

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT MZEE
JOMO KENYATTA, C.G.H., M.P., ON MADARAKA DAY—

TUESDAY, 1ST JUNE 1976

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Since the first Madaraka Day, the people of Kenya have created a true and meaningful nationhood which has distinguished itself by patriotism and pride and readiness to sacrifice. To remain meaningful, this nationhood must be business-like. In actual practice, with every passing year, the planning of national progress has had to adapt itself to whims of opportunity or challenge. As examples, we must always make allowances for population trends, for the health or otherwise of global economic systems, for political tendencies elsewhere, and for localized vagaries of climate.

Years ago, we launched an experiment in the practical management of national affairs based on the principles of African Socialism. The essential foundation of all our thinking and striving was the national unity by which we had successfully moved from oppression into independence. The driving-force of this unity was expressed through a new kind of relationship between the people and their government. Such Government of the people, by the people has of course had to determine a number of basic international and financial policies. But in every field of development activity, and in all domestic social patterns, the machinery of Government have been closely linked with the people.

Our aim has been to perpetuate, as a technique of national management, the traditional African loyalties and concern for mutual responsibility. And thus, whether you are listening to my words today in Kisumu, Moyale, Mombasa or Nairobi, all of you have made an equal contribution to Kenya's nationhood, and all are equally involved directly in the strength and the potential of what has been achieved.

The political stability which Kenya has -now sustained since the first Madaraka Day has been the most significant of all factors in the transformation of our country, from a poor and vulnerable ex-colony to a modern nation on the world stage. The stability means more than the presence and the impetus of a single ruling KANU party. Over the years, and with the mandate of the people, we have dealt with one or two interventions by the splinter-groups, whose only motivation was self-interest. We have fought against illiteracy, unemployment, landlessness and diseases. No real challenge has arisen to the basic philosophy under which Kenya is administered. And no challenge can be sensibly foreseen, because this philosophy is wholly African in its insistence on opportunities for all, the equitable sharing of resources and rewards, and a rule of law without discrimination.

I have always stood for human dignity in freedom, but there is little value in dignity, unless its possession is made constructive and worthwhile. There are people who believe that Government should be by rule of fear, instead of by constitution which embraces human rights, and who seek to contain consequential unrest by alleging insecurity elsewhere. There are those who would gladly exploit the benefits of co-operation without regard for due commitments. There are those who proclaim the solidarity of modern Africa, while really turning back the clock to unenlightened ages of jealousy or spite.

Here in Kenya, we have worked to build our independence into something meaningful and valid. We make no lavish pretence that everything is perfect or ideal. We have a solid and productive economic structure. While responsible to the law, every man in our Republic is equally protected by the law. We pay our own way, and always honour our agreements. And while safeguarding the culture of Africa, we have chosen the stable path of evolution, to absorb and respond to all the challenges and opportunities of this complex scientific age.

During this past year, the people of all provinces have held parades and demonstrations of their own volition, testifying to their fierce concern for the national integrity of Kenya. Such heartening displays of loyalty, rooted in nationhood, arose from false claims in a neighbouring State to extensive areas of our Republic. This countrywide reaction illustrates another vital aspect of the unyielding unity which I have always identified as the strongest of all political weapons.

We have confronted threats before from States and Governments laying wild claim to some portion of Kenya. We have defeated these in their military or security guises, while revealing such claims to be groundless under International Law. Any renewed defiance of the Organization of African Unity Charter, from whatever source, must be met with equal confidence and composure. Despite the lurid pictures sometimes drawn of sophisticated armaments being stockpiled within other States, the Security Forces of Kenya stand ready to deal with any aggression. Our Armed Forces do not need their sense of duty to be prompted by any high-level stimulus of pomposity and boasting. Above all, as popular demonstrations have amply proved, it is through being united that we can repel any threat, since there is no way of destroying our spirit of nationhood once this has been created and is cherished by the people.

One of the outcomes of stability in Kenya, giving rise among other things to the modern infrastructure of our Capital City, has been the location of many international assemblies in Nairobi. Meetings of the World Bank and the Governing Council of United Nations Environment Programme were followed during May by one of the most important of all global economic conferences, and we are due to host an assembly of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in October. Many people can understand that the influx of thousands of worldwide delegates, within any year, must make a useful foreign relation and give a measurable boost to local commerce. But the significance of all these conferences really goes far deeper. By providing peaceful facilities for international dialogue and decision, our Republic is playing a vital part in the counsels of mankind, and in support of those who rightly believe that human destiny may only be

served through some global consensus, beyond this, while offering a window on the world to our own people, such assemblies also open up for international delegations the perspective of modern Africa. In this whole context, Kenya is proud to sponsor the influence and contributions of Africa, against the background of those African cultural values which we have been so careful to preserve.

Kenya has been moving through difficult economic times. Our position as a trading nation, dealing mainly in primary commodities, has of course been affected by worldwide trends of inflation, recession and weakness of currencies. There are some signs now of global economic recovery, and we must all be hopeful that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Assembly just concluded in Nairobi will give rise to effective financial reforms and more sensible approaches to international commodity transactions.

However, the immediate problems in Kenya remain very real. They have been contained, and at least kept within manageable proportions, by yet another facet of the driving-force of unity. The close and frank association between Government and people has led to the conception of the Kenya nation as a family. Our farmers, therefore, and citizens in all walks of life, have determined that if higher production was needed, to protect the family against inflation or whatever economic injustice, then they would work that much harder in consequence. So, although many prices have inevitably risen, and the struggle of daily living has certainly not eased, yet we have never lost the critical factors of self-reliance and self-respect. And if we really are now moving into an era of recovery and reform, the fruits of this national unity will be abundantly needed.

I call upon you now for the continuing exertion and defence of unity, in all the aspects I have mentioned, so that Kenya may advance and prosper in the living spirit of our Motto:

HARAMBEE!