

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT MZEE  
JOMO KENYATTA ON THE OCCASION OF JAMHURI DAY,  
12TH DECEMBER 1971

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

Today is the eighth anniversary of our independence as a sovereign nation, The anniversary that we call Jamhuri Day is a strictly Kenya occasion. something special for us all. Today therefore. I shall tell you about some of the many things which are being done or planned, in the cause of economic advancement and social justice.

The point is that without detailed work leading to the benefit and contentment of the people. a Republic is nothing. Without application of strivings and skills, aimed at meeting the needs and aspirations of the people. a Republic is nothing-

We have in Kenya the foundations, tested and proved in practice. Of our Constitution and political philosophy. There are times, in any year, when problems arise internally, under

such headings. with which we have to deal Very frequently, there be international questions, on which Kenya must take a stand as a free and respected member of human society. In the meantime, the real and mounting business of the country. in all its economic departments and fields of social responsibility, has to go on.

I want to describe to you now the pace and nature of things that are happening in the current scene. These continue to reflect the main objective of my government. which in a very real sense is your government. The purpose has been to create here all the structures and opportunities of a modern state in world society, while never neglecting the traditions and the cultures from which we have sprung.

There is particular need to stress this question of opportunities for the people to work towards the economic and social advancement of every family, in a manner which con, tributes to nation building as a whole. I am proposing to

discuss all this under the headings of employment, enterprise and services.

Within the Public Service, a newly designed Department of Employment has been created. This will be merging with the Kenyanization of Personnel Bureau in Nairobi, and branch offices have been opened already in Mombasa and Kisumu. Working closely with the various national councils and centres, this department will seek to allocate priorities for these projects likely to yield the greatest employment opportunities.

One important body associated with the work of this department will be a new Industrial Survey and Promotion Centre. This sector Of Kenya's economy has expanded tremendously since the first Jamhuri Day and continues to develop. This promotion centre will enable the Government to take more initiative in seeking out investors to promote or implement projects that have been surveyed. and that could utilize raw materials or power resources to the best employment advantage.

A further rapid and countrywide development of industry will demand. apart from labour in general terms, the preparation and supply of more skilled manpower. My government has now appointed a National Industrial Training Council to meet this challenge, which will supervise the work of three trailing committees covering all major fields of industry: In full collaboration with employers. these committees will be concerned with surveys of labour needs at all levels, with training methods and craft apprenticeship schemes.

All this work of nation building is forward looking. an investment in the Republic's future. There must be bold measures to safeguard this future. by preparing and encouraging the youth of today. The Government has launched a major youth training programme based on the idea of village polytechnics. Forty projects under this heading are being assisted in the current financial year. and then sixty

more projects will follow. aimed at training young men and women for many different kinds of gainful occupation,

There is a considerable employment element within a tremendous surge forward in building activity. which is indeed a measure of vivid and confident progress in our Republic. Much Of the new construction everywhere is geared to overseas capital and to private enterprise. which is welcome here. Through the Ministry of Works. we are also responsible for some sweeping end countrywide undertakings. There is at present under construction a four-million-pound programme of new office buildings In Nairobi and the provinces, to ensure economic accommodation and efficient working conditions for all the public departments and agencies which must offer service to the people., Apart from this. but still within Government, the responsible Ministry is undertaking over a thousand national budding projects costing eight million pounds. These include schools, hospitals. training centres. workshops, laboratories, factories and staff housing.

When we turn towards enterprise, there will also be factors of employment and self-employment which are of the greatest importance. As an immediate example, the first four rural industrial development centres are being built at Nyeri, Kakamega, Embu and Machakos. These will have as their particular objective the creation of fresh opportunities for business enterprise in the rural areas, where full human welfare must increasingly be sought through operation of a mixed economy. These development centres will conduct feasibility studies, and will assist in obtaining capital for projects that have been examined and approved.

In the field of domestic commerce, more than a thousand new African agents have been appointed in the past year by the National Trading Corporation, and the annual turnover in the many commodities distributed through this Corporation has now reached fifty million pounds- During the same period, over four hundred non-citizen traders were issued with quit

notices, and most of these businesses have already been taken over by our own people.

I should here, having mentioned a boom in the building industry; that more than eight hundred local contractors have been officially registered with the National Construction Corporation, as being technically and financially capable of playing their full part in even more rapid progress, initiative, and effort, to activate human enterprise and stimulate the whole economy, goes on in every field, Over and above the routine needs of marketing. this year has seen successful efforts to launch and expand new types of co-operatives for giving practical service to the people. Some Of these have enabled smallholders to work towards the ownership of rice mills or cotton ginneries, Others have contributed to land transfer and resettlement, or have assisted with Africanization of wholesale and retail trading. Yet another group has been providing cheap and accessible through the operation of savings banks and credit societies.

Another major planning operation has been related to the ever-increasing expansion of our urban centres, in terms both of population and commercial activity. In some cases, there has been or will be a need for boundary extensions and there is always a call for new infrastructure, to encourage further economic development and to ensure fullest provision of social services for the people. The aim of my government is to preside over the processes and consequences of urban expansion, while doing everything possible to stimulate the increased autonomy of local authorities in the management of their affairs and the sponsorship of enterprise.

The economic realities of today are that nearly all countries are faced with the problem of inflation, and with pressures on foreign exchange. These facts emphasize the vital role here of the tourist industry, as a critical means of obtaining and safeguarding foreign exchange. Apart from such factors as employment, creation of internal markets, and circulation of revenues, The Kenya Tourist Development Corporation has



now locally invested more than a million pounds in this industry, as equity or loans. New safari lodges will be constructed in Mara, Amboseli, Meru National Parks and adjoining Lake Nakuru within the coming year.

Tourism here is principally based on the natural resource of wildlife. which must be conserved and managed on modern scientific lines. In the absence of massive or other mineral resources, this asset of wildlife has to be regarded as the prime mover of our whole international economy. I now issue a solemn warning to those illicit receivers and dealers in many skins trophies. whose criminal activity provides incentive for the poaching of our game. Many of those engaged in wildlife rackets are non-citizens, and my government will not hesitate in future to include deportation among the measures taken against them.

Looking now at some practical services for the people, it can be said first of all that, since the moment of Uhuru in Kenya, our farming has passed through many phases of a

technical revolution Results of this can be particularly seen today in greater productivity, more modern techniques. and the dominant part now played by small-scale farmers within the national economy. All new technical knowledge must be translated into economic language to bring such a revolution to final fulfilment. The Government has therefore established a Farm Management Extension Service, which will be able to advise the producers of today on all aspects of the business Side Of farming in a competitive world.

Alongside this, another quite fresh provision of Government is a Mechanization Extension Service, which will concentrate on the training of operators, and also, of farm managers. in the practical and most efficient use of all kinds of agricultural machinery.

Many other things have to be done as well to make the countryside thriving and attractive. The organized supply of clean water is one of the most critical factors, and work in all areas is now almost completed on eighty rural water schemes.

Beyond this, my government is actively negotiating a new credit agreement for the financing of an additional three hundred of these water schemes. When planning how best to utilize this whole resource. we are preparing a comprehensive project to ensure future water supplies for our expanding urban centres in every province.

Another great social service, through which so much of this Republic's future will be determined, is education. am pleased to say that this year the total national enrolment for primary education rose to more than one and a half million children. In nine districts where there was some acute hardship as the result of drought. My government announced a remission of primary school fees.

At a slightly higher level, six thousand secondary school students in Forms I to IV are receiving Government bursaries this year to assist their education. while four thousand students in Forms V and VI are receiving free secondary education. The Curriculum Survey Mission has now compiled

its report, and it is hoped that a number of recommended reforms will become apparent throughout the school system. so that education here is attuned more closely to the needs and aspirations of our Republic,

Housing for the people, of course, has never been forgotten since decent accommodation is a fundamental basis of healthy and contented family life. About three-quarters of all public funds allocated under this heading are now being used for construction of low-cost houses. Over this past year, major schemes have been launched or completed in the general areas Of Nairobi and Mombasa, as well as in such centres as Broderick Falls and Mumias. These have embraced in total about four thousand new housing units costing six and a half million pounds, In addition. my government has embarked on a two-million-pound project for the redevelopment Of Mathare Valley,

One of the great factors in the development and contentment of any nation is always that of security. Kenya

has been confronted in recent times with outbreaks of brutal and sophisticated crime, We have taken measures against this, through legislation and have been urgently providing the Kenya Police with greater mobility, and with facilities needed to employ modern techniques against the unfolding tactics Of criminal elements, New systems of V. H.F. radio communication for Police services are being introduced in Nairobi and Mombasa,, while the capability of the Police Airwing has now been extended by provision of two helicopters,

Generally. my government will continue to expand and Strengthen the Police Force. allocating more manpower to specialized branches, including the C.I.D., and ensuring better services to the people in remoter areas- As a factor in Police efficiency and morale, programmes of new police housing have been completed or launched in a dozen different areas over this past year-

All this has been a review of just some of the processes and decisions. the plans and endeavours, that figure the increasing practical responsibility Of Government. Life is not all ceremonies and speeches. These can rekindle the fires of nationalism and of dedication. However, without all the detailed daily work 'of administrators and of professional men in every department, under the direction of our Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, no economic progress would be possible, and all our social aspirations would be lost in apathy.

This, then, is my message for today, that the business of nation building is complex and never-ending. The task must always adapt itself to changing circumstances and to fresh opportunities, and the contribution made by everyone of you is vital. In the living spirit Harambee, which has carried us so far, let us move with full hearts and high hopes into a further year of striving and achievement..

**HARAMBEE!**