

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
MZEE JOMO KENYATTA ON THE OCCASION
OF KENYATTA DAY, 20th OCTOBER, 1972**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . .

Fifty years have passed since I took an active interest in politics. In those days, the Kikuyu Central Association was the only body fighting for African rights. Our statements opposed the system of forced labour, racial discrimination, as well as an African opposition to Kenya's status as a Colony. We demanded land reforms and better social conditions for the African people.

Nobody then was prepared to heed the aspirations of the people, or admit the time might come when African views could be of some political significance. There were a few of us feeling our way, exploring and assessing the indifference of those who held power and authority. The whole nature and reality of this external dominance led us to conclude that there must be some ideals, principles and beliefs, on which a lengthy period of struggle could be founded.

Some of you will remember that during this struggle, I was sent to Europe by the Kikuyu Central Association, to put our case before the Colonial Office. It was vitally necessary, both in Britain and on the Continent, to penetrate the minds of politicians, church leaders, responsible journalists and others connected with public affairs. The strategy of struggle in Kenya could only emerge through some breakdown of Colonial rule. Those who held power and authority had to be persuaded that an African mind, with an African point of view, was capable of competent expression.

It is important to realize how the beliefs and objectives of those days have been carried forward. The Kenya African

Union, the principal political body at that time, stood basically for the purpose and unbreakable strength of African unity. We were determined to secure full voting rights for Africans, within a form of democracy in Kenya, involving the effective removal of all racial barriers.

The other principal aim was to achieve better working and social conditions for the people, with emphasis on education and land reform. All this is on record, and in my public speeches I stressed that national progress could only come through unity and hard work under the rule of law.

Twenty years ago today, I was arrested at Gatundu for challenging the Colonial régime, and subsequently held for trial at Kapenguria, followed by more than three thousand days in prison. During my enforced exile, our country went through a troubled period of physical revolt and sacrifice which led to fresh political preparation.

As the next thread in the story I am telling today, and recalling all the ideals and principles that have guided us in earlier decades, there must be some account of the policies and advices I offered to the people during 1962. In that year, I told you that *Uhuru* and Kenya nationalism must be founded upon national unity, and that rapid development in the cause of social justice could only be achieved in a climate of peace and stability. The past declarations have brought forward from the ideals of forty years ago, the truth about the fundamentals of nation-building and the welfare of a disciplined society. The complete acceptance of our national motto *Harambee* by the people of Kenya, summarizes this country's development efforts.

Next year, our independence will have stretched across a full decade, and reviews of remarkable progress must form a part of our special celebrations. However, on a day such as this, devoted to rededication, and thinking particularly of our younger people, I would say this:—

As our country moves forward into the future, hold to the ideals and beliefs that have brought us so far. Let

Government in Kenya be based on unity and stability under the rule of law. Let hard work and national planning be the foundations of economic development. Let the spirit of *Harambee* reach into new chapters of human history, holding out fresh hope for worldwide peace and understanding.

H A R A M B E E !

STATE HOUSE,
NAIROBI.
17th October, 1972.