

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P.
ON MADARAKA DAY—1st JUNE, 1983**

MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN . . .

Twenty years have gone by since Kenyans first assumed responsibility for all internal affairs in this country, followed by intensive preparations for the attainment of Uhuru six months later. The 20th anniversary of Madaraka Day has profound meaning and importance, incorporating the whole spectrum of human achievement and progress in Kenya. All the relevant perspectives will, however, be fully reviewed during the coming Independence Anniversary Celebrations scheduled for next December.

Since the last Madaraka Day, many of my formal statements have been concerned with the general economic situation in our Republic. Some of these pronouncements were linked to the detailed studies dealing with some particular aspects of Government and the economy. Some reaction of the Government to the recommendations of various committees has been indicated. We know a great deal more now, than we did a year ago, about ways to confront and overcome economic challenges. Today we have thus, reached the stage, which is critically important, of having largely determined what needs to be done regarding our national economy, at least for the near future. Over the recent period, many new designs and propositions have been advanced and carefully considered. Henceforth, our country can and must move into a fresh phase of calculated and productive programmes. In all this the critical factor will be efficient management of all our resources. My call to make the 1983 the year of positive action should therefore be heeded by all. It is expected that Government decisions will henceforth be implemented without any delays.

A number of features or examples may be spotlighted on this occasion. Let me therefore mention first that, after studying the report of the Working Party on Government Expenditures, I announced—in September last year—agreement that districts

would become the focal-points of development in all the rural areas. Since then, we have spent a great deal of time considering the practical implications of this new move, and making some necessary arrangements within the public service to ensure that everything goes smoothly. In consequence of all this, I am pleased to declare today that the new system which has come to be known as the "District Focus for Rural Development" will be put into effect as scheduled on the 1st of July, 1983; the opening day of our next financial year.

It is nevertheless evident that responsibility for overall policies, as well as for planning and implementation of national and regional level projects, must continue to be exercised by the various Ministry headquarters. But below these levels, full operational responsibility will be placed in the hands of District Development Committees, each supported by an Executive Committee—concerned with technical aspects of planning and management. The Executive Committee will consist of District Departmental Heads of working Ministries and Clerks to Local Authorities. The District Commissioner will be the Chairman of both the Development Committee and the Ministerial group. The District Treasuries will be strengthened and procurement facilities established at the district level.

Under this new approach, rural development must gain fresh impetus with the hope that project implementation will be accelerated and local participation re-activated. At the same time, stability and unity must be strengthened by the consolidation of team spirit among Government officers, Members of Parliament, and the local leadership.

Having said all that, I hope nobody will fall into the trap of believing that problems can be made to disappear, simply by introducing new principles, procedures or systems. So now I must touch upon one or two of the issues with which all of us at national and local levels must get to grips. One such issue relates to management of our population growth. A National Council for Population and Development was recently established in our Republic. Such a decision was taken in recognition of the fact that constraints

imposed by a rapidly growing human population had become a critical concern of Government, when planning and seeking to reach nationwide development targets.

Already, that Council is paying particular attention to such problems as the growing number of helpless dependents within our population, the high level of unemployment, and the difficulty of keeping pace with demands for housing or for health and education services. Mounting human numbers have led to increasing pressures on arable land, giving rise in many cases to erosion or loss of soil fertility, while encouraging unplanned settlements in marginal areas. The trend of migration, mainly by the young generation, to the urban areas still continues.

The National Council for Population and Development and other relevant Government and private agencies, will have to intensify activities concerned with the question of reduction—or in some cases the redistribution—of population, so that resources are nowhere over-exploited; services can be maintained; and the quality of human life can be enhanced. New educational techniques and objectives will be introduced, directed most particularly towards—and for the benefit of—our younger people. Health and advisory services must then be strengthened, and in all Family Planning policies and pursuits there will have to be a note of new perspective: people everywhere must somehow be motivated to co-operate and participate effectively. This is so because one of the most basic aims is more equitable sharing of the optimum rewards of economic striving by all our people.

The other issue, which is in a way related to the question of population growth, directly relates to the need to sustain an atmosphere in which economic enterprise can become—and continue to be—properly rewarding. I have explained, on many occasions, why there is a vital need to conserve features and functions of the natural environment. Today I must re-emphasize the importance of all this, simply because this subject is concerned with the lasting preservation rather than just the mere pre-occupation with human livelihood.

As I mentioned earlier, the word "Madaraka" implies—more than anything else—responsibility. And all of us now must be responsible enough to try and understand the forces and factors which produce the air that we breathe and the water that we need to drink or use. We must observe and appreciate the various balances and cycles within the natural environment. It is important to realize how safeguarding or destroying one kind of resource can make an enormous difference to the availability or the performance of other resources. And in the whole complex arena of soils, forests, water regimes, rangelands and wildlife, we must accept the abundant evidence that what is called ecological diversity is the key to a healthy environment and to sustained production.

An understanding of these matters is the first essential of planning whether in the nationwide or district context. In so many other countries of the world, functional resources of the natural environment have been largely obliterated, on the grounds that these were standing in the way of human aspirations and modern economic progress. In such places today, terrible mistakes and misjudgements are already giving rise to such environmental penalties as hostile climatic reactions, failures of resources-complexes, and falling productivity. We must be very careful to ensure that such consequences are not experienced in Kenya. And this means that our communities everywhere must be far more determined to put an end to forest destruction, abuse of rivers, chemical pollution, overstocking and the killing of wildlife. Otherwise, we will quickly reach the stage here, where rising human numbers measured against degraded resources form an equation impossible to solve.

At the same time the country must intensify production of food. Our country has managed to return—more quickly than was anticipated—to a position of self-sufficiency in basic food production. The National Cereals and Produce Board has already increased its storage capacity to more than eight million bags. This expansion however will have to be stepped up to twelve million by the end of the decade, in order to always maintain a comfortable national strategic food reserve.

Encouraging levels of production, especially of maize and wheat, have arisen in part from upward adjustments of commodity prices. Our farmers have consistently demonstrated that greater output is directly related to the business incentive of favourable prices. Economists may point out in theory, that higher producer prices are only made possible by transferring income from the non-farm sector into agriculture. But, in a country like Kenya, this is abundantly justified, when it is remembered that four out of every five of our countrywide households depend on incomes derived from agricultural activities.

As an integral part of efficient performance of the farming industry, our nationwide land adjudication programme which seldom makes headlines is steadily going on all the time. So far, under this programme, well over six million hectares of land have been covered, and more than a million titles have been registered. The target now, over the coming years, will be to adjudicate another half-million hectares annually.

Much responsibility in the arena of rural development must be assumed by the co-operative movement. A new Sessional Paper on co-operatives will emphasize the role of these structures as business enterprises, so organized as to make profits for their members and shareholders. In the past, there has been a great deal of incompetence, and some lack of understanding, as related to the functional and management of co-operatives. The whole approach to management—in particular—must be transformed, with proper budgeting and auditing of accounts becoming standard practices.

And now let me briefly focus some attention to two more topics. There has never been any argument in this Republic about the nation's responsibility to prepare the youth for present tasks and future leadership. Enormous advances have indeed been made at a cost representing considerable sacrifice and resource outlays, as measured in Government expenditures and "Harambee" contributions by "wananchi". Recently, there have been some official announcements about the Government's decision to introduce an

eight-year primary school system together with some corresponding changes to the existing structure of our secondary school education. These proposals have been welcomed by Members of Parliament and by the people everywhere.

Today therefore, let me just clarify what this decision will mean to some primary school children. Standard 8 will be introduced into all primary schools in January of 1985. In consequence, the C.P.E. examination will be held for the last time this year. Next year, the Standard 7 students who would normally have taken C.P.E.—will simply move on to Standard 8, and will then sit for the Kenya Primary Examination at the end of 1985. District education boards and local authorities have been fully informed, with requests that they consult Parents' Associations and School Committees about provision of the new facilities that will be needed. And I have no doubt that response will be both practical, generous and effective.

The second topic relates to one of the most important responsibilities of any Government. It is most essential that the people should be given regular and reliable information about all Government policies and countrywide development programmes. To this end, and apart from the recent launching of Party newspapers printed in English and Kiswahili, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is now giving particular attention to the expansion of radio and television services.

Quite recently, three new radio transmitting stations were completed, and five more are at present being installed in various parts of our Republic. All this work will ensure that radio reception is greatly improved, and will also assist with plans to introduce regional broadcasting services. With regard to television output, one new transmitter is already under construction in Meru and plans are under way to improve those at Limuru, Timboroa, Mazaras and Nyeri.

Arising from all that I have said today, I want to leave you on a note of reflection. For some years past, Kenyans have, in an

atmosphere of peace and stability, enjoyed steadily increasing levels of family welfare and general human development. Nevertheless, it is always possible, during the sort of political phase on which we have already embarked, for peace and national unity to be challenged by forces of disunity, political ambition and greed.

Politics may be regarded as a necessary and impelling aspect of human affairs. But it must always be taken primarily as an essential instrument for reflecting and deploying the popular will of the people. It should never be allowed to get out of hand, or to be used by anyone in a way that threatens public security and progress. The forthcoming Parliamentary and Local Authority Elections must not be allowed to generate hatred and disunity in the country. All leaders and the people should instead re-dedicate themselves to the cause of peace and stability. At this crucial period, I urge Kenyans to behave in a mature and responsible manner. The Government is taking necessary measures to ensure fair and orderly elections. All those who are qualified but not already registered to vote should take the opportunity now made available.

My dear Kenyans, I should not end my address today without saying a word about the Organization of African Unity. At the present time, the organization is facing grave challenges and everything must be done to save it from possible collapse. As you all know, arrangements have been set in motion to reconvene the 19th O.A.U. Summit in a few days time in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. And as I have publicly indicated, it is my profound hope that all the leaders of Africa will attend and make their contributions in accordance with the Charter and spirit of the organization. As the title of the O.A.U. signifies, we simply must organize ourselves to harness the full economic and political potentials of mother Africa. We must nourish and consolidate the cause of unity throughout the continent. The coming summit meeting brings new hope to Africa. In the event of any further failure to realize a quorum, African leaders should not look for anyone else to blame. Such blame would lie squarely on their shoulders.

In conclusion, I exalt all Kenyans, to strive to make and sustain the kind of nation we set to build some twenty years ago. I also remind you all to remain vigilant and to stand united at all times. Unity is our biggest and most reliable weapon. We must never allow ourselves to be divided by either internal or external forces.

HARAMBEE!!! NYAYO!!!