

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
MZEE JOMO KENYAITA ON THE OCCASION OF
MADARAKA DAY—1st JUNE 1972

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. . .

Nine years ago I said that our aim would be to utilize the dignity of freedom for improving the living standards of our people. This statement has been faithfully carried out by my government. Today we can all take pride in new human vigour, thanks to the hard work and self-help spirit of the people. Our national prosperity is reflected in the stability we have maintained, and which has encouraged high levels of investment.

It is inevitable, however, that there are certain human and economic trends which have to be met. People are not like machines in which all the parts move together. At different times, there are gaps between individuals or economic sectors, which are unavoidable in any part of the

world. So far as this Republic is concerned, I wish to put this matter in its real perspective.

It is evident that there is a growing gap between urban and rural sectors of the national economy. Many people think that rapidly growing towns and cities can offer them more by way of higher wages and stronger support from the trade unions. This idea leads to a large inflow of people from the country to the cities and towns, which in turn create social evils such as dangers to health and the onset of crime.

There is no limit to the complexity of nation-building. Within this complexity, there are certain theories which are false or not generally appreciated. Some people suggest that there should be equal incomes for everybody in a mixed and expanding economy. In practice this would be impossible to organize. Different levels of rewards exist for special skills and efforts, and there must be incentives to create opportunities for production and employment. The key to

successful nation building is closely bound up with the idea of vocational opportunity.

My government has never departed from the early guidance of the Sessional Paper on African Socialism and the Kanu Manifesto. As we move into this tenth year of Uhuru, it is now necessary to tackle national problems in a number of forceful ways. My government proposes to meet the present challenge by giving the highest priority to promoting employment through the implementation of development projects. A wages policy will be maintained to encourage the productive use of labour. The Government and the people will expect the full support of the trade union movement, which, instead of thinking of the power of an individual trade union leader, should unite in stepping up employment production and increasing the national income.

Every effort will be made to increase general development, bearing in mind that some projects are already ahead of target. The whole development programme will be supplemented by new schemes of co-operative settlement, and by public works enterprises in

rural areas. I have directed that, apart from national targets, there will be a plan for every district.

The basic concept of land reform in this Republic, was to transfer ownership of land away from foreign individuals or interests, into the hands of the people of Kenya. Land ownership reform should have the added concept of making ownership of this primary source of wealth widespread. Let me emphasize that our land is the greatest asset which we own. If we adopt the correct methods of its use, it will give us the required capital for industrial development.

The Government has already taken a number of fiscal measures, and future budgets will see that the most productive sectors of the economy are given financial resources to stimulate further rapid expansion. We are determined that, through direct and indirect taxation, the rich make an increasing contribution to the needs and welfare of those who are less fortunate. Arrangements will be maintained for the remission of school and hospital fees, and for the assistance of hard-pressed areas or families. We

are considering also how subsidy schemes might be extended to the more needy people.

Today, pilot projects have paved the way for practical programmes in rural development. There is a fundamental need to increase the production and incomes of small-scale farmers themselves, through training schemes and the extension services. More training in business and crafts must be carried into rural areas, based on knowledge from past experiment.

Recently, the unemployment problem has had some particular application to school-leavers and young people. No one can feel satisfied until such wastage in an important section of our society, has been removed. In many cases, following primary education, school-leavers have not been well equipped to apply for available jobs, and have not felt inclined to settle for unskilled labour on the land. My Government shall be making considerable changes in the school curriculum in favour of technical Our whole educational system must be made more applicable to equipping young people for wage employment or for many

forms of private enterprise. Our higher institutions of learning must be remodelled so as to utilize existing amenities.

On behalf of my government and the people, I wish to thank all those who have taken part in the parade today. We are proud to see our disciplined and smart members of the Armed Forces, men and women alike, who are always ready to serve our nation.

The strength of a nation lies in the determination of its people to overcome all obstacles. As we move into this tenth year of progress, there must be trained disciplined manpower to meet the challenges which lie ahead. In unity with both Government and people, we have all the ingredients for meeting such challenges in the living spirit of Harambee.

STATE HOUSE, NAIROBI.

24th May, 1972.