

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT MZEE
JOMO KENYATTA, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE OCCASION OF
THE JAMHURI DAY CELEBRATIONS, ON
12th DECEMBER 1977

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Jamhuri Day reminds us of all the efforts which have given strength and pride to our nationhood.

Since 1964, Kenya has proved that rapid and lasting development can only be built upon stability which should be chosen as a way of life.

On such a basis, we have been able to organize domestic development, with results and benefits that might have seemed impossible when we first began. At the same time, Kenya has fully emerged as a focal point of investment, trade and communications.

Now, we must all re-dedicate ourselves to the principles which have sustained so much constructive economic planning. I defined these principles in September 1964, under the theme of "Back to the Land". This is still the most vital element of our thinking today.

We are a rural community. Beyond our towns and cities lies the reality and the real substance of Kenya, the villages and farms where ninety per cent of our people still live. It is in these areas that the battle against poverty must be won, and where the striving for prosperity must be concentrated.

Local people must help in framing many decisions which will shape their future. Therefore, my government has decided that the district becomes the basic unit for development planning. Each district has its own development officer, ready to co-operate fully with the local people in the design of practical programmes for economic advance and social welfare.

The achievement of Uhuru meant political freedom, which we have carried forward. Since then, my government has devoted considerable energy and resources to the pursuit of economic independence and social justice.

It will be remembered that demand for education in Kenya was one of the key factors in our struggle for independence. Expanding facilities for secondary and higher education have enabled our Republic to advance rapidly in the fields of technology and science. Progress in countrywide primary education has been encouraging.

Pupils enrolled in primary schools have passed the milestone of three million. To encourage this progress my government has found ways and means to waive school fees for Standard Five children in 1978.

National development and human development must be kept in harmony to meet the aspirations of Kenya's people.

There is also need for constant discipline, to conserve the natural resources and to protect all the features and functions of the human environment.

Today, in most of the outlying and rangeland areas, wildlife has evolved as a critical element in the ecological pattern.

In addition to the banning of hunting of game animals, my government is now taking the additional step of prohibiting trade in game skins and trophies. All dealers handling such items will be given three months, as from today, to dispose of stocks currently held, after which this further ban will be fully enforced.

Now I must refer briefly to one external situation without repeating what I said on Kenyatta Day in regard to any threat of aggression from the Republic of Somalia. But since then, a number of spontaneous popular demonstrations have been held, at centres in all parts of our northern provinces, affirming loyalty to Kenya and readiness to defend the national integrity of our Republic.

These demonstrations were organized by freely elected representatives of the people themselves inspired by a sense of nationhood. And so, if the President of Somalia was correctly reported, in saying that the people of northern Kenya must be given a voice in their future, then their answer has been loud and clear, reaching through the Press into all corners of the world.

Let us move unitedly, into a year of nation-building, upheld by the foundations already laid through stability and hard work, and inspired as always by the meaning and the spirit of our motto:-

" HARAMBEE "