

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, HON.  
DANIEL T. ARAP MOI, C.G.H., M.P., ON JAMHURI DAY,  
12TH DECEMBER, 1979**

**MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

On this most important of all national occasions, I send my warm greetings to all families in every part of our Republic. My good wishes extended as well to all Kenyans overseas, some on courses of higher education and training, and others serving our country's interests in various ways. I know that those Kenyans now abroad are also celebrating this day, and we remember them all with love. We also ask them to keep in mind all the time, the fact that they are our ambassadors abroad. They have the important responsibility of promoting the good name of Kenya in whichever country they may be living.

To all of you listening to me now, and to all those Kenyans in other countries, I want to say that this ceremony today is not something in which we engage ourselves as a matter of habit, or just for the sake of doing something. The formal and heartfelt countrywide celebration of Jamhuri Day enshrines the very spirit of nationhood in Kenya. At the moment of Jamhuri, on 12th December, 1963, Kenya became a truly Sovereign State. Through all the intervening years, unity and stability have been so consolidated that, today, this sovereignty is more absolute than ever. Like the strongest steel, our nationhood has been tempered, by overcoming all challenges at home and by defeating all external threats or pressures. I would like to remind you that we were extremely fortunate in those years, when we were consolidating our sovereignty, to have the late Father of the Nation, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta as our Leader. On this day we must therefore especially remember him.

This particular Jamhuri Day has the added significance that I have sworn in, in front of all of you and the nation as a whole, the Members of the new Cabinet. The new Ministers have sworn to be loyal and to do their utmost in serving the nation. These are very important vows and those who have made them must give immediate and serious thinking as to how they are to be fully honoured. We pray for God's blessing on these new Ministers.

But the new Ministers must recognize that success in their work will depend a great deal on their own efforts. In this connexion they must accept that they will have to work hard, not now and then, but continuously, they must always bear in mind that they are expected, above all else, to set a good example in our struggle for rapid and sustainable development.

Secondly, the new Ministers must work with humility in serving the nation, they must not regard themselves as masters, instead they should regard their appointment as giving them a unique privilege to serve the nation.

Thirdly, the Ministers must always work as comrades and respect the importance of a strong and well-founded team spirit.

Fourthly, the new Ministers must, of course, get the support of the Members of Parliament, their Permanent Secretaries and other senior officers.

I shall have a lot more to say to the Ministers in the near future when I preside over the first meeting of the new Cabinet. However, on this occasion I want to emphasize that one major requirement in making this new team effective in serving the nation is the support which you, as citizens of this country, give them. On my part I shall ensure that such requirements as strong team spirit, hard work, being available in the office, and so on are ensured. Indeed, I take this opportunity to stress that I shall not hesitate to deal firmly with anybody, regardless of his position, if I detect weakness, disloyalty or lack of commitment to serve the nation, but the new team of Ministers will also need your direct support, not only through keen interest in Government matters but also in making suggestions on how our efforts to promote the development of our nation can be made more effective. I shall expect the

Ministers to be active in soliciting such suggestions, and I am sure that I can count on the support of all Kenyans to live up to my expectation in this regard.

This point reminds me that on this special and formal occasion, I must thank all Kenyans, again, for their massive and peaceful participation during the last Parliamentary and Civic Elections, that whole exercise, involving as it did elections of new Members of Parliament and Local Authority Councillors on the same day, was administratively very complex and demanded a lot of detailed planning. However, even with the best planning and the most elaborate administrative measures, those elections would not have succeeded if the support of the people was not there. I was extremely proud to see the genuine interest demonstrated by all wananchi in those first Nyayo elections, and the peaceful manner in which all the people conducted themselves. If there was any doubt before, and there was none in my mind, everyone should from henceforth know that Kenyans are people with a high degree of political maturity and responsibility. Further, I am confident that all Kenyans recognize the crucial importance of maintaining these qualities, not only during election periods but all the time. We must all recognize that these qualities of political maturity and responsibility serve as one of the main links between wananchi and the Government, including the Ministers I have sworn in today.

Here I should also like to emphasize that as long as every leader's objective is the enhancement of the welfare of our people, and the development of our nation in general, it should be possible to avoid the pitfalls of damaging differences. For this reason we must avoid tribalism, considerations of personal gain, pursuit of power for its own sake and such other selfish or narrow motives in our work. This is important whether we be Ministers, civil servants, Members of Parliament, Councillors, or managers in the private sector. If we lose our concentration on the main objective, namely promotion of public welfare and development of our nation in general, we shall also lose our direction. As the history of other countries clearly demonstrates, once a country loses its direction several undesirable forces set in, and it is always

a costly business, in the comprehensive sense of that word, to re-establish the country on the right direction.

Ladies and gentlemen, since last Jamhuri Day a great deal has been achieved in various sectors of our economic and social life. On this occasion I do not intend to give you a catalogue of those achievements. However, I must highlight some major exercises which have been undertaken over that period. This exercise include the Kanu Party elections, the national population census, the registration of voters and, of course, the elections which I commented on a few minutes ago. In addition, many policy and administrative measures have been taken for the development of our country. One of the most significant measures was the publication of our Development Plan for the period to 1983, and now, of course, we have a new Cabinet, and a restructured Government machinery which I announced on 28th November. As I said then, a major objective in restructuring the Government machinery was to ensure maximum efficiency.

Today I want to stress that my determination to ensure efficiency is not confined to the Ministers and Government officials and institutions. I am also fully determined to ensure efficiency at the local levels, in that connexion, all Local Authorities, big or small should know that I shall keep a constant and sharp eye on their activities. There is a lot of urgent and valuable work to be done by these Local Authorities. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that Local Authority councils should concentrate on services instead of becoming debating chambers. Our nation has no time for idle and irrelevant debate. We also have no time for personal jealousies and bickering. All the time and resources at our disposal at every level of administration, and in every part of our Republic, must be used for the welfare of the people. Further, and in order to ensure that Local Authorities have greater access to technical skills in planning their activities, I have decided that some key departmental officers in each Local Authority area will be nominated *ex-officio* members of the respective councils.

My dear countrymen, today I should also repeat what I said recently, namely that the 1980s are going to be difficult years especially for all non-oil producing developing countries. In our

own case, we are going to find it extremely difficult to maintain the impressive development momentum which we have been able to achieve in recent years. This will not be because of lack of effort on our part, but due to many unfavourable external factors. I know that there is great hope and expectation in every part of our Republic today. I repeat my pledge that I shall do my best to ensure that such hopes and expectations are met to the fullest extent possible, however, the unfavourable external forces against us will mean that some of these expectations will be impossible to achieve as early as expected. We may also have to rearrange our development programmes.

All this calls for even greater understanding between the Government and the people. We must all know that there are no short-cuts to some of the problems that are going to face us. But let me assure all Kenyans that I shall keep the nation fully informed on economic trends, problems and opportunities facing us. I would also like to add that this whole question of our economic prospects requires detailed analysis. Already work is in progress on this exercise, and I shall be able to say more about these prospects in the near future in my statement at the State Opening of the new Parliament.

But there is one related subject which I must discuss with you today even if only briefly. This is the whole question of food and its distribution. In the last few days there have been reports in the papers of food shortage. I would like to assure all Kenyans that there is enough food in the country today, however, some unscrupulous businessmen are the ones creating shortages through hoarding of food commodities or exporting them illegally to the neighbouring countries. These people are trying to prosper by creating misery for the others. I want everyone to know that I have given firm instructions to all the Government agencies involved to take whatever measures are necessary in dealing with this problem. Our principle of mutual social responsibility requires that every Kenyan should bear in mind the welfare of others in all his activities. Anyone acting contrary to that principle is by definition working against Kenya's interest. We shall not therefore tolerate the activities of a few greedy businessmen who are trying

to enrich themselves quickly by exploiting others. What I am saying about food should, of course, apply with full force to other essential commodities.

While on this subject of food, let me also say that we must work even harder to produce more and more food. In this connexion, the division of the former Ministry of Agriculture into two Ministries is a clear indication that I am determined to ensure that we are not only self-sufficient foodwise, but produce substantial surpluses for export as well. We have been able to do so in the past and there is no reason why we should not be able to do even better in the future. What has happened now is that we do not have huge surpluses, therefore in order to ensure proper distribution of existing supplies, and in addition to the efforts by the police and other Government agencies, I have also decided that movement of food items will from now on be controlled as firmly as before.

My dear Kenyans, in conclusion let me say that this last year has been largely a year of preparation—a process which included, among other things, the party elections, the national population census, the Parliamentary and Civic Elections and re-examination of some of our institutions. While some of these tasks, especially that of re-examination of our institutions, are continuous, from now on the emphasis will be on action, that is implementation. It is clear that implementation of policies and programmes is not keeping pace with our wishes. Indeed, this was one of the reasons why I restructured the Government machinery. We must avoid the temptation, which has led some others into real problems, of giving all attention to theorizing about problems and their possible solutions. As I have said before, ideological debates will not cure our problems. Hard work, discipline and loyalty to our nation and its institutions are necessary. Therefore, as we move more deeply into the Nyayo era and its main principles of peace, love and unity, let us keep that simple but vitally important truth in mind. But let no body think that these principles imply a weakness. We shall be ruthless in confronting any factors—like aggression, subversion, inefficiency, corruption and crime—which threaten to disrupt

the whole "Nyayo" philosophy. All my own energies will be placed at your service, and I call upon each one of you, regardless of your position, to work alongside me and my Government for continued development of Kenya for the benefit of all Kenyans.

And now let us all move into the decade of the 1980s, and its many challenges, under the banner of peace, love and unity.

*H A R A M B E E !*