

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE OCCASION OF KENYATTA DAY ON FRIDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 1989

DEAR FELLOW KENYANS,

I feel greatly honoured today to join all of you once again wherever you may be in celebrating this great occasion named after our beloved Father of the Nation.

Kenyatta Day means many things to many people, but over the years the one theme which has marked this day has been remembrance of the sacrifices made not only by Mzee Jomo Kenyatta but by thousands of other sons and daughters of our country in the fight for our independence. Those sacrifices were not an end in themselves, otherwise they would be in vain. Thousands of Kenyans died and many more spent years in detention that we may be free, and being free that we may build a strong united nation in which we could all develop to our fullest abilities.

We are lucky in that Mzee Jomo Kenyatta left us the foundations of a unified nation. He left us one united ruling party. He left us other national institutions working for a united people.

But foundations have to be built upon. They have to be strengthened and safeguarded. Since taking over the leadership of this country, the one imprint I have endeavoured to leave on the affairs of this nation is the nurturing of meaningful national unity amongst Kenyans. Eleven years ago I vowed to help bring Kenyans closer together. In all my travels and visits with you across the length and breadth of our country, I have tried to instil a sense of unity amongst our people.

I am glad that we have achieved a great measure of national unity during those eleven years, and because of our unity we have been able to achieve a great deal in national development.

But in matters of national unity, we cannot afford to be complacent. We must continue to work towards closer unity, for without a sustained defence of our unity, we stand in danger of falling

prey to those who want to rule us by dividing us, or those who delight in the misfortunes that come from disunity and instability.

My Dear Fellow Kenyans,

Let me renew my vows expressed so many times in the past: I will do everything within my power to defend the unity upon which this nation is founded. I will spare no effort to ward off from this nation the kinds of calamities which disunity has brought to many nations on our continent. I will do so because I have sworn to uphold and defend our Constitution which is the basis of one strong united Kenya. I will do so because personally I believe strongly in unity.

So, I ask each and everyone of us today to rededicate himself or herself to working towards a more united Kenya, a Kenya in which everyone cares for the well-being of his or her neighbour—a nation of peace, of love and of unity.

Let us each, whether we are politicians or members of the general public, civil servants or businessmen, clergymen or laymen—whatever our station of life, let each of us try to avoid utterances or actions which threaten the unity of our nation. Let us avoid personal greed, sectionalism, clanism, tribalism and racism in our dealings with one another. Let us shun corruption. Let us shun conceit and choose the path of humility in all our public postures. And above all, let us honour the sacrifices which we commemorate today by working tirelessly to bequeath to our children and children's children a nation more united than the one we inherited from our founding fathers.

Dear Fellow Kenyans,

When we think of unity for ourselves, let us also think of unity for our brothers and sisters in those parts of Africa beset with the calamities of civil strife. We pray that the people of Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sudan and other war-torn countries in Africa may find sufficient unity to build a true and lasting peace

for themselves and their children. In their quest for unity, they can count upon Kenya to give them whatever support we are able to give.

Similarly for our brothers and sisters in Namibia who are forging ahead towards independence. They too must seek national unity, for without unity much of the sacrifice which the brave people of Namibia have made under the able leadership of Swapo could come to nothing. We shall continue to involve ourselves intimately in Namibia's march towards freedom. We feel honoured to have been called upon and to have been able to participate in that process and ready to continue to assist them in conserving their independence if called upon.

Closer to Namibia we are glad to note that the unity which the international community has shown in its opposition to apartheid is beginning to bear fruit. A few days ago, the Pretoria regime, under international pressure, released Mr. Walter Sisulu and seven other freedom fighters from more than a quarter of a century of political detention.

We trust that the world community will continue and indeed intensify, its pressure on the Pretoria regime to release Mr. Nelson Mandela and the remaining political detainees soon. We ask President Frederick de Klerk of South Africa to lift the state of emergency in that country and enter into a dialogue with the African National Congress, and other democratic forces, and let the fresh wind of freedom sweep away the dark cobwebs of apartheid.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our foreign friends who have stood by us in solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa. The positive changes taking place in relations between East and West augur well for the democratic process in South Africa. We trust the nations of the world will maintain the momentum in this respect.

I thank also those nations who have joined us in our task of nation building, helping us to strengthen the national unity upon

which our many development achievements since independence have been made. We look forward to continued co-operation with them in future.

Most of all, I want to thank all Kenyans wherever you may be for the sacrifices you have made in the interests of greater unity for our country. As we celebrate this great day, let us, my fellow Kenyans, cherish the spirit of unity amongst ourselves and unity amongst the people of this great continent. For in unity lies our strength. In strength lies freedom and dignity.

GOD BLESS YOU.

GOD BLESS KENYA.

GOD BLESS AFRICA.