

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON MADARAKA DAY—1st JUNE, 1979

I send you all my warm greetings on this *Madaraka* Day. In doing that let me also say that the very word *Madaraka* will always be associated in our minds with the father of the Kenya Nation, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. In a very real sense, we preserve this day in trust for him. Attainment of *Madaraka* in 1963 marked the first culmination of his four decades of struggle for our country's freedom. We must thank God, and consider ourselves fortunate indeed that, after full independence was achieved, Mzee Kenyatta was spared and strengthened to give our Republic such strong and wise leadership for fifteen years.

It is appropriate on this occasion to think about the quality and purpose of that leadership. Nation building, in all its complexities, was launched at the time of *Madaraka* on the inspiration of a new call: *Harambee*. In this whole spirit, we evolved a constitution of our choice, under which human rights have been enshrined and the rule of law has been maintained. All needed policies and measures were firmly introduced for the defence of Kenya's national integrity. All forms of discrimination were banished providing equal opportunity for every citizen.

Transfer of the agricultural land of Kenya to its rightful ownership was started at once, while laying the foundation of modern agriculture and accelerating the development of the small-holder sector which had been neglected by the colonialists. High priority was given to the spread of education, with increasing emphasis on science and technology. Appropriate techniques and machineries for economic planning were introduced, in support of a thriving mixed economy, which alone could sustain the ideals of social justice on a countrywide scale. Nairobi became a focal-point of world communications, trade and international assemblies. And with all this accomplished in the spirit of *Harambee*, Mzee Kenyatta was tireless in his continuous teaching that every human aspiration could be secured here so long as national unity, political stability and dedicated hard work were cherished and steadfastly promoted.

Although I was actively associated with all these aims and strivings when the moment came I knew that I was taking over from a leader of unique qualities and abilities. However, the response of our people everywhere has given me the heart and spirit to fulfil this duty. I wish today to thank you all for the loyal and unswerving support you have given me, and my Government since I took office of the President of our Republic. Even in this short time, I have been able to visit all the provinces and many districts and each time I return to my office refreshed and encouraged by the very clear evidence of your support and goodwill.

There is always an element of personality in public judgement. I have spent nearly quarter of a century now, in politics and public life in general, which means that we have all known each other for a considerable time. I do

not move among you as President aloof from the people, but freely and in the valuable African traditional spirit of *Ujamaa*. On the other hand, there is also an element of very shrewd sense in public judgement. Therefore I believe in addition, that the loyalty you have displayed springs as well from the fact that I have sworn to uphold the constitution, to preserve all rights and liberties and opportunities within the law and to implement appropriate policies and programmes for the rapid economic and social advancement of all Kenyans.

I cannot promise you that nothing will ever change. As each page of history is written, so the opening of a new page makes fresh demands on human capacities. But I do promise that, as long as I am in your service, all the fundamentals which have brought us so far since the time of *Madaraka* will be cherished and maintained. And it is in this context that on this year's *Madaraka* Day, I call upon you all to maintain, and indeed strengthen, your support. Some of you might ask: what does support for the Government actually mean in practice? What can be done to make it more meaningful than clapping and cheering at the end of public meetings? These are important questions, and today I shall briefly outline to you a few responsive ideas.

We have been determined to establish in Kenya a free and a fair society. After so many years when aspirations were denied and talents were suppressed, our aim has been to enable people, in all areas of the country and in whatever vocation or circumstance, to become directly involved in the shaping of their own future. Men and women, everywhere, must feel that they have a stake in the constitutional provision of rights and freedoms, that they can enhance their position in society, and that the welfare of their families can be assured by dedicated effort within the law. Fundamentally, this is how the people of Kenya want to live, and a Government elected by the people is charged with the task of maintaining this pattern of living, and so, as one of the answers to the questions I posed earlier, loyal support for the Government and the Constitution means upholding all the freedoms and ingredients of social justice for which so many once struggled for so long. This may be easier to understand in its converse form: If the Government and constitution did not have mass support, all the rights and properties and safeguards which now enrich our daily lives would be blown away by winds of chaos.

\* In a country where we must not create a sharp distinction between Government and people, then popular support for the Government must be seen as a logical idea. But to give it fuller meaning there are other aspects. You do and should give life and spirit to all public meetings, whether nationally or locally, as part of our framework of human relationships and consultation. On occasions of this kind, when words may be supplemented by ceremonies or parades, our coming together is a symbol of pride in our nationhood and a renewed sign of the vigour with which all of us must be prepared to uphold and defend Kenya's national integrity. So these other real things, pride in our country, duty and service, are essential elements in what support for your Government means.

And there is one thing that will never change. National unity and political stability are the foundations upon which our nationhood has been so strongly built. Loyalty to the Government and the constitution therefore means that you recognize the vital importance of unity and stability and continue promoting them as actively as possible. As I have said before on another occasion, unity and stability should not be taken for granted. We must deliberately make it our duty to promote them at all time. ✓

Support for the Government entails additional responsibilities. It must include prompt payment of taxes or fees, and faithful repayment of loans so that all development and welfare services can gather momentum on a nationwide scale. Support for the Government also means working even harder, on *shambas* or in whatever occupation, so that mounting productivity can quickly give rise to more revenue, more trade and more jobs. Support for the Government must also mean sending children to school, and being concerned to improve all educational and training facilities for our younger people.

And there is one more general heading under which I will tell you what support for the Government should mean. No man or woman in Kenya need ever walk in fear of the Government itself, or of the law. But fear and loss, and sometimes tragedy, can be introduced into our society by criminal elements. These traitors to our cause of stability and justice must be stamped out. But this cannot be accomplished by the Government alone. Our Police cannot know everything or be everywhere at once. So I call upon you all to co-operate. Violent criminal activity cannot be kept secret. There is movement and noise, and afterwards there may be places of hiding. In the cities and towns especially, many people must always observe what is happening, or know who and where the criminals are. Therefore, the more information and assistance you can give to the police, the quicker all of us, Government and people together, can wipe out the evil of crime. Loyalty to the Government can only be really meaningful when it is based on full respect for law and order.

At the same time, we still have to eradicate such non-violent criminal activity as corruption and smuggling. Despite all our efforts in recent months, there are still instances of bribery, and abuse of trust involving such activities as illicit traffic in some food products, or raw materials, wildlife trophies and natural resources. In every case, what is happening is hard to disguise. Therefore, I appeal to you all, whenever you become aware of any corrupt practices, to tell the police or the provincial administration, so that the interest of everyone are not imperiled by the greed of just a few. Our war against corrupt practices is a war which is for the sake of our Nation and all Kenyans, and must be won as quickly as possible.

Turning now to another theme, let me just say a word about the Development plan which is designed to carry us forward from now until 1983. I have made it clear that Government agencies, members of parliament, party officials and trade union leaders should all strive to ensure that the policies and economic philosophies contained in this plan reach down into countrywide public understanding. Our ability to

implement all the programmes outlined will depend, more than anything else, on hard work and higher productivity in every economic sector. And what the plan as whole indicates is that, while the pace of development must be sustained, there can now be detailed changes in the direction of economic and social progress, building more hope for the future on the solid foundations of the past.

When it comes down to actual mechanics, as distinct from highest principles, the process of Government must always be kept flexible. As one illustration of this, I set up a review committee to examine what are called parastatals, these being an array of statutory boards and corporations and countrywide co-operatives with many different tasks. Such bodies have served Kenya well in the past. However, it is always fruitful to ensure that their structures and operations are kept in harmony with society's evolving needs. This committee has reported with commendable speed, and I can say now my Government has accepted some far-reaching recommendations applied to the management and administration of parastatals, as well as to control procedures.

Having opened the door in this way, I have now appointed another Review Committee to study the whole Civil Service, and to convey its findings to me within six months. I take this opportunity to make it clear that there can be nothing but praise for the manner in which, since the time of *Madaraka*, The entire public services has skilfully engineered itself in conformity with sweeping changes in our social fabric, and in response to so many constantly increasing demands. The review I have set in motion does not imply criticism. But the whole pattern of national development, administrative and technical, has now become so complex that a careful look is needed at existing structures and techniques, in such important contexts as co-ordination and executive efficiency. At the same time, this will be concerned with many aspects of salaries and terms of service. We must ensure that the dedicated work of public servants is not frustrated by the knowledge that rewards could often be obtained in the private sector, or even in the statutory boards.

My dear brethren, before concluding my address to you today, I want to say a word or two about the General Elections which will be conducted later this year. The first thing to say is that officials and authorities concerned have been given firm and detailed instructions calculated to make certain that election procedures in all parts of our Republic will be entirely fair. Next, let it be accepted that genuine elections which only take place in a free society like ours, can always give rise to some understandable excitement. So long as this excitement is good-humoured and restrained, it does more good than harm. But my Government is determined, and the forces of law have been so instructed, that campaigning must be kept peaceful, and that the nationwide electorate must be permitted at the appointed time to vote in an orderly manner. I expect all our people to demonstrate on this occasion the maturity they have shown in the past.

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Finally, a word of advice to you all. In exercising your democratic right to play a part in these elections, remember that you have a high responsibility as well, to your families and to the country as a whole. Do not be attracted to candidates whose personal ambition is greater than their dedication to national unity and the challenges of development. Have in mind that candidates of real character and integrity are now not always those who make the most promises and the most noise. And remember, above all, that the persons you will choose to represent you in parliament must be capable of safeguarding your constitutional freedoms and rights.

Over the past fifteen years, and in the midst of so much turmoil across the global scene, we in Kenya have preserved intact the only form of independence that is truly viable, in as much as we control our own destiny through our own policies and efforts. As we move ahead into the future, I call upon you all to follow me with courage, faith and firm resolve in the true Nyayo philosophy and the spirit of our national motto: *Harambee!*