

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
MZEE JOMO KENYATTA ON THE OCCASION OF
JAMHURI DAY, 12th DECEMBER 1974

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . .

Today's anniversary commemorates the moment when complete independence was strengthened by the passage of our own Republican Constitution and when this country developed through national unity as a modern state in world society.

Last year at the Uhuru Celebrations, I gave a full account of the remarkable progress made in every field towards economic and social objectives. Announcements on fresh development programmes have been made, together with the domestic challenges suddenly created by the global threat of price inflation. Today, I wish to outline the means by which the Government and people, working together, are gearing our nation towards greater human advancement.

Firstly, I must emphasize the critical importance of keeping up the momentum of productivity in all branches of agriculture. Apart from the difficult issue of world food stocks, the impact of price inflation is sweeping us all into an era of shortages. Costs of production have constantly increased, and my government is doing everything possible, through credit and subsidy schemes and price adjustments, to assist the agricultural industry in the fullest sense of Harambee. Our farmers must never relax from their great patriotic duty. As shortages worsen and prices continue to rise, it may be no longer possible to import the stocks required to feed our people, and some of our neighbouring states may badly need such surplus food as Kenya can supply.

While so much depends on the vigour and marketed output of our agriculture, economic strength and human development demands that we should expand also the other sectors of our mixed economy.

My government has continued to introduce over the years, provisions and programmes to ensure the establishment of more industries throughout Kenya. Only in this way can economic and commercial

progress be planned along modern lines, securing the basic social requirement of more employment opportunities. Investors in the public and private sectors have to be able to count on the availability of skilled manpower. To this end we have been rapidly proceeding with projects calculated to equip the rich human resources of our Republic with more necessary skills. Our National Industrial Training Scheme formed only three years ago, has expanded into fresh crafts and trades.

The tourist industry is now more vital than ever to our accumulation of foreign exchange and to the continued development of Kenya as an international business and cultural centre. The pace of Africanization in tourism has been increased, and there is need now to maintain the high levels of service which the customers in this very competitive industry demand. A new college will be opened in Nairobi next year, which will give proper modern training in all the many skills and needs which successful tourism embraces. A further training institute will be provided for personnel responsible for wildlife management and the conduct of safaris.

Before there can be any question of training for some specific profession or craft, it is necessary to harness and prepare the oncoming human resources of a nation through countrywide programmes of basic education. Since Uhuru was achieved in Kenya, my government has given continued priority to education more than to any other subject or requirement. On this occasion last year, I announced that free primary education would be extended to all children in Standards One to Four. Over and above the normal rise in primary school intake, the number of extra pupils who took advantage of this free education opportunity was no less than nine hundred thousand. Provision had to be made for another thousand schools and an extra twenty-one thousand teachers. Physical challenges of this kind are frequently ignored, when people sometimes seek cheap political popularity by wondering what the Government has been doing for the people. The people themselves have donated labour, materials and money, so that the policies and objectives of their own Government in this field of primary education could be secured. .

Primary education is only the vital beginning of a total answer. We must improve the scope and quality of secondary education as well, so

that by the end of the current development plan period, there will be no unqualified teachers at all in our secondary schools.

I have mentioned the manner in which the people themselves have assisted the Government on a Harambee basis with the expanded provision of primary school facilities. The whole impulse of self-help as a key factor in the development of Kenya has taken a tremendous surge forward. Very large sums have been donated to colleges of science and technology, as well as contributions to other self-help undertakings spread among water schemes, communications, health projects and community requirements. In the years to come, when the history of independent Kenya is written by our own scholars, the dedication and sacrifice of this countrywide self-help drive must be seen as one of the noblest and most effective ingredients of progress made towards our goal of social justice.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, and against the foregoing reflections and remarks, I send my greetings to every family in the Republic of Kenya. Problems and uncertainties today afflict every region and community on earth, but let us be thankful that, in Kenya, we have the spirit of nationhood and the strength of stability to enable us to face together whatever the future might hold.

H A R A M B E E!

STATE House, Nairobi.

6th December 1974.