

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

12th DECEMBER 1975

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The moment of total political independence, which we symbolized as Jamhuri, brought with it a fresh dedication, to economic sovereignty and to social justice in all corners of Kenya.

Over the years, the real function of Government becomes that of running the country as a kind of large-scale business. Development is not simply a word. It is an expression which embraces, at any given time, thousands of details and decisions, reaching down into nationwide efforts and activities which must all be kept in harmony.

As one example, the produce from settlement farms marketed through their own co-operative societies was valued last year at seventy-five million shillings. This is a tribute to the hard work of producers concerned, but only made possible through an apparatus created by departments and officers of Government.

Following the whole land resettlement operation, we have constantly expanded all kinds of technical advisory services and credit schemes. In support of agriculture this year, we have had to order large supplies of fertilizers, and we have introduced a subsidy reducing costs to the farmer by about 50 per cent. Looking to the future, my government has now finally arranged for the establishment of a fertilizer plant in Kenya, with a capacity of two hundred and forty thousand tons and built at a cost of eighteen million pounds.

As an element of national policy, we have also been determined that, as with wheat, Kenya must become self-sufficient in sugar.

To this end, plans have now been completed for a further investment of sixty-five million pounds. While existing sugar mills are being expanded, new mills with a capacity of seventy thousand tons will be constructed in Bungoma and in South Nyanza.

Let me just remark here that all the investment I am mentioning today does not happen by itself. It is part of the daily work of Government to supervise what are called feasibility studies, under the whole umbrella of national planning, and then to embark on all the detailed legal and financial negotiations.

Before leaving agriculture, I am glad to note that our smaller producers now own well over half a million grade cattle, with performance so improved that families have adequate milk plus a new source of revenue. And in the field of livestock disease, with expansion of the Kabete laboratories nearly finished, we have decided that investigation laboratories will be set up at Kericho and Karatina within the next two years.

The industrial sector of Kenya's economy has been rapidly expanding. Over the forthcoming period, we shall have three commercial vehicle assembly plants and a new chemical factory. Other projects currently agreed or nearing completion will involve cashew nuts, dried vegetables, salt manufacturing, synthetic fibres and caustic soda. My government has also launched an export compensation scheme, under which there will be incentive payments for locally manufactured goods sold in overseas markets. And yet another function of Government has resulted in the training of more than six thousand African managers and businessmen, who today are holding key posts in industry and commerce.

In any country there must be what is called infrastructure, which means the facilities and economic services which will both promote and justify creative enterprise. In response to this work, especially as applied to modern air communications, there is continued large-scale investment in tourism all over Kenya. Other factors bringing the rewards of tourism are

political stability, plus the wildlife and natural attractions which must be properly conserved and managed.

Other activities are going on well. Construction of the oil pipeline from Mombasa to Nairobi will shortly begin. When completed, this project will cost more than three million pounds. To improve mobility in rural areas, we have decided to initiate a new programme of access roads, costing ten million pounds.

My government further intends to build a large water reservoir along the Upper Tana, and negotiations to raise the forty-five million pounds required have reached an advanced stage. One immediate advantage of this project will be completion of the Gitaru hydro-electric plant, eventually making our Republic independent of electricity generated by oil or other means. The new reservoir will also provide a further water supply for the whole Nairobi area.

I have referred at other times to the progress recorded by Kenya in the field of education. Before proceeding further, we have to assess all present systems to enable us to make any necessary changes.

Meanwhile, I should mention that enrolments at primary school level this year have exceeded three million. This offers a substantial challenge to the machinery of Government, in fields of finance and of organization. In practice, we have absorbed such numbers, and have even stepped up the qualifications required from teachers.

The village polytechnics have been proving most valuable in training school-leavers. About a hundred and thirty of these institutions, spread all over the country, are at present catering for nine thousand trainees every year. By the end of 1978 more than twenty thousand school-leavers will annually be assisted and trained.

Turning to the health of our people there are now more than four hundred doctors in Government employment, while the Faculty of Medicine in Nairobi University accepts over a hundred students

every year. Today we operate about seven hundred health centres and dispensaries, while hospital beds on a national scale have been increased to more than ten thousand. We are already embarking on construction of three further hospitals, and at the same time extensions are going on at twelve other hospitals.

Development has to be made something real, in every field of opportunity and service.

As we go on now, with unity and stability so firmly rooted in our nationhood, it is faith and mutual understanding between Government and people which nourishes the living spirit of our motto:

**HARAMBEE!**

State House, Nairobi.

10th December 1975