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# Speech

by

His Excellency

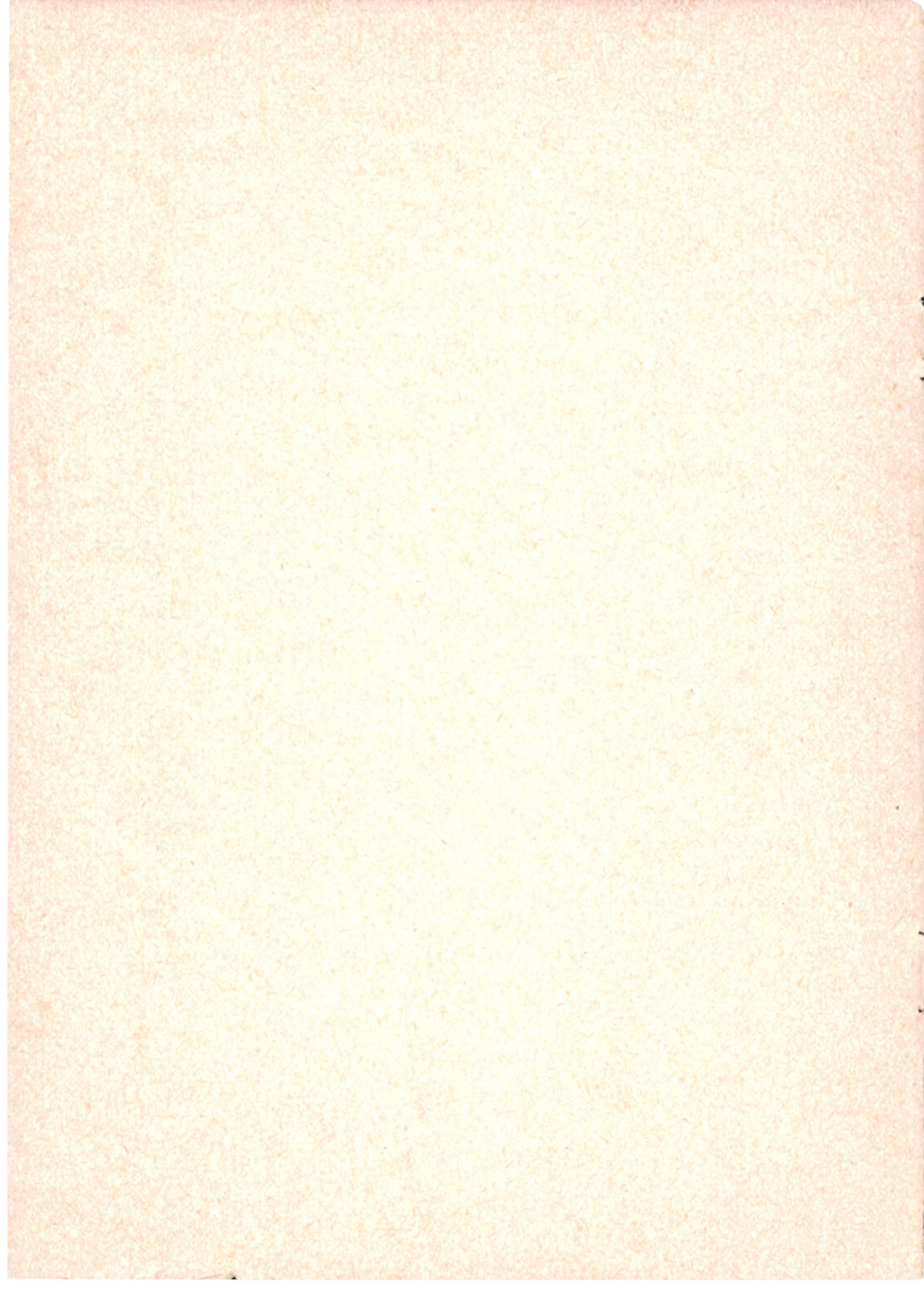
Hon. Daniel T. arap Moi, C.G.H., M.P.

during the

State Opening of Parliament

on

Tuesday, 15th March, 1983



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT DURING  
THE STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT—  
TUESDAY, 15th MARCH, 1983**

MR SPEAKER,

The Institution of our Parliament has now become both sophisticated and systematic in nature. But there is always scope—in public affairs—for continuous constructive analysis and re-adjustments. Today, therefore, I shall be making some factual statements, with inevitable reference to forthcoming legislation. My principal concern will however relate to the over-all perspective regarding fundamental national issues and concepts.

Whenever I return from journeys to other countries, I have always been able to report, with satisfaction, that the Republic of Kenya is held in high international esteem. The nation expects this honourable House to project that image at all times. From the honourable Members, our people expect effective leadership, coupled with a sense of faithful commitment to the rule of law.

So at this juncture, I would like to impress upon honourable Members the importance of maintaining the keenest interest in what is happening in the whole country and the world at large. It is vital that Members contributions should reflect—in a mature and creative manner—the clear understanding of our past history, achievements, current difficulties and aspirations of our people. Above all, let me emphasize that this Parliament is a place of serious national business and not a forum for outpouring of individual emotion. The enormous responsibility borne by this House could never be satisfactorily discharged if honourable Members placed concern for personal and individual development above their duty and responsibilities in the cause of national unity and progress.

Mr. Speaker, on an earlier occasion, when presiding over a similar ceremony, the bulk of my address was inescapably concerned with detailed economic issues. Today, I wish to indicate the manner in which consequential ideas and policies are currently evolving, and how they should be harnessed in the interests of the nation as a whole.

As a background, honourable Members will now have had ample opportunity to study Sessional Paper No. 4—entitled *Development Prospects and Policies*—alongside the Report of the Working Party on Government Expenditures. These documents outline ways in which our country must adjust to harsh international circumstances, and concurrent means by which we can maintain development momentum through the more effective mobilization of domestic resources. So in general terms, basic elements of future strategy have been properly amplified.

Fuller descriptions and projections of such strategy will—of course—be contained in the Fifth Development Plan. This important document will be published during the Twentieth Independence Anniversary celebrations, in December this year.

The new Plan will explain, in detail, everything that my Government means when we talk about mobilizing resources. Such a concept reaches far beyond self-help and Harambee activities—although these will continue to be vitally important. The strategy must embody—among other things—the promotion of domestic savings, and conservation of the natural environment to ensure a sustainable yield from natural resources. Then there will be details related to the work of District Development Committees, and the revitalized role of the private sector in all economic fields.

Apart from all this, the House and indeed the nation must clearly understand that, while there have been many factors contributing to a decline in Government revenues, demands for Government expenditure have been increasing in every direction. So in order to balance our account-books, we are left with no viable option except to restrain the growth of public expenditures. Accordingly, we are examining various cost-sharing arrangements, applicable to those who can afford to pay something towards education, health and other public services. And where people cannot pay in cash, then public outlay on constructional projects might be reduced through the local contribution of time and labour. Let me emphasize again in this whole context, that the Government is simply the instrument for spending

public funds that are scrutinized and approved by Parliament. We are in this together, and it is in everybody's vital interests that—by whatever means—available money is stretched as far as it will go. In the meantime, the Government has taken the lead in effecting specific curtailment of public expenditures, side by side with reinforced revenue collection measures.

Mr. Speaker, as the House will know, several studies—reaching across the whole spectrum of public affairs—are at present being undertaken by working parties, commissions and by technical groups within Ministries and Departments. Many important practical issues are being explored including district planning, energy policy, agricultural marketing, unemployment and manpower. I wish therefore at this point, to express appreciation of the assistance given to all these study-groups by wananchi in all corners of the Republic.

One of the specific working parties has embarked on widespread consultations to get ideas, and in a sense to get a popular mandate, for the definition of a National Code of Conduct. This is not an exercise that is simply confined to the theory of public administration. It represents a serious attempt to re-examine ourselves and chart a proper course for the present and future welfare of the nation. Increasing pressures and demands on this Republic, which are very concrete and very serious, require, from all leaders and decision-makers, a selfless dedication and commitment. All our efforts shall be meaningless and fruitless unless backed by a strong and genuine sense of patriotism and dedication to the national cause of unity, peace and progress. The problems facing us are bad enough. But they could become far worse—in their effect—if the country is burdened as well with inertia and inefficiency, parochial attitudes, selfishness and corruption.

It is critical now that all of us should subscribe to a clearly-stated form of national discipline, which will be approved and issued as a National Code of Conduct. Those who occupy political or executive positions in public life will then have to measure themselves against such an operational code, while candidates aspiring for any election or nomination will have to satisfy

the people and the Government that they live up to capabilities and standards demanded by the code.

The honourable Members, and indeed the whole country will no doubt share my feeling of dissatisfaction with the performance—in recent times—by many of our Local Authorities. There have been some people, within those institutions, who have tended to use official positions for personal gain and influence. There have been, in particular, elected and nominated councillors, who would not leave officers and technical staff free to do their work in an objective manner, but interfered with their activities in blatant pursuit of some personal advantage. Overall, we have witnessed instances of chaotic inefficiency, resulting in total breakdown of important services, followed—much later—by the issue of some absurd excuse. In the midst of this sad state of affairs, the basic services of water, public hygiene and road maintenance have been left largely unattended.

We are aware that—in a number of rural cases—shortage of finance has persisted as a constraint on Local Government services, and that new sources of district-level revenue will have to be found. To this end, the Government is considering the feasibility of introducing a form of development tax, as a means of financing the better operation and maintenance of services at the local level. But at the same time, we shall prescribe more general guidelines regarding revenues and expenditures of Local Authorities. While doing all this, efforts will be made to ensure that we do not inhibit productive agricultural, industrial and commercial activities.

Mr. Speaker, I will now briefly touch upon some of the measures my Government will propose and some of the things we are already doing to broaden economic prospects; to effect savings and instil greater efficiency; and to change the climate of thought underlying mobilization and use of all our resources.

For one thing, we must continue to stimulate and supervise the search for oil. And thus, we shall propose amendments to the relevant laws, making it more readily possible to accord recognized incentives to oil-prospecting companies. It would not be right for

our Republic to offer unusual privileges or terms, but our position must be safeguarded by ability to compete with others. Oil exploration is a high-risk undertaking, and so experienced companies with expensive modern equipment will only commit themselves—these days—if a proposition is sufficiently attractive.

The new power transmission line under construction between Kamburu and Mombasa will go into operation later this year. As soon as this is functional, thermal generation of electricity at Kipevu will cease, resulting in some annual saving of foreign exchange on oil which has hitherto been used for power generation at Kipevu. Apart from being valuable in its own right, I should like to feel that this measure of technological saving, on a national scale, will inspire honourable Members and the entire nation to consider more seriously the question of savings on the use of fuel. We are all aware of the enormous strain the oil import bill is putting on our national economy. Yet not enough has been done in conserving fuel. The nation must face up to this problem in a more determined and practical manner.

Turning now to the industrial sector, manufacturers must realize—more clearly—that current economic problems are largely global in both origin and impact. As related to Kenya, the Government alone cannot introduce some magical solution. It has been made clear, in the recent past, that we will continue to do everything possible to assist manufacturers, through various arrangements and provisions. However, I believe that three accompanying efforts are required. First, there should be more meaningful consultation and co-ordination between the private and the public sectors. Secondly, manufacturers should do more to utilize and base their plans upon locally-available raw materials. And thirdly, we need competent industrialists to produce ideas and take initiatives leading to the local manufacture of spare parts, so as to reduce habitual reliance on imported supplies.

My Government has now launched an Industrial Minerals Project, aimed at strengthening our economic capability by finding and processing locally-available raw materials. Success of this undertaking must result in some immediate saving on imports, and may

lead as well to actual foreign exchange earnings through the export of minerals or finished products. The whole pace of this project is being accelerated by particular mapping schemes and geophysical surveys. And while its scope will be in no way confined, it might be convenient to begin with discovery of raw materials useful in the manufacture of cement and fertilizers.

Regarding the question of infrastructures, particularly road networks, we will be bringing to the House an amendment to existing legislation, aimed at dealing with the problem of overloaded heavy-goods vehicles, which are at present destroying many of our roads years ahead of their planned lifetime. A system of mandatory fines on a sliding scale will—it is hoped—discourage unscrupulous hauliers from their present practice of holding laws in contempt. But there should still be provisions even tougher than this. It will therefore be provided that, in cases of repeated offences, there will be automatic suspension of licences covering the vehicles concerned.

Mr. Speaker, there are other measures which my Government intends to take with the aim of improving the lot of our people.

The first, concerns the quality of academic preparations available to young people who will one day have to take over responsibility for the welfare and progress of our Republic. In the twelve thousand primary schools now established throughout the country, nearly one-third of the teachers are still untrained. Honourable Members will no doubt share my anxiety about this matter. Background circumstances are well known to all of us. But my Government is now determined to phase out these untrained teachers, mainly by giving many of them an opportunity to become qualified. To this end, facilities at sixteen primary teachers' colleges have been expanded, and we have reintroduced the in-service training programme under proper supervision, with three thousand untrained teachers already embarked upon various courses and schemes. Subject to availability of funds a number of new teacher training colleges will also be built.



The House will be aware of the problem of loss of lives on our roads through accidents. The special place of *matatus* is recognized, and their value as a cheap means of transport cannot be denied. It is not the intention of the Government to introduce so many new rules and regulations that the economic operation of *matatus* becomes impossible. But we must try to reduce the number of senseless accidents on the roads. For this purpose, we shall be proposing an amendment to the Traffic Act seeking to include *matatus* within the category of public service vehicles.

Finally, honourable Members will recall that this Parliament has already reacted very favourably to the idea of launching and publishing a Kanu newspaper. I want to assure honourable Members that this project has not been overlooked. We have in fact been examining the best ways of implementing the project. Immediate steps will now be taken, since I share the anxiety of the House to have at public disposal, the kind of newspaper which caters, in a positive manner, for the national interest. The proposed newspaper will place emphasis on this over-riding obligation as opposed to any commercial or parochial considerations.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I would like to stress that the effectiveness of this new Session will depend on the worth of professional contributions made by every honourable Member. I wish to stress further that, in regard to the whole range of fields and factors I have touched upon, our country is moving through a phase of serious economic and financial difficulties.

Stability and progress can be secured, but it will demand from this constitutional structure tolerance rather than emotion, composure more than excitement, and resolve to subdue problems. Most critically perhaps, let there be understanding that all of us share the same commitments to truth, economic advancement and social justice. It follows, therefore, that our tasks can be pursued, honourably and successfully, only upon the unshakable foundations of Peace, Love and Unity.

NYAYO!!!

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
HARAMBEE HOUSE,  
14TH MARCH, 1983.

