honourable members will, I am sure, be glad to know that the economy is getting back to track after the serious drawbacks of the world-wide economic recession and the prolonged drought.

The rate of domestic inflation has been reduced to below ten per cent. The performance of our export trade has continued to improve over the years. As a result of this favourable economic climate, the balance of payments has been positive in both 1983 and 1984. On the whole, economic growth in 1985 is provisionally estimated to have been in the order of 4.2 per cent.

It is therefore clear that we have achieved some commendable progress in our efforts to re-structure the economy during the last five years. There is, however, much that remains to be done. One important area which we will need to watch carefully is the recent trend of a declining rate in capital formation. We have to take further appropriate measures to revitalize investments in both the private and public sectors. In addition to continuing with strict measures to control Government recurrent expenditure, we shall need to increase the productivity of our resources.

Towards this end, the Government will continue to rationalize and improve the present pattern of allocation of budgetary resources. We shall seek to concentrate our limited resources on

fewer but more carefully selected projects which have a higher efficiency and a greater potential for growth. Emphasis will be placed on improving the utilization of existing capacity.

While we continue with our efforts to strengthen the formal sector, we must give priority to those industries which produce more efficiently. There is need for us to gradually reduce the protection we have in the past given to some industries which have little hope of becoming self-sustaining.

With regard to the informal sector, my Government is determined to provide the necessary support in order to further strengthen and improve the sector. The Government recognizes that the informal sector plays a major role in supplementing the formal sectors' efforts of providing employment opportunities for the rapidly growing labour force. Such facilities as infrastructure, credit and legal protection will be provided to minimize the constraints which have in the past adversely affected the development of the sector.

Mr. Speaker, I wish at this point to make a few remarks on our agricultural sector which performed very well last year. We received both long and short rains in good time and in sufficient amounts in 1985. Consequently, there was record yields in most crops including maize, wheat and beans as well as the important cash crops of coffee and tea. This positive trend is expected to continue this year.

Current estimates indicate that maize output will be a record high of twenty-nine million bags this season. Wheat is expected to yield about two hundred and thirty thousand tons, while both coffee and tea are forecast to achieve record production. Kenyans have reasons to be thankful for these blessings. We must however, appreciate that just as much as we have problems in a bad year, there are also some problems associated with such a dramatic increase in agricultural produce.

One example is the strain which has been placed on the limited resources we have to pay farmers for their produce. The National Cereals and Produce Board has been experiencing some difficulties

in meeting its obligations towards farmers. My Government is fully aware of the adverse effects of delayed payments, and has already instituted remedial measures which will increase the funds available to the board for payment to farmers.

Another equally constraining factor is inadequate storage facilities, which we have continued to expand both at the national and farm level. There is however, much to be done in this area. In the short-term my Government has decided to permit the sale of grain by farmers direct to millers.

I take this opportunity to assure this House that my Government is determined to maintain and increase the rate of agricultural expansion in this country. Farmers will continue to be given attractive prices for their produce. Access to credit facilities will be improved. Those charged with the responsibility of supplying farmers with the essential inputs such as fertilizers and improved seeds will be required to perform their duties more effectively. We shall continue with our efforts to involve farmers in making decisions concerning their own development by making extension services more effective and involving farmers more actively in the work of District Development Committees, I trust that with this team spirit between the Government and the people, we shall achieve the overall national objective of making our country self-sufficient in food.

At this point, I wish to turn more specifically to the agenda which will form much of the business of this session. Honourable members will recall that, in my message to the nation during Jamhuri Day celebrations last year, I referred to preparations which were in their final stages towards formulating economic policies which will guide our nation's progress for the remaining years of this century. I am glad to inform the House that the final touches have been made by the relevant ministries. This House will therefore be requested in the very near future to debate sessional paper number one of 1986 on economic management for renewed growth.

This house will also be requested to further evaluate the efforts we have made since independence to improve the welfare of a large and vital section of our population. I am referring here to our youth

who presently constitute more than sixty per cent of the entire population. The Youth Development Programme we have implemented largely through youth polytechnics will continue to emphasize agriculture and technical skills which will enable our youth to be self-employed in the rural areas. Honourable members will, during this session, be able to contribute their ideas in this important area. My Government will present a sessional paper which aims at re-organizing and improving the Youth Development Programme in order to increase the productive capacity of our youth in national development.

Honourable Members will recall that during my address to the House in March last year I referred to several Bills to be discussed during that session. I have no doubt that all of us do appreciate the details that various Government ministries have to consider before presenting draft Bills for deliberation in this House. The details concerning the Marriage Bill, the Hides and Skins and Leather Bill and the State Corporations Bill which were to be debated during the last session have now been finalized, and will be presented before the House during this session.

Mr. Speaker, in the course of the development of any country, it becomes necessary to amend various sections of the law that govern the conduct of that society in order to incorporate the changing needs of the people. My Government will therefore be proposing various amendments to existing legislation during this session of Parliament.

Several recommendations were made by the 1985 report on the Civil Service Salaries Review Committee, which were presented to this House in Sessional Paper Number Three of 1985. In an effort to implement the recommendations of that committee which concern the creation of new posts in the Judiciary, and the need to re-define the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the magistrates, the Government will propose amendments to the Magistrates Act. Under this Bill, honourable Members will also be asked to re-examine the role and status of panels of elders in the light of the useful work they are performing in solving disputes in their areas.

I have often talked at length on the need for fair play in our legal system. This House is aware of several instances when wananchi have been subjected to unnecessary suffering as a result of the indiscipline of a few advocates and some court brokers. This House will, I am sure be glad to know that my Government has drafted some amendments to both the Advocates Act and the Court Brokers Act to remove the loopholes which have in the past been exploited to the detriment of wananchi.

While still on the subject of improving the dispensation of justice, honourable Members will agree with me that, as a result of our people being more aware of their rights, there has been a large increase in civil suits. The present strength of judges cannot cope with the increase of both civil and criminal cases. The Government will propose some amendments to the Commissioners of Assize Act which will provide for the appointment of senior advocates to deal with the many cases which are pending in our courts.

Mr. Speaker, this House will be asked to debate proposed amendments to the Land Control Act which empower the minister responsible to declare land in municipalities, townships and urban centres to be agricultural land. The proposed amendments will enable the minister to control transaction on agricultural land when municipalities, townships and urban centres are created or when their boundaries extend to cover agricultural land. Amendments will also be proposed concerning the Land Acquisition Act to enable individual owners to remove their plant and machinery when their land is acquired compulsorily before it is taken over by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, my Government is committed to the conservation of natural resources including water, soils, vegetation and wildlife. We shall continue to guide the development, management, utilization and regulation of forest resources in order to provide for the needs of present and future generations. In addition to establishing new tree species suitable for all areas, honourable Members will be expected to provide the lead in our efforts to plant and protect trees from destruction.

Matters concerning drought and desertification must continue to occupy a high priority in our planning. This is because the survival of all living things depends on the state of our soil. It is as a result of this realization that my Government has always been at the forefront in co-operating with other countries in our region to combat drought and desertification. As honourable Members will recall, Kenya participated actively in the setting up of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Desertification. This culminated in my travelling to Djibouti, in January this year, to sign the agreement establishing the regional body. Kenya also participated in the international conference on "Trees and the Forest" held in Paris, France last month. I assure this House that my Government will continue to co-operate with the international community in finding solutions to the problems of environmental degradation which affects the entire humanity.

Mr. Speaker, before I leave this whole area of intended amendments to various Acts within our legal system, I would like to touch on two other legislations which we intend to update and amend. Honourable Members will no doubt agree with me that Kenya has come a long way from the position which obtained at independence regarding the provision of social security for our workers. It will be recalled that during the colonial era, the only protective measures operating for wage earners was in respect of employment injury in the form of workers' compensation. We have since introduced the National Social Security Fund, as a compulsory savings scheme for wage earners. The objective here is to protect both workers and their families against social distress which could arise from sickness, invalidity, old age or death of the bread-winner in a family.

The National Social Security Fund Act of 1967 was revised fifteen years ago, however, its contributors and coverage still remain limited to certain categories of wage earners. The Government has plans to extend the scope of coverage of this scheme to all economically active persons in the country, as a first step towards the attainment of the long-term objectives of the scheme, Parliament will be asked to debate amendments to the Act which will seek

to establish the National Social Security Fund Board of Trustees as a corporate body to manage the fund. The proposed amendments will also make it possible for public servants and other workers to draw their benefits without delay upon their retirement.

Another important section of our law which we have had to amend from time to time is the Traffic Act, Chapter 403. Many able-bodied Kenyans and even innocent children have lost their lives unnecessarily as a result of motor accidents. My Government is determined to curb these deaths on our roads. I have no doubt that honourable members will be at the forefront in making practical suggestions to improve road safety when we debate the traffic Amendment Bill, 1986 which has already been published. And let me emphasize here that while the Government will do everything possible within its powers to reduce the carnage on our roads, it is ultimately the duty of everyone: leaders; law enforcement officers; and all road users, to abide by the rules and regulations that we shall pass in this House, all of us must therefore play our part to achieve what is desirable for our society: to reduce motor accidents which none of us want.

Mr. Speaker, I have been discussing for some time, a list of amendments we intend to introduce to various Acts. The list is not exhaustive. There are several new bills in various stages of preparation which my Government will propose for debate in the House during this session. This will therefore be a busy session for us all.

While our main concern must invariably be to deliberate on these important matters of concern to our own society, we must also bear in mind that Kenya is an inseparable part of the wider international community. As such, we cannot afford to be oblivious to what takes place elsewhere, particularly in those countries with whom we share common borders.

We all accept, I am sure, that as a pre-requisite for orderly and systematic economic development, this region and indeed the entire continent of Africa has no option but to foster an atmosphere of peace and stability. This is the reason why my Government has spared no efforts in the search for peace in our region. I am

pleased to note that during the Summit Meeting in Djibouti early this year, the Heads of State of Somalia and Ethiopia had an opportunity to discuss areas of misunderstanding, and were able to open a dialogue between them. Kenya wishes them well, and we look forward to the day when the two countries will work out a common strategy for lasting peace.

I am also pleased to inform the House that during my recent visit to Zaire I had very useful discussions with my colleagues from Rwanda, ██████████, Uganda and Zaire. Later this month, we shall hold another meeting in Kampala, Uganda to review social, political and economic matters in our region.

Regarding the situation in southern Africa, it is most disheartening that the Pretoria regime continues to flout resolutions of the international community with impunity. If all states demonstrate the necessary political will to support the resolutions of the United Nations, South Africa's reign of terror would end and Namibia would soon be free. We believe today, as we have done always, that the presence of foreign troops in Angola has nothing to do with the independence of Namibia. It is a question exclusively between the sovereign states of Angola and Cuba. The racist regime of Pretoria and their collaborators should know that we in Kenya, are determined to assist our brothers in that country. We shall continue to support them in their just struggle for equality and human dignity, with all the resources at our disposal.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude my address today by reminding honourable Members, that we are all privileged to sit in this House. And while it is very easy for us to engage in unproductive debates which may attract the attention of the media, we must not forget that the purpose of Parliament goes far beyond self-glorification or mere personal controversies.

I believe that all of us here today, have had the opportunity to understand the magnitude of our responsibility to our people. We all know what is expected of us. We are also fully aware that those who elected us to make decisions on their behalf are constantly judging our performance. We are duty bound to preserve the

dignity and honour of this House by devoting our work here to the service of our people. This can only be done through hard work in understanding all issues we discuss and preparing our statements with the expectations of our people at the forefront in our minds.

I trust that this is the spirit which will guide our deliberations during this session and in future as we engage ourselves in the important task of mapping the future of our great nation.

Thank you,

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