

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,  
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE  
OCCASION OF JAMHURI DAY, ON SUNDAY,  
12TH DECEMBER, 1993**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES  
PRESIDENT HASSAN MWINYI OF TANZANIA AND  
PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI OF UGANDA,**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES  
MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,**

**MY FELLOW KENYANS,**

Thirty years ago today we became a free people. Kenya became an independent and sovereign state. That was the culmination of a determined struggle by our people to be free. This day is therefore of great significance in the history of our nation and in the lives of all Kenyans. It is a day of great happiness for all of us; but it is also a day on which we must reflect deeply on our experiences—past and present—in relation to our hopes and aspirations for the years to come. Further, that reflection must be undertaken on the basis of very clear understanding of all the internal and external realities which face us.

But before I say more let me convey to all Kenyans, wherever they may be, my warmest greetings and best wishes. I wish to express my happiness that we are celebrating this important national day together. I also wish to convey, on behalf of all Kenyans, our sincere appreciations to our friends who have sent us greetings and messages of goodwill. It is most gratifying that so many friends in Africa and abroad have remembered us today.

**My Fellow Kenyans,**

A few minutes ago I said that this is a day for deep reflection about our future on the basis of past and present experiences. In that regard, very many significant developments have taken place

in our country, in Africa and other regions of the world over the last 30 years. In our own country for example, about two-thirds of our population were born after independence. We are therefore a young nation. That should be the basis for inspiration to meet future challenges which I will amplify in the course of my speech.

There is no doubt that the future will be challenging. However as we face it we should feel encouraged by the results of our development efforts so far. Moreover we should feel reasonably confident about the future because the basic economic and social foundation for accelerated development in the years to come has been established. We have the people, the social and physical infrastructure for the task. Therefore we should be able to make significant progress in the enlargement of national wealth. Another challenge we must face is that of creation of adequate employment opportunities, and, perhaps the most fundamental challenge of all is that of building a united nation in which each one of us will have the opportunity to make his best contribution to the nation.

I want to briefly touch on what we must do to ensure that our country's future is not only peaceful, stable, and prosperous but also secure. First, let us recognize that there will always be different political challenges in a dynamic society like ours. In the past, we have been basically a one party state. Today we have a multi-party political system, which means there is, and will always be, a ruling party while other parties are in the opposition. This new system requires enlightened leadership by party leaders, tolerance and respect for national institutions. In particular, each political party must accept and respect the decision of the people and work with the winning party in the national good.

In this regard, I have been disturbed by those political leaders in this country who have been campaigning against their motherland being given financial support by our friends abroad. Equally, it is saddening to note that some individuals have been promoting tribalism as a strategy to enhance or protect their personal or tribal interests. Negative politics of this kind is something Kenyans can ill-afford. We accept that a multi-party political system involves competition. But that competition must not be carried out at the

expense of people's interests now and in future. Instead of such negative politics, all leaders, whether in politics, religion or other professions, should work together towards the promotion of positive thinking and action by our people. The truth of the matter is that our people need peace and food security for their livelihood. Hence the urgent need to address ourselves to important issues such as job creation, achievement of national food security, elimination of poverty, diversification of our exports through industrialization and, very fundamentally, removal of tribalism, nepotism and other anti-national and anti-social practices from our country. I repeat that this is a task for all of us, not just the Government or the ruling party. At this point, I wish to recognize and thank those members of the opposition who have made positive and useful contributions to national development in and outside parliament.

As I have said many times before, we must learn from our experiences and also experiences of others. And if we are willing to learn from those experiences then one vital task we must always work on systematically is peace and national cohesion. And as we do that we must realize that Kenya, and indeed Africa as a whole, is very much on its own and must design its own solutions. This is clear in the face of the fact that the most important items on the national agenda of most developed countries, are national issues. International issues, especially development assistance to poor countries, appear to be receiving less and less attention. We must therefore recognize and accept that the solution to our problems will have to be designed and executed by us.

This is not to say that we do not value the support we get from donors by way of development assistance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank again those donors who met recently in Paris at the consultative group meeting for Kenya for agreeing on the resumption of financial support to our country. That support will help enormously in the short term to strengthen our economy which must be based on accelerated industrialization. However, our aim must be to reduce, as rapidly as possible, the significance of foreign assistance in the management of our economy. In the next few years with adequate external support we expect to get out of this foreign assistance dependency syndrome.

In this respect, I would like to emphasize that in the next phase of our national development we shall rely a great deal more on private investment. Here the focus should not only be on foreign but also domestic investment. My Government will therefore give due attention to the measures needed to promote such investments. In order to accelerate the implementation of this programme, I have issued instructions that a meeting involving local and international companies, banks, and development agencies be organized in Nairobi to discuss future investment opportunities in Kenya. That meeting should be held almost immediately. Consequently, a committee consisting of the relevant ministries and representatives of the private sector will soon be established.

In view of the importance of the proposed meeting, I shall take keen interest in its preparation. I would also like to express my hope that our development and trading partners will take active interest in this exercise.

My Fellow Kenyans,

Before leaving this important subject of investment, let me assure all concerned that my Government is fully committed to the implementation of the economic reforms outlined in the policy framework paper covering the period up to 1996. The details of these reforms are contained in the seventh National Development Plan whose theme is "Resource Mobilization for Sustainable Development".

In effect the implementation of some of the reforms will have to be speeded up; particularly those related to exchange controls. The remaining exchange control regulations shall be removed. This policy decision is intended to reduce administrative red-tape, discourage and eliminate corrupt practices and more importantly, strengthen investor confidence in the Kenya economy. I have therefore today directed the Minister for Finance to urgently take the necessary action on this matter.

Meanwhile, an issue that requires immediate redress is that of payment of interim dividends to foreign shareholders by local companies. The current arrangements on this matter would seem

to discriminate against foreign shareholders. In order to attract and retain foreign investments, I have also today instructed the Minister for Finance to remove the existing variances and harmonize the payment procedures for interim dividends as soon as practicable and in any case not later than 1st January, 1994.

Another area of concern to me is that of pricing and marketing of cereals especially maize. In order to encourage higher production and at the same time guarantee favourable returns to farmers, my Government will shortly announce the necessary policy changes on pricing and marketing of maize that will reflect the liberalized economic environment.

Let me also take this opportunity to inform our businessmen and foreign investors, that while we shall continue to undertake these reforms in a vigorous manner we do not intend to transform Kenya into a supermarket for foreign goods. The aims of these reforms is to strengthen our country's economic and social development. I do note that Kenya would not benefit from protection of inefficient industries and other enterprises. At the same time we do not want to have our promising industries and enterprises collapse because of imports. This is an area which requires very careful planning; I have therefore given instructions to the Minister responsible to examine and bring up the matter at the Nairobi meeting with the interested groups.

My Dear Kenyans.

My remarks so far have concentrated on economic issues. This is because, there is a direct correlation between political stability and economic progress. Without political stability steady economic progress is impossible to achieve. Conversely, economic stagnation would contribute to political and social instability. For this reason, the task of transforming our economy into an industrial one must remain the responsibility of all Kenyans. That, indeed, is the most important national economic objective ahead of us. This objective must of course be supported by other measures. The on-going constitutional and law reviews form an integral part of the changes being undertaken. These are profound changes whose value the people of this country must be accorded ample time to evaluate, appreciate and adjust accordingly.

While on that subject, let me briefly comment on an issue that has been raised every now and then over the last two years—that a national convention should be held to discuss the manner in which the affairs of this country can be conducted. In my view, this suggestion has been superseded by the existence of an elected parliament in which several political parties and different shades of opinion are represented. Parliament, therefore, is the best forum for such debates. Let us be honest and frank in the management of the affairs of our country and avoid skirting around the real challenges.

I recognize that from time-to-time there will be need to set-up special committees or working parties to examine in detail certain important issues. In this regard, I assure all Kenyans that when such a need arises I shall act without hesitation. But let us all recognize and support the National Assembly as the most appropriate body for debate and recommendations on national issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our destiny as a nation, and a people is primarily our responsibility. Therefore, stronger national unity based on equity, tolerance and recognition that no group of people is more important than another is the most appropriate strategy in pursuing our national goals. Let the diversity of our people and resources be our strength and not otherwise.

What I have said, fellow Kenyans, has many implications. For example, in future our political, religious, community, and other leaders will be judged on the basis of their contribution to the promotion of national unity and development. I have no doubt in my mind that history will gauge the contribution of each one of us to the well-being of this country and her people. I hope your performance and contribution will not be found wanting by posterity.

Fellow Countrymen,

There are other problems which my Government will continue to deal with firmly. These are corruption and other acts of law-

lessness. It must be appreciated that for corruption to take place, at least two parties are involved: The giver and the recipient; a beneficiary and a facilitator.

In addressing the issue of corruption, it is important to note that this anti-social activity is not only immoral but also robs the exchequer of the much needed revenues. The current shortage of drugs in public health institutions and the increasing number of road accidents, for example, can directly or indirectly be attributed to corruption or negligence. This is unacceptable.

Consequently, I have directed the Officer in Charge of the Anti-corruption Squad Unit to fully educate the public on the possible corrupt practices and to spell out the consequences thereto. Further, I now direct him to use all avenues available to him including the mass media to convey this information to sensitize the public on this matter. He must at the same time be accessible to the public. The key to the success of the unit lies in fairness, commitment and the protection of the source of information.

Turning now to our external relations, Kenya's position since independence has not changed. Our foreign policy continues to be guided by the principles of good neighbourliness, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Kenya has and will continue to be an active member of the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth and the United Nations among other organizations.

In pursuing the policy of good neighbourliness, we recognize that regional peace and political stability can only be realized when neighbouring countries are willing to co-operate for the mutual benefit of their people.

It is against this background that I, together with my brothers and colleagues, President Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, both of whom are here with us, met recently in Arusha and resolved to renew our co-operation as a basis for creating a bigger economic bloc.

I am grateful to my colleagues for their statemanship on this matter. I would like to assure them of Kenya's determination to play her part for the success of this renewed East African co-operation.

newly found co-operation calls for a unified approach to that affect the lives of the people of our three countries. Brothers and sisters and we must partake of our successes failures as such. As a first step in that direction, there is need the ministers in-charge of finance from the three sister states in future to consult and release their annual budgetary proposals simultaneously as was the case in the past. This action will definitely point out the areas and the extent of co-operation required.

On South Africa, Kenyans are encouraged by efforts South Africans are making towards the first multi-racial elections in April next year. It is the wish of Kenyans that South Africans would give peace a chance after suffering for so long under apartheid. In this regard, I appeal to all South Africans to put the interests of their country first and work towards creating a violent-free society.

Elsewhere in Africa, we continue to be concerned about the sufferings of the peoples of Southern Sudan and Somalia due to political instability. The people in these regions have suffered for too long and should be given a chance to lead peaceful lives like their brothers and sisters in other parts of Africa.

Kenya will continue to be involved in efforts to bring peace and understanding in the Eastern Africa region because we are convinced that only when our neighbours enjoy peace can we in turn live in peace.

Dear Kenyans,

I wish to conclude by reminding you all that the social fabric established in our country during the past three decades is essentially one of our own making. As we prepare to face future challenges, let us reaffirm our loyalty and love for our country as we consolidate our nationhood.

Finally, as we enter the fourth decade of our nationhood, let us draw strength and inspiration from our past successes in the knowledge that with Peace, Love and Unity, we shall face the future with courage and determination.

God bless you all.

*THANK YOU.*