

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT HON.
DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE OCCASION
OF MADARAKA DAY, FRIDAY, 1ST JUNE, 2001**

FELLOW KENYANS,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have gathered here today and across the country to mark the Thirty-eighth Anniversary of our Madaraka Day. The occasion is an important milestone in the history of our nation. On this day, in June, 1963, we took full control of the management of our affairs. When we celebrate Madaraka Day each year, we remind ourselves of our responsibility to reduce poverty, to eradicate ignorance, and to build a society of healthy men and women.

As I look around this stadium, I see one people of Kenya, with no tribal labels. This is my strength and my hope. As I crisscross the country side, I do not see Baringo Central Constituency, but one large constituency called Kenya. This in itself is Madaraka. We have every reason, therefore, to celebrate.

Looking back to our development track record until now, our performance has been marked by many outstanding achievements, in various fields such as health, education, agriculture and industry.

However, you will also agree, that Kenya's development has not been smooth sailing. The agricultural sector, which is the mainstay of our economy, is facing increasing difficulties due to erratic weather patterns and unstable world market prices of our major export crops. In addition, globalization is posing a serious threat to our manufacturing sector. The importation of subsidized goods and dumping into the local market is undermining the survival of our local industries.

This country has a human resource, which is one of the finest in the world, and I am confident that the strategies, now in place

and the many other problems facing Kenyans, including unemployment and poverty will be alleviated. I am pleased to note that this year, our economic indicators have shown some improvement. But we still have a long way to go, before the majority of Kenyans can start to reap the benefits of our efforts. My Government will continue to work with our development partners to ensure the success of our economic policies.

Among the salaried workers who have borne a disproportionate burden of the current economic difficulties are the civil servants. You will recall that in April, this year, I appointed a committee headed by the Head of the Public Service, to implement the recommendations of the Harmonization Commission on Terms and Conditions of Service for Public Servants. I am happy to announce that although the committee has completed its work, some significant progress has been made and as from the first of July, this year, the Government will start awarding increases in housing allowances to teachers and civil servants. The award will be in three stages, and will be completed within the next three years. We hope to award salary increases as the economy continues to improve. The Government will ensure that further increases are implemented so as to increase the remuneration packages of Government employees to satisfactory levels.

I would like to see a strengthened, integrated and motivated public service that efficiently delivers services to wananchi. Among these is the cultivation of integrity, honesty and accountability in the management of public affairs. There is also need to develop a strong work ethic, not only amongst public servants, but also amongst all Kenyans. It is only fair that one should earn what he or she has worked for. Legislation to strengthen our public institutions and enhance accountability is on course.

Fellow Kenyans,

Today, I have decided to address you on the issue of management, and the need for us to use our resources properly in order to achieve our development objectives. As I understand it, management is the effective control of resources, in order to minimize wastage and maximize the benefits. As I talk to you

today, the issue that should be uppermost in the minds of everyone is whether, we in Kenya are using the resources at our disposal efficiently and for the maximum benefit of all.'

Indeed, the proper use of our scarce resources is a subject that has in recent years, attracted considerable public attention and debate. The strict guidelines on the use of public funds, and other resources, have sometimes not been followed, often resulting in misuse and wastage of scarce financial resources. The many cases of development projects which have stalled because the funds allocated to them have been stolen or mismanaged, are a case in point. The Government will not tolerate the mismanagement and wastage of public resources. Those who misappropriate public funds will be pursued and made to pay for their actions. There is no other way to deal with these white collar criminals.

I have directed the Ministry of Finance and Planning to also institute measures to seal loopholes that have led to the loss of public funds.

Poor management is also at the root of the failure of many of the Government's investments in various sectors. These projects, which include agricultural production and processing, textile manufacturing, tourism and hotels, transport and other ventures, provided direct employment for thousands of Kenyans.

However, some have had to be sold to private investors. It was our expectation that the infusion of business skills would rejuvenate these enterprises, leading to more employment opportunities for our people. Unfortunately, this is yet to happen.

Dear Kenyans,

The use of mismanagement of National Resources also applies to private sector institutions. Some private sector companies have been involved in reckless pollution of rivers and destruction to forests. Others have also colluded with corrupt public servants to manipulate the award of Government tenders. And even those who have corruptly been awarded such tenders have proceeded to do shoddy jobs. Some of the problems in the roads sector and

many stalled district and provincial headquarters projects bear testimony to such behaviour. The need for honesty, efficiency and accountability applies to the private sector as well. I expect professional bodies and the business community to have in-house ethics for their members. My Government will co-operate to expose corruption from whatever quarter.

Related to the issue of management, is the pursuit of self-sufficiency. Kenyans have long recognized the importance of being self-sufficient in food and other essentials. We cannot claim to be fully independent, while we continue to rely on other countries for our food and other essential commodities. I urge our farmers to redouble their efforts to increase the production of food, and other crops, for sale in the local market and abroad.

However, our farmers and manufacturers can achieve little without strong support from Kenyans as a whole. Walking through the streets of Nairobi and other urban centres, one is astounded by the large number of variety of cheap imported products. We cannot build Kenya, while spending our resources to purchase foreign goods. As Kenyans, our first duty should be to our country. We must be proud of what is our own, and buy Kenyan products in order to build Kenya. Local manufacturers must also ensure that locally made products are affordable and of high quality. In this regard, we expect the Kenya Bureau of Standards to protect our people from exploitation by ensuring that incoming trade goods meet basic standards.

Fellow Kenyans,

We can only talk of growth and development in our nation when we have peace and security. Security takes the centre role, be it, in our families, our communities and in our nation. My Government is taking seriously the threats posed by armed criminals and those bent on inciting ethnic tensions leading to clashes. This terror can no longer be tolerated. My Government will take appropriate steps at its disposal to ensure peace and security for every Kenyan. I appeal to all Kenyans to give total support to our law enforcement agencies. We should not therefore politicize security.

The instability and turmoil within our region is a direct consequence of our insecurity. Kenya will have to play a pivotal role in trying to bring about peace in our region. A peaceful Sudan, and a stable Somalia, and a prosperous East Africa is good for Kenya. This is why we are actively involved in the search for peace in this region.

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, I urge you all to be united. The task of developing this nation is not an easy one, nor can it be done by a single person, or a single community. I urge you all, and especially the leaders to maintain unity of purpose and peace, as we forge ahead towards the realization of the dream that was born when we celebrated the first Madaraka Day in June, 1963. In the words of our National Anthem, "Let all with one accord in common bond united, build this our nation together".

THANK YOU.