

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

MZEE JOMO KENYATTA ON THE OCCASION OF MADARAKA DAY

1ST JUNE 1973

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

Today, apart from leading joyous celebrations, we shall look back at some of the fundamental principles which were defined in the weeks that led up to Madaraka Day ten years ago.

In 1963 when Kanu gained a majority vote, I issued a statement from which a few sentences can be usefully quoted now. I said:

"We shall build a country where every citizen may develop his talents to the full, restricted only by the larger aim we have of building a fair society. The rights of all, and of their property, will be fully protected. There will be no privilege for any minority. Equally, we shall see that no member of any group undergoes discrimination or oppression at the hands of the majority. Only by creating a sense of National Unity will it be possible to harness the efforts of all the people to make a success of independence."

In that quotation, there are two points of paramount importance. Firstly, independence is nothing without the guarantee of human freedoms and human rights. As years go by, and national policies unfold in the light of people's aspirations, so it is that individuals,

groups and economic interests must give way before the pressing evolution of a new society. As the majority has growing needs and legitimate demands, so have the minorities the right to tolerance and protection. There is no dignity in injustice. No national advance is gained by people tuning bitterly upon each other in unfair criticism or unjust condemnation on imaginary grounds.

The second point in that given quotation is summed up in the phrase "a sense of National Unity." I have stressed on frequent occasions that National Unity is the most critical key to the strength and fulfilment of our African Society. Our society has now been cemented into Nationhood. We are all Kenyans today. Our young people have grown up with the Flag, the Anthem, and the motto harambee of this Nation. Beyond these vital symbols, there is the understanding, patriotism and easy comradeship of all cultures, talents, and tasks, which is what true unity is all about.

A day or two before our Madaraka dawned, I was invited to form a new Government which sprang from the will of the people. In a message at that time, every man and woman 'in this land was asked and expected to help in the building of our Nation. There was the promise of stability and commitment to the path of democratic African Socialism.

It was on the final attainment of responsible Government, ten years ago, that the call of Harambee was first born and which now reflects

all the structures and strivings of a modern Nation. This undying spirit of sacrifice by all the people has built our own country, and we can move ahead proudly knowing that we have set up a springboard for the next decade.

Kenya will make many leaps from this springboard. One will be in the direction of more universal literacy, as a key element of all social advance. Another, well rooted in the inspiration of Harambee, will be the completion and use of all our Institutes of Technology, so that the process of development becomes more rewarding.

One word of caution. I have noticed recently some tendency to irresponsible leadership within the Trade Union movement, which must be checked in the cause of Nation-Building. There have been some recent incidents of industrial strikes. As the workers have seen for themselves, these bring no benefit at all. Such action outside the proper machinery of industrial relations can never win advantages for labour. In a progressive nation like Kenya, we must maintain the momentum of hard work, and every kind of enterprise must be managed to secure the greatest possible productivity.

A few days ago, we joined with all the other Free African States in celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the O.A.U. At the

Inaugural Meeting of Heads of State in Addis Ababa, where the O.A.U. was founded, I sent a message stating that the liberation of African countries should never be viewed as the end of our struggle, but rather as a signal for the beginning of fresh tasks.

Today, we see how the O.A.U. Council of Ministers and its network of committees, have given Africa a whole new voice and influence. Apart from the valuable machinery for examination of internal problems, the O.A.U. is a forum in which, for example, Africa's approach to the European Economic Community and other groups can be determined. This organization has given a great impetus to commerce within Africa. I am glad to recall that Nairobi had the honour of staging the first All-Africa Trade Fair. Since then, many plans have been completed for new trunk roads across Africa, the extension of airfreight services, breakdowns of trade barriers and the active exchange of commercial delegations. We are constantly moving towards the point where the true solidarity of Africa can emerge through what we learn and contribute to each other.

We are celebrating today what has been part of one of the great chapters in all human history. Let no one delude themselves that this will not be a continual process. The human spirit will not rest until the few remaining tyrannies in Africa and elsewhere are swept aside, so that our brothers can enjoy the fundamental human right of self-determination.

It is only when self-determination is reached that Africa will realize economic independence, and 'thus be politically strengthened to take her rightful place in all the highest counsels of mankind.

**HARAMBEE!**

STATE HOUSE, NAIROBI.

17th May. 1973.