



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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# Speech

by

His Excellency

**Hon. Mwai Kibaki, 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 the Fourth Session of  
the Ninth Parliament

on

Tuesday, 21st March, 2006

**HOTUBA YA MHESHIMIWA MWAI KIBAKI, C.G.H.,  
M.P. RAIS NA AMIRI JESHI MKUU WA MAJESHI YA  
JAMHURI YA KENYA WAKATI WA UFUNGUZI RASMI  
KIKAO CHA NNE CHA BUNGE LA TISA, TAREHE 21  
MACHI MWAKA WA 2006**

**BW. SPIKA,**

Ni furaha yangu kuwakaribisha Waheshimiwa Wabunge kwa kikao cha nne cha bunge la tisa. Ninaamini kwamba mapumziko ya sherehe za krisimasi yalitupa sote fursa nzuri ya kukutana na watu wetu tunaowaakilisha. Hivyo basi, tumejitayarisha vilivyo kufafanua na kushughulikia matumaini na ari zao kupitia utungaji wa sheria na kwa kutoa uongozi bora kwa maendeleo.

Nilipofungua kikao cha tatu cha Bunge hili mwezi Machi mwaka jana, nilifafanua ajenda ya maendeleo ya Serikali na Miswada tuliyoipendekeza kuwasilisha kwa Bunge ili kushirikisha utekelezaji wa ajenda hiyo. Tumefaulu katika sehemu nyingi, lakini kuna sehemu nyingine ambako tulishindwa kutimiza ahadi zetu kwa sababu ya kushindwa kupitisha sheria zinazohitajika.

Bila shaka, mwaka uliopita shughuli ya kupitisha sheria haikutimiza matarajio ya watu wetu. Kati ya Miswada 25 ambayo iliwasilishwa Bungeni kwa mjadala na kupitishwa kama sheria ni Miswada 7 ambayo ilipitishwa. Hivyo basi, tunapoanza kikao hiki ningependa kutoa wito kwa Waheshimiwa Wabunge kutilia maanani shughuli za utungaji sheria za nchi yetu. Ni kwa kufanya hivyo ambapo tutafaulu kuimarisha maisha ya watu wetu na pia kuimarisha malengo yetu ya kitaifa ya ustawi wa kijamii na kiuchumi.

**Bw. Spika,**

Wakenya wana matarajio mengi kutoka kwa Bunge. Likiwa nguzo kuu ya Serikali, wakenya hilitazamia Bunge kutoa mwongozo katika kutatua changamoto ambazo zinaendelea

kutukumba. Baadhi ya changamoto hizi ni pamoja na ufufuzi wa uchumi, kushughulikia maswala ya uongozi, na uimarishaji maslahi ya wananchi wetu.

Maongozi tunayotekeleza yanaleta matukio bora katika uchumi. Kwa mfano, tumeendelea kudumisha viwango bora vya ustawi wa kiuchumi katika kipindi cha miaka mitatu iliyopita. Mnamo mwaka wa 2003, ustawi wetu wa kiuchumi ulikuwa aslimia 2.8 ambao uliongezeka hadi aslimia 4.3 mwaka wa 2004. Mwaka uliopita, uchumi wetu uliongezeka kwa aslimia 5 na bado ungali unaimarika. Ni jambo la kutia moyo kuona kwamba ustawi huu unadhihirisha ufufuzi katika sekta nyingi za uchumi. Kwa mfano, katika kipindi cha mwaka uliopita cha mapato na matumizi ya pesa za Serikali, utalii ulikua kwa aslimia 15 ilihali uchukuzi na mawasiliano ukakua kwa aslimia 9.7.

Uongezeaji wa thamani katika sekta ya utengenezaji bidhaa uliimarika kwa aslimia 4.1, biashara ikaongezeka kwa aslimia 9.5 nao ujenzi wa nyumba na muundo msingi ukaongezeka kwa aslimia 3.5. Sekta ya uuzaji bidhaa katika nchi za nje iliimarika huku kilimo cha matunda, mboga na maua kikiongezeka kwa aslimia 13.2 na kilimo cha majani chai kikaongezeka kwa aslimia 11. Matumizi ya nguvu za umeme yaliongezeka kwa aslimia 8 nao utumizi wa mafuta ukaongezeka kwa aslimia 14. Utumizi wa saruji pia uliongezeka kwa aslimia 12.

Katika sekta ya mawasiliano, ustawi wa haraka ulipatikana katika sekta ndogo ya matumizi ya rununu huku kukiwa na watu milioni tano wanaotumia huduma hiyo ambayo ni aslimia 19 ya kuingia kwa huduma hiyo kitaifa. Idadi kubwa ya matumizi ya huduma hii kama wanavyotambua Waheshimiwa Wabunge ni dhihirisho wazi la kuimarika kwa uchumi.

Katika sekta ya uzalishaji, mikopo iliyotolewa kwa sekta ya uchukuzi na mawasiliano iliongezeka kwa aslimia 39 huku mikopo katika sekta ya utengenezaji bidhaa ikiongezeka kwa aslimia 27 nayo mikopo kwa sekta ya ujenzi wa nyumba na miundo msingi ukaongezeka kwa aslimia 22.

Bw. Spika,

Maongozi bora ya usimamizi wa maswala ya fedha na sarafu ambayo yameendelea kuzingatiwa na Serikali yangu yameleta mazingara bora ya uekezaji. Hasa maongozi haya yamesaidia katika kupunguza viwango vya riba. Kutokana na hatua hiyo, mikopo inayotolewa kwa sekta ya kibinafsi imeongezeka kwa aslimia 21. Mbali na hayo, tangu kuanzishwa kwa Halmashauri ya Uekezaji nchini, mwezi Oktoba mwaka jana, tumeona ongezeko la mtiririko wa uekezaji nchini. Idadi ya waekezaji wanaoingia Kenya imeendelea kuongezeka huku uekezaji mpya ukiongezeka maradufu kutoka shilingi bilioni 5.3 mwaka wa 2004 hadi shilingi bilioni 10.5 mwaka jana.

Bila shaka, makampuni mengi ya kimataifa ambayo yalikuwa yameihama Kenya katika mwongo uliopita sasa yamerejea na kufanya makao yao makuu barani Afrika hapa jijini Nairobi. Jiji la Nairobi linaendelea kurejesha hadhi yake kama kituo bora cha kibiashara kwa waekezaji wa kimataifa katika eneo hili. Mbali na hayo, kumekuwa na ongezeko la wafanyabiashara wa Kenya wanaouza bidhaa zao katika eneo la COMESA hasa Kusini mwa Sudan. Uekezaji huu unaimarisha uchumi kama nilivyokuwa nimetaja hapo mwanzoni. Hata hivyo, la muhimu zaidi ni kwamba uekezaji huu unabuni nafasi za kazi kwa vijana wetu.

Bw. Spika,

Tunahitaji kudumisha hali hii na twapaswa kushirikiana kupunguza shughuli zisizofaa za kisiasa ambazo zinaweza kuleta hofu isiyofaa miongoni mwa waekezaji. Hata hivyo Bw. Spika,

kumekuwepo na uimarikaji wa maisha ya wakenya kutokana na ustawi wa kiuchumi na marekebisho ambayo tumekuwa tukitekeleza.

Bw. Spika,

Licha ya kuimarika kwa uchumi, kuna changamoto kali ambazo zinatukabili na sote twapaswa kutafuta njia bora za kushiriki ustawi huu na kuhakikisha kwamba watu wetu wanafurahia manufaa ya ongezeko la uzalishaji. Leo hii watu wapatao milioni 7 kote nchini wanakabiliwa na upungufu wa chakula kutokana na ukosefu wa mvua. Kwa wakati huu. Serikali imetumia zaidi ya shilingi bilioni 3.8 kutoka kwa bajeti yake, shilingi bilioni 1.2 kutoka kwa washirika wa kimaendeleo na zaidi ya shilingi milioni 210 kutoka kwa wakenya na wahisani ili kulisha wanaokabiliwa na njaa. Nachukua fursa hii kuwashukuru wote ambao wameitikia wito wetu wa kutoa msaada.

Hata hivyo, inakisiwa kwamba shilingi bilioni 6.3 zinahitajika ifikapo mwezi Juni mwaka huu ili kushughulikia mahitaji ya idadi inayoongezeka ya wale wanaokabiliwa na baa la njaa. Kwa hivyo, Serikali itaomba nyongeza ya matumizi ya fedha ili kutimiza mahitaji hayo. Ningependa kuongezea kwamba licha ya njaa kali, hatujaagiza nafaka kutoka nje kama ilivyokuwa ikifanyika nyakati zilizopita. Chakula kinachogawanywa nchini kimenunuliwa humu humu. Hatua hii imewatia moyo sana wakulima wetu katika sehemu za ukuzaji vyakula nchini. Hata hivyo chakula kilichoko hakitaweza kutosha kupita mwezi wa Juni mwaka huu.

Hivyo basi, tunachukua hatua za dharura kuagiza nafaka zaidi ili kuziba pengo. Tatizo jingine linaloambatana na hilo ni ukosefu mkubwa wa maji katika sehemu zinazokumbwa na ukame. Serikali imekusanya malori 20 yenye matangi ya maji ambayo kwa wakati huu yanahudumia Mandera, Garissa na Wajir. Kadhalika, Serikali ikishirikiana na Chama cha Msalaba

Mwekundu nchini inafanya mipango ya kutoa malori mengine hamsini yenye matangi ya maji. Malori 25 kati -ya hayo yamewasili nchini na yatapelekwa katika wilaya za Mandera, Wajir, Moyale na Marsabit.

Mbali na hayo, Serikali pia imechimba visima 162 vya maji na vidimbwi vya maji 221 katika wilaya zinazokumbwa na ukame ili kupunguza tatizo la upungufu wa maji. Serikali yangu pia imetenga shilingi bilioni 1.5 katika kipindi cha sasa cha matumizi ya pesa za Serikali ambazo zitatumika kuchimba visima 200 vya maji na vidimbwi vya maji 250 ifikapo mwisho wa kipindi hiki cha matumizi ya pesa za Serikali.

Bw. Spika,

Aslimia 72 ya idadi yetu ya wananchi ni chini ya umri wa miaka 30. Hivyo basi, hatutarajii kufaulu na kudumisha ustawi wa kiuchumi iwapo vijana wetu hawashirikishwi katika shughuli za ustawi wa uchumi wa kitaifa. Nilipozindua maono ya Wizara mpya ya vijana juma lililopita, nilikariri kwamba vijana wanajumuisha sehemu muhimu ya idadi yetu ambao mchango wao kwa ustawi wa taifa hili haujatumika ipasavyo.

Kwa wakati huu, vijana wengi hawana kazi au ni vibarua tu, huku hatua ya kukimbilia mijini ikisababisha kuzuka kwa mitaa mingi ya mabanda. Kutokana na hali hii, Serikali yangu itawasilisha Mswada kuhusu maongozi ya Kitaifa kwa Vijana ili iweze kuchunguzwa na kupitishwa. Nawahimiza Waheshimiwa Wabunge kutoa kipau mbele kwa shughuli hii Bungeni.

Bw. Spika,

Changamoto zinazokumba nchi hii zinahitaji utumishi wa umma wa kujitolea na wenye ubunifu. Ni huduma ya umma ambayo hutoa huduma kwa wananchi. Kadhalika, huduma ya umma hushirikisha mazingara bora kwa shughuli za sekta ya kibinafsi. Ni kutokana na hali hii ambapo Serikali yangu inatilia

maanani marekebisho katika sekta ya umma huku ikizingatia mfumo wa utathimini wa usimamizi wa kazi, kandarasi za utekelezi kazi, utaratibu wa utumizi wa tarakilishi na pia marekebisho katika utendaji kazi wa wizara. Marekebisho haya yananuiwa kuthibiti maadili na uadilifu ili kuhakikisha utoaji wa huduma bora ambayo inatimiza matarajio ya wakenya.

Bw. Spika,

Tulipochukua hatamu za uongozi wa nchi hii tulitambua ufisadi kuwa mojawapo wa kikwazo kikubwa katika ustawi. Hivyo basi, tulianza kufanya marekebisho ya kisheria na kiutawala ili kubuni utaratibu ambao utakabiliana na ufisadi kwa njia mwafaka. Katika kipindi cha miaka mitatu iliyopita, tumepiga hatua bora katika kukabiliana na uovu huo. Kwa wakati huu, kuna zaidi ya kesi 150 za ufisadi zilizowasilishwa mahakamanani na tunatarajia watu wengine zaidi kushtakiwa. Tunachunguza visa vya hapo awali na vya wakati huu vya ufisadi na pia kuimarisha asasi zetu za uongozi kupitia marekebisho ya utawala na pia utoaji mafunzo.

Bw. Spika,

Wale wanaotaka kulifanya jambo la kukabiliana na ufisadi kuwa la kisiasa wapaswa kujua kwamba sio maneno ambayo yataweza kuangamiza uovu huu bali hatua thabiti na mwafaka kama zile tunazochukua. Na kwa wale ambao huenda wakadhani tunacheza, hebu wapate onyo hili kwamba asasi tulizoanzisha ziko imara na kamwe hazitakuwa na huruma na yeyote.

Hata hivyo, ningependa kukariri kwamba vita dhidi ya ufisadi vyapaswa kuendeshwa kutoka pande zote. Ikiwa tupo katika sekta ya umma au sekta ya kibinafsi, sharti sote tuepuke dhihirisho lolote la ufisadi. Hii ndio njia pekee ambapo tutaweza kushinda vita hivi na kuhakikisha kabisa mabadiliko ya fikira za watu.

Bw. Spika,

Udumishaji wa ustawi wa kiuchumi unahitaji mazingara ya amani na salama ambako watu wanaweza kuendesha shughuli zao bila hofu ya kuhangaishwa na wahalifu. Marekebisho yanayotekelezwa na Serikali katika idara ya polisi na mashirika mengine ya kutekeleza sheria tayari yameanza kuzaa matunda. Mawazo ya watu kuhusu kiwango cha visa vya uhalifu katika miji na hasa jijini Nairobi yamebadilika vilivyo. Hali hii imetokana na kazi nzuri ya polisi, ambao baadhi yao wamepoteza maisha yao wakitekeleza wajibu wao. Nawapongeza mashujaa hawa na natuma risala yangu ya rambi rambi kwa wake, waume na watoto wao.

Bw. Spika,

Wakati wa kikao hiki cha Bunge, Serikali itakuwa ikiwasilisha tena Miswada ambayo haikujadiliwa Wabunge walipoende mapumziko mwaka jana. Pia tutakuwa tukiwasilisha Miswada mipya na maongozi ili iweze kujadiliwa. Kutokana na hayo, Serikali itawasilisha tena Mswada wa mwaka huu wa marekebisho ya vipengele vya sheria. Marekebisho hayo yanahitajika kubadili kifungo cha sheria ya mwaka wa 2003 kuhusu maadili ya utumishi wa umma ili kutangaza hadharani mali na madeni ya watumishi wa umma. Marekebisho mengine ni ya kutaka kutafuta kuongezwa kwa idadi ya majaji kutoka 50 hadi 70 na idadi ya majaji wa Mahakama ya Rufani kutoka 11 hadi 15.

Pia tutaongezea idadi ya mahakimu ili kuhakikisha utekelezaji wa haraka wa haki. Ili kuimarisha uchunguzi na upitishaji wa hukumu, Serikali itawasilisha Mswada wa kuwalinda mashahidi. Lengo kuu la Mswada huu ni kuhakikisha kwamba mashahidi wanaojitolea kwa hiari kutoa habari zozote muhimu kwa Serikali na mahakama hawatatambulika au kudhihirishwa katika hatari ya kupewa vitisho.



Mbali na hayo, tutawasilisha Mswada kuhusu mapato ya uhalifu na ufujaji wa fedha ili kuiwezesha Serikali kutwaa fedha na mali zilizopatikana kwa njia isiyo halali.

Katika sekta ya kilimo, Serikali itawasilisha Miswada kadhaa na maongozi yanayonuiwa kuimarisha kilimo na kuongezea mapato kwa wakulima. Miswada hii inajumuisha:

- Maongozi ya kuongezea ardhi itakayohudumiwa chini ya mpango wa unyunyizaji maji mashamba kutoka hektari 110,000 hadi hektari 530,000;
- Maongozi na uwasilishaji upya wa Mswada wa Pamba wa 2005 ili kufufua sekta ya pamba nchini;
- Mswada pia umetayarishwa kubadilisha Halmashauri ya Pamba Nchini kuwa Halmashauri ya Ustawi wa Pamba;
- Pia kutawasilishwa mapendekezo ya marekebisho kwa kifungo cha sheria kuhusu Kahawa cha 2001 na maongozi ya kufufua sekta ya sukari nchini.

Bw. Spika,

Katika sekta ya biashara, Serikali itawasilisha Miswada inayonuiwa kusaidia ustawi wa biashara ndogo ndogo na za viwango vya kadri na pia usimamizi wa sekta ya vyama vya ushirika.

- Mswada wa Biashara Ndogo Ndogo na za viwango Vya Kadri;
- Mswada wa Amana ya Kupata Ufadhili kutoka kwa Mashirika ya Kifedha wa mwaka wa 2005 pamoja na;
- Mswada wa Vyama vya Akiba na Mikopo.

Bw. Spika,

Katika sekta ya Uchukuzi, Serikali itawasilisha marekebisho kwa kifungo cha kutoa leseni za uchukuzi ili kuwarahisishia wananchi kupata leseni. Kifungo hiki pia kitawawezesha wenye magari ya uchukuzi kubadili leseni zao wakati wowote wa mwaka.

Bw. Spika,

Serikali inatambua kwamba utumizi wa tarakilishi utaharakisha utoaji huduma kwa wananchi na pia kwa ustawi wa nchi kwa jumla. Hivyo basi, Serikali imeidhinisha mwongozo wa maongozi ya kitaifa kwa ustawi wa sekta ya teknolojia ya habari na mawasiliano. Serikali itawasilisha Bungeni maongozi kuhusu teknolojia ya habari na mawasiliano na Mswada wa mawasiliano wa mwaka huu ambao utachukua mahala pa kifungo cha sheria ya mawasiliano nchini cha 1998.

Bw. Spika,

Ili kuthibiti na kushirikisha jinsia katika ustawi, Maongozi kuhusu Usawa na Ustawi wa Kijinsia yamekamili na yatawasilishwa Bungeni kwa majadiliano. Natazamia kuidhinishwa kwa maongozi haya muhimu ili kushirikisha kuwapa shime wanawake.

Bw. Spika,

Ustawi wa mabaraza ya miji ni muhimu kwa utoaji wa huduma za kimsingi kwa wananchi na ustawi wa nchi kwa ujumla. Ili kuimarisha usimamizi wa mabaraza ya wilaya, Serikali itapendekeza Mswada wa kubuni Halmashauri ya Kusimamia na Kuthibiti Mabaraza ya Wilaya yanayokabiliwa na matatizo ya kifedha.

Serikali pia itawasilisha Mswada kuhusu mabaraza ya Wilaya ambao unanuiwa kusaidia kubuni Jiji kuu la Nairobi. Mswada

huu pia utabuni utaratibu unaohitajika ambao utaidhinisha rasmi Mombasa na Kisumu kuwa miji mikuu.

Bw. Spika,

Miswada mingine itakayowasilishwa Bungeni ni pamoja na:

- Mswada wa Bima ya Malipo ya Afya ya Jamii wa 2004;
- Mswada wa marekebisho wa Uhifadhi na Usimamizi wa Wanyama Pori wa 2004;
- Mswada wa Marekebisho ya Kifungo Kuhusu Sekta ya Mabenki wa 2004;
- Mswada Kuhusu Vyama vya Kisiasa ambao unanuiwa kuthibiti demokrasia kwa kutoa utaratibu bora wa usajili, usimamizi wa kidemokrasia na ufadhili wa vyama hivyo na Serikali pamoja na;
- Mswada Kuhusu Maongozi ya Kigeni kwa madhumuni ya kuendeleza maslahi ya kiuchumi na kijamii ya taifa la Kenya.

Bw. Spika,

Kabla sijatamatisha, nina furaha kutangaza ziara ya wiki hii ya Rais Jakaya Kikwete wa Tanzania hapa nchini.

Tutatuma barua za makaribisho kwa Waheshimiwa Wabunge kwa dhifa ya kitaifa siku ya Jumamosi tarehe 25 mwezi huu wa Machi ambayo nitaanda kwa heshima ya Rais Jakaya Kikwete ambaye atafanya ziara ya kujifahamisha nchini.

Ningependa kukariri kwamba Serikali yangu itaendelea kushirikiana na washirika wetu katika Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki ili kuafikia shirikisho la kisiasa katika eneo la Afrika Mashariki. Nina furaha kusema kwamba hatua tulizopiga kufikia wakati huu kuhusiana na ushirikishi huo zimechangia kwa kiasi kikubwa kiwango cha biashara. Kwa mfano, kiwango cha

biashara kati ya Kenya na nchi wanachama wa soko la pamoja la mashariki na Kusini mwa Afrika-COMESA kiliongezeka kutoka aslimia 28 hadi aslimia 46 katika kipindi cha miaka 5 iliyopita.

Bw. Spika,

Ni muhimu kutambua kwamba kubuniwa kwa mashirika ya kibiashara ya kanda kumepanua biashara ya kigeni ya Kenya. Kwa wakati huu tunafanya biashara zaidi na majirani wetu wa karibu. Kuna dalili za kuongezeka kwa biashara hii zaidi hasa huku amani ikiingia Kusini mwa Sudan na nchini Somalia. Uimarishaji wa uhusiano wetu na majirani wetu na nchi za kanda hii ni muhimu sana kwa maongozi yetu ya kigeni.

Licha ya matokeo ya kura ya maoni mwaka jana, Serikali imejitolea kutimiza ahadi yake ya kutoa katiba mpya. Hivyo basi, hivi majuzi niliteuwa Kamati ya Watu Mashuhuri kukadiria utaratibu wa marekebisho ya katiba na kutoa ushauri kuhusu njia mwafaka ya kukamilisha utaratibu huo.

Bw. Spika,

Nchi yetu ina uwezo mkubwa wa kupata maendeleo ya haraka ya kijamii na kiuchumi. Hata ingawa tuna watu wa tamaduni, lugha na dini mbali mbali, tuna msingi sawa kama wakenya na hili ndilo linalofanya nchi hii kuwa ya kipekee. Bila shaka, sote twapaswa kujivunia kuwa wakenya.

Tukiwa viongozi na raia, hebu na tutumie kila fursa kuangazia maadili ambayo yameifanya nchi hii kuwa ya kipekee na makao bora kwetu sote. Katika kufuatilia malengo ya kisiasa, baadhi ya viongozi wamejaribu kuchochea utofauti wa kikabila na hivyo kuleta migawanyiko miongoni mwa watu wetu. Hali hii inadhihirika sana wakati unasikiza matamshi ya baadhi ya viongozi wetu kama inavyoripotiwa na vyombo vya habari. Hebu tuwaache watu watathimini uongozi katika msingi wa mwelekeo na maendeleo yanayoletwa na kiongozi kwa

wananchi na wala sio propaganda tupu inayonuiwa kuzusha chuki na migawanyiko miongoni mwa wananchi.

Bw. Spika,

Ufanisi wa Kenya umepatikana kupitia heshima za kimsingi kwa watu binafsi na uzingativu wa sheria na utangamano. Hivyo basi, Serikali yangu itaendelea kuheshimu na kulinda haki ya kutoa maoni na utangamano. Hizi ni nguzo muhimu za kanuni za demokrasia yetu ambazo Serikali yangu itazingatia daima.

Bw. Spika,

Hata ingawa uhuru wa vyombo vya habari unatambulika, ni dhahiri kwamba uhuru huu sharti utekelezwe kwa njia ya uwajibikaji. Uandishi, wenye lengo, wa haki na wa usahihi wapaswa kuwa msingi wa taaluma ya uandishi. Ni haki ya wananchi kupata habari sahihi na za ukweli. Hivyo basi sharti vyombo vya habari kuhakikisha usahihi wa taarifa zao, kwani haijalishi utakalofanya kuomba msamaha na kusahihisha kile kilichochapishwa, kamwe hautaweza kubadili uharibifu uliofanywa.

Mwishowe, Bw. Spika, nimeangazia ajenda ya sheria ambazo Serikali yangu itakuwa ikiwasilisha Bungeni ili kuimarisha shughuli za kiuchumi, mapato na kuboresha maisha ya wananchi wetu. Hivyo, nawahimiza Waheshimiwa Wabunge kuzingatia zaidi maswala halisi yanayowaathiri watu wetu na kuzingatia ajenda ya utungaji sheria iliyowasilishwa Bungeni.

Na kwa hayo, Bw. Spika, ni fursa yangu kutangaza ufunguzi rasmi wa Kikao cha Nne cha Bunge la Tisa.

*AHSANTENI NA MUNGU AWABARIKI NYOTE.*

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY HON. MWAI KIBAKI,  
C.G.H., M.P. PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-  
CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF KENYA ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL  
OPENING OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE NINTH  
PARLIAMENT, 21ST MARCH, 2006**

MR. SPEAKER,

I am pleased to welcome Honourable Members to the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament. I trust that the Christmas recess afforded us all a good opportunity to spend time with our constituents. We are, therefore, better equipped to articulate our people's hopes and aspirations through legislation and by providing appropriate leadership for development.

When I opened the Third Session in March last year, I outlined my Government's development agenda and the Bills we proposed to present to the House to facilitate implementation of that agenda. We have had success in many areas, but there are a number of other areas where we were unable to fulfil our commitments because of failure to pass appropriate legislation.

Indeed, last year, our legislative performance did not meet the expectations of our people. Out of the 25 Bills that were presented to Parliament for debate and enactment, only seven were concluded. As we commence this Session, therefore, I would like to appeal to Honourable Members to focus more on the legislative priorities of our country. It is only by doing so, that we will succeed in improving the lives of our people and advancing our national goals of socio-economic development.

Mr. Speaker,

The Kenyan people place a lot of responsibility and expectations on the institution of Parliament. As the supreme organ of the State, Parliament is looked upon by Kenyans to provide leadership in tackling the challenges that continue to

confront us. Some of these challenges include revival of the economy, addressing governance issues and enhancing the social well-being of our people.

The policies we are implementing are producing remarkable results in economic performance. For instance, we have maintained positive economic growth rates throughout the last three years. In the year 2003, our economic growth rate was 2.8 per cent, which rose to 4.3 per cent in 2004. Last year, our economy grew by 5 per cent and is still improving. This improved performance reflects continued recovery in most sectors of the economy. For example, in the last fiscal year, tourism grew by 15 per cent, while transport and communications grew by 9.7 per cent.

Value addition in manufacturing, trade, and building and construction also recorded growth rates of 4.1 per cent, 9.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively. The export sector also performed well with horticulture growing by 13.2 per cent and tea by 11 per cent. Electricity and fuel consumption expanded by 8 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Cement consumption also expanded by 12 per cent.

In communications, rapid growth was achieved in the mobile phones sub-sector, with 5.5 million connections which represent a 19 per cent national penetration. The high demand for these services and utilities is, as Honourable Members well know, an indication of an expanding economy.

In the productive sector, credit to transport and communications increased by 39 per cent, while credit to the manufacturing, and building and construction sectors increased by 27 per cent and 22 per cent respectively.

Mr. Speaker,

The sound fiscal and monetary policy that my Government has continued to pursue has resulted in a favourable environment

for investment. In particular, these policies have resulted in lower interest rates. As a result, credit to the private sector expanded by 21 per cent. Moreover, since the establishment of the Kenya Investment Authority in October last year, we have seen significant improvement in the flow of investments into the country. The number of investors coming to Kenya has continued to grow with the value of new investments doubling from 5.3 billion shillings in 2004 to 10.5 billion last year.

Indeed, many of the multi-national companies which had relocated from Kenya in the last decade have now returned and made Nairobi their African headquarters. Nairobi is gradually reclaiming its status as a regional hub for international investors. Further, there has been a steady increase in Kenyan traders exporting into the COMESA region, especially Southern Sudan. These investments are creating the economic expansion that I mentioned earlier. But more important, they are also creating high quality jobs for our young people.

Mr. Speaker,

We need to sustain this momentum and we should all work together to minimize negative political activities that can create unjustified fear or uncertainty amongst investors. Overall, Mr. Speaker, there has been a significant improvement in the way of life of many Kenyans as a result of the economic and reform measures we have been implementing.

Mr. Speaker,

Despite the improved economic situation, there are serious challenges that remain and we must all seek more innovative ways of sharing the growth and ensuring that more of our people enjoy the benefits of increased production. Today, about 5 million people throughout the country are experiencing food shortages as a result of failed rains. As of now, the Government has spent over 3.8 billion shillings from its own budget, 1.2



billion from Development Partners and over 210 million shillings from voluntary contributions by Kenyans and well-wishers to feed the needy. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have generously responded to our appeal for assistance.

However, it is estimated that an additional 6.3 billion shillings is required up to the end of June to meet the increasing needs of the growing numbers of those affected by the famine. The Government will, therefore, be requesting for supplementary appropriations to meet the additional requirements. I would like to add that despite the severity of the famine, we have not had to resort to massive importation of grains as often happened in the past. All the food being distributed so far has been sourced locally. This is a major boost to farmers in the food-growing areas of our country. However, the available food stocks will not last beyond June this year.

We are, therefore, making urgent arrangements to import additional grains to bridge the gap. Closely related to this is the severe water shortage facing populations in the drought-stricken areas. The Government has mobilized 20 water tankers which are currently in operation in Mandera, Garissa and Wajir. The Government has also organized, together with Kenya Red Cross Society, for an additional 50 water tankers. 25 of these have already arrived in the country and will be deployed to Mandera, Wajir, Moyale and Marsabit districts. Furthermore, the Government has since last year, drilled 162 boreholes and 221 pans in the drought-stricken districts to alleviate the severe water shortage. My Government has also earmarked 1.5 billion shillings this financial year that will be used to construct an additional 200 boreholes and 250 water pans by the end of this calendar year.

Mr. Speaker,

Seventy two per cent of our population is below the age of 30 years. We, therefore, cannot expect to achieve and sustain rapid economic growth unless the youth are fully integrated in our nation's economic activities. When I launched the Vision for the new Ministry of State for Youth Affairs last week, I emphasized that the youth constitute a critical mass of our population whose contribution to the growth of this nation has not been adequately tapped.

At the moment, many of our youth remain unemployed or under-employed, while rapid urbanization has led to social strains due to the mushrooming of informal settlements. My Government will, therefore, be tabling a sessional paper on the National Youth Policy and legislation for consideration. I urge Honourable Members to accord this priority in the business of the House.

Mr. Speaker,

The challenges facing our country require a more responsive and innovative public service. It is the public service that provides services to Wananchi. It also provides facilitation and an enabling environment for the private sector operations. It is for this reason that my Government is according high priority to reforms in the public service, focusing on result-based management, performance contracting, e-government and restructuring of the ministerial portfolios. These reforms aim at instilling ethics and efficiency so as to ensure that the quality of service delivery meets the expectations of the people of Kenya.

Mr. Speaker,

When we took over the leadership of this country, we identified corruption as one of the most serious obstacles to development. We, therefore, embarked on major legislative and administrative reforms to create a system that fights corruption in a sustainable way. In the last three years, we have made significant gains in the fight against graft. There are currently over 150 anti-corruption cases before our courts and we expect more people to be prosecuted. We are investigating both old and new cases of corruption and also strengthening our governance structures through administrative reforms and training.

Mr. Speaker,

Those who seek to politicize the fight against corruption should know that it is not words that will eradicate the vice, but firm and determined actions such as we are taking. And for those who may be tempted to test our resolve, let them be warned that the institutions we have put in place are alert, and will spare no one.

However, I would like to emphasize that the war against corruption should be fought from all directions. Whether we are in the public sector or the private sector, we have to shun all manifestation of corruption. That is the only way we will be able to win this fight and ensure a complete change in mindset.

Mr. Speaker,

Sustaining economic development requires a peaceful and secure environment where people can go about their productive activities without fear of being molested by criminal elements. The reform measures being implemented by my Government in the Police and other law-enforcement agencies are already producing positive results. Public perception about the level of crime in our urban areas and especially Nairobi has substantially improved. All this is because of the good work of the police,

some of whom have lost their lives in the course of duty. I salute these brave heroes and send my condolences to their wives, husbands and children.

Mr. Speaker,

During this Session of Parliament, the Government will be re-tableting Bills which lapsed when the House went on recess last year. We will also be introducing new Bills and Sessional Papers for consideration. In this regard, the Government will re-table the Statute (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2006. The Bill seeks to, among other things, amend the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003, to make declarations of assets and liabilities open to public scrutiny. Other amendments will also seek to increase the number of Judges from 50 to 70 and Judges of Appeal from 11 to 15.

We will also be increasing the number of magistrates so as to ensure speedy administration of justice. In order to strengthen investigations and convictions, the Government will table the Witness Protection Bill. The main objective of this Bill is to ensure that witnesses who volunteer useful information to the authorities and the courts are not exposed to intimidation or danger. In addition, we will be tabling the Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering Bill to enable the Government to acquire funds and assets that have been obtained illegally.

Mr. Speaker,

In the agricultural sector, the Government will table several Bills and sessional papers aimed at expanding productivity and raising incomes for farmers. These include:

- A sessional paper to increase the land area under irrigation from the current 110,000 hectares to 530,000 hectares;
- A sessional paper and a re-tableting of the Cotton Bill, 2005 to revitalize the cotton industry;

- A draft bill has also been prepared to transform the Cotton Board of Kenya into a Cotton Development Authority;
- Also to be tabled is the proposed amendments to the Coffee Act, 2001 and a sessional paper on revitalization of the sugar industry.

Mr. Speaker,

In the business sector, the Government will table Bills aimed at supporting the growth of small and medium scale enterprises and regulation of the co-operative sector.

The Government will table:

- A Small and Medium Scale enterprises Bill;
- The Deposit Taking Micro-finance Bill (2005); and
- Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies Bill.

Mr. Speaker,

In the transport sector, the Government will table amendments to the Transport Licensing Act to make it easier for Wananchi to obtain vehicle licences. The Act will also enable public service vehicle operators to renew their licences all year round.

Mr. Speaker,

The Government recognizes that the use of information technology will speed up services to Wananchi and the overall development of our country. To this end, my Government has approved the National Policy guidelines for the development of the ICT sector. The Government will table a sessional paper on ICT and The Kenya Information and Communication Bill (2006) which will replace the current Kenya Communication Act (1998).

Mr. Speaker,

To entrench and institutionalize gender in development, the Sessional Paper on Gender Equality and Development has been finalized and will be submitted to Parliament for consideration. I look forward to the approval of this important sessional paper to facilitate the empowerment of women.

Mr. Speaker,

The development of local authorities is essential for provision of essential services to Wananchi and for the development of the country as a whole. To improve the management of local authorities, the Government will be proposing a Bill for the establishment of a Financial Management and Control Board for local authorities experiencing financial distress.

The Government will also table the Local Authorities Bill, which seeks to provide for the creation of a Metropolitan City of Nairobi. It will also create the necessary legal framework that will formalize the elevation of Mombasa and Kisumu to city status.

Mr. Speaker,

Other Bills to be tabled include:

- The National Social Health Insurance Fund Bill, 2004;
- The Wildlife (Conservation and Management) (Amendment) Bill, 2004;
- The Banking (Amendment) Bill, 2004;
- The Political Parties Bill which aims to entrench democracy by providing an appropriate registration system, democratic management and state-funding; and
- A sessional paper on foreign policy with a greater thrust on advancement of Kenya's economic and social interests.

Mr. Speaker,

Before I conclude my remarks, I am glad to announce the visit this week of the President of Tanzania, His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete.

We will soon be sending invitations to Honourable Members to a dinner this Saturday 25th March, 2006 which I will be hosting in honour of His Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete who will be coming to our country on a familiarization visit.

I would like to reiterate that my Government will continue to work closely with our partners in the East African Community towards economic and political integration of the East African region. I am glad to note that the steps we have taken so far towards integration have resulted in remarkable increase in the volume of trade. For instance, volume of trade between Kenya and COMESA countries has increased from 28 per cent to 46 per cent over the last 5 years.

Mr. Speaker,

It is important to note that the establishment of regional trading blocs have diversified Kenya's foreign trade. We are now trading more with our immediate neighbours. The prospects are even better now due to the peace that is prevailing in Southern Sudan and Somalia. Strengthening our relations with our neighbours and the countries in our region will remain an extremely important dimension of our foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker,

Despite the outcome of the referendum last year, the Government remains committed to delivering on its promise of a new constitution. Towards this end, I recently appointed a Committee of Eminent Persons, to undertake an evaluation of the constitutional review process and to advise on the road map for the conclusion of the process.

Mr. Speaker,

Our country has a lot of potential for realization of rapid social and economic development. Although we have people of diverse cultures, languages and religions, we have a common bond as Kenyans and this is what makes our country great. Indeed, we should all be proud of being Kenyans.

As leaders and citizens, let us use every opportunity to highlight the virtues that have made this country unique and a beautiful home for all of us. In the pursuit of political objectives, some leaders have attempted to exploit ethnic differences thus creating divisions among our people. This situation is most evident when one listens to the utterances of some of our leaders as reported in the media. Let the people judge leadership on the basis of the positive direction and development that a leader is bringing to the people and not empty propaganda aimed at creating hatred and divisions amongst the people.

Mr. Speaker,

Kenya's phenomenal progress has been achieved through the respect of the fundamental rights of the individual, law and order. In this regard, my Government will continue to nurture and protect freedom of expression and assembly. These are important pillars of our democratic principles, which my Government continue to respect and will always uphold.

Nevertheless, although the freedom of the media cannot be over-emphasized, it is clear that freedom must be exercised within the bounds of responsibility. Objective, fair and accurate reporting should be part and parcel of professional journalism. It is the right of the people to receive accurate and truthful information. The media should, therefore, seek to verify the accuracy of their reports because no matter what you do to



apologize and correct what has been published, you can never undo the damage that has been done.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have highlighted the legislative agenda that my Government will be presenting to the House in this session so as to enhance economic activity, improve incomes and make the lives of our people better. I, therefore, urge Honourable Members to focus more on the real issues that affect our people and concentrate on the legislative agenda that is before the House.

With these remarks, Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to declare this Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament officially open.

*THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.*