



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MADARAKA DAY

Message to the Nation



Hotuba ya
Mheshimiwa Rais
Daniel T. arap Moi

1st June, 1997

**HOTUBA YA RAIS DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P.,
WAKATI WA KUADHIMISHA SIKU KUU YA
MADARAKA, JUMAPILI, JUNI 1, 1997**

NDUGU RAIS MKAPA,
WAKENYA WENZANGU,
WAGENI MASHUHURI,
MABIBI NA MABWANA,

Leo twasherehekea siku kuu ya Madaraka. Siku hii ni ya muhimu sana hapa kwetu Kenya, kwani inatukumbusha jinsi tulivyoweza kujinyakulia Madaraka na kuunda Serikali yetu wenyewe miaka 34 iliyopita. Kwa hivyo, tunapotazama nyuma twajivunia juhudi za waanzilishi wa taifa letu ambao kujitolea kwao katika harakati za kupigania uhuru wetu kumetuwezesha kujiunga na jamii ya mataifa huru.

Siku ya Madaraka ni ya muhimu sana katika historia ya nchi hii na ni nguzo mojawapo ya utafika wetu. Ni kwa sababu hii, Wakenya wanafurahia sana wanapojiunga na marafiki kutoka nchi mbali mbali ili kusherehekea siku hii. Pia tunawashukuru wale wote waliotutumia salamu za heri na baraka kutoka sehemu mbali mbali ulimwenguni.

Leo tumepata bahati kuwa naye hapa ndugu yangu Benjamin Mkapa Rais wa Muungano wa Jamhuri ya Tanzania. Mheshimiwa Ndugu Mkapa, ningependa kwa niaba ya Wakenya wote kukukaribisha katika sherehe hizi zetu za Madaraka kwa moyo mkunjufu. Kuwa nawe hapa hii leo ni baraka kubwa sana kwetu. Na ni dhihirisho kamili la uhusiano mwema ulioko baina ya Tanzania na Kenya. Vile vile inaonyesha wazi mwelekeo wa mataifa ya Afrika Mashariki ya kuwa na ushirikiano thabiti.

Mwezi uliopita tulishuhudia hatua nyingine katika kupanuka kwa Ushirikiano kati ya nchi zetu za Afrika mashariki. Kupanishwa kwa bendera ya ushirikiano wa Afrika Mashariki pamoja

na kuanzishwa kwa hati ya kusafiria, yaani pasipoti ni jambo la kuridhisha. Tumekamilisha mambo mengi tangu tulipoanzisha ushirikiano wa mataifa ya Afrika Mashariki mjini Arusha. Ndugu zangu, Marais wa Tanzania na Uganda pamoja nami tunazingatia kikamilifu lengo la kuwa na soko moja la Afrika Mashariki. Tayari, mipango yetu ya kuongeza ushirikiano kati ya Mataifa yetu imeungwa mkono na jamii ya kimataifa pamoja na wafanya biashara kutoka eneo hili. Bila shaka, hii ndio njia kamili ya kusonga mbele kwa Afrika Mashariki na Kenya.

Hata hivyo tuna ari ya kufanya mengi zaidi. Tumaini langu kwa siku zijazo ni kuwa na muungano wa kisiasa wa nchi zetu za Afrika Mashariki punde tu tutakapo kamilisha kuunganisha chumi zetu. Tayari, nchi na watu wetu wana misingi ya pamoja ya kihistoria, kilugha na kimila. Huu ni uhusiano wa kikamilifu zaidi kuliko hali ilivyo kati ya mataifa yanayounda masoko mengine ya kibiashara ulimwenguni. Kwa hivyo, muungano wa kisiasa kati ya nchi zetu ni jambo lililo wazi kwetu. Hata hivyo, jambo hili halipaswi kuingiliwa kwa pupa. Kutekelezwa kwa jambo hili kwafaa kutiliwa nguvu na watu wa Afrika Mashariki wenyewe bila kulazimishwa. Mimi nina hakika kwamba kuimarika kwa ushirikiano wetu hata kufikia muungano wa kisiasa ni jambo ambalo litafanyika kwa wakati wake na kwa manufaa yetu sote.

Wakenya Wenzangu,

Hata hivyo, kufanikiwa kwa mambo haya yategemea kuweco kwa amani, kwani amani ndio msingi wa maendeleo na ufanisi. Kama ninavyosema mara kwa mara, wakati kunapokuwa na upotofu wa sheria na utengamano, wale wanaopata taabu zaidi ni raia wasio na hatia. Hii ndio sababu tunasisitiza kudumishwa kwa amani katika kanda hili letu na kwingineko. Ni dhahiri kwamba taifa letu haliwezi kupata ufanisi mkubwa kiuchumi kama kutaendelea kuwa na hali ya ghasia karibu na mipaka yetu. Tunafahamu vyema matatizo na gharama kubwa inayoletwa na kupatia makao idadi kubwa ya wakimbizi wa kivita.

Mwezi uliopita tuliandaa mkutano kati ya Viongozi wa Mataifa ya Uganda na Sudan, ambao uliweza kupunguza mara moja, hali

ya wasiwasi na mvutano baina ya nchi hizo mbili. Vile vile, mtakumbuka kwamba wakati kulipozuka tatizo la wakimbizi katika eneo la Maziwa Makuu mwaka uliopita, tulichukuwa jukumu la kuitisha mkutano wa kanda hilo mjini Nairobi. Mkutano huo wa tarehe tano Novemba na ambao uliungwa mkono kikamilifu na Kamati ya Usalama ya Umoja wa Mataifa, ulikuwa chanzo cha juhudi za kutolewa kwa misaada yakimataifa kwa wakimbizi katika eneo hilo.

Tuliongoza jitihada hizi, kama wapatanishi wasiopendelea upande wowote na kuwajumuisha viongozi wa mataifa mengine ili kupatia uzito swala la kutafuta amani nchini Zaire. Tuliweka jitihada hizi kama njia mojawapo ya kiutu na yenye manufaa kwa wakaazi wa eneo hilo. Kamwe hatukuzingatia kujitafutia makuu ili kujipatia manufaa ya muda mfupi katika maongozi yetu ya nchi za nje. Hii ndiyo sababu, maoni na vitendo vyetu vimeweza kutupatia heshima kubwa kimataifa.

Kenya, kama taifa linaloshikilia uwenyekiti wa juhudi za kuleta amani katika kanda la maziwa makuu, haikuwa na upendeleo wowote. Jambo la muhimu sana katika jitihada hizi ni kuheshimu na kulinda maisha ya binadamu. Kutokea wakati huo nimeweza kupata fursa ya kuzungumza juu ya hali ilivyo na viongozi wa nchi hiyo. Kwa hivyo, sasa tunatambua serikali hiyo mpya. Kenya itafanya kazi pamoja na bwana Laurent Kabila na viongozi wengine ili kuleta amani ya kudumu katika sehemu ya Afrika Mashariki na ya Kati.

Wakenya Wenzangu,

Nimesema mengi juu ya hali ilivyo katika kanda hili maana hatuwezi kupuuza yale mambo yanayoendelea karibu na mipaka yetu. Hata hivyo, kwetu sisi, siku kuu ya madaraka inatupatia fursa ya kukumbuka mambo muhimu kuhusu nchi yetu na huku tukitafakari matarajio ya siku zijazo.

Moja ya mambo muhimu tunayotarajia mwaka huu ni uchaguzi mkuu. Tayari tumepiga hatua kubwa katika jitihada za kuenyesha mambo yetu wenyewe tangu tuchukuwe jukumu hilo. Wapo wengi waliokuwa na shaka kuhusu uwezo wetu wa

kuendesha mambo yetu wenyewe. Wengi wa watu hawa walitabiri kwamba nchi yetu ingeamizwa na migawanyiko na mafarakano ya kikabila. Leo, Wakenya wanaendelea kufurahia amani na uthabiti ambao umetuwezesha kupiga hatua kubwa kimaendeleo. Tumeweza kupata mafanikio haya makubwa kwa ajili ya umoja wetu ambao umekuwa kiini cha jitihada zetu zote. Nina imani kwamba, umoja wetu utaendelea kuwa nguzo muhimu tunapokabiliana na matatizo mbali mbali katika siku za usoni.

Uchaguzi ni mojawapo ya vipimo vinavyo onyesha hali ya kukomaa kwetu kisiasa na kitaifa pia. Kwa sababu hii, mataifa mengi katika ulimwengu yatakuwa na haja kubwa ya kuona jinsi tutakavyo endesha uchaguzi ujao. Kama ilivyokuwa wakati wa uchaguzi uliopita, wengi watakuwa wakitarijia kwamba tutashindwa katika jambo hili. Yashangaza kuona kwamba watu kama hawa wamesahau kwamba Kenya imekuwa ikiandaa uchaguzi wa kidemokrasia mara kwa mara tangu tulipopata uhuru. Hivi ndivyo inavyotakikana kikatiba nasi tumezingatia maongozi ya katiba katika nchi yetu. Wakenya wanafahamu vyema umuhimu wa uchaguzi kwani ni kwa kupitia njia hii, wana weza kuchagua viongozi wanao wapenda na pia, kushiriki kikamilifu katika shughuli za ujenzi wa taifa.

Kwa sababu hii, shughuli za uandikishaji kurâ zilianza tarehe kumi na tisa Mei na zatarajiwa kukamilika kipindi cha majuma matatu. Hivyo, na wahimiza Wakenya wote ambao wamefikia umri wa kupiga kura wajitokeze kwa wingi ili kujiandikisha.

Hata hivyo, ili Wakenya waweze kutimiza wajibu wao wa kikatiba wa kuchagua viongozi wao, ni muhimu kwamba shughuli za upigaji kura zifanywe katika hali iliyo tulivu na isiyokuwa na vitisho vyovyote. Kwa mfano, wakati wa uchaguzi mkuu wa mwaka wa 1992, Wakenya walikataa katakata tabia ya baadhi ya watu fulani ya kupuuza maagizo ya katiba yetu. Jitihada za watu hao kupata uongozi zilikataliwa na wapigaji kura. Hivyo, Wanakenya walionyesha wazi msimamo wao kuhusu katiba ya nchi hii. Yaani, yapasa viongozi wa kisiasa wachukuwe nafasi zao Bungeni kupitia upigaji kura.

Sasa ni jukumu letu sote kuzingatia katiba ya nchi yetu na kuweka imani kwa Wakenya ambao ndio waajiri wetu. Ni sharti tukatae ghasia za aina yoyote hasa zile za kikabila. Jambo hili halina nafasi hata kidogo katika Kenya ya siku hizi na wala halina faida kwa yeyote bali litaathiri jina zuri la nchi yetu ambalo sote tumefanya juhudi kulijenga. Ni lazima kila wakati tukumbuke kwamba sisi ni jamii moja, taifa moja na pia matarajio yetu ya siku zijazo yanalingana. Kama ilivyo katika jamii ya nyumba moja, mara kwa mara kutakuwako na fikira tofauti kuhusu mambo mbali mbali. Hata hivyo, kamwe tusikubali tofauti kama hizo kutumiwa vibaya na wachochezi ambao nia yao ni kudhulumu umoja na uthabiti wa taifa letu.

Kama vile ninavyosema mara nyingi, katiba yetu ndio inayochunga na kuongoza mambo yetu, kwani katiba ndio msingi wa uhuru na uthabiti wa taifa letu. Kwa hivyo katiba ambayo imetuongoza vyema kwa muda huu wote isije ikabadilishwa ovyo ovyo ili kutimiza mahitaji ya muda mfupi.

Kama nilivyo sema hivi karibuni, hali ya kisiasa humu nchini bado haija ruhusu kuweko kwa majadiliano kuhusu jambo muhimu kama katiba ya nchi yetu. Hivyo ni jambo la busara kuwa na majadiliano kama hayo baada ya kumaliza heka heka za shuguli za uchaguzi. Baada ya hapo, kamati itachaguliwa ambayo itahusisha makundi yote yenye maoni kuhusu mabadiliko ya kikatiba. Pia kamati hiyo itachunguza sehemu zote za katiba. Hata hivyo, ili kamati hiyo iweze kufanya kazi yake kikamilifu, yapasa kuwa hali ya utulivu humu nchini.

Moja ya sheria ambayo imejadiliwa sana hivi karibuni ni sheria juu ya udumishaji wa utengamano wa umma. Nina furaha kuwafahamisha Wakenya kwamba Serikali ina mipango ya kufanya mabadiliko fulani katika sheria hii. Sheria mpya ambayo itawasilishwa Bungeni kwa majadiliano hivi karibuni itajulikana kama "Mswada wa Mikutano ya Amani". Sheria hii mpya itachukuwa pahali pa sheria ya utengamano wa umma.

Wakenya Wenzangu,

Wengi wetu walikuwa bado hawajazaliwa wakati tulipojinyakulia uhuru mwaka wa 1963. Hata hivyo, sisi sote tuna jukumu la

kuendeleza taifa hili letu wakati huu tunapojiandaa kuingia karne ijayo. Kwa mafanikio ya kesho, ni lazima tupange leo. Nyinyi kama walipaji kodi na waajiri wetu, mna haki ya kujua mwelekeo wa taifa letu kimaendeleo. Ningependa kuwaeleza kwa kifupi maongozi yetu ya siku zijazo kwa sababu ni nyinyi mtakaovuna matunda ya juhudi hizi.

Kati ya matatizo mengi yanayo kabili nchi yetu, shida kubwa zaidi ni umasikini. Hata ingawa tumepiga hatua kubwa kimaendeleo, kiwango cha umasikini hapa nchini bado ni cha juu. kwa hivyo jambo la muhimu kwa wakati huu ni kukabiliana na kuondoa umasikini. Kwa hivyo, maongozi yetu ya siku zijazo kwa Kenya ni yale ambayo yatazingatia jambo hili. Njia ambazo zitaleta mafanikio ya kiuchumi na kuongeza nafasi za kazi katika kila kiwango cha jamii yetu. Njia ambazo zitaleta hali bora zaidi ya maisha ya wale wasio bahatika. Pia, njia ambazo zitaleta huduma nzuri kwa umma na hasa kuimarisha hali ya afya na elimu.

Kuhusu ugawanyaji wa ardhi ya umma, nimetoa amri kwa Kamishna wa Ardhi kuhakikisha kwamba ardhi ya umma inalindwa na pia kwamba ardhi inatengwa ipasavyo kwa matumizi ya umma. Hivyo, utoaji wa stakabadhi za kumilika ardhi zitatolewa kwa uangalifu na baada ya kuona kwamba kanuni zilizowekwa zimetimizwa. Pia, wakuu wa utawala watahughulishwa ili kuhakikisha kwamba habari kamili kuhusu ardhi imetolewa. Zaidi ya hayo, wazee wa vijiji watahusishwa katika kusuluhisha matatizo yanayo husu ugawaji wa ardhi ili kuhakikisha ya kwamba hakuna Mkenya yeyote atakayepoteza ardhi yake kwa njia isiyokuwa halali.

Wakenya Wenzangu,

Hivi karibuni tumejaribu tunavyoweza kuweka misingi thabiti ya kuimarisha uchumi wetu. Ni jambo lililo wazi kwetu sote kwamba wakati sasa umefika wa kuifanya sekta ya kibinafsi kuwa nguzo thabiti ya uchumi wa nchi yetu ili Serikali iweze kuwa na nafasi ya kushughulikia vilivyo mahitaji ya kijamii na kimaendeleo yanayotukabili. Kwa sababu hii, tumeongeza juhudi katika

kuimarisha hali ya utega uchumi wa nchi hii ili kufanikisha shughuli za sekta ya kibinafsi.

Hata hivyo, jitihada zetu bado zinakumbwa na tatizo kubwa, yaani hali ya kutengana kisiasa baina ya Wakenya. Jambo hili linatatiza juhudi zetu kimaendeleo, na pia huleta chuki na hujuma. Mambo kama haya yanaendelea kuathiri uchumi wetu. Ni lazima tukubali kwamba tunaishi katika ulimwengu wenye ushindani mkubwa. Hivyo, waweka rasilimali watakuja humu nchini ikiwa itabainika kwamba kuna faida ya kufanya hivyo. Ni kweli kwamba, hapa Kenya tumeweza kudumisha amani kwa miaka 34. Hata hivyo ni lazima tuendeleo kudumisha amani katika taifa letu. Kwa mfano wakati sasa umefika kwa Wabunge na walewanaotarajia kugombea uchaguzi kujishughulisha na maswala ya maendeleo ya nchi hii badala ya kusema mambo ambayo huleta chuki.

Lengo langu la siku zijazo ni kuwa na Kenya tulivu na thabiti. Nataka kuona taifa ambapo tofauti za kisiasa hazimaanishi chuki za kibinafsi. Nataka nione taifa ambalo limeimarika kiuchumi. Zaidi ya hayo, ningependa kuona taifa likiwa na amani kamili ya ndani na lililo huru kuelekeza nguvu zake katika kuimarisha maendeleo. Nikwakupitia njia hii tu, tutaweza kuelekeza nguvu zetu katika kukabiliana na adui wetu mkubwa, yaani umaskini.

Nachukuwa fursa hii kuwaahidi Wakenya wenzangu kwamba nitaendelea kujitolea kupigania bila kuchoka, juhudi za kufikia lengo hili. Hii ndio ahadi ninayoweka leo siku hii muhimu ya Madaraka.

AHSANTENI, NA MWENYEZI MUNGU AWABARIKI.

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P.,
ON THE OCCASION OF MADARAKA DAY,
SUNDAY, 1ST JUNE, 1997**

BROTHER PRESIDENT MKAPA,
FELLOW KENYANS,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Today we celebrate Madaraka Day. This is a memorable occasion because on this day 34 years ago, we attained Self-Government and the right to manage our own affairs. Kenyans look back on this day with pride as we honour the founding fathers of our Nation whose self-denial and sacrifice enabled us to join the community of free nations.

Madaraka Day, is part of our history and indeed, part of the fabric of our nationhood. Kenyans are therefore glad to share this joy with friends and well-wishers all over the world. We are particularly grateful to those who have sent us greetings and messages of good will. On this Madaraka Day, I send greetings to all Kenyans and friends of Kenya who have joined us to celebrate this historic occasion.

Today, we are honoured to have with us the President of the United Republic of Tanzania my brother Benjamin Mkapa. Mr. President, may I on behalf of all Kenyans welcome you most warmly to our Madaraka Celebrations. Your presence here today, is not only a testimony of the friendship between Kenya and Tanzania, but a clear indication of the path East Africa has chosen to follow—the path of close co-operation.

Last month saw yet another step forward in the development of our East African co-operation. We now have a flag for our region and also a regional passport. Much has been achieved in the year

since we set up the secretariat of the Commission for East African Co-operation in Arusha. My brother presidents and I are committed to the same goal—to establish a single market for East Africa. Already we have received considerable international support and encouraging interest from the business community. This is truly the way forward for East Africa and Kenya.

But we seek more, and my hope for the longer term is that our present co-operation will develop into a political federation for East Africa, once economic integration is in place. After all, we share common ties of language, history, and culture with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania and Uganda—much closer ties than exist in many of the world's major trading blocks.

Federation is therefore a natural development for us but we should not rush it or put forward too rigid a timetable. The pace must be driven by the people of East Africa themselves, it must not be forced on them. I am, however, confident that it will evolve, to the benefit of us all—given the political will.

My Fellow Kenyans,

So much, will of course depend on peace. Without peace there can be no progress and certainly no development. As I have said on so many occasions, when law and order break down it is the innocent who suffer. This is why we strive continually for peace, both within our region and beyond. We cannot hope to develop fully as a Nation with instability on or near our borders. We know from experience the cost of looking after tens of thousands of refugees.

Last month we were able to initiate a meeting between the Heads of State of Uganda and Sudan which led to an immediate reduction of tension between the two countries. When the refugee crisis erupted in the great lakes region last year; we took the initiative to call for a regional summit in Nairobi. The resolution from the Nairobi summit of 5th November was adopted by the Security Council of the United Nations and spearheaded international humanitarian assistance for the refugees. We acted as impartial mediators, drawing in other heads

of state to lend weight to the search for peace in Zaire. Morally, this was the right thing for us to do. We do not pursue an adventurist foreign policy for possible short-term gain. As a result, our views and actions, which demonstrate our long record of stability, have earned us international respect.

As chairman of the great lakes region peace initiative, Kenya could not afford to be partisan. As always, we were guided by the cardinal principle of upholding the sanctity of human life. I have since had the occasion to discuss the situation with the leadership, and we do recognize the new government. Kenya will work closely with Laurent Kabila and other regional leaders to bring lasting peace in our region.

My Fellow Kenyans,

I discussed the situation in the region first on this occasion because we cannot afford to ignore what is going on around us. But for us, Madaraka Day will continue to be a day for renewal—a time to remind ourselves of the values that this country holds dear. A time for reflection as we face up to the challenges of the future.

This year, one of the challenges we face is the general elections. We have come a long way since we took up the challenge of steering the destiny of our country. At that time, there were many who doubted our ability to manage our affairs in a responsible manner. Some even claimed that our country would be torn apart by internal strife. Today, Kenyans continue to enjoy peace and stability that has made it possible for us to make great strides in various spheres of social and economic development. The successes we have made since the attainment of our independence are the results of the unity of purpose that has guided us in all our endeavours. I am confident that we shall continue to be guided by our unity and sense of responsibility as we prepare to meet the challenges of the years ahead.

Elections present a very special challenge for us as they will reflect on our sense of responsibility as well as our maturity and integrity as a nation. The manner in which we all conduct

ourselves in the period leading to and during the election will be important in the eyes of the world. As has happened before, some will be watching and anticipating that we will fail. Indeed, we find it strange that some people seem to forget that Kenyans have held democratic elections on a regular basis since independence. The holding of regular elections is a constitutional requirement in our country, and we have always supported constitutional rule. By holding regular elections, Kenyans can elect leaders of their choice and also play an active role in directing the course of national events.

Towards this end, the Voter Registration Exercise started on 19th of May and is scheduled to be completed in three weeks time. I therefore urge all eligible Kenyans to obtain their voting cards, so that they can exercise their constitutional right to elect leaders of their choice.

However, for Kenyans to exercise this constitutional right, elections must be held in an atmosphere that is free from threats or violence. In our last elections in 1992, for example, our people decisively rejected the unconstitutional behaviour of some people among us whose ambitions for power had been defeated at the ballot box. The message from Kenyans was for these people to instead take up their places in Parliament through the ballot. It is our duty now to act constitutionally and put our faith in the people of Kenya.

We must reject violence—and all talk of violence, particularly the whipping up of ethnic or racial hatred. This has no place in modern Kenya as it will benefit no one. In fact, it is more likely to create anxiety, particularly among foreign investors and damage the confidence in our country which we have all worked so hard to build.

We must always remember that we belong to one family, one nation and that we share a common destiny. As members of a family, there will always be issues about which we may hold different opinions. We must, however, not allow our differences of opinion to be exploited by those who wish to undermine the unity and stability of our nation.

As I have said on many occasions, our constitution stipulates and regulates our conduct. It is the backbone of our nationhood, our sovereignty and our stability. The constitution that has served us so well should therefore not be subjected to changes that are designed to satisfy short-term interests.

As I have stated recently, the current atmosphere in the country, is not conducive to holding serious and meaningful discussions on a subject of national importance such as the Constitution. For this reason, discussions on the Constitution can only be held meaningfully after the general election. A commission will then be appointed, that will take into account all interested parties. The commission will look into the entire Constitution in order to satisfy the interests of all Kenyans. However, for the commission to carry out its work effectively, discussions must be held in an atmosphere of peace and that is devoid of irrational behaviour.

Another issue, is the Public Order Act which has been the subject of public debate for some time now. I am glad to inform Kenyans today that the Government has considered some amendments to this Law. A new legislation entitled "The Peaceful Assemblies Bill" will soon be presented for debate in Parliament. This new law will replace the Public Order Act.

Fellow Kenyans,

Many of us were not yet born when we attained self Government in 1963. But all of us certainly have the responsibility of progressing this great nation of ours as we move into the next century and into the new millennium. It is our tomorrow for which we must plan today. You as tax payers and our employers are entitled to ask the critical question of us, your leaders. Let me therefore give you a sense of our vision for the future—for you are the ones who will reap the benefits.

Of all the challenges that we face, the greatest is poverty. Although we have made great progress in many areas, the level of poverty in this country is still high. Thus, everything we try to achieve in Government must be directed towards eliminating

poverty. Our vision for Kenya, is therefore one where we have successfully taken challenge—where our economic growth can offer job opportunities at all levels in our society. Where we can give greater security to those who are disadvantaged and provide good public services and improved standards in health and education.

With regard to the utilization of public land, instructions have been issued to the Commissioner of Lands to protect public institutions as well as land that has been set aside for public utilities. The registration of new titles must be done only after the required procedures have been followed thoroughly. In this regard, the Provincial Administration will be consulted fully by the Commissioner of Lands so that the correct information regarding the status of land may be obtained. Furthermore, the role of local elders in resolving disputes on land matters will be strengthened to ensure that no one is dispossessed of his or her land unfairly.

My Fellow Kenyans,

During the last few years, we have created the conditions—not without considerable sacrifice, for sound economic growth. We appreciate the fact that the private sector must become the engine of economic growth, so that Government is free to tackle the many social and development issues that we face. We must also strengthen our infrastructure and create the right atmosphere for investment by the private sector.

But we are still faced with another major problem—the divisiveness of our political system. This drains our energies, breeds antagonism, and has a negative effect on our economic performance. Indeed we must all accept the reality that the World is a competitive place and investors will only come to Kenya if they see a comparative advantage in doing so. It is true, that in Kenya we have been peaceful for 34 years. But we must ensure that Kenya continues to be a nation that is at peace with itself.

In particular, it is now time for both elected Members of Parliament and aspiring candidates to address themselves to issues that concern the development of this country instead of making statements that cause disunity. My vision for the future is for a calmer and more confident Kenya where endless confrontation no longer dominates the domestic agenda. I want to see a nation where political differences do not mean personal antagonism. I want to see a nation which can hold its head up proudly, as the nucleus of a new dynamic economic region.

Above all, I want to see a nation that is free to concentrate her energies on progress and development. Only in this way, shall we be able to harness our energies and confront our single greatest challenge—the challenge of poverty.

I promise you all, Fellow Kenyans, that I will spend the remaining years of my life working tirelessly for this goal. This is the pledge I give you, on this Great National Day.

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL

