

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,  
HON. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON THE  
OCCASION OF MOI DAY, ON TUESDAY,  
10th OCTOBER, 1989**

MY DEAR FELLOW KENYANS,

I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the honour you have bestowed upon me by naming a public holiday after me. It is with a sense of humility that I stand here before you and bring you greetings wherever you may be in celebrating this first Moi Day.

Humility, because it is unusual for nations to have public days in honour of living presidents, but the honour we celebrate today is not mine alone.

It is an honour to the nation as a whole, to that spirit of national unity and peace, and to the spirit of love amongst one another, that helped us make a smooth transition after the death of our beloved founding President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.

We as a nation have come a long way in the short space of time since you elected me your President. Together we have faced many challenges, we have surmounted most of them. Without your steadfast support and encouragement, I and your Government, led by our ruling party, KANU, would not have prevailed against the many odds stacked against us. Without your sacrifices, however, we would not have made the great strides which we have been able to make in the last eleven years.

This is not an occasion in which to recount all our achievements as a nation. These achievements are well-known to you all. You can see the fruits of your sacrifices all round you.

But what may not be as clear to most of us is the spirit which has brought about these achievements. That spirit is our national philosophy of Love, Peace and Unity. In practice, this philosophy

has translated itself into our general concern for the welfare of one another, and if any one theme should in future come to be associated with Moi Day, I would like it to be the spirit of being mindful of each other's welfare.

There are national days of pomp and glory, such as independence day, in which the nation delights in its triumphs, then there are national days of remembrance and reflection in which we dwell on past sacrifices and future challenges. I hope that Moi Day will in future develop into a day of remembrance and reflection, rather than one of pomp and glory.

In the spirit of being mindful of each other's welfare, I hope that in future, this day will be marked by prayers of thanksgiving at all places of worship in this republic. Let us, on future Moi days, give thanks to God for preserving our republic; for healing the wounds which the struggle for independence and process of nation-building may have inflicted upon some of us; for bestowing peace upon our nation; for binding us together as one family. Let us, in future Moi days, pray, whatever our religious faith, that God continue to look with favour upon Kenya.

In the spirit of being mindful of each other's welfare, I hope that in future this day will be marked by gestures of goodwill towards fellow Kenyans. Let all school children use this day to render meaningful public service. Let them take time to clean up the environment; to help the sick and the poor amongst us; to give solace to the elderly. And what I say of school children also applies to our university students and others attending our institutions of higher learning. Let these gestures of public service not be haphazard activities, but let them be so organized as to become in future part of our national tradition.

In the spirit of being mindful of each other's welfare, let each of us in future on this day ask himself or herself what he or she can do for his or her fellow Kenyan, and having asked that question, let each of us act in accordance with the dictates of Love, Peace and Unity.

If that is the spirit that will guide Moi Day in future, then I would deem it a great honour indeed for the day to have been named after me. More important, however, is the honour that Kenyans would be bestowing upon themselves and our nation through such a spirit.

As I said, I would like this to become a day of remembrance and reflection, the fewer the words said on such an occasion, the better. Let us, rather, spend time reflecting, and let us on this day reflect in particular upon the challenge which each one of us faces in the great task of nation-building.

That challenge calls for a measure of dedication. It calls for a lot of personal energy. But it also calls for a lot of humility. Not a single one of us is equal to the task of nation-building. A nation is built by many people working together in harmony, in peace and in love for one another. There is no room in nation-building for excessive personal ambition, for boundless greed or for narrow sectionalism. A nation is built by the people—all the people, not merely by the leaders. This is a truth which we should never take for granted.

So, as we celebrate this first Moi Day, I wish to thank you again for the honour you have bestowed upon me by lending my name to this great occasion. I pledge my continued total loyalty and service to this republic, to its institutions and to its people.

**GOD BLESS YOU.**