

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, HON.  
DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE OCCASION OF  
MADARAKA DAY CELEBRATIONS ON WEDNESDAY,  
1st JUNE, 1988**

DEAR KENYANS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is an important national day when we commemorate a great achievement in the history of the formation of our nation. Madaraka Day signifies the end of the long and hard struggle we waged against colonialism and degradation. It is also the start of a challenging period, when we set out to overcome difficulties and improve our own lives at our own discretion.

As we celebrate this important day, therefore, let us look back at the achievements we have gained during the last twenty-five years. We should also look ahead and see how best we can give meaning to the struggle we waged for our freedom, by improving on our performance in the areas we have not done well.

As a self-governing nation, we have registered commendable socio-economic development since 1963. We have over the years pursued sound economic policies and we have enjoyed a stable political climate which has enabled us to concentrate our energies in development activities. We have maintained an open and mixed economy in which the private and public sectors have played their respective roles. Our system has worked well, and we have every reason to continue along the same path.

While the economy has achieved encouraging growth rates during the past twenty-five years we have experienced a number of set-backs. Notable among these is the impact of the oil crises of 1973 and 1979 and the drought of 1984 which led to a considerable reduction in the overall performance of our economy. More recently, the country has experienced a decline in the prices of major exports and a substantial increase in the price of our imports. This means that we need more exports to finance the same volume of imports; a situation which calls for greater care in the use of our resources.

In particular, we shall need to keep our budget deficits for the next two years under strict control. Thus I will expect all ministries, departments and state corporations to exercise strict financial control. In addition, we must all realize that the demand for Government services has been strained by the rapidly growing population. Those in charge of providing services to wananchi will therefore need to ensure maximum efficiency in the utilization of the limited resources.

Similarly, wananchi also have an important role to play in ensuring that the limited resources at our disposal are used efficiently for the benefit of all. Indeed, it is imperative for Kenyans to accept the fact that we have reached a stage in our national development when the mutual concern for others must be paramount in our conduct of daily business. In future, people will be called upon to share in meeting part of the cost of some of these services.

One of the evils we set out to fight when we achieved the status of a self-governing nation was the need to rid our people of hunger and malnutrition. Kenyans have done much, over the years towards fulfilling this important objective. Underlying the need for us to produce enough food has been the important issue of ensuring secure land tenure and the adoption of balanced land use practices. The first task of our responsible Government was, therefore, to ensure an orderly transfer of land from colonial settlers to wananchi. This task has been accomplished virtually in all areas of the country.

The implementation of sound agricultural policies has enabled us to attain self-sufficiency in the production of maize, beans, potatoes, milk, meat, fruits and vegetables. Thus, although there are other crops such as rice, wheat and cotton in which we have yet to attain self-sufficiency, we can claim with much justification today, that we have achieved a good balance between cash crop and food crop production in a system where agricultural production is fully in the hands of indigenous Kenyans.

Kenyans may recall that before we took control of managing our own affairs, the production of tea was restricted to the settler-dominated plantations. Indigenous people were denied the production of both coffee and tea under the pretext that we could not produce the required high quality crops to satisfy the expectations of the international market. Today, half of our tea is produced by indigenous smallholder farmers. Kenyans are now producing three times the amount of tea the country produced in 1963. We have done even better in the production of coffee which is now, more than seven times the amount we produced in 1963. Furthermore, we have succeeded in improving and maintaining high quality for both our tea and coffee.

The production of maize has more than doubled over the last twenty-five years. The development of hybrid maize varieties suitable for various ecological zones, Katumani for drier areas and Coast Composites for the lower coastal areas have contributed greatly to the success we have registered in maize production in this country. Great strides have been made in agricultural research. We have made breakthroughs in the development of high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties of maize, wheat, barley, potatoes, temperate fruits, bananas, beans and coffee.

The policies which we have pursued in the past for the development of the agricultural sector require to be adjusted from time to time in line with the changing requirements of our people. In Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1986, for instance, definite policy guidelines have been stated to strengthen food security, improve incomes for the farming community, and generate more employment opportunities for our people. In the years ahead, we shall need to place more emphasis on such areas as the utilization of marginal land, the development of viable irrigation systems and the proper management of the available high potential agricultural land.

It is also important for researchers to address themselves to the important question of the conservation of our soils and vegetative cover especially at this time when the expanding population continues to place much pressure on the environment. Indeed, there

need not be any conflict between development and the conservation of the environment. We must accept that man has brought about the environmental crisis because of ill-planned development activities which have not taken sufficient care in the preservation of the environment. We have a duty to preserve our environment, which is the basis of our survival, and for the benefit of our children.

With regard to the elimination of illiteracy, we can assert with confidence, that we have made great strides in ensuring that the majority of our people are educated. For the past twenty-four years, the Government has been committed to the provision of education, the production of skilled-level manpower and the elimination of illiteracy in the country. In 1963, only 60 per cent of children eligible for primary education were able to go to school. Today, 90 per cent of school-age children are able to find places in schools. In 1963, we had 6,000 primary schools with an enrolment of less than one million children. Today, we have three times the number of primary schools we had in 1963 and over five million children enrolled. The education system has been restructured to make it more responsive to the changing needs of our society.

At the secondary level, our education system has continued to evolve in line with the changing social and economic developments of our society. The latest and most fundamental change has been brought about by the introduction of the 8-4-4 system of education. Last year, students sat for the final Form IV examination under the old secondary school curriculum. The last group of Form VI students will sit their examination under the old system at the end of 1989. I am glad that most of the required textbooks have been published while those under preparation will be ready before the end of this year. Every effort will be made to complete the preparations for the new system of education at the secondary level in order for students to proceed with their studies without delays.

University education has continued to expand rapidly despite the financial constraints we face. Last academic year, for example, our national universities admitted over eight thousand students,

on a double intake basis to clear the backlog of "A" level students. This year, it has been necessary for the universities to stretch the available resources in order to admit over seven thousand students. It is obvious that the admission of such large numbers is bound to cause a strain in the provision of teaching and other facilities. But it is the determination of my Government to enable as many of our youth as possible to pursue university education. Everyone at the university and indeed all Kenyans will therefore need to play their part in ensuring that the limited facilities available are used for the benefit of more Kenyans.

The restructuring and expansion of our education system is aimed at generating the right quality and quantity of manpower we need in various sectors of the economy. But in a free economy such as ours, it is necessary to review the training needs and re-align them with changing manpower needs of the economy. We therefore need to constantly take stock of the manpower requirements of the country in order to place the right emphasis on training programmes.

Kenyans are aware that my Government launched a National Manpower Survey in 1986. I am glad to say that the field work for the survey has now been completed and the report will be published before the end of this year. The results of the survey will enable us to obtain valuable information on such variables as the training profiles of our manpower for both immediate use and for planning purposes. We shall therefore be better equipped in establishing a closer relationship between education, training and employment, and finding solutions to the problem of unemployment.

Plans are underway to establish a national employment and manpower information system which will facilitate efficient gathering, storage and dissemination of manpower and employment data in the country. The system will enable the Government to eliminate situations whereby people remain unemployed while there is need for additional manpower in some sectors of the economy.

The Government will continue to review the Employment Act and other legislations in order to improve working conditions for workers and ensure sustained higher productivity. I have already issued instructions for the Government to increase its labour force by 10 per cent in the Nyayo Tea Zones and the Nyayo Buses Commuter Service. I am glad that a few firms have responded positively to the call for them to increase their labour force. I hope that more employers will come forward to join hands with wananchi and the Government in alleviating unemployment in this country.

Over the years the Government has initiated various measures to increase employment opportunities for our people. One of the sectors we have identified to play a key role in this strategy is the small-scale industrial sector and the informal sector. Informal sector activities such as the manufacture of agricultural implements, home appliances and the repair of motor vehicles have many positive characteristics. The development of these activities can contribute in a significant manner towards renewed economic growth in this country. Numerous opportunities exist in the small-scale sector and Jua Kali programmes for the manufacture of cheap alternative to expensive imported items.

There are, for instance, some cases where innovations which have been made by Kenyans, have remained for many years at the drawing boards. This is a situation which must be corrected. I, therefore, urge the ministries concerned to establish ways and means of disseminating information on new products and production methods to the public. At the same time, every effort must be made for technical training institutes and groups of individuals to be given the necessary encouragement and support for them to establish viable production lines to manufacture simple products that have been developed by our own people.

The co-operative sector is another important sector which we must continue to develop and strengthen. Kenyans are aware that co-operatives have continued to play a useful role in the indigenization of the economy and in the growth and development of our country as a whole. The co-operative movement has served as a vehicle in stimulating production, processing and marketing of

produce for both the domestic and export market. I am indeed glad that the 4,800 registered co-operatives have now started expanding their activities from primary processing roles into secondary and agro-industrial activities.

The most significant phenomenon in the success of co-operatives has been their effectiveness in the mobilization of domestic resources for investment. The next logical step is for co-operatives now to extend their involvement in the operations of Jua Kali, Kazi and handicraft activities. Artisans and graduates of polytechnics and technical institutes will be expected to come together and form co-operatives through which they can obtain assistance to set up viable production units.

We have endeavoured in our political system to facilitate the effective participation of the people in identifying and managing the development activities which will best promote their quality of life. During the past five years, for instance, we have embarked on the implementation of the District Focus Strategy for Rural Development through which our people decide their own development priorities.

One of the notable achievements under this framework has been the fact that our people have learned to work together as a team to achieve a common goal. This achievement was particularly significant at the grassroot level where the councillors and the chiefs have accomplished much in the process of identifying and implementing development programmes directly in response to the needs of the people. We can now use the experience thus far gained to attain more success as we initiate programmes such as the Rural Trade and Production Centres and the Jua Kali Nyayo Sheds Programmes.

The local authorities have always constituted an important part of our development strategy. Local authorities, together with the other sectors of our economy need to create the right environment for the development of an efficient economic system which can grow and provide more incomes and employment opportunities for our people. Local authorities will need to participate more actively in identifying productive economic activities for our people. They will

need to re-examine the existing by-laws which regulate the operations of the informal sector in order to remove any hindrances that may now exist in the growth and development of this important sector.

Local authorities will therefore need to strengthen their resource base in order to fulfill these responsibilities. The Government has taken some measures to improve the finances of local councils by spreading the range of agricultural produce cess to cover other crops. In order to improve services in municipal and town councils, arrangements are already underway for residents to contribute token support in the areas they live. The introduction of the urban service charge will be undertaken in a manner which will carefully distinguish between the individual's ability to pay.

My Dear Kenyans,

I have discussed, at length, the various measures we need to take to improve the various sectors of our economy mainly to emphasize the fact that development of this country has always been through the active participation of the people. The management of the affairs of this nation is based on and derives its authority from the people. We have achieved much progress because we have maintained peace and unity. The maintenance of peace and security is the responsibility of all Kenyans. The Police Force and other security personnel have done a commendable job in ensuring that wananchi pursue their daily affairs in peace. But wananchi need to co-operate with security forces in order to expose criminals and social misfits who are bent on disrupting peace and security.

As we continue to build a stronger and more prosperous nation, in the years ahead we shall need to be patriotic and learn to place the interests of this nation before our own. We took the responsibility of managing our own affairs, and we cannot rely on anyone from outside to develop this country for us. The responsibility of shaping our own destiny demands that each of us gives more than he or she can expect to receive from the system. Let us all, therefore, re-dedicate ourselves to the development of this country by giving of our very best in our work.

*THANK YOU.*