

MADARAKA DAY ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY HIS
EXCELLENCY, MZEE JOMO KENYATTA, M.P.
ON THE 1st of JUNE 1977

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

As you all know, the last fourteen years of planning and striving have given rise to economic progress. This can be seen throughout our Republic. At the same time, profound social changes in such fields as landownership and education have been supplemented at grass-roots level by the national inspiration of "Harambee" development..

We have preserved a constitutional system which we call Democratic African Socialism, in no way tied to any external ideology or command. Moreover, we have strictly maintained the rule of law and independence of the judiciary, speech and worship.

As world-wide inflation continues, with many impacts on strength of currencies and flows of international trade, we have had to surmount many challenges to our economic planning and performance. Issues of complexity cannot be simply outlined, and my government will in due course be issuing a detailed sessional paper on steps taken, and on measures that may be required, in response to economic problems and their foreseeable remedies. Over the years, we have increasingly managed to knit these various sectors' together, so as to achieve not only what is called economic self-reliance, but also an ever-stronger potential in fields of inter-African and international trade. Such a process of co-ordinated development must be urgently continued, and I will give here one simple example of what this expression means.

Through the hard work of our farmers, allied to the services and facilities provided by the Government, there has now been evolved throughout Kenya a modern pattern of agriculture. Economic and social advancement have been due in large measure to the degree of self-sufficiency achieved in basic food supplies, and to the growing output of high-quality products finding a ready sale on world markets.

Referring to the situation of the break-up of the institutions connected with the East African States let me sum up my views on this whole issue. Any government of an autonomous state, responsible for the viable performance of industries and communications, has to take fullest account of realities, especially when many of these are imposed or arise from external default. Nonetheless, in this instance, I firmly believe that evolving our inescapable economic policies should not be permitted to disturb the essential goodwill which has always existed between the peoples of East Africa. All of us have many fields of development, and I declare now that goodwill on Kenya's side is always ready to be exerted in the whole African cause of economic and social advancement.

While on this subject, I might usefully refer to the new road being built through Turkana District to link this Republic with Sudan. Basically, and in the whole environmental context, almost everything springs from the soil. I wish and expect all Kenya's people henceforth to give absolute priority to protection of our soil resources. My government has already introduced a pattern of soil conservation projects, which over the next three years will be expanded, to cover thirty districts, at a high cost in money, although little enough when related to the survival of present population and future generations.

One of the greatest aspirations of our people in Kenya, amid so many natural diversities, has always been to have regular access to a clean and dependable water supply. To this end, my Government is engaged in drawing up a national master water plan, which should be ready late next year.

Turning to education, it has long been my opinion that, over the world as a whole, techniques of education have been too formal and too static. Certainly, in this Republic, we must move with the future, ensuring that the system and substance of education can best equip our young people for careers and contribution directly linked to development needs. Against this background, we established a national committee on educational goals and programmes, and I am glad to say that their completed report is being studied by the Government. Following debate in

Parliament, and consultations throughout the country, we shall be able to arrive at an

agreed basis for long-term educational policy.

Within a setting of so much turmoil throughout what is called **the third world**, many **observers have wondered what formula** Kenya had managed to find, to account for the marking of these fourteen years by stability and steady progress.

When we first achieved Madaraka, all the impulses which had united us in past struggle were switched towards such rallying-cries as "Uhuru na Kazi" and "Harambee". Our unity has been preserved and dedicated to both these calls and has resulted in the building of a modern nation. Finally, I want to tell you that preserving faith in unity, and in the inspiration of our national motto, will produce in coming years the fruits of all past sacrifice and striving.

HARAMBEE !

STATE HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

28th May 1977.