

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT MZEE JOMO
KENYATTA LABOUR DAY CELEBRATIONS: 1st MAY 1970

LADIES and Gentlemen. . . .

I am pleased to have this opportunity of addressing you on the occasion of Labour Day 1970. Labour Day is a great day for all workers throughout the world. They join together to celebrate this day which gives world-wide recognition to the dignity of labour. On this day, we pause and reflect on the paramount importance of the working man. It is his talents, more than the wonders of science and technology; that has built the world of today. It is the same talents of the workers that will continue to steer our development and progress into the future.

2. It is recognized that workers' organizations have a vital part to play in nation building and the Government has encouraged seminars and other means of training trade union officials. Wish to pay tribute to the co-operation my government has received from the Central Organization of Trade Unions and from individual unions throughout the past year.

3. However, our unions and their leaders are aware that national unity and development are being

handicapped by tribal suspicions and fear. Greater efforts should therefore be made to look and operate beyond any groupings on local or sectional or tribal lines.

4. It has been welcome to note the more harmonious spirit in industrial relations throughout Kenya. There are few things more important to the whole strategy of our Development Plan, than the maintenance of industrial stability and peace. We must avoid any reduction in the output of labour and reach to greater heights of productivity.

5. All trade union leaders should ascertain they understand every element of purpose within our Development Plan, for example, great emphasis has been placed development of the rural areas which must lead to more balanced national progress and generate more employment throughout the country.

6. My government will seek to implement a wages policy, aimed at a better distribution of incomes between urban and rural areas. There will more Government intervention. through the Industrial Court, in wages agreements. However. though the Government will continue to heed the needs of the working people. the workers should identify themselves with the needs our country. Progress in a modern State depends on the effort and sacrifice of everyone of you. Many of our working men in the urban centres have homes or plots of land in the

rural areas. It is important that such workers should make savings for the development of land and self-help projects, you can all help, and you should help to make these areas more attractive, not only for the benefit of your families. but for your eventual retirement,

7. All that I have said- springs from the sense and success of Harambee. Let us proceed in this spirit and strive harder for the progress and economic independence of our country.

HARAMBEE!

STATE House,

Nairobi.

30th April 1970.